



CUSTOMS NEWS

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THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

The official opening of the new Hong Kong Customs Headquarters Building (CHB) on February 21 by the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, marks not only a new milestone for the Hong Kong Customs but also a renewed pledge by the Department to continue to serve the community with "Commitment and Excellence".

For more than a century, the Hong Kong Customs Service had been operating through offices scattering around the territory. This was partly dictated by the special nature of the Customs work which requires the majority of our officers to be stationed at the control points at the border, and partly due to the lack of a centralised building able to house all our operation units dealing with drugs, illicit cigarettes, intellectual property rights infringement, consumer protection and other support services.

The completion of the new building is most timely. The complexity of Customs work brought by the increased sophistication of cross-boundary criminal activities, the new role of Customs in trade facilitation, and a growing responsibility for protecting society and securing the integrity of boundary, has called for a more efficient internal communication, better co-ordination between operation units and more synergy

within the Department. A modern day Customs is not only required to cope with future challenges but to get on top of them.

We fully share the theme chosen by the World Customs Organization for this year's International Customs Day - "Knowledge, a catalyst for Customs excellence". We cannot only equip Customs officers with the skills that they need to deal with the present day problems. We need to inculcate a culture of self-learning and life-long learning among our officers, so that they can develop an interest and have the ability to detect the changing environment and initiate an appropriate and effective response through self-motivation.

With this in mind, we have made a special effort to install in the new CHB superb training facilities, including a state-of-the-art auditorium, a self-learning library and various laboratories. All these have been designed to provide a catalyst to facilitate and promote knowledge sharing between officers and between different operation units of the Department. We are confident that our officers will make full use of the new facilities to upgrade their skills and knowledge to keep up with changing times.

Intellectual property crime is a case in point of the changing environment faced by Customs and



other law enforcement agencies. With the advent of information technology and the globalisation of trade, counterfeit goods and pirated products are being shipped around the world in a much faster pace and a much larger scale than before. Like all kinds of cross-boundary crimes, it is much more effective to stop and contain them at the point of entry. The Hong Kong Customs was privileged to have the opportunity to co-host in Hong Kong the 2010 International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference with INTERPOL. The well attended conference did not only provide an opportunity for law enforcers and stakeholders to share experience and exchange intelligence. It also helped renew the resolve and commitment of the international law enforcement community in fighting cross-boundary counterfeiting activities and set a fine example of cross-agency, cross-sector co-operation in tackling transnational crimes.

Richard Yuen
Commissioner

NEW CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING OPENED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The new Hong Kong Customs' permanent office in North Point, Customs Headquarters Building (CHB), has started operating in phases from mid-November, 2010. About 1,850 staff members of 23 formations and divisions previously working in various districts have moved to the new office building.

The 32-storey CHB, with a total gross floor area of 41,000 square metres, houses the staff of various branches and formations, including administration, training, excise control, investigation, trade controls and the centralised customer service centre under one roof.

The new headquarters building was officially opened by the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, on

February 21, 2011. At the opening ceremony, Mr Tsang noted that the opening of the new Customs office building, which was modern and eco-friendly, marked a new milestone in the Hong Kong Customs' history.

Mr Tsang also praised the Customs for playing a pivotal role in maintaining Hong Kong's image as a clean, vibrant and law-abiding city.

He said the success of Hong Kong of being rated as the world's freest economy, the busiest international air cargo centre



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Customs Headquarters Building.

and one of the largest container ports was attributed to the dedication and commitment of the Department's 5,500 Customs and Trade Control Officers. "They work tirelessly to provide timely, reliable and hassle-free customs



Mr Donald Tsang (right), the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (first left), and Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Lu Bin (second left), unveil the commemorative plaque to mark the opening of Customs Headquarters Building.



Mr Richard Yuen delivers a welcome speech at the opening ceremony.



Witnessed by Mr Donald Tsang (first left), Mr Richard Yuen receives a souvenir from Mr Lu Bin (first right).

clearance around the clock for our shippers and forwarders,” Mr Tsang said.

“Placing the Department’s major operations under one roof at the Customs Headquarters Building will enhance the efficiency, communication and unity of the Department,” he said.

Joining the Chief Executive to mark the grand opening of CHB were Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs (GAC) and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration

of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Lu Bin; the Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose Lee; the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau; and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen.

