



CUSTOMS NEWS

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THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

Six months have slipped by after I issued the first message to colleagues, and what a momentous period it was! Let us take a peek at several notable achievements made by the Department and get an update on some projects in the pipeline.

We are having a bumper harvest on detection and interdiction of smuggling activities, with no short of landmark cases. While dangerous drug couriers arriving by air via convoluted routes could not escape the vigilant watch of our experienced investigators, three inbound shipments entered the record book with seizures that comprised 86.5 kilogrammes of rhino horns,

412 kilogrammes of ketamine and 649 kilogrammes of cocaine respectively. Such an impressive outcome could not have been possible without your wisdom and tenacity. The Chief Executive also recognised this feat by paying a personal visit to Kwai Chung Customhouse, during which he conveyed due encouragement to the team.

On intellectual property rights protection, we lost no ground in the fight against hi-tech criminal syndicates despite their stealthy and devious nature. The Megaupload case epitomises our success since \$335 million of liquid assets were



seized in a global snap operation led by agencies in the United States, earning us appreciation expressed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am immensely grateful to the team of over 100 officers who took part for their wits, patience, perseverance and, above all, their determination to keep pace with technological advancements in upholding the law. But amidst the joy and jubilations, one must be wary of the impact that rapid societal changes would bring to the complexity and sophistication of illicit activities as well as the diffused medium through which they could take place. We should remain daring and audacious in order to safeguard the attractiveness of Hong Kong as an incubator for creative products and ideas.

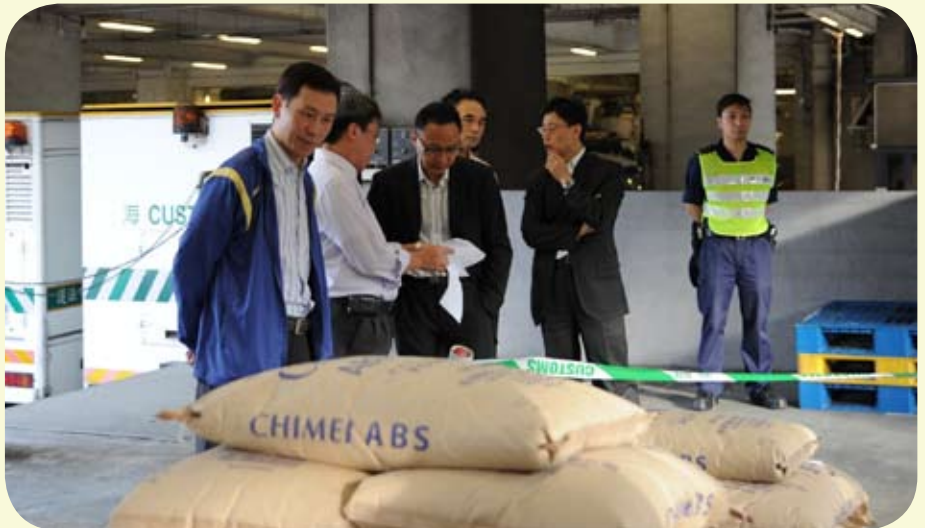
Turning to consumer protection, sweeping legislative amendments aimed at tightening up the



The Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of United States in Hong Kong, Mr Matt J. Matthews (fifth left), presents a plaque to the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung in appreciation of the department's effort in protecting the intellectual property rights.

supervision over unfair trade practices is due for enactment within next year. This is an uncharted territory but presents an opportunity for the Trade Controls Officer Grade to break away from its historical focus on import/export control. Meticulous planning and in-depth analysis have already gone into preparations on how to trigger off the civil compliance-based mechanism, to expedite referral of complaints to/from the Consumer Council and to enhance interface with the Communications Authority. Given that transactions involving supply of services are typically opaque, effective investigation and prosecution might call upon closer co-operation between civilian and uniform staff going forward.

Meanwhile, licensing of remittance agents and money changers has commenced in April, and screening of some 1,120 applications by the Money Service Supervision Bureau is in progress. I do hope that my



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (third left), is briefed on a ketamine smuggling case at Kwai Chung Customhouse.

experience and network of contacts built up during a three-year stint as Insurance Authority would turn out to be useful in coping with this new frontier of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing which is essential to preserve the status of Hong Kong as an international financial centre.

As the 4th term of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government was sworn in last month, many policy initiatives that

entail involvement and participation of Customs will be rolled out. I shall count on you to support the governing team in improving people's livelihood and in charting a firm course for balanced economic development of Hong Kong.

Clement Cheung
Commissioner



President Hu Jintao meets members of the executive, legislature and judiciary as well as principal officials of the Fourth Term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on July 1, 2012.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE VISITS CUSTOMS

The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung visited Kwai Chung Customhouse of the Customs and Excise Department on July 18, 2012 to learn more about the Department's work in combating drug trafficking and smuggling activities.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, the Chief Executive saw for himself the process of cargo examination and the use of the mobile x-ray vehicle scanning system to detect contraband.

Mr Leung was briefed on the recent cases detected by Customs, including a record

seizure of \$760 million worth of cocaine in early July and the discovery of a batch of smuggled rhino horns and ivory products last November.

Commending the Department's efforts in combating drug trafficking and smuggling, the Chief Executive said, "I am proud that the Department



The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung (first left), is briefed by Customs officers on the operation of the mobile x-ray vehicle scanning system to detect contraband.



Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (first right), Mr Leung (fifth right), sees for himself the inspection of cargo by Customs officers at the Kwai Chung Customhouse.

is always prepared to face challenges and difficulties. With the Customs officers' strenuous efforts, the Department has been able to shatter different kinds of illicit activities effectively. These enforcement achievements are vivid proof of their professionalism, dedication and determination."

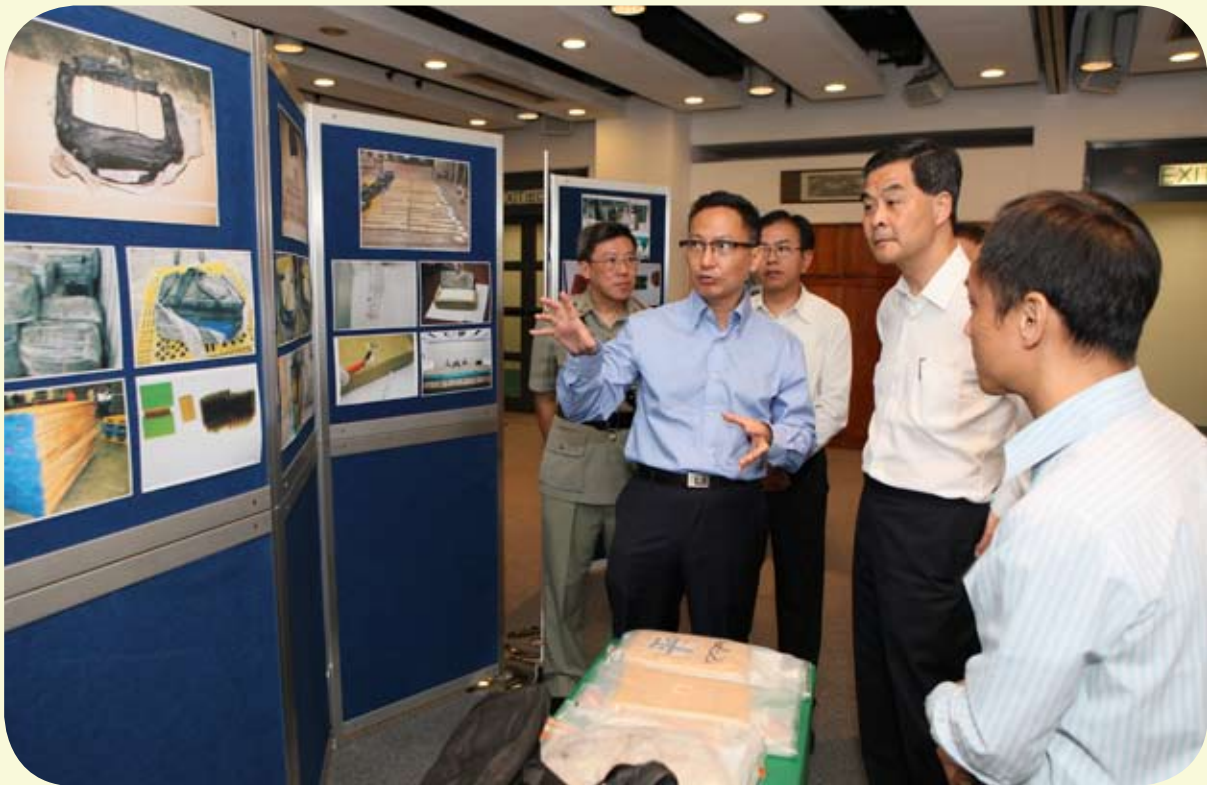
During the visit, the Chief Executive also learnt about the close co-operation between Hong Kong Customs and its overseas counterparts in combating drug and smuggling activities and met front-line Customs officers to gain a better understanding of the challenges they face.

Mr Leung encouraged officers to continue to strive for excellence in their work and maintain the high standard of performance

in customs clearance, law enforcement and trade facilitation.



The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung (second left), chats with Customs front-line officers to learn about the challenges they face in their work.



Mr Leung is briefed on some recent cases detected by Customs.

LAUNCHING OF HONG KONG AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR PROGRAMME TO ENHANCE TRADE FACILITATION

In pursuit of the World Customs Organization's (WCO) initiative for providing a safer and more efficient trading environment to the industries, Hong Kong Customs formally launched the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator Programme in early April 2012. Participation is open, voluntary and free of charge. Any local companies that are engaged in business principally related to the international supply chain are welcome to apply.

The Programme is an accreditation mechanism for companies which meet certain security standards adopted by WCO. Companies accredited by the Department are known as

Authorized Economic Operator (AEO).

AEO is a concept advocated by WCO to promote safer international trading. To minimise the risk of security threat to the supply chain, customs authorities check and ensure that operators adopt appropriate security measures and procedures. In return, cargoes handled by AEOs may enjoy customs facilitation such as reduced examination or prioritised clearance.

For individual AEOs, the participation enhances their goodwill as a secure trader with industry "kitemark" since the AEO certification

demonstrates their commitment in safeguarding the global supply chain. It also strengthens their competitiveness and marketability, bringing to them more business opportunities.

The development of AEO programmes has become a global trend. A number of economies, including most of Hong Kong's principal trading partners, have rolled out their programmes. Some of them also have established among themselves mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs), whereby AEOs of one economy may enjoy facilitation provided by the others. This facilitates seamless and secured flow of goods across boundaries.



The Hong Kong AEO Programme was launched in April 2012.



Senior Staff Officer (Supply Chain Security Management), Mr Lin Shun-yin, introduces the Hong Kong AEO Programme to representatives of trade associations.

The Programme is well received by the industry. The pick-up rate is encouraging. A number of multinational corporations as well as small and medium enterprises have submitted their applications for the AEO status since the formal launch.

The Department has set up a dedicated formation — Office of Supply Chain Security Management (OSCS) — to take forward the Programme and work out MRAs with other customs administrations. Active steps have been taken to establish MRAs with Korea

and the Mainland Customs. Besides, OSCS is responsible for conducting research and analysis on measures relating to enhancing global supply chain security and trade facilitation.

The Department also takes an active part in international forums concerning the development of AEO. A three-member delegation from OSCS attended the WCO Global AEO Conference in Seoul, Korea between April 17 and 19 to exchange views on topical issues of AEO and MRA with overseas counterparts and the industries.

To promote the Programme, the Department conducted in March a series of briefings for trade associations including those representing small and medium enterprises. The Department will continue to work closely with these trade associations to further promote the Programme and conduct out-reaching visits to potential applicants. The Programme details have been uploaded onto the department homepage (www.customs.gov.hk/en/trade_facilitation.aeo) for public reference. A hotline (3759 2163) and an email address (aeo@customs.gov.hk) have also been set up to answer enquiries.

The launch of the Programme would not only reinforce the confidence of our trading partners that Hong Kong is a secure link in the supply chain, but also help bring more business opportunities to the industries by improving their corporate images and competitiveness. Through closer co-operation between the Customs and the industries, Hong Kong's position as an international trading centre and a regional logistics hub can be further consolidated, thereby sustaining Hong Kong's long-term economic development.



Acting Staff Officer (Supply Chain Security Management), Ms Pak Suet-yee (second left) and Head of AEO Centre of the Korea Customs Service, Mr Jang Woong-yo (second right), at the 1st Bilateral Meeting on Mutual Recognition of AEOs.

**Office of Supply Chain
Security Management**

COMMISSIONER ATTENDS ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING WITH GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA CUSTOMS CUM VISITS TO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND QINGDAO CUSTOMS DISTRICT



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (fourth left), meets the Minister of the General Administration of China Customs, Mr Yu Guangzhou (fourth right), at the Annual Review Meeting in Beijing.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, led an eight-member delegation to Beijing on March 27, 2012, to attend “The Annual Review Meeting between the General Administration of China Customs and the Hong Kong Customs” (ARM) and pay a courtesy call on Vice Minister of the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of the People’s Republic of China, Mr Chen Zhimin. Thereafter, Mr Cheung led a four-member delegation to Qingdao to visit the Qingdao Customs District (QCD), between March 28 and 30, 2012.

The ARM reviewed the co-operation between the two

administrations in 2011 and discussed the enhancement of future co-operation on various areas, including anti-smuggling, trade facilitation, and customs clearance procedures.

At the meeting with MPS, Mr Cheung and Mr Chen explored

the co-operation on training and exchanged views on combating cross-boundary crimes, especially on crimes related to smuggling and intellectual property rights infringement.

In Qingdao, Mr Cheung met the Deputy Director General of QCD cum Director General of Anti-Smuggling Bureau of QCD, Mr Qi Yazhou, and the Deputy Director General of QCD cum Director General of Jinan Customs, Ms Liu Weiwei. The Hong Kong Customs delegation also visited the Qingdao Customhouse, Qingdao Customs Museum and Qingdao Liuting International Airport to understand the history and operation of Qingdao Customs.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Mr Cheung (left) meets the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China, Mr Chen Zhimin, in Beijing.

2012 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY PROMOTES “CONNECTIVITY” IN CUSTOMS COMMUNITY



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So (seventh left), and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (sixth left) propose a toast at the International Customs Day reception. Joining them are the President of the Legislative Council, Mr Jasper Tsang (sixth right), the Director-General of Macao Customs, Mr Choi Lai Hang (fifth left) and the directorate of Hong Kong Customs.

The celebration of the annual International Customs Day (ICD) was held on January 17, 2012 in Customs Headquarters Building. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, officiated at the reception.

The theme for this year's ICD is "Borders divide, Customs connects". Addressing the reception, Mr So stressed the importance of "connectivity" which prompted the increasing collaboration in terms of people, institution and information within the global customs community. With regard to the "information connectivity", Mr So highlighted Hong Kong Customs' strenuous

efforts made in the successful implementation of the Road Cargo System. He also noted that the Authorized Economic Operator Programme, launched by the Hong Kong Customs, was an "institutional linkage" that would contribute to the facilitation of trade while enhancing the supply chain security.

Also speaking at the reception, Mr Cheung noted that the rapid pace of globalisation in recent years had reshaped market landscape and called for not only strengthened dialogue between jurisdictions, but also nurturing of a sustainable partnership with the business community. He said that in order to remain competitive, individual

economies must strike a proper balance between the historical responsibility of Customs in deterring illicit activities, protecting public revenue and ensuring border security with the Customs' modern task of trade facilitation.

At the reception, Mr So presented the World Customs Organization Certificate of Merit to nine officers of Hong Kong Customs and a representative of the Hong Kong Brands Protection Alliance in recognition of their notable contributions to the launch of Customs' projects and initiatives on "connectivity".

**Office of Customs Affairs
and Co-operation**

VISIT TO SINGAPORE CUSTOMS AND ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (third left), and other delegates are briefed on the operation of container terminals in Singapore.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, led a six-member delegation to visit the Singapore Customs and the Royal Malaysian Customs from April 16 to 20, 2012.

The Commissioner met with the Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Fong Yong Kian, to exchange views on various Customs issues, including the Single Window System and the Secure Trade Partnership Programme in Singapore. The delegation also visited the airport, seaport and border checkpoint to study the operations and latest developments of the Singapore Customs.

The delegation then visited the Royal Malaysian Customs in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where Mr Cheung had fruitful discussions with the Director-General of Royal Malaysian Customs, Mr Mohamed Khalid bin Haji Yusuf, on different

Customs topics. These included the drug trafficking problem between Hong Kong and Malaysia, the implementation of the Single Window System and Authorized Economic Operator Programme as well as its related Mutual Recognition Arrangement between the two administrations. The delegation also visited the seaport to study the Customs operation and facilities in the Free Trade Zones in Malaysia.

The visits laid a solid foundation for a closer strategic working relationship between Hong Kong Customs and the two Customs administrations.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Mr Cheung (fourth left) meets with Director-General of Royal Malaysian Customs, Mr Mohamed Khalid bin Haji Yusuf (fourth right), at the Headquarters of Royal Malaysian Customs in Malaysia.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDS 14TH WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS CONFERENCE



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (fifth right, third row) and Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Fong Tai-wai (fourth right, fourth row), with other delegates at the Conference.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, led a delegation to attend the 14th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific (A/P) Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference in Samui, Thailand from May 8 to 11 2012.

At the Conference, Heads of member Customs administrations of the A/P Region endorsed the nomination of Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, and New Zealand as regional representatives of the WCO Policy Commission (PC) for 2012-2014. The nomination has been submitted to the WCO Council for endorsement in the upcoming Council Sessions in June 2012. Through participation in the WCO PC, Hong Kong Customs will play

a more active role in the WCO activities.

The Heads of Customs Administrations also endorsed the Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014, which sets out the targets of the A/P Region in taking forward WCO's initiatives in four focus areas,

namely (i) Trade Security and Facilitation; (ii) Compliance and Enforcement; (iii) Capacity Building; and (iv) Research and Analysis. Hong Kong Customs, in collaboration with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific in Seoul, will serve as co-ordinators in the area of "Compliance and Enforcement", and assist the regional Vice-Chair in promoting the implementation of WCO's initiatives within the region as set out in the said focus area.

During the conference, Mr Cheung discussed with the WCO Secretary General, Mr Kunio Mikuriya, about the enhancement of co-operation between the Hong Kong Customs and the WCO.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Mr Cheung (left) meets with the WCO Secretary General, Mr Kunio Mikuriya (right).

HK CUSTOMS VISITS SECURITY AND POLICING EXHIBITION AND HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS IN THE UK



Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung, presents a souvenir to Director of Criminal Investigation of HMRC, Mr Donald Toon.

The Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung, led a delegation comprising officers of the Office of Project Planning and Development and Intelligence Bureau to visit the Security and Policing Exhibition in Farnborough, UK, organised by the UK Home Office from January 31 to February 2, 2012. Through discussions with the exhibitors, the delegation gained an up-to-

date knowledge of the latest technological development of enforcement and public security equipment, which is essential for the formulation of strategy on the application of advanced equipment for Customs clearance.

The delegation also paid a visit to the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in London and met with their senior executives overseeing the core functions of

the administration. They shared experiences and visions on strategic issues and measures to enhance co-operation including criminal investigation, strategic planning, authorized economic operator programme and risk and intelligence management.

Regarding the achievements of mutual co-operation, HMRC expressed its gratitude to Hong Kong Customs for its tremendous assistance rendered in the investigation of fiscal crime, which led to substantial arrests and revenue recovery in the UK. Both sides also recognised the importance of intelligence exchange and international co-operation as the keys to the success in the fight against transnational/organised crime, and reaffirmed steadfast commitment to foster closer co-operation.

Office of Project Planning and Development

STK CHECKPOINT RELOCATED FOLLOWING REDUCTION OF THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA

The Customs Check Post at Shek Chung Au (SCA), known as SCA Check Post, has moved to a new location at Sha Tau Kok (STK) on February 15, 2012 with the implementation of the first stage of the reduction of the

Frontier Closed Area (FCA) for excising land for public use by the Government. The new STK Checkpoint is now at Gate One at the entrance of the Sha Tau Kok Town.

The STK Checkpoint

comprises a two-storey joint Police and Customs office building, a lay-by area and a Customs kiosk for vehicle inspection. The check point operates 24 hours every day, and the Customs officers continue to perform their duty

to select vehicles coming from the Sha Tau Kok FCA for inspection with a view to combating smuggling of contraband, especially dangerous drugs, firearms and ammunition, illicit cigarettes and fresh meat into Hong Kong.

The opening of the new check point marks a milestone for the Customs service and the

SCA Check Post has completed its historic mission after serving for 20 years since 1992.



The new joint Police and Customs office building at the check point.

Land Boundary Command

MONEY SERVICE SUPERVISION BUREAU SET UP TO ADMINISTER LICENSING OF MONEY SERVICE OPERATORS

The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance (AMLO), which is to enhance the anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime in respect of the financial sector, came into effect on April 1, 2012. It helps better align Hong Kong's AML/CFT regime with the prevailing international standards and consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre.

To enforce the AMLO, Hong Kong Customs has established the Money Service Supervision Bureau (MSSB) to administer the new statutory licensing regime and supervise the licensed money service operators (MSOs) on compliance with the customer due diligence



The Money Service Operators Licensing System in Customs website.

and record-keeping obligations under the ordinance, as well as interdicting unlicensed operation of money service.

The ordinance provides for a 60-day transitional period to facilitate smooth transition for pre-existing Remittance Agents and Money Changers (RAMCs), such that they can continue operating under the new regime before obtaining an MSO licence from the Commissioner of Customs and Excise if they have filed a licence application with the Department within the transitional period.

The MSSB has adopted a multi-pronged approach to publicise and promote the new licensing regime including distributing information leaflets to RAMCs, broadcasting of announcements on TV and radio, and organising briefings for the trade sector. An on-line platform, the Money Service Operators Licensing System, was set up for submission of licence applications. The bureau also provides hotline enquiry service and arranges site visits to RAMCs.

The Department will continue to conduct meetings, seminars and out-reach programmes for the MSOs to promote their awareness of the legal requirements under the ordinance.

**Money Service
Supervision Bureau**

OVERSEAS COUNTERPARTS VISIT HK CUSTOMS TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION

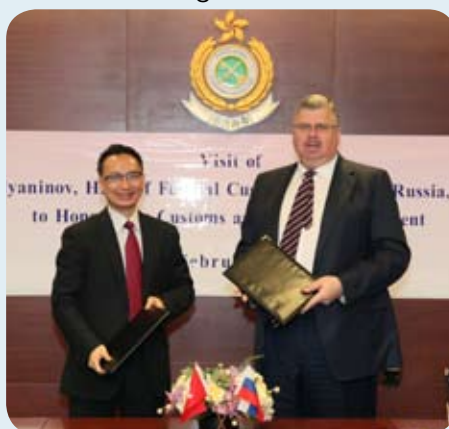


Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (sixth left), and Ms Alvarez (fifth left) with the delegation members.

To maintain a closer co-operation with overseas counterparts to strengthen international enforcement action in different areas, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, received various delegations from overseas authorities from time to time.

On March 26, 2012, the Chief Negotiator for Intellectual Property Enforcement and Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative, Ms Kira Alvarez, led a seven-member delegation to visit the Department to exchange views on protection of intellectual property rights and suppression of transnational piracy activities.

The Head of Federal Customs Service of Russia, Mr Andrey Belyaninov, leading a ten-member delegation, visited Hong Kong Customs on February 28 and 29, 2012 and met with Mr Cheung to exchange views on various enforcement issues. The Russian delegation also visited



Mr Cheung and Mr Belyaninov (right) exchange the agreed minutes of meeting.

the Kwai Chung Customhouse and Shenzhen Bay Control Point to see for themselves the operation of the Department. Both Customs administrations agreed to strengthen bilateral relationship and to develop a Customs Co-operative Arrangement.

On February 29, Mr Cheung separately met with the delegations of Australian Federal Police and the Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority. The Commissioner of Australian Federal Police, Mr Tony Negus, together with four colleagues, visited Hong Kong Customs to discuss measures to combat transnational drug trafficking activities, while the Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority Board Member cum Permanent Secretary for Finance, Mr Filimone Waqabaca, leading a four-member delegation, exchanged views on the procedures of cargo clearance and detection of smuggling activities.



Mr Cheung (fourth right), and Mr Negus (fourth left), with the delegation of Australia.



Mr Cheung (fourth right), and Mr Waqabaca (fourth left) with the Fiji delegation.

FIRST WORKING GROUP MEETING ON CUSTOMS CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH RUSSIAN CUSTOMS



Mr Fong (second right) and the delegation meet with the Federal Customs Service of Russia.

Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Fong Tai-wai, led a delegation to attend the 1st Working Group Meeting

on Customs Co-operative Arrangement (CCA) with the Federal Customs Service of Russia in Kazan, Russia on May 25, 2012.

The Working Group Meeting was a follow-up of the bilateral meeting between the two administrations held in February 2012, during which both sides agreed to form a working group to work out a CCA for further enhancing co-operation on a wide range of Customs issues.

During the meeting, both sides had fruitful discussions and reached consensus on a draft CCA text, which laid a solid foundation for achieving an earlier conclusion of a CCA between the two administrations.

HK CUSTOMS ATTENDS APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES MEETING IN RUSSIA



Mr Fong (ninth right, front row) and Ms Yu (ninth right, second row), with other delegates of the SCCP1 meeting.

Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Fong Tai-wai, and Senior

Inspector, Ms Yu Sau-mee, represented Hong Kong Customs to attend the 2012

1st APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP1) Meeting in Moscow, Russia

from February 9 to 11, 2012.

Major international customs issues were discussed at the meeting, including the Supply-chain Connectivity Framework, the implementation of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Border Enforcement and Customs-business collaboration.

At the meeting, Mr Fong

briefed the participants on the development of the “APEC Guidelines for Customs Border Enforcement of Counterfeiting and Piracy”, which was a project jointly co-ordinated by the Department and Japan Customs. The guidelines were formally endorsed by the SCCP and its successful development was included in the APEC Ministerial Statement of the APEC Ministerial Meeting in November 2011.

This year, the Department has continued to partner with Japan Customs in co-ordinating the SCCP’s efforts in strengthening IPR border enforcement. With the support of the Department, Japan Customs tabled a proposal on the development of a new “Collective Action Plan” on IPR border enforcement which was approved at the meeting.

WCO FORUM AND WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION TECHNOLOGY

The 3rd World Customs Organization (WCO) Technology and Innovation Forum and the WCO Regional Workshop on Non-intrusive Inspection (NII) Image Analysis were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from March 4 to 10, 2012. Staff Officer (Project Planning and Development), Mr Lai Lau-pak, and Senior Inspector of Office of Training and Development, Mr Leung Yiu-man, represented Hong Kong Customs in the Forum and delivered a presentation on NII Image Analysis in the workshop.

Around 300 participants from Customs administrations and business sector of over 80 countries attended the forum. Participants also visited the exhibition on the advanced detection and inspection

equipment to further study the latest development of the NII equipment, including X-ray inspection systems and portable drugs/explosives detector. The Customs Officers were able to learn more about the application

of different equipment which served as useful reference to the Department in the research and procurement of advanced inspection equipment for customs clearance work.



Mr Lai (left) is briefed on the latest development of the NII equipment at the exhibition.

HK CUSTOMS PARTICIPATES IN WCO MEETINGS ON CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTEGRITY

Senior Staff Officer (Prosecution and Management Support), Mr Ki Wai-leung, and Assistant Staff Officer (Higher Training), Mr Lam Lap-yan, attended three World Customs Organization (WCO) meetings on capacity building and integrity in Brussels, Belgium from February 23 to March 2, 2012. The meetings are: the 7th Informal Meeting of the Regional Offices for Capacity Building, the Regional Training Centers and the Vice-Chairs of WCO; the 3rd Session of Capacity Building Committee (CBC); and the 11th Session of Integrity Sub-Committee (ISC).



Mr Ki (left) and Mr Lam at the 3rd Session of Capacity Building Committee of WCO.

As Hong Kong Customs is designated as the “Centre of Excellence” on “Integrity”, Mr Ki, on behalf of Hong Kong Customs, gave a presentation on Hong Kong’s practice in enhancing integrity at the ISC meeting.

At the CBC meeting, the participants shared their experiences and views on the WCO’s “3P-Framework” for Capacity Building supported by the three principles, namely “Political Will”, “People” and “Partnerships”.

FANLING COURTS’ MAGISTRATES AND PROSECUTORS VISIT LOK MA CHAU TO UNDERSTAND ROCARS

The Acting Principal Magistrate of the Fanling Magistrates’ Courts, Ms Bernadette Woo,

together with six Magistrates and seven Court Prosecutors, visited Lok Ma Chau Control

Point on December 5, 2011 to see the new facilities and the new mode of Customs clearance related to the Road Cargo System (ROCARS). The delegation was briefed on the new cargo clearance procedures and relevant provisions pertaining to ROCARS offences. The visit helped the delegates to get a better understanding and knowledge of the ROCARS, thereby facilitating effective prosecutions and rulings of ROCARS offences in court.



A Customs officer briefs the delegates on the facilities for ROCARS at Lok Ma Chau Control Point.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS INDUCTION COURSE PASSING-OUT PARADE

The passing-out parade of No. 326 to 329 Customs Officer Induction Courses was held at the Customs and Excise Training School on May 18, 2012.

Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, on that day, conducted his maiden passing-out parade inspection to 78 probationary Customs Officers.

Speaking at the parade, Mr Cheung reminded the graduate trainees of the challenges the Department was facing, and encouraged them to continue

life-long learning to keep pace with the times for fulfilling the Department's performance pledge "Commitment and Excellence". He also

stressed that the graduate trainees should serve with professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication for the stability and prosperity of the country and community.



Mr Cheung (second left) inspects the Probationary Customs Officers.

NO. 69 AND 70 ASSISTANT TRADE CONTROLS OFFICER INDUCTION COURSE



Honourable guests and the ATCO graduates.

After completing a 26-week training course, 39 Assistant Trade Controls Officers (ATCO) graduated on February 3, 2012. Addressing at the graduation ceremony, the Commissioner of Customs and

Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, encouraged the graduates to get prepared for meeting the versatile and changing duties in trade controls area. Over 150 guests, including representatives of government

departments and Consumer Council, attended the ceremony.

To better equip the new frontline staff to handle more effectively complaints/reports related to consumer protection issues lodged by the Mainland visitors, the induction course had strengthened the training on national study and Putonghua with a view to enhancing colleagues' communication skills with the visitors.

CUSTOMS STRENGTHENS CO-OPERATION WITH EXPRESS CARGO COURIER AT AIRPORT

The Airport Command is strengthening enforcement co-operation with the express cargo courier – TNT Express to interdict contraband, especially narcotics and illicit tobacco at the airport. Following the opening of the TNT Hong Kong Regional Hub in March at the airport, all incoming and outgoing express cargoes at the hub are X-ray screened by the courier staff for security

reasons. To maximise the effectiveness, the Airport Command is considering providing training to the courier staff and sharing with them typical X-ray images of contraband to identify the items. It is expected that such partnership can heighten the Customs enforcement effect beyond the Department's traditional cargo selection and examination scope.



The Head of Airport Command, Mr Albert Ho (second right), briefs the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (first right) on the formation's work at the Regional Hub.

SEMINAR ON THE OPERATION OF HK-MAINLAND COURIER DELIVERY INDUSTRY

The Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau organised a seminar on March 14, 2012 to keep our officers abreast of the latest development of the cross-boundary courier trade and build up a partnership with the industry.

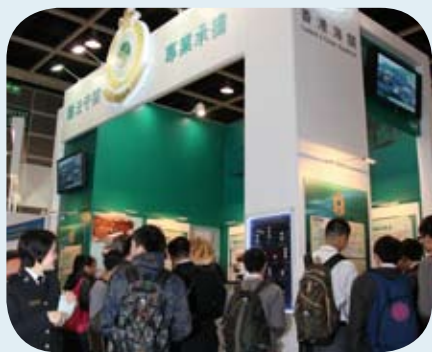
A representative from the Hong

Kong Logistics Association spoke on the development and gave an analysis on the categorisation of southbound and northbound cargo, work flow of forwarding and delivering in the courier industry, documentation, and the modus operandi of courier operators of various sizes.



About 40 officers from the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau, the Intelligence Bureau, vehicular control points and the Road Cargo Research Division attend the seminar.

EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO 2012



The Customs booth is well-received by visitors at the Expo.

To promote Customs' work to the public, Hong Kong Customs continued to participate in the Education and Careers Expo 2012 organised by Hong Kong Trade Development Council at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from February 9 to 12, 2012.

A booth with interactive media introducing Customs' work and recruitment information was set up. Customs Officers were on hand to answer questions about recruitment. Customs detector dogs also gave demonstrations at the booth.

SEMINAR STