



CUSTOMS NEWS

周年紀念 ANNIVERSARY
100th
香港海關
HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE
1909-2009

2009 October • Issue No.40

<http://www.customs.gov.hk>

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ATTENDS CUSTOMS CENTENNIAL RECEPTION

In celebration of the historic 100th anniversary of the Hong Kong Customs in 2009, the Customs and Excise Department has organised a series of events in the year. The celebration momentum reached its climax when the Customs Centennial Reception was held at the Hong Kong City Hall on September 17, 2009, exactly 100 years to the day of the establishment of the Preventive Service, the forerunner of the Department.

The Chief Executive, Mr Donald

Tsang, was the Guest of Honour at the Customs Centennial Reception, sharing the joy with the Customs family on this memorable occasion. Joining the Chief Executive to officiate at the Reception were the Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang; Vice-Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Wang Songhe; Director-General of the Macao Customs, Mr Choi Lai Hang; and former commissioners of the Department.



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, delivers a speech at the reception.

Officiating at the Centennial Reception, Mr Tsang delivered a speech as follows:



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang (fourth right), proposes a toast with the Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang (fifth right), the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (third right), and other officiating guests.

Commitment and Excellence,
Hong Kong Customs — a Century of Dedicated Service.

“Commissioner Yuen,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you today
to celebrate the centenary of the
Customs and Excise Department.

I am also delighted that Mr Wang
Songhe is here to celebrate this
milestone with us.

For 100 years Hong Kong
Customs has been our first line
of defence against tax evasion,
smuggling, piracy, drug trafficking,
counterfeiting and much
more. Without the dedication,
commitment and determination
of the Department, Hong Kong
would not be the modern, law-
abiding international city we see
today.

On this day in 1909, the
‘Preventive Service’, the precursor
to the Customs and Excise
Department, was established. Its
staff of five European officers and
20 local searchers set about their
single mission – revenue protection
on liquor.

This was even before the first flight



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang (centre); the Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang (third left); Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (third right), and other guests officiate at the ceremony for the centenary cocktail reception.

had taken off from Hong Kong and
six years before Kai Tak airport
opened for business. Today,
perhaps the most visible public
image of the Customs Department
is at Hong Kong International
Airport where an endless stream
of passengers decides whether
to go through the red or green
channel. Add to this the 40,000
vehicles, 450,000 land crossings
and more than 1,000 ships in and
out of Hong Kong each day, and
you can understand that customs
officers have their work cut out.

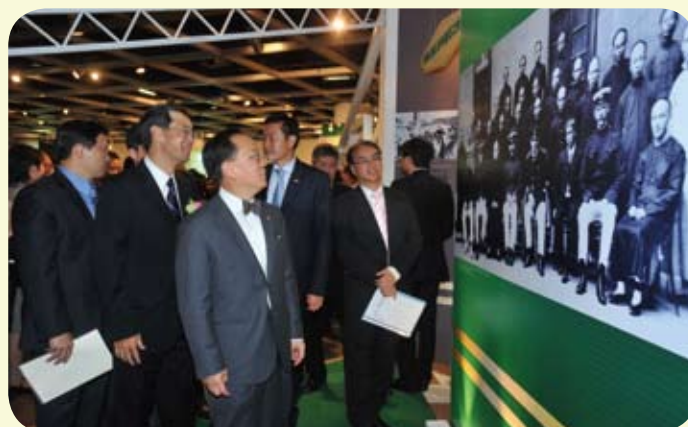
From its modest beginnings, Hong
Kong Customs has become a
major law enforcement agency

with a team of over 5,500 officers.
And let's not forget 'man's best
friend' – the 45 detector dogs
trained to sniff out drugs and
explosives. A century ago no
one could have imagined the
wide and complex range of
responsibilities that dominate the
work of customs officers today.
Cyber crime, intellectual property
protection and counter terrorism
are all part of the job.

Even in the early days, it didn't
take long for the benefits of the
Preventive Service to become
clear. Soon after its launch,
the Service was tasked with
preventing tobacco smuggling,



The guests celebrate the 100th anniversary with the Customs family.



Mr Tsang (third left) tours the Customs and Excise Department Centennial Exhibition.

Commitment and Excellence,
Hong Kong Customs — a Century of Dedicated Service.

implementing import and export controls during World War I, and the control of dangerous drugs.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Hong Kong introduced a preferential tariff system to stimulate the economy. This marked the start of the Preventive Service's long association with the promotion of multilateral trade.

After changing its name to the Customs and Excise Service in 1977, it became an independent department in its own right five years later.

And since 1997, Hong Kong has remained a separate customs territory with individual membership of the World Customs Organization. This is a great example of 'One Country, Two Systems' at work.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Department has a well-earned and hard earned reputation for efficiency and quality of service. And in recent years its effective enforcement of intellectual property rights has won

widespread acclaim.

I am also impressed by the Department's vigilance and success in combating drug trafficking. The government has recently launched a new campaign against drug abuse, especially among our youngsters. Hong Kong Customs has an important part to play in eliminating the scourge of drugs in the city.

Must keep up the good work.

Finally, thanks to our friends from the Mainland and Macao for joining us here. Many of the issues facing Hong Kong Customs today are regional issues that can best be addressed with regional co-operation.

I warmly congratulate Hong Kong Customs on its centenary. Officers have brought distinction and honour on our city. I am confident the Department is in great shape to meet future challenges and that officers will continue to serve the people of Hong Kong with 'commitment



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, tours the Customs and Excise Department Centennial Exhibition.

and excellence'.

Thank you."

Other guests taking part in the celebration included government officials, consuls-general and officials of other Customs authorities. An exhibition, with a "time tunnel" and booths featuring the significant developments and historic moments of the Department over the past 100 years, was set up at the Reception for the guests to review the transformation of the Preventive Service into the present Customs and Excise Department.



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (left), former Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Patrick Williamson (centre), and Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung, at the reception.



Mr Richard Yuen (centre) chats with former Assistant Commissioner of Preventive Service, Mr Ian Macpherson (right) and Mr Wan Tai-min (left) at the reception.

CUSTOMS EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE CENTENARY



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (fourth left), and Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung (third left), and other directorate officiate at the opening ceremony of the Customs and Excise Department Centennial Exhibition.

The Customs and Excise Department Centennial Exhibition, held on September 15-17 at the Exhibition Hall of Hong Kong City Hall, was one of the activities organised by the Hong Kong Customs to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. It was aimed at enhancing public understanding of Hong Kong Customs service over the past century.

The exhibition featured a “time tunnel” and various booths illustrated with historical photos and exhibits. By strolling along the tunnel, visitors could see the significant stages of development and milestones of Hong Kong Customs over the past 100 years. To help visitors get a



Mr Yuen (third from right) strolls through the “time tunnel”.

vivid understanding of the development and achievements of the Department, officers were arranged at the exhibition to lead visitors through the history of the Department to see how it had evolved from a humble “tax collector” to one of the most efficient and highly regarded customs services in the world.

The exhibition also showcased the Department's six major service areas – revenue protection and collection, anti-narcotics investigation, control and enforcement, intellectual property



An officer briefs two young visitors on the outfit and equipment of the Customs Diving Team.

Commitment and Excellence,
Hong Kong Customs — a Century of Dedicated Service.

rights protection, consumer protection and trade controls. The major cases detected by Customs in recent years were also covered at the exhibition.

The “time tunnel” enables visitors to see the significant stages of development and milestones of Hong Kong Customs over the past century.



ISSUE OF CUSTOMS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP SET

The Hong Kong Customs is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. To mark this important milestone, Hongkong Post issued a set of four stamps on September 17, 2009. With a process printing technique, monochrome photos are juxtaposed with colour images on the stamps to spotlight the past and present of the Customs undertaking different enforcement work. Stamp products also include a set of four Maximum Card and Prestige Stamp Booklet, showing the Department's significant contributions in maintaining Hong Kong's status as a free port, an international trade centre and a logistics hub in Asia. The Official First Day Covers with hand-back datestamping service by the office steel datestamp and the special postmark were also available on the issue day at all post offices.



Special postmark

\$1.40

Front-line Drug Fighter

Back in the 1960s, Preventive Service staff inspected baggage. Today, the Department's dog handlers team up with drug detector dogs in customs clearance and drug raids to combat narcotics trafficking and drug abuse.



\$2.40

Facilitation of Trade

The monochrome photo shows the Sheung Shui Customs Station in 1935. In 2004, an advanced Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System came into service. The use of sophisticated technology has contributed to more efficient customs clearance and enabled the Department to achieve trade facilitation at the same time.

\$3

The Fight Against Smuggling

The stamp presents a comparison over time of anti-smuggling patrols in local waters. Nowadays, the Department's fleet of modern patrol launches and high-speed pursuit craft intercept vessels smuggling contraband in Hong Kong.

\$5

Law Enforcement

The background features a photo of the Superintendent of the then Imports and Exports Department with his colleagues from the Preventive Service. Today, the Customs and Excise Department is one of the primary law enforcement agencies under the Government of the HKSAR.

CENTENNIAL MESS NIGHT

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Hong Kong Customs, a reunion gathering for Mess members to share the joy and fun was held on June 12, 2009 at Customs and Excise Service Senior Officers' Mess. The Customs Centennial Mess Night, unlike the usual Mess nights held in the past, was a special occasion for serving Mess members as it was the first time to have retired Customs officers joining. It was, moreover, particularly memorable as two former Commissioners, Mr Don Watson and Mr Lawrence Li, joined this meaningful function to share their experiences with and give support to the young generations of Customs officers.

"It is not only a celebration but also a big family union," Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, said in his welcoming remarks at the Centennial Mess Night.



Former Commissioner, Mr Lawrence Li, speaks at the Centennial Mess Night.

Mr Don Watson served as Commissioner from 1993 to 1996 and was succeeded by Mr Lawrence Li who served in the post from 1996 to 1999. Expressing their gratitude to Commissioner Yuen and members of the Mess for the invitation, both of them noted that the key to success relied on the staff of the Department. They also encouraged the new generation of serving officers to work hard to keep the reputation of "serving Hong Kong with excellence and commitment".

Mr Watson, who had made a special effort to fly from Scotland to join the celebration after almost 13 years away from the Department, paid tribute to all those who had served, or are still serving in the Department with distinction and honour.

Addressing at the Mess Night, Mr Watson praised the officers and said, "Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department does not simply acquire a reputation such as yours merely by existing. It takes many years of hard work and dedication to build up the expertise necessary to achieve efficiency, but it also requires that this efficiency be combined with the highest levels of integrity before it is entitled to the recognition that you so richly deserve."



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (right), and the former Commissioner, Mr Don Watson, at the Centennial Mess Night.

Mr Watson also noted Hong Kong Customs had played an important role in international liaison, not only through the World Customs Organization, but also through personal contacts with law enforcement agencies across the globe.

Mr Lawrence Li, who was the first local Chinese and the first officer in the department appointed Commissioner, had cut short his trip in Sri Lanka to join the centennial celebration. He retired in 1999 when the Department celebrated its 90th anniversary.

"Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department has come a long way in the last one hundred years. Each generation of Customs and Excise officers has contributed to the development of the Department to its present state and the Department has served the community well," said Mr Li to the Mess members.

"With the Customs Headquarters Building to be completed next year, I am sure the pace of



The Centennial Mess Night is a reunion gathering for Mess members.

development of the Department will be much faster in the coming years and the Department will be able to serve the community even better,” Mr Li said.

Also addressing at the celebration, Mr Yuen highlighted the transformation of the role and responsibilities of Customs Service in Hong Kong over the past century and its development from a small Preventive Service of 20 plus officers to a major department with an establishment of 5,500 people.

“Our responsibilities now include not only the traditional revenue protection, anti-smuggling but also drug enforcement, IPR protection, control of strategic commodities, trade promotion, consumer protection, food safety and border protection,” Mr Yuen said.

“Today, Hong Kong Customs is considered one of the most advanced, efficient and business friendly customs services and a role model for others

in the region and the world,” he said.

Mr Yuen assured that the Department would carry on with this fine tradition, take on new challenges, and continue to serve Hong Kong with excellence and commitment in the next centenary and beyond.

About 130 Mess members took part in the Centennial Mess Night, including three officers who had served the longest period of 38 years for the Department. They were Mr Tong Kang-sing and Mr Raymond Li, who both retired as Deputy Commissioner, and Mr Lo Ying-kuen, who won the award for joining the service at the youngest and tender age of 18 when he was appointed Assistant Revenue Officer in 1965.



Mr Yuen is greeted by a Customs Band member.

GRADE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE

Over the past one hundred years, the Customs and Excise Service had undergone several major transformations in grade structure before turning into the present Customs and Excise Department.

When the Department’s progenitor, the Preventive Service,

was set up in 1909, the five European officers were seconded from the Sanitary Board (later called the Urban Council) and the Police Force to the Service as Revenue Officers. Under them were 20 Chinese Searchers, forming a branch affiliated to the Imports and Exports Department

(later known as the Commerce and Industry Department). Afterwards, a Chief Preventive Officer post was created and the incumbent of the post became the chief of the Service. He was underpinned by Senior Revenue Officers as well as Revenue Officers Classes I, II and

III. Moreover, Woman Revenue Officers also appeared in the Service as early as in 1916.

After the Second World War, the Deputy Chief Preventive Officer, the Assistant Chief Preventive Officer and Revenue Inspectorate Officers (including the Chief Revenue Inspector) took office successively. At that time, Revenue Sub-Inspector was the entry rank of the officer grade. Five ranks were established for the rank and file, from the junior Assistant Revenue Officer to the Principal Revenue Officer Class I.

Starting from mid-1960s, the Director of Commerce and Industry also served concurrently as the Commissioner of Preventive Service/Customs and Excise Service until the Customs and Excise Service became an independent department – Customs and Excise Department in 1982.

When the Preventive Service was renamed the Customs and Excise Service in 1977, the original structure of five ranks for the Revenue

Officer posts was streamlined to the current one of three ranks. There was also a change of titles of ranks; for instance, Revenue Officer was renamed Customs Officer. In mid-1970s, the Chief Preventive Officer grade and the Chief Revenue Inspector



A group photo of Revenue Sub-Inspector trainees (taken in 1964).



The staff of the Imports and Exports Department (taken in 1919).



The uniform of the Preventive Service in the 1970s was designed with reference to the style of naval uniform.

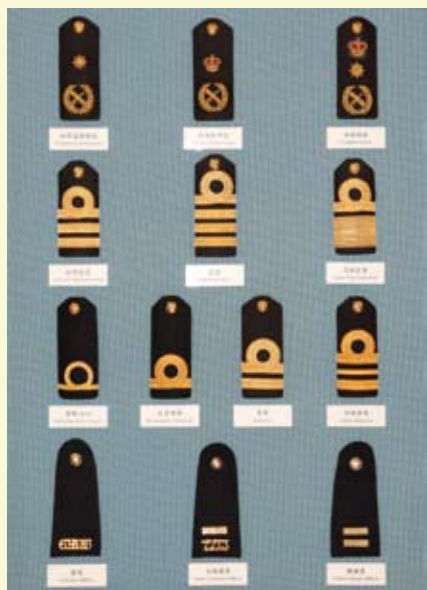


Photo 1



Photo 2

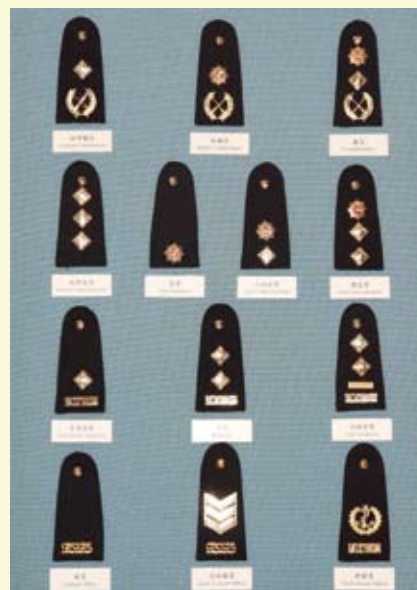


Photo 3

After the Service was renamed the Customs and Excise Service in 1977, the naval mode was still adopted for the rank insignia of officer grade or above (Photo 1). In 1988, the insignia changed to those with the characteristics of a British colony (Photo 2) and remained unchanged until after the reunification when the current style (Photo 3) was adopted.



Mr David Jordan, the then Director of Commerce and Industry and the Commissioner, reviewed the parade for celebrating the Service's 70th anniversary in 1979.

became the components of the Superintendent grade (i.e. the current ranks from Assistant Superintendent to Senior Superintendent) while the Revenue Sub-Inspector rank was abolished. With the creation of a Chief

Superintendent post in 1993, the grade structure has remained unchanged since then.



Five ranks of the Revenue Officer posts.

**Office of Service
Administration**

CUSTOMS CENTENARY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

To celebrate Hong Kong Customs Centenary this year, the Department had held a photography competition. The winner and merit awards are as follows:



Winner:

Senior Customs Officer, Tsui Wai-sing (8896)



Merit Award(1): Inspector, Chee Chung-hung



Merit Award(2):

Customs Officer, Cheung So-kam (9316)



Merit Award(3):

Customs Officer, Cheung So-kam (9316)

ODCA CRACKS A FINE WINE SCAM

Protection of revenue has been an age long challenge to Customs Administrations all over the world, and Customs officers of any generation in history contributed their best efforts to address the challenge. To the Hong Kong Customs, there is no difference.

The Liquors Ordinance of 1909 had empowered our ancestor, the Preventive Service, the enforcement powers to interdict revenue offences. Customs officers of those early days carried out their revenue protection duties by physical lookout, foot patrolling and manual examination to seek out illegal activities such as illicit manufacturing of liquors at the hillside, or petty smuggling activities across the border. With the application of advanced technology, such as the computer and X-ray, it has made the work of Customs officers much easier, but at the same time revenue fraud cases have become far more sophisticated and complicated to tax the mind of the investigators.

In August 2007, the Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA) came across a significant revenue fraud case of such nature. With the assistance of the Revenue and General Investigation Bureau (RGIB) and Computer Forensic Laboratory, officers of the ODCA's



ODCA officers rummage around the voluminous fake documents

Revenue Fraud Investigation Team (RFIT) successfully smashed a culprit wine importing company which had under-declared wine prices in order to evade duty up to almost \$4 million. A total of 48,000 bottles of fine wine with a market value of over \$32 million were seized in the case. As the syndicate had made use of a highly sophisticated electronic accounting system to support the transaction and record management of falsified declarations, ODCA officers had to work day and night to retrieve the digital evidence embedded in the two million computer records coded with high security protection barriers.

Evidence revealed that the mode of deception was well organised. Each wine shipment was split into two prices with only the lower price declared to Customs and covered by supporting

documents. The forgery documents, involving over 12,000 pieces, were checked one by one by Customs officers.

In view of the magnitude and complexity of the fraud elements involved, ODCA had for the first time engaged the professional services of a forensic accountant as an expert witness for analyses and presentation of accounting evidence in court. The investigation also cast a wide net to cover France, Australia, Switzerland and the UK for Customs officers flying there to interview the wine suppliers for evidence of the genuine wine values, and to get the witnesses' agreement to testify in the court of Hong Kong. To reflect the seriousness of the offence, the Department also managed to convince the Department of Justice to adopt the charge of a Common Law offence of

conspiracy to defraud, which carried a maximum penalty of 14 years of imprisonment.

The case was heard at the District Court in June 2009. In view of the voluminous paper evidence to be examined, the District Court ordered the case to be conducted in electronic trial, which was also the first time for the Court. The three masterminds of the case

were all convicted of the charge and each sentenced to two years of imprisonment.

Looking back, this wine case made a landmark in the Department's history of enforcement efforts in revenue protection, and a special case to remember upon the 100th birthday of the 1909 Liquors Ordinance. The modes of

customs fraud might have changed significantly over time, but the values of the Customs family have never changed - we are a forward-looking Department and at all times ready to contribute our best to tackle new challenges.

**Office of Dutiable Commodities
Administration**

HONG KONG CUSTOMS ENTERS A NEW ERA OF TECHNOLOGY

Hong Kong Customs has been serving the Hong Kong people with a culture of "Commitment and Excellence" throughout the last 100 years. One of the keys to excellence is to make continuous enhancement in Customs service by employing information technology. To mark the beginning of the second century of Hong Kong Customs, the Department kick-started the implementation of six Information System Strategy (ISS) Projects in July 2009.

The ISS Projects include the setting up of a Centralised Data Centre, construction of a Network and Server Infrastructure, Secured Communications Gateway, Enterprise System Management, Central Information Repository System and the Technology Refreshment on Air Cargo Clearance System (ACCS).

The development and implementation of the IT Infrastructure Projects will tie in with the commissioning of the new Customs Headquarters Building in 2010, which is another milestone of Hong Kong Customs.

The new IT infrastructure with adoption of modern IT facilities and applications will enhance efficiency of Hong Kong Customs to meet the future challenges and to better serve the public. Upon the full implementation of the projects, a reliable, secure and scalable IT network will be formed to connect all the computer systems at different locations. While ensuring a high level of network security, the platform can support multimedia facilities that assist officers at remote sites in performing their duties more efficiently. The standardised and structured data adopted by the Central Information Repository

System will also enhance risk management that further facilitates the flow of cargo and travellers.

Moreover, the implementation of new technology into two cargo clearance systems will help maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong as Asia's logistics hub. One is the ACCS which enhances the system capacity and functions for handling future growth in the air cargo traffic, sustaining a speedy and reliable customs clearance service. The other is the Road Cargo System (ROCARS), a new platform expected to roll out in early 2010, which will provide one-stop seamless Customs clearance arrangement to facilitate movement of inter-modal of air-land-sea transshipment cargoes.

**Office of Information
Technology**

THE EXPANSION OF CUSTOMS DETECTOR DOG DIVISION



Proactive detector dog sniffs a cross-boundary coach.

Over the past century, the role of the Hong Kong Customs had expanded to meet new challenges and demands of society. Despite the expansion, anti-narcotics enforcement work has long been one of the Hong Kong Customs' important tasks. To deter cross-boundary drug trafficking activities, Hong Kong Customs has been deploying various measures, including Customs officers' on-spot observation, X-ray scanners, ion scanners and intelligence analysis. The

deployment of drug detector dogs is of course one of the ways to help combat drug trafficking at control points.

Since 1974, the Department had deployed canines to assist in anti-narcotics law enforcement work. In 1978, the Narcotics Detector Dog Unit was set up with the establishment of six staff members who were responsible for daily administrative work and other job-related duties, and two drug detector dogs were in service. In 1980, the number of dogs increased to four.

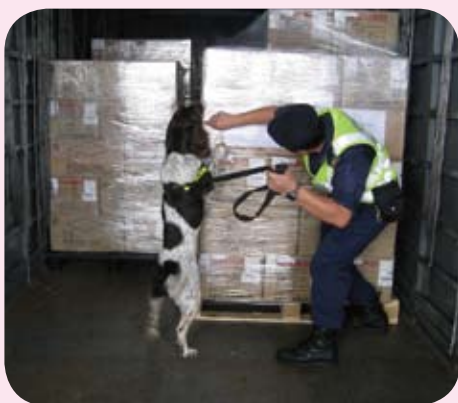
With the increase in the people and cargo flow between Hong Kong and the Mainland, Hong Kong Customs had gradually expanded the Narcotics Detector Dog Unit to enhance its enforcement capability to combat cross-boundary drug trafficking and strengthen its customs clearance service.

In 1998, Hong Kong Customs procured 21 dogs from overseas breeders for local training. With the assistance of the Police Dog Unit, 18 dog handlers and 19 dogs successfully completed the training courses and joined the service in 2001. In 2003, two explosive detector dogs joined the service. The Narcotics Detector Dog Unit was renamed as Customs Detector Dog Unit (CDDU).



Passive-alert detector dog sniffs passengers and their luggage.

In 2008, with an allocation of funds from the Government, the number of Customs detector dogs increased from 34 to 45. The Customs Detector Dog Division (CDDD) was officially established on April 1, 2008 to further strengthen the enforcement support to the frontline officers in combating drug trafficking activities. Headed by Assistant Superintendent, the CDDD has strength of 58 staff members, including Inspectors, Senior Customs Officers, dog handlers, and other officers responsible for administrative and logistic duties.



Sniffing cargoes is one of the duties for detector dogs.

At present, there are 45 detector dogs in CDDD. Among them, 37 are “Labrador Retriever”, seven are “English Springer Spaniel” and one is “Golden Retriever”. The dogs, together with their handlers, normally receive a six-week training which takes place in the UK or the Mainland, and some being trained locally. They are deployed to different Customs Dog Bases located at Tai Lam, Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal, Hong Kong International Airport, Lok Ma Chau Control Point, Lok Ma Chau Spurline Control Point, Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Sha Tau Kok Control Point, Customhouse in Kwai Chung and

Container Terminal No. 9.

Of the 45 detector dogs, 43 are responsible for detecting dangerous drugs and two are for detecting explosives. Among the drug detector dogs, 16 are classified as “Proactive Detector Dogs”, 21 are “Passive-alert Detector Dogs” and six are “Dual Purpose Detector Dogs”. The Proactive Detector Dogs are mainly responsible for sniffing cargoes, baggage, postal articles, truck containers, vehicles, aircraft and vessels, while the Passive-alert Detector Dogs are mainly responsible for sniffing passengers and their

personal luggage. For the Dual Purpose Detector Dogs, they can undergo different sniffing activities in response to different circumstances as required.

The Customs drug detector dogs help and support the frontline Customs officers at control points in their efforts against drug trafficking into Hong Kong. With Hong Kong Customs entering its second century, the CDDD will continue to step up its enforcement to crack down on any drug trafficking activities.

Customs Detector Dog Division

COMMISSIONER ATTENDS 113TH/114TH WCO COUNCIL SESSIONS

Led by Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, the Hong Kong Customs delegation attended the 113th/114th Sessions of the Customs Co-operation Council (Council Sessions) at the World Customs

Organization (WCO) Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium from June 25 to 27, 2009.

The Council Sessions covered a number of the WCO’s policies, including formulation of its response to the global financial crisis and its direction towards Customs’ role in the 21st Century. The Council further discussed various building blocks for the strategic direction for the Customs community in the 21st Century, focusing on the issue of “Co-ordinated Border Management”.

The Council also endorsed a number of WCO administrative

and budgetary proposals, and elected its new Deputy Secretary General (DSG). Mr Sergio Mujica Montes from Chile was elected as the DSG for a five-year term starting January 1, 2010.

On June 26, 2009, Mr Yuen met with the Commissioner of Korea Customs Service, Mr Hur Yong-suk, to exchange views on issues of common concern and they agreed to enhance mutual co-operation of the two administrations.



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (right), presents a souvenir to Commissioner of Korea Customs Service, Mr Hur Yong-suk.

Customs Liaison Bureau

WCO IT CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2009

The 2009 World Customs Organization (WCO) IT Conference and Exhibition was held in Marrakesh, Morocco from April 22 to 24, 2009. With the theme of “Single Window: Delivering Business Advantages”, the event focused on the vital role of technology in linking all parties operating at the border in the most effective way. Senior Staff Officer (Information Technology), Mr Daniel Cheung, and Senior Inspector, Ms Gladys Ma, attended the conference.

This annual conference provided an ideal opportunity for representatives of Customs administrations to exchange views with logistics industry, IT experts and international organisations on the development of Single Window. It was also a platform for participants to see demonstration of the latest IT solutions and explore IT opportunities in

enhancing Customs’ operations in supply chain management while maintaining high level of border security.



Mr Daniel Cheung (right) and Ms Gladys Ma (left) with the Moroccan Customs officers at the conference.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSFERS REGIME OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

The Regional Workshop for Customs Authorities in Asia on Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, co-hosted by the Central People’s Government (CPG) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), was held in Hong Kong from June 10 to 12, 2009.

The workshop was organised by Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, with assistance from the General Investigation and Systems Bureau of Trade Controls Branch. A total of 38 participants from different countries and regions attended the workshop.

The Director-General of the OPCW, Mr Rogelio Pfirter; Deputy Director-General of the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of CPG, Mr Wu Haitao; and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, officiated in the opening ceremony of the workshop.

During the workshop, participants discussed the best practices and the issues which would have an impact on the ability of Customs authorities to effectively track the transfer of chemicals relevant to the convention. The programme also included visits to Customs

and Excise Training School and Kwai Chung Customhouse.

Addressing at the welcome reception, Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, urged full international co-operation to tackle syndicated illegal transfer chemical weapons activities. He reiterated that Hong Kong Customs would keep on its momentum and continue to contribute to the Customs Community with a view to preventing Hong Kong from being used as a conduit for proliferation of chemical weapons.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL LAW-ENFORCEMENT SEMINAR

The “Sixth Annual Law-enforcement Seminar for Foreign Law Enforcement Community in China (FLECC), Hong Kong Customs, Macao Customs and China Customs”, organised by the General Administration of China Customs, was held in Wuyishan City, Fujian Province, from June 21 to 25, 2009.

A total of 38 participants coming from 11 FLECC members, Hong Kong Customs, Macao Customs/Judiciary Police and China Customs attended the seminar. Among them were Head of Intelligence Bureau, Mr David Fong; Divisional Commander (Intelligence Verification and Surveillance), Mr Lam Chun-keung; and Divisional Commander (Drug Investigation (Manufacturing and Distribution)), Mr Lam Lap-yan.

The seminar discussed the measures to combat transnational commercial fraud and cross-

border drug trafficking. All participants in the meeting recognised that the most effective way to combat transnational commercial fraud and cross-border drug trafficking was to maintain close co-operation on various fronts covering collection and analysis of intelligence, law enforcement, judicial co-operation and information exchange.

At the seminar, the Deputy

Director General of Anti-smuggling Bureau, General Administration of China Customs, Mr Wang Zhi, highly commended the effectiveness of co-operation between Hong Kong and China Customs in combating drug trafficking and smuggling activities between the two places. He urged both administrations to continue to foster closer co-operation on exchange of intelligence and mount more joint operations.



Mr Wang Zhi (sixth left, front row) and Mr David Fong (fourth left, front row) with other participants.

INTEGRITY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR AT KAZAKHSTAN

Senior Staff Officer (Prosecution and Management Support), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping, attended the Integrity Development Seminar for the Kazakh Customs Committee as one of the guest speakers in Astana, Kazakhstan on May 5 and 6, 2009.

The seminar, jointly organised by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), provided a forum for the Kazakh Customs Committee and international experts from the OSCE region

to discuss ways and means to enhance integrity in the Customs sector. It also discussed the importance of developing a Code of Conduct and formulated the national anti-corruption strategy.

The Hong Kong Customs' participation in the seminar has marked not only our strong commitment in integrity building but also our continuous support to WCO in sharing our practice in achieving integrity at an international forum.



Ms Kwok Ngan-ping delivers a presentation on “Hong Kong’s case – Leadership & Organisation” in the seminar.

SEMINAR ON CONTROLLED CHEMICALS IN HONG KONG

To arouse local shipping companies and cargo handling agents' awareness of the licensing requirements of controlled chemicals in Hong Kong, the Controlled Chemicals Group of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau held a seminar on the relevant legislation for the industry on March 26, 2009 at North Point Government Offices.

In the seminar, Head of Controlled Chemicals Group, Mr Donald Wong, briefed the participants

on the legal requirements for import, export and transshipment of controlled chemicals in Hong Kong and the liabilities of cargo



Over 150 representatives from the industry participated in the seminar.

handling operators in handling precursor chemicals shipment.

Response to the seminar was encouraging with over 150 representatives of shipping companies and cargo handling agents attending the seminar. It helped to build up partnership and mutual co-operation between Customs and the industry in the fight against trafficking of precursor chemicals in Hong Kong.

APC RECEIVES APPRECIATION

The Air Command (APC) was presented an appreciation plaque by Sony Corporation in



Head of Airport Command, Mr Daniel Tam (right), receives an appreciation plaque from a representative of Sony Corporation.

recognition of the continuous efforts made by the Hong Kong Customs in trademark protection against counterfeit electronic product shipments by air cargo. This is the second time that APC received the compliments.

Besides, a total of six officers of APC received "The Best Service Awards" from the Chairman of Air Cargo Customer Liaison Group (ACCLG) in recognition of their



The recipients of Best Service Award 2009 with members of ACCLG.

excellent service and facilitation to air cargo customers. The awards have been co-organised by the Hong Kong Customs and the ACCLG since 1996.

FS VISITS INJURED RGIB OFFICER

The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, accompanied by Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, on April 23, 2009 went to Tuen Mun Hospital to visit Senior Customs Officer, Mr Yan Moon-fai, who sustained leg injuries during an anti-illicit cigarette operation in Yuen Long. During the operation, a lorry loaded with illicit cigarettes

hit a Customs vehicle, causing injuries of four Customs Officers. Mr Yan was admitted to hospital while the rest were treated and discharged. In the operation, 1.8 million sticks of illicit cigarettes were seized and the lorry driver was arrested.



Mr John C Tsang (centre) and Mr Richard Yuen (left) visit the injured officer at hospital.