On behalf of GAC, Mr Lu presented a souvenir to Mr Yuen to mark this special occasion.

After the ceremony, the Chief Executive and the other officiating guests visited the facilities of CHB,

including the firing range and the Radio Command Control Room.

Following the full commissioning of the CHB, Hong Kong Customs will further improve the services to the public and at the same time, enhancing efficiency of the Department.

To cope with different operational needs and new initiatives, there are new facilities set up in the CHB. Here are some of the highlights:



Mr Donald Tsang (fifth left, first row), Mr Richard Yuen (fourth left, first row), Mr Lu Bin (fourth right, first row), other officiating guests and Customs directorate at the ceremony.



Mr Donald Tsang and other officiating guests visit the Radio Command Control Room.



Mr Donald Tsang is briefed by Customs officers on the operation of the Radio Command Control Room.

Customer Service Centre

The Customer Service Centre, with five service counters, is located on the 3/F. The Centre provides integrated and one-stop service for the application of licences/permits of dutiable commodities, controlled chemicals, optical discs mastering and replication equipment and assessment of motor vehicle first registration tax. With the Customer Service Centre, the Hong Kong Customs is able to provide better and speedier services to the public under one roof. The new Centre also provides general public enquiry services and comprehensive information on the Department's work areas face-to-face.

Auditorium

Equipped with advanced audio-visual systems, the 300-seat multi-purpose Auditorium on the 15/F is built for conducting large-scale training sessions, seminars and lectures. It is also an ideal venue for holding international conferences and seminars as

simultaneous interpretation facilities are provided.

Library/Self Learning Centre

To cope with the rapid change, Hong Kong Customs encourages its staff members to acquire new knowledge by continuous learning. The Library/Self Learning Centre on the 10/F provides the information database to help officers share with each other's training and working experiences. The officers can make use of the reference books, strategic research materials and training reports in the Library. To encourage officers to enrich their

knowledge through self learning, 20 computer workstations are installed in the Self Learning Centre of the Library.

Indoor Firing Range

The Indoor Firing Range on the 16/F consists of one 25-metre range with dim-light shooting training and two mini-ranges equipped with computerised simulation shooting system for scenario-based training. The specially designed ventilation/filtering system and acoustic structure help maintain good indoor air quality and stop noise leakage from the firing range.



Mr Donald Tsang and other officiating guests watch a demonstration of the computerised simulation shooting system at the indoor firing range.

Exhibition Gallery

The 200-square metre Exhibition Gallery on the 10/F seeks to enhance the public understanding of the Department's development and work to tie in with the government's policy of promoting general education. With the theme of "The History and Development of Hong Kong Customs in past 100 years", the main exhibition area introduces the history, development and modernisation of Hong Kong Customs and the core functions to visitors. Videos will be shown and photos will be displayed at the exhibition area on specific Customs work, including anti-narcotics, intellectual property rights protection and training and development.

Podium

The Podium on the 4/F is an open space of greenery which can be used for holding parades, ceremonial functions, commendation presentation,



The Podium.

and other outdoor gatherings in a relaxing and refreshing environment.

The funding for building the new CHB was approved in mid-2006 by the Finance Committee of Legislative Council and the construction work started in April, 2007 and completed in September, 2010.

Overlooking the eastern waterfront of the Victoria Harbour, the new CHB marks a milestone in the development of the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department.



The Customs Headquarters Building.

Office of Project Planning and Development



The Auditorium.



The Indoor Firing Range.

2010 INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG



The Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So (third right); President of INTERPOL, Mr Khoo Boon Hui (third left); the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (second right); President, Product Safety, Underwriters Laboratories, Mr Charlie Abounader (second left); Deputy Director of the World Customs Organization, Mr Allen Bruford (first right) and Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Andy Tsang (first left) at the opening ceremony.

The Hong Kong Customs joined hands for the first time with INTERPOL in organising an international conference on enforcement against intellectual property (IP) crime in October 2010.

The 2010 International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference, with the theme of “Working Together to Break Organised Crime”, was co-hosted by Hong Kong Customs and INTERPOL in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories in Hong Kong between October 19 and 21. The three-day conference emphasised the leadership role of customs and police, bringing together collective efforts from the public and private sectors to work together to break organised IP crime.

INTERPOL has been organising the annual IP crime conference since 2007. The 2010 conference was the first to be held in Asia, bringing together some 500 law enforcement specialists and private sector personnel from 48 countries. Notable leaders from Asia, Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East attended the conference and gave keynote speeches. Among them were the Attorney General of the United States, Mr Eric Holder, and Director General, Department of Policy and Legal Affairs, General Administration of Customs, the People’s Republic of China, Ms Meng Yang.

The conference was opened by the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So;

President of INTERPOL, Mr Khoo Boon Hui; the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen; President, Product Safety, Underwriters Laboratories, Mr Charlie Abounader; Deputy Director of the World Customs Organization, Mr Allen Bruford and Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Andy Tsang.



Mr So speaks at the opening ceremony.



Mr Yuen (right), on behalf of the Customs and Excise Department, presents a souvenir to Mr Khoo.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr So highlighted that co-operation among jurisdictions and timely intelligence exchange were pivotal to the fight against transnational organised IP crime.

“To stay ahead of such a challenge, we need to help each other to prevent IP criminals from arbitraging between regions. More precisely, we need cross-sector co-operation among law enforcement agencies, IP crime affected industries, rights holders and relevant stakeholders to share efforts, intelligence and resources to counter transnational organised IP crimes effectively,” said Mr So.

According to the statistics revealed by Mr Khoo at the opening ceremony, with 145 (77%) of INTERPOL’s 188 member countries currently affected by organised IP crime, 48% of all IP crime cases were transnational, with 12% of cases linked to other areas of organised crime. “The need for customs and police to work together to combat this

criminality had never been more important,” Mr Khoo said.

Echoing Mr Khoo’s remarks, Mr Yuen noted that organised IP criminals were using increasingly sophisticated manufacturing

and distribution networks to move their pirated goods around through physical boundaries like ports and airports or virtual boundaries on the Internet. He added that to protect society against the harm of counterfeit goods and support economic growth through promotion of innovation and creativity, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement agencies must work together within and outside national boundaries to effectively counteract and combat international IP criminal syndicates.

Programmes of the conference were diversified and comprehensive. Apart from the 15 plenary sessions, the conference also included a series of workshops which enabled subject-matter experts to discuss how all those affected by counterfeiting and piracy could better work together to break up the organised criminal gangs. Among these workshops, Hong Kong Customs was responsible for facilitating three operational workshops and three practical workshops which focused on “Internet Piracy and Digital Crime Scene Management”.

Both INTERPOL and the conference participants had highly commended the conference which had also manifested the efforts and commitment of the Hong Kong Customs in fighting IPR crimes.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



The officiating guests are led by the piper to the conference venue at the opening ceremony.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS ATTENDS APEC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOP IN JAPAN



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (second left, front row), with heads of other APEC Customs administrations at the APEC Customs Directors-General/Commissioners Meeting.

The Hong Kong Customs participates actively in APEC meetings and workshops in order to keep the finger on the pulse of the development of Customs initiatives in the APEC forum. In September, 2010, the Hong Kong Customs delegation attended a series of APEC meetings in Japan, including the APEC Customs Directors-General/Commissioners Meeting, the 2nd 2010 APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP2), the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD) and the APEC Ease of Doing Business Workshop on Trading Across Borders.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, led the delegation for the APEC Customs Directors-General/Commissioners Meeting in Tokyo on September 14. The meeting

provided Customs heads with an opportunity to work together to set new directions in the face of the rapidly changing environment surrounding the Customs. The heads of 19 APEC Customs administrations, including Mr Yuen, had active dialogues over four issues, namely collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) towards Customs modernisation, evaluation and direction of APEC Customs activities, trade security and facilitation, as well as border control and facilitation. Mr Yuen also gave a presentation on “Trade Facilitation Vs Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Enforcement” at the forum.

A Statement of the Chair was endorsed at the meeting, which contains eight priorities that APEC Customs administrations

have undertaken to promote with the aim of furthering trade facilitation and security in the region. The eight priorities are: (1) Support of the development of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes/promotion of mutual recognition arrangements and trade recovery efforts; (2) Support of the development of Single Window (SW) systems and the utilisation of modern technologies; (3) Enhancement of border enforcement on IPR; (4) Co-ordination with other border-related agencies and co-operation among Customs administrations; (5) Steady implementation of the APEC Collective Action Plan; (6) Enhancement of co-operation with the WCO; (7) Enhancement of collaboration with MDBs; and (8) Contribution to the negotiations on trade facilitation at the World Trade Organization.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Yu Koon-hing, Head of Customs Liaison Bureau (CLB), Ms Alice Leung, and Senior Inspector of CLB, Ms Yu Sau-mee, attended the meetings of ACBD and SCCP2 in Tokyo, which were held on September 13 and from September 15 to 17 respectively.

The ACBD is a regular forum organised by the SCCP with a view to fostering Customs-business co-operation in the promotion of trade facilitation in the APEC region.

At the SCCP2 meeting, the Hong Kong Customs delegation exchanged views with Customs delegates of other member economies on major international Customs issues, including trade facilitation and security, SW systems implementation, IPR border enforcement and evaluation of the APEC Collective Action Plans.

Mr Yu also briefed the SCCP2 that Hong Kong was taking incremental steps towards the implementation of SW system, and updated on the implementation progress of the AEO Programme. In addition, the results of the survey on IPR border enforcement, which was jointly co-ordinated by Hong Kong Customs and Japan Customs, were outlined in the meeting.

On September 18 and 19, the Head of Land Boundary Command, Mr Leung Lun-cheung, accompanied by Divisional Commander (WCO and APEC), Mr Mak Tak-wing, attended the APEC Ease of Doing Business Workshop on Trading Across Borders in Sendai.

The workshop was aimed at encouraging APEC economies to adopt reforms that would contribute to APEC's target of achieving a 25% improvement in the APEC region in five "Ease of Doing Business" Priority



The Head of Land Boundary Command, Mr Leung Lun-cheung, shares his experiences with participants on Hong Kong's customs control and trade facilitation.

Areas, including "Trading Across Borders" by 2015, with an interim target of a 5% improvement by 2011.

At the workshop, Mr Leung shared the experiences with the participants on how Hong Kong Customs struck a balance between customs control and trade facilitation in the face of the huge volume of cargoes routing through the land boundary control points between Hong Kong and the Mainland China.

Customs Liaison Bureau



The Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Yu Koon-hing (ninth left, front row), and Head of Customs Liaison Bureau, Ms Alice Leung (sixth right, front row), with other delegates of the 2nd 2010 APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Meeting.

THE 8TH MEETING OF THE EU/HKC JOINT CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The 8th Meeting of the European Union (EU) and Hong Kong, China (HKC) Joint Customs Co-operation Committee (JCCC) was held in Hong Kong on September 6, 2010. The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, and the Director General of Taxation and Customs Union of EU, Mr Walter Deffaa, officiated at the opening of the meeting.

The Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Yu Koon-hing, and the Director of Security and Safety, Trade Facilitation and International

Co-ordination of Taxation and Customs Union of EU, Mr Antonis Kastrissianakis, led their delegations to attend the meeting.

Other participants in the meeting included representatives of the EU Office in Hong Kong and Macao, Consul Generals and Customs attachés of the EU Member States stationed in Hong Kong, as well as the officials of the European Council.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on initiatives to strengthen supply chain security

and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

The EU delegation and the participants also visited Kwai Chung Customhouse to see for themselves the sea cargo clearance in the territory and were briefed on Hong Kong's enforcement strategies in combatting transnational smuggling activities.

This was the 8th Session of the JCCC since the signing of the EU and HKC Customs Co-operation Agreement in 1999. The agreement is of great significance to Europe and Hong Kong as it demonstrates the strong commitment to enhancing co-operation and enables the authorities to work closely and effectively, particularly in the exchange of information for combatting customs crime.



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (sixth right, front row); the Director General of Taxation and Customs Union of EU, Mr Walter Deffaa (sixth left, front row); and Head of Office of the EU in Hong Kong & Macao, Mrs Maria Castillo Fernandez (fifth right, front row); with participants of the meeting.

Customs Liaison Bureau

HONG KONG CUSTOMS STRENGTHENS CO-OPERATION WITH NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS

The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, led a delegation to attend the 7th Customs Co-operation Conference with New Zealand Customs Service in Wellington, New Zealand on October 6, 2010. Mr Yuen signed a communiqué with the Comptroller of New Zealand Customs Service, Mr Martyn Dunne, at the conference to reaffirm co-operation between the two

administrations.

Both administrations updated each other on their current priorities and discussed the challenges facing customs administrations in the 21st century. They also agreed to explore opportunities for further co-operation to strengthen intelligence analysis and enforcement activities.

Customs Liaison Bureau



The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (right), and the Comptroller of New Zealand Customs Service, Mr Martyn Dunne, exchange the joint communiqué at the Conference.

THE TUEN MUN CUSTOMS MARINE BASE OPENED

To cope with the development of the Customs fleet and to handle the increasing number of incoming

and outgoing vessels in the northwest waters, the Hong Kong Customs had set up a marine base in Tuen Mun.

The Tuen Mun Customs Marine Base was officially opened by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, on October 11, 2010.

The site of the marine base in the River Trade Terminal was originally the office of the Customs Detector Dog Division. To meet the operational needs of the Department, the office was redeveloped and altered to be a marine base for the Customs fleet in March 2009. The facilities of the marine base were later enhanced after getting a fund of \$1.6 million for the modification works.

Ports and Maritime Command



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, officiates at the opening ceremony of the base.

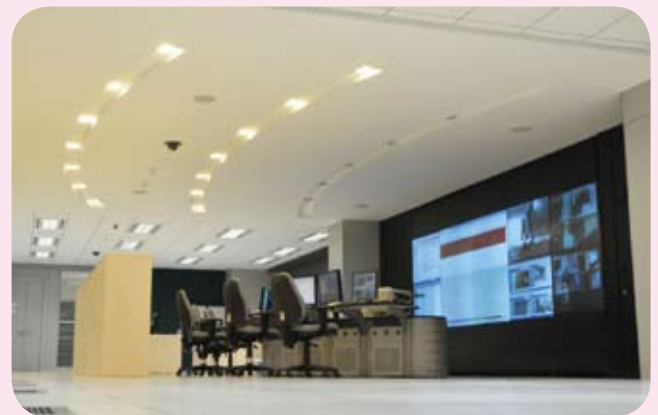
ISS PROJECTS IN GOOD PROGRESS

To build a new, integrated and centralised IT infrastructure to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department, the Hong Kong Customs has developed and implemented six Information System Strategy (ISS) Projects since July 2009. Currently, four projects are completed and have started providing service, while the others are progressing smoothly on schedule.

One of the ISS projects is the Corporate Portal, which has commenced since June, 2010 and provides users with a single entry point to gain access to multiple IT applications. Apart from standardising the access security management across all systems, the Corporate Portal

has new features enabling the system to become a communication channel within the Department.

Another significant project is the installation of a backbone network infrastructure and the consolidation of two primary data centres into one at the Customs Headquarters Building (CHB). The new network has enhanced security and expanded bandwidth. The new data centre in the new CHB, with an expanded floor area, has also accommodated relocated computer systems. These two projects jointly support



The new data centre supports the 24-hour operation of the Department's systems.

the 24-hour operation of the Department's systems and provide the capacity to cope with future development.

In addition, the Implementation of Desktop Management Policy has made a good progress. All workstations that plug into the network of the Department are undergoing re-configuration

in order to strengthen workstation security through centrally managed workstation configuration and software installation.

The Technology Refreshment on



The new data centre.

the Air Cargo Clearance System (ACCS), also one of the ISS projects, has just rolled out in the end of December 2010. The aim of the project is to enhance the overall risk assessment capability, and is designed to cater for growth in air cargo traffic and facilitate information exchange between Hong Kong Customs and cargo operators, resulting in greater facilitation towards trade. Hence, a new data structure is adopted with reference to Hong Kong Customs' Corporate Data

Model, which incorporates both local and international standards (e.g. WCO Data Model).

Looking forward, the development and implementation of a new Central Information Repository System will take place from January 2011 to March 2012. This system will consolidate all operational data of Hong Kong Customs to provide timely access and facilitate data analysis.

**Office of Information
Technology**

■ News in Snapshot - Conference ■

20TH WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONTACT POINTS MEETING

The 20th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 2 to 5, 2010.

The meeting was hosted by the Thai Customs Department, the WCO Vice-Chair for Asia and the Pacific Region 2010-2012. Representatives of the WCO's 21 regional member administrations and WCO Secretariat, Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) Asia Pacific and Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) Asia Pacific attended the meeting. Representing the Hong Kong Customs at the meeting were

Divisional Commander (WCO and APEC), Mr Mak Tak-wing and Senior Inspector, Ms Chiang Yi-lee.

The meeting focused on the implementation of the Asia Pacific Regional Strategic Plan 2010-2012, which includes four areas, namely, trade security and facilitation; compliance and enforcement; capacity building; and research and analysis. The meeting also endorsed a number of regional administrative proposals, including the formalisation of the permanent



Mr Mak and Ms Chiang at the 20th WCO Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points Meeting.

status of ROCB Asia Pacific.

In support of the capacity building initiatives of the ROCB Asia Pacific, the Hong Kong Customs will send an officer to the ROCB Asia Pacific in Bangkok in the near future to work as a technical attaché.

VISIT OF GUANGDONG CUSTOMS DELEGATION FOR EXPERIENCE SHARING ON ANTI-SMUGGLING AT SEA

To enhance anti-smuggling work at sea and strengthen co-operation between Hong Kong Customs and Guangdong Customs, the two Customs administrations organised training programmes for each other in October 2010. After attending a sea enforcement training organised by Guangdong Customs in Gongbei in mid-

October, Hong Kong Customs arranged a four-day visit programme for the Guangdong Customs in return from October 26 to 29, 2010.

The Guangdong Customs delegation, including staff members from Shantou, Huangpu, Jiangmen and Zhanjiang Customs, was led by Head of Maritime Anti-smuggling, Anti-Smuggling Bureau of Guangdong Sub-Administration, General Administration of Customs, the People's Republic of China, Mr Lim Liangxiong. During the stay in Hong Kong, the

delegation visited the Kwai Chung Customhouse, Customs Marine Base in Stonecutters Island, Tuen Mun Customs Marine Base, and Harbour and River Trade Division at River Trade Terminal. They also visited some smuggling black spots at sea on board the Customs patrol launch. Officers from the two Customs Administrations had in-depth discussions and experience sharing on fleet management and maintenance, the latest trend in sea-smuggling and enforcement strategy.

The delegation also paid visits to Marine Department's Government Dockyard and Vessel Traffic Centre, as well as Marine Police's Regional Headquarters and Small Boat Division.



Acting Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Leung Lun-cheung (second right, front row) with Mr Lim (second left, front row) and members of the delegation.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS ATTENDS THE 8TH HEADS OF WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES MEETING

The Hong Kong Customs' Training School has been one of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Training Centres (RTCs) since 2004 and is responsible for organising regional training for WCO members in the Asia Pacific Region. At the 6th Heads of WCO Asia Pacific RTCs Meeting in 2008, the concept of "Centre of Excellence" was introduced, under which each RTC will develop as the Centre



Mr Alex Liu (second left, front row) and Ms Phoebe Wong (third left, second row) with other participants at the Customs Border Control Training Centre at Cheonan, Korea.

of Excellence in particular areas to provide technical knowledge to regional members and to host regional workshops on the specific areas. The Hong Kong Customs has been designated as the dedicated Centre of Excellence on “Risk Management” and “Integrity”, which helps enhance the capacity of the regional members in these two areas.

On December 6 and 7, 2010, the Senior Staff Officer, Mr Alex Liu, and Senior Inspector, Ms Phoebe Wong of the Office of Training

and Development representing Hong Kong Customs attended the 8th Heads of WCO Asia Pacific RTCs Meeting at the Customs Border Control Training Centre in Cheonan, Korea. Other participants included the representatives of the RTC in India, Japan, Korea and Malaysia as well as officials from the WCO, WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB), and WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO), and WCO Regional Vice Chair Office (currently Thai Customs). The meeting had in-

depth discussions on Customs training issues and co-operation plans in the Asia Pacific region.

The participants also reported the work and future plans of their training institutes in the meeting. Each RTC was suggested to identify their own experts in the Centre of Excellence to establish a pool of regional experts for effective capacity building delivery, and to enhance co-operation among RTCs by exploring the feasibility of exchange of training information.

HONG KONG AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR PILOT PROGRAMME

Led by Acting Senior Staff Officer of the Office of Strategic Research, Mr Tang Yi-hoi, the Hong Kong Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Team of the Intelligence Bureau paid a visit to the Guangdong Sub-Administration of Customs (GSAC) in Guangzhou from December 21 to 22, 2010 to study the Mainland Customs' accreditation mechanism on traders.

The two-day programme included a presentation on the accreditation mechanism by representatives of GSAC and a visit to an “AA class” trader. Through the programme, the delegation gained a better understanding of the operation of

the accreditation mechanism and how traders adjusted their mode of operation to meet relevant requirements.

The visit was conducive to both sides in exploring further co-operation under their AEO programmes.

In addition, on December 31, 2010, Head of the Intelligence Bureau, Ms Kwok Ngan-ping, presented the first AEO (General Facilitation) Certificate to a trader which had completed the AEO accreditation

process, signifying a milestone in the pilot programme.

The AEO status is an additional indicator for risk assessment and consideration of appropriate Customs facilitation in cargo clearance.



Mr Tang (third left, front row) with Director of Division of External Auditing, Guangdong Sub-Administration of Customs, Mr Fan Haikun (third right, front row), and members of the delegation.

2010 WCO'S PICARD CONFERENCE

The 5th WCO Conference of Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) was held from November 23 to 25, 2010 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Superintendent (Training and Development), Mr Lee Hon-wah, and Senior Inspector (Air Passenger Processing Unit), Ms Leung Suet-kwan, represented Hong Kong Customs at the meeting.

The meeting highlighted the importance of experience and

knowledge sharing as well as the benchmarking of both the performance of Customs and private sector and echoed with the theme of the upcoming 2011 International Customs Day - "Knowledge, a Catalyst for Customs Excellence".

The meeting also hoped to achieve the goal that Customs training could be delivered in a more professional manner with



Mr Lee and Ms Leung at the 5th WCO PICARD Conference.

the concerted effort of Customs community and various academic institutions involved in related fields.

MOCK TRIAL AND SEMINAR CONDUCTED BY FORMER MAGISTRATE



Mr Lam speaks at a seminar.

To enhance officers' work knowledge on prosecution, the Office of Training and Development had organised a series of mock trials and related seminars between July and November 2010.

Former Magistrate of the Eastern Magistrates' Courts, Mr William

Lam was invited by the Office of Prosecution and Management Support to act as the judge in the mock trials and to speak at the seminars.

Some 140 officers from various formations participated in the mock trials and seminars. During the interactive training sessions of the mock trial, Mr Lam provided constructive comments on the performance of the participating officers who gave evidence in the capacity of prosecution witnesses.

Mr Lam also reminded officers the important criteria for a successful prosecution in the perspective of a magistrate. His professional remarks had helped improve officers' confidence in giving evidence in court as well as strengthen their knowledge in magistrate court's proceedings.



The mock trial chaired by Mr Lam (right).

SEMINARS ON INSPECTION TECHNOLOGIES

The Hong Kong Customs always strives to adopt advanced inspection technologies and equipment to facilitate trade while enhancing customs clearance efficiency. In March 2010, Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Chow Kwong, led a delegation to visit an exhibition hosted by Scientific Development Branch of the Home Office in the United Kingdom and to meet the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and HM Revenue and Customs. During the visit to the Heathrow Airport, UKBA introduced to the delegation the advanced inspection equipment widely used in their passenger clearance.

As the UK visit was found beneficial to Hong Kong Customs to enhance customs clearance service, the Office of Project Planning and

Development of Hong Kong Customs subsequently invited the Senior Manager of Emerging Technologies Team of the UKBA, Mr Richard Tomsett, to hold a seminar on inspection technologies in Hong Kong on September 8 and 9, 2010 for Customs officers to enhance their knowledges and management techniques in advanced inspection technology. About 70 Superintendent and Inspectorate Grade officers and supplies officers attended the seminar.

Mr Tomsett presented the latest development of inspection equipment at the seminar, including the x-ray body inspection system, millimetre-wave imager, drug detection system, liquid scanner for drugs, etc. Mr Tomsett also shared with the participants UKBA's

achievements in law enforcement by adopting advanced technologies in customs clearance, and his experiences on research and development on inspection technology, techniques in procurement of inspection equipment, staff training and maintenance of equipment.

The participants found the seminar useful and informative, helping the Department to plan the procurement and the use of advanced equipment in the customs clearance work.



Mr Tomsett speaks on the inspection technologies at the seminar.

CUSTOMS PASSING-OUT PARADE



Mr Chow inspects the Probationary Customs Inspectors.

A passing-out parade was held at the Customs and Excise Training School on October 15, 2010 with 61 Probationary Inspectors being inspected by Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Port), Mr Chow Kwong.

Speaking at the parade, Mr Chow encouraged the graduates to uphold justice and integrity when performing duties, to work

professionally with courtesy as well as to take "life-long learning" as their untiring learning attitude so as to keep pace with the ever-changing social environment and the sustainable development of Hong Kong. He also urged the graduates to meet the community expectation on Hong Kong Customs and serve Hong Kong with the Customs culture of "Commitment and Excellence".

BASIC INVESTIGATION COURSE FOR CUSTOMS COUNTERPARTS

The first Basic Investigation Course for Customs Counterparts was organised by the Office of Training and Development from November 29 to December 10, 2010. The two-week course was designed for local Customs investigators, overseas Customs counterparts and officers from other departments.

A total of 20 participants, including 14 Customs Inspectorate and Trade Control Officers from Hong Kong Customs, two Customs officials

from the Mainland, two from Macau and one from Malaysia as well as one Pharmacist Inspector from the Department of Health, attended the course.

Through the training, participants learned about basic investigation knowledge and skills applicable to local enforcement agencies and overseas Customs

counterparts and also took the opportunity to share experiences in customs investigation. The course had also enhanced co-operation among participating Customs administrations.



A group photo taken before a practical exercise on raiding.

INJURED CUSTOMS OFFICER AND INSPECTOR WHO DONATES LIVER ARE RECOVERING

Customs Officer, Mr Yuen Wai-cheung, was badly injured while on duty during an anti-illicit cigarette operation on October 28, 2010. Soon after knowing that Mr Yuen's only hope of survival was a transplant, the

Department put out an urgent appeal to all civil servants for liver donation. Nearly 80 persons, including Customs Inspector, Mr Simon Hui, responded to the Department's calling. Eventually Mr Hui was identified as the suitable donor, and with the help of the expert team of the hospital, the transplant surgery was successful. Both Mr Hui and Mr Yuen are now recovering well, on a healthy pace to resume a normal life.

Mr Hui's selfless sacrifice not only saves the life of his colleague, but also embodies the strong sense of brotherhood defining the most valued culture of the Department. His act has also inspired the public and increased social acceptance of organ donation.

The Customs directorate, including Commissioner, Mr Richard Yuen, and Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung, visited both officers from time to time to give support and encouragement to them, wishing them a full and speedy recovery.



Mr Richard Yuen (left) visits Mr Yuen Wai-cheung and his family at the hospital.

At the same time, the Department is deeply moved by the overwhelming response to the appeal for liver donation from Customs colleagues, within the Civil Service, and members of the public, as well as the great concern and support from the medical teams of the hospitals and senior officials of the government.



Mr Au Yeung (left) visits Mr Yuen at the hospital.



After the transplant surgery, Mr Hui (right) recovers well and he visits Mr Yuen at the hospital to show his support.

Visits by Retired Officers

With the completion of the Customs Headquarters Building (CHB) in November 2010, a number of ex-colleagues of Hong Kong Customs visited the new office from December 2010 to February 2011 to see for themselves the modern and eco-friendly facilities of the building and met with old friends.



Former Commissioner, Mr Lawrence Li (fourth left); former Deputy Commissioner, Mr Tong Kang-sing (third right); former Assistant Commissioner of Preventive Service, Mr Ian Macpherson (fifth left); former Senior Superintendent, Mr Lee See-bui (second left), former Superintendent, Mr Douglas A. Neish (third left) and former Chief Trade Control Officer, Mr Chow Yam-leung (first left) with Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung (fourth right) and other colleagues during the visit of CHB on February 28, 2011.



The Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung (right), accompanies Mr Lawrence Li (left) and Mr Lee See-bui (centre) for a tour at the Exhibition Gallery.



Former Senior Superintendent, Mr Kong Wai-kwan (right), chats with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (left), during his visit at the CHB on January 7, 2011.



Former Assistant Superintendent, Mr Gafoor Abdul Rashid O (second left), who had migrated to Australia since his retirement from the Service in 1990, made a special effort to fly back to Hong Kong to visit the CHB on December 30, 2010. He had a tea gathering with the Commissioner, Mr Richard Yuen, and other officers at the Customs and Excise Service Senior Officers' Mess.