



CUSTOMS NEWS

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

2010 January • Issue No.41

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

THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

At the beginning of a new year, I wish our readers a successful and prosperous 2010.

In saying goodbye to 2009, we have also passed a new milestone of the centenary of the Hong Kong Customs. Beginning 100 years ago with 25 officers, the Preventive Service (the forerunner of the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department) has developed into one of the most successful and respected Customs Services in the world. We take pride in our professionalism, our integrity, our efficiency and the high quality of service that we provide to the public and the business sector.

Throughout these years, the Hong Kong Customs has undergone many major transformations – and taken on many new duties – from collecting wine and spirit duties, to drug prevention, to trade control, to becoming the sole enforcement authority on intellectual property rights, to consumer protection and regulation of consumer product safety, to providing efficient customs clearance to enable Hong Kong to leverage on the opening up of the Mainland economy in the late 1970s to become a major international logistics hub and trade centre.

We have been able to cope with all these changes and emerge

stronger and more successful because we have only one objective in mind – to serve the community. I am pleased that the World Customs Organization has chosen the theme “Customs Business Partnership” for this year’s International Customs Day. The Hong Kong Customs is among the first Customs Services that have initiated and forged a close partnership with the business community.

In Hong Kong, we firmly believe that Customs and business share a common interest and that is to enhance customs enforcement and facilitate trade. The two objectives are not contradictory; instead, they complement each other. Effective and efficient customs enforcement does not only protect society, combat international crime and enhance supply chain security, it will also help bona fide businesses to improve efficiency and save cost through less cumbersome customs procedure and more certainty, reliability and security in the movement of goods and people.

To promote Customs/business partnership, we have established a series of customer liaison groups. These customer liaison groups provide a regular channel for us to communicate with our clients. They enable us



to understand better how the market operates so that we can make changes and improvement to meet the needs of business. We will roll out the Road Cargo System (ROCARS) in March, which will allow shippers to submit road cargo data electronically in advance. Pre-cleared vehicles will be able to go through the customs kiosks at the boundary control points without stopping. The launch of ROCARS will not only mark a new phase of seamless customs clearance but also help enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the local logistics industry.

The Hong Kong Customs has a long history of co-operation with the business sector. We will continue to build on this strong partnership to maintain Hong Kong’s competitiveness as a premier logistics hub and trade centre.

Richard Yuen
Commissioner

CUSTOMS FLEET UPGRADED TO MEET CHALLENGES

Anti-smuggling work is one of the major tasks of Hong Kong Customs to prevent contraband goods, drugs and prohibited items from entering and leaving the boundary of Hong Kong. As Hong Kong is surrounded by the South China Sea except in the north, Hong Kong has attached great importance to tackling sea smuggling and the Customs fleet has been playing a vital role in anti-smuggling at sea.

To mark the historic 100th anniversary of the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Service, the Customs and Excise Department has strengthened its anti-smuggling fleet and capabilities with three new, modern, well-equipped patrol launches.

The Customs fleet had its three additions commissioned on



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (Centre); Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung (left); and Assistant Commissioner, Mr Chow Kwong (right), officiate at the commissioning ceremony.

December 17, 2009 after the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, officiated at a ceremony at the Customs Marine Base, Stonecutters Island.

The commissioning of the three new Customs Sector Patrol Launches (SPLs) marked a significant day for the Hong Kong Customs and

Excise Service on its historic 100th anniversary with its anti-smuggling maritime enforcement capability greatly enhanced, said Mr Yuen at the ceremony.

“Anti-sea smuggling has long been one of the major duties for Hong Kong Customs, and the Customs fleet has played a vital role in it,” said Mr Yuen, “However, as the smugglers have advanced their equipment and changed the mode of smuggling, it is necessary for Customs to upgrade the fleet and provide suitable training for officers to tackle sea-smuggling activities.”

“The three vessels are installed with an advanced radar system, a thermal imager and an itemizer,” Mr Yuen added.



Mr Yuen (second right) was briefed on the equipment on a new launch.



The three Customs Sector Patrol Launches have been in service since December 17, 2009.

With these three new patrol launches coming in service, the effectiveness and efficiency of Hong Kong Customs anti-smuggling operations is substantially enhanced and greater deterrence is posed on sea smugglers.

The new launches are built with advanced hull form, higher speed, better stability and

maneuverability to enhance both the navigational and anti-smuggling enforcement capabilities. Each patrol launch is 30 metres long, 6.5 metres wide, with a shallow draft of 1.8 metres and a maximum speed of 26 knots.

The patrol launches are not only in smart appearance but also with people-oriented and environmental-friendly features. They are equipped with dampened seats and noise reduction design to improve occupational safety and health of the crews onboard. The engines are designed to generate much less

sound and smoke to help to contribute to the environmental protection.

These three modern, maneuverability enhanced and well-equipped launches will replace the "Damen III" launches that have been in service for more than two decades. With them joining the Customs fleet, Hong Kong Customs now has a total of 21 vessels including five SPLs, four high speed pursuit craft, two shallow water launches, two harbour launches and eight inflatable craft patrolling all waters of Hong Kong round the clock to detect and deter sea smuggling activities.



The new launches are equipped with enhanced maneuverability.

**Ports and
Maritime Command**

ROAD CARGO SYSTEM TO BE LAUNCHED IN FIRST QUARTER



Publicity banners are displayed at land boundary control points.

To facilitate trade and maintain Hong Kong's competitiveness as an international trading and logistics centre, Hong Kong Customs has developed a road cargo system for customs clearance of road cargoes at all land boundary control points. The new system, the Road Cargo System (ROCARS), to be rolled out in the first quarter of 2010, will uphold Hong Kong's status as a regional logistics hub and bring about macro-economical benefits to Hong Kong. It will come into full operation after an 18-month transitional period.

Currently, Hong Kong has the electronic infrastructure for customs clearance of cargoes carried by different modes of transport, except the road mode. To keep abreast with global, regional and national developments in moving towards electronic customs clearance, it is vital for Hong Kong to construct an electronic information system to improve the efficiency of customs clearance by allowing the users to

submit electronic advance cargo information (e-ACI) to the ROCARS while at the same time enhancing the Hong Kong Customs' ability in conducting risk profiling. In addition, the new system is in line with the World Customs Organization's "Framework of Standard to Secure and Facilitate Trade" which helps enhance the security of the international supply chain.

The ROCARS will enable Customs officers to conduct risk profiling on cargo consignment in advance in order to determine whether a truck needs to be inspected. Truckers will stop once only at a land boundary control point for clearance, instead of stopping twice for immigration and customs clearance separately under the current arrangement. Customs clearance messages will be given through a video display unit installed at the immigration kiosk.

Except those selected for cargo examination, all cross-boundary trucks will pass through the boundary control point and enjoy the convenience of seamless customs clearance.

In future, the ROCARS will provide the necessary electronic platform and lay a solid foundation for Hong Kong Customs to establish closer ties with other

Customs administrations and formulate measures that will help expedite cross-boundary cargo movements. Implementation of the system will assist the Department to introduce one-stop customs clearance arrangement to further facilitate the passage of transshipment cargoes which involve inter-modal movement. Furthermore, the industry can make use of the built-in "data inheritance facilitation function" of the ROCARS which enables the user to reuse the electronic cargo information submitted to ROCARS for import/export customs declaration under the Government Electronic Trading Service (GETS).



Customs officers receive training on ROCARS.

Hong Kong Customs has started an extensive publicity programme and mobilised outreach teams to assist the industry stakeholders to get used to the ROCARS during the transitional period. A website (www.rocars.gov.hk) has also been established to help the public better understand the arrangement and benefits of the new system.

Special Duties Team

TV SERIES “THE STORY OF CUSTOMS” DEPICTS CUSTOMS WORK

“The Story of Customs”, an eight-episode TV series to celebrate the Hong Kong Customs’ centenary, was broadcast from October 10 to November 28, 2009 for eight consecutive Saturdays on a local television channel. Being one of the focal activities to mark the centennial celebration, the TV series was also the first ever television documentary-drama produced by the Department with the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to spotlight Customs’ work in detail.

“The Story of Customs” was produced on the basis of eight real successful cases under the five work areas, including anti-smuggling, detection of narcotics trafficking, protection of government revenue on dutiable goods, protection of intellectual property rights, and protection of consumer interests. It depicted how Hong Kong Customs had

cracked down on the emerging crimes with commitment and excellence.

Through a year of preparation and production, coupled with mutual support of Hong Kong Customs and RTHK, the drama series had aroused much interest of the community, making it one of the most popular TV programmes among all weekend evening shows with a viewership of more than 1.2 million spectators on average. The drama series also shed light on the detailed accounts of Customs’ duties as well as its missions. More importantly, it embodied the educational effects on the Hong Kong people about the importance of law and order, particularly the messages to the youth on respecting intellectual property rights and staying away from drugs.



Officer of Lo Wu Division (second left) participates in the fifth episode on detection of narcotics trafficking.

The success of the drama series had also hinged upon the full support rendered by the participating parties within the Department as a good few officers even made their maiden appearance in the drama to prompt the episodes more convincing. The popularity of “The Story of Customs” has demonstrated the public’s recognition and support of Customs work and achievements, which help to raise Customs Officers’ morale in keeping up their good performance.

**Office of Service
Administration**

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATING ACTIVITIES SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

The centenary of the Hong Kong Customs in the year 2009 came to an end with flying colours when the last two celebrating activities were successfully concluded in December 2009.

Customs Centennial Dinner

On December 7, the Centennial

Dinner, unlike the former annual dinners, was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre for the first time to mark the significance of the centenary. Organised by the Customs and Excise Service Senior Officers’ Mess (CESSOM), the programmes of the dinner gathering included

performances by pop singers and the Customs and Excise Band, as well as the display of precious old photos featuring the historic events of the Department in the past 100 years.

The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, who was also the former



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (right), presents the "Hong Kong Customs – A Centenary History" to the Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, at the dinner.

Commissioner between 1999-2001, was present as the Guest of Honour at the dinner to have reunion with the Customs family members.

Centennial Gala Day

The Centennial Gala Day, organised by the Customs and Excise Department Sports and

Recreation Club, was held on December 26 at the Customs and Excise Training School. In the Christmas festive season, officers of all ranks of the Department and their families gathered together to foster and enhance closer relationships through taking part in the day-long event which was fully packed with wonderful performances and games. Over 2,000 participants attended the event.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, who is also the President of the Sports and Recreation Club, presented awards to winners of



Participants have fun at the games booth.

the three centenary competitions, i.e. logo, slogan and photography competitions, at the function to mark a perfect ending to the year-long centennial celebrating activities.

**Office of Service
Administration**

HK CUSTOMS HOSTS ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS OF RILO A/P

Officers of 19 Customs administrations from the Asia Pacific Region gathered in Hong Kong from October 20 to 22, 2009 for the 21st Administrative Meeting of the National Contact Points (NCP) of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P).

Representatives from the World Customs Organization (WCO), Asia Pacific Region Office for Capacity Building and RILOs for other

regions, including Commonwealth of Independent States, Middle East and Western Europe, and various international organisations such as Oceania Customs Organization and United Nations Environment Programme also participated in the meeting as observers.

Hosted by the Hong Kong Customs, the three-day meeting covered various regional enforcement issues such as actions against drug trafficking, tobacco smuggling, environmental crimes and commercial fraud. An action plan and work plan for RILO A/P for this year was endorsed.

In the meeting, members of RILO A/P proposed WCO to conduct a survey on impact of the global financial crisis on the trends of smuggling activities and related Customs offences. In addition, Hong Kong Customs recommended a survey be conducted to ascertain the need of formulating operational strategies to tackle the growing problem of ketamine abuse in the region.

The RILO A/P, as the first Regional Intelligence Office set up by the WCO, was founded in Hong Kong in December 1987. This year's meeting in Hong Kong provided an opportunity for members not only to meet with each other but also to share the joy with Hong Kong Customs on its centenary anniversary in 2009.



A group photo of the participants in Hong Kong.

Customs Liaison Bureau

HK CUSTOMS STRENGTHENS CO-OPERATION WITH KOREA CUSTOMS



The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (left), and the Commissioner of Korea Customs Service, Mr Yongsuk Hur, exchange agreed minutes in the 28th Customs Co-operation Conference.

The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, led a delegation for the 28th Customs Co-operation Conference with the Korea Customs Service in Jeju, Korea on November 2, 2009. Mr Yuen signed agreed minutes with the Commissioner of Korea Customs Service, Mr Yongsuk Hur, at the conference to forge closer co-operation between the two administrations.

Both administrations acknowledged in the conference the importance of regional and international co-operation in the fight against transnational crimes and agreed to continue with the prompt exchange of intelligence. They would strengthen co-operation in the protection of intellectual property rights at the

cyberspace and the exchange of expertise.

"The conference has been a very successful one for the two administrations to exchange constructive discussions. With the long-standing co-operation history between the two administrations, the Hong Kong Customs will further take proactive co-operation initiatives to foster a closer and more strategic partnership with the Korean Customs to meet forthcoming challenges," said Mr Yuen.

During his visit in Korea, Mr Yuen also

attended the opening ceremony of the Green Customs Forum and Workshop organised by the Korea Customs Service and in co-operation with the WCO under the Customs Co-operation Fund sponsored by Japan.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr Yuen affirmed the importance of protecting the environment and recognised the strenuous effort contributed by the Customs community over the years in tackling the problems of smuggling of environmental depleting items.

Held from November 3 to 6, the forum focused its discussion on environmental crime trends and various Green Customs initiatives put forward by member administrations and environmental-concerned organisations.

Customs Liaison Bureau



Mr Yuen delivers a speech in the opening of the Green Customs Forum and Workshop.

WCO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON X-RAY SCANNER IMAGE ANALYSIS

Hong Kong Customs organised a World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Workshop on X-ray Scanner Image Analysis from November 30 to December 4, 2009. A total of 37 representatives coming from 25 member administrations participated in the workshop held at the Customs and Excise Training School (CETS). Besides, four facilitators from the WCO, UK Customs and WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) were also present to co-ordinate the workshop and lead the discussion sessions.

To broaden officers' horizon, 33 officers from various formations of the Department also attended as observers in different sessions of the workshop. Acting Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development), Mr Chan Wing-kin; Assistant Superintendent of Intelligence Bureau, Mr Dennis Chan; and Senior Inspector of Office of Training and Development, Mr Joe Wun, were present as speakers in the workshop.

The five-day workshop provided a good opportunity for participants to update themselves on the prevalent WCO issues, such as the implementation of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards and the progress of the "Columbus Programme". It highlighted the importance of risk



Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Leung Koon-wah, delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the workshop.

the international trade supply chain.

The workshop also played as a platform for participants to share their experiences of implementing NII technology and analyse different cases on X-ray image. A half-day field study at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point was organised to introduce the X-ray facilities currently used by the Hong Kong Customs.

The participants found the workshop practical and well organised, which had enhanced their X-ray image analysing capacity.

management and the application of Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology to secure and facilitate

Office of Training and Development



Facilitators and participants of the workshop.

FUNCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES OF CUSTOMS PROFESSIONALISATION

To implement the staff development programme – “Customs Professionalisation” which aims to enhance the competency of Customs officers, the Office of Training and Development (OTD) has arranged four types of functional development courses for concerned officers. The four courses are Administration and Operational Support Course, Cargo Processing Course (CPC), Intelligence and Investigation Course (I&IC) and Passenger Processing Course (PPC). Apart from the Administration and Operational Support Course which was out-sourced to professional institutions, the other three courses were organised by OTD from August to November in 2009.

All of the three courses adopt a scenario-based teaching methodology. They are intended



Officers in a mock trial training of Intelligence and Investigation Course¹.

to help officers to acquire quickly the knowledge and skills for a particular work stream after they take up a new post in the stream. The courses also stress active participation of the trainees through many interactive training methods, such as group discussions, role-play and practical exercises.

Both the CPC and PPC were a five-day programme which aimed to provide knowledge and skills enabling trainees to apply in their daily cargo or passenger processing duties. The I&IC was an eight-day training programme aimed to equip the trainees with the essential skills and knowledge of a Customs investigator in a holistic manner, covering the core parts of an investigation cycle.

The courses have facilitated the implementation of the “Customs Professionalisation” programme, which definitely paves the way to a more effective and efficient Customs service.



Officers in a role play exercise of Passenger Processing Course.

Office of Training and Development

SEMINAR ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BORDER MEASURES FOR IPR PROTECTION IN PERU

The “Seminar on Implementation of Border Measures for Intellectual Property Rights Protection” was organised by the Asia-

Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) and Peruvian Customs Administration (SUNAT) in Lima, Peru from October 5 to 7, 2009.

A total of 52 delegates from 12 member economies, including Divisional Commander (Copyright Investigation) of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Ms Yip Wai-sim, attended the seminar to keep abreast of the border measures being implemented by other economies. She also shared with other participants Hong Kong Customs’ experience in the protection of intellectual property rights in the territory.



Ms Yip shares the experience of HK Customs in the seminar.

It was one of the six project proposals endorsed by the second meeting of the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP2) in 2008.

VISIT TO LIANHUASHAN FERRY TERMINAL AND CHANGPING RAILWAY STATION

To enhance close relationship and co-operation with the Mainland Customs, officers of Rail and Ferry Command visited Lianhuashan Ferry Terminal in Panyu and Changping Railway Station on September 24, 2009 and October 23, 2009 respectively.

The delegation to Lianhuashan Ferry Terminal met with the local Customs officials and discussed matters over passenger and cargo clearance duties. They also shared experiences in risk profiling techniques and discussed current smuggling

trends. The other delegation paid a site visit to Changping Railway Station after meeting with Customs Office Director, Changping Office of Huangpu Customs, Mr Zeng Haiying, on the passenger clearance facilities and daily operation of the station.



The delegation led by Divisional Commander (China and Macau Ferries), Mr Ngan Hon-fat (second right), meets with Panyu Customs at Lianhuashan Terminal.



Divisional Commander (Spur Line and Through Train), Ms Poon Fung-lin (fifth right), with Customs Office Director of Changping Office of Huangpu Customs, Mr Zeng Haiying (sixth right), and members of the delegation.

GOVERNMENT COUNSELS VISIT LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT

Eighteen counsels from the Department of Justice paid a familiarisation visit to Lok Ma Chau Control Point on September 10, 2009. They were briefed on the Customs work at the control point. They also exchanged views with Customs frontline officers on legal issues and gave advice on the enforcement problems encountered by Customs officers.



The visitors from the Department of Justice at the inbound cargo examination compound.

BULK CASH SMUGGLING WORKSHOP

To enrich frontline Customs officers' knowledge of cash smuggling and money laundering activities, the Financial Investigation Group (FIG) and

Training Development Group organised the first Bulk Cash Smuggling Workshop with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and US

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from September 14 to 16, 2009 at Kwai Chung Customhouse.

Through the comprehensive presentations delivered by the experts from ICE, CBP and Hong Kong Department of Justice, together with the experience sharing and panel discussions led by FIG, 31 inspectorate officers had enriched their knowledge of anti-money laundering laws, international standards and global development on the control of cash courier, related enforcement techniques on passenger profiling, seizure/evidence handling and intelligence development.



Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr. Tam Yiu-keung (left), presents a souvenir to US ICE Attaché, Mr. Tatum S. King.

REVENUE FRAUD INVESTIGATION COURSE

The Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA) and Office of Training and Development jointly organised a one-day Revenue Fraud Investigation Course at the Customs and Excise Training

School on November 20, 2009. A total of 34 officers engaging in investigation duties attended the course.

The training covered a wide range of subjects ranging from high end

interview techniques required for revenue fraud investigation, handling of accomplice witness and taking of non-prejudicial statement to the use of expert witness such as the engagement of a forensic accountant, presentation of digital evidence in court and handling of electronic trial at the District Court level.

The course also provided a valuable opportunity for ODCA officers to share their learning on fraud investigation provided by the world-renowned Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in US with other colleagues.



Officers participate in the Revenue Fraud Investigation Course.

CUSTOMS SUPPORTS “LIFELINE EXPRESS”

Ten members of Customs’ Marathon and Distance Running Team participated in the Lifeline Express Charity Run/Walk event on October 24, 2009 at the Hong Kong Science Park to raise funds for the unfortunate. They took part in the 13.8 km Charity Run. To show his support of this worthwhile event, Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung, was also present at the event to share his running experiences with the members and took part in the 3.8 km Charity Walk.

The event with a total of 1,500 participants had raised \$1.3 million for Lifeline Express’ Eye

Hospital Train to help poor people suffering from cataract in the Mainland.



Mr Au Yeung (sixth left) with members of the Marathon and Distance Running Team.

ENHANCED SMART TEEN PROJECT 2009

The Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) had organised two camps for a total of 76 students from four secondary schools from October 12 to 23, 2009



The students of the Enhanced Smart Teen Project were inspected by the Commandant of CETS, Mr Alex Liu.

under the Enhanced Smart Teen Project. The students underwent a five-day-four-night residential camp at the training school where they received disciplinary and team building training to enhance their self-discipline, confidence, team spirit and resilience.

To enhance students' knowledge of Hong Kong Customs, CETS arranged for them visits to the Shenzhen Bay Passenger Division,

the Customs Detector Dog Division, the IPR Enforcement Museum and the Customs and Excise Training School Museum.

The Enhanced Smart Teen Project is organised by the Education Bureau in collaboration with Customs and Excise Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Fire Services Department, Correctional Services Department, Immigration Department, Civil Aid Service and Hong Kong Adventure Corps to provide disciplinary training for Forms 2 and 3 students.

THE OMBUDSMAN'S AWARDS 2009

The Customs and Excise Department won the Ombudsman's Awards 2009 for Public Organisations for demonstrating a high degree of professionalism in complaint handling and being helpful in providing

information and assistance to the Ombudsman's investigation.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, received the award at the Ombudsman's

Awards Presentation Ceremony on November 26, 2009.

At the ceremony, Mr Yuen introduced the features of the Department's complaint-handling mechanism, noting that "Impartiality and openness are the cornerstones of any effective complaint handling system and a credible complaint handling system must be able to win the trust of not only the complainants but also those who are being complained."



Mr Yuen (right) receives the Ombudsman's Awards for Public Organisations from the Ombudsman, Mr Alan Lai.



Mr Lee Yik-ming (right) receives the Ombudsman's Awards for Officers of Public Organisation from Mr Lai.

In addition, Customs Officer Lee Yik-ming of Airport Command was awarded the Ombudsman's Awards 2009 for Officers of Public Organisation in recognition of his exemplary performance in serving the public.

2009 CIVIL SERVICE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



Representatives of the JCC receive the prize from the Acting Chief Executive, Mr Henry Tang (second left).

The Joint Command Centre (JCC) set up at the land boundary control points (LBCPs) won the “Partnership Award” in the 2009 Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme. The prize was presented by Acting Chief Executive, Mr Henry Tang, on September 29, 2009 to various commanders of Customs and Excise Department, Immigration Department and Hong Kong Police participating in the JCC.

The JCC was established in 2003 with a view to co-ordinating information exchange and resources allocation among

Customs and Excise Department, Immigration Department, and Hong Kong Police of Hong Kong side and relevant departments of Shenzhen side to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of passenger and vehicle clearance services at the LBCPs during various festival periods of the year.

Officers of both Land Boundary Command and Rail and Ferry Command participate in the operation of the JCC set up at the LBCPs during long holidays when the traffic flow of passengers and vehicles are high.

As the adjudicators commented, of the competing projects, the JCC project was the most challenging joint venture. It requires not only inter-departmental co-operation, but also the support of many Mainland departments. The synergy generated has enhanced the monitoring capability of boundary control points and ensured safe and speedy clearance services for the public. It has also helped promote Hong Kong as an international city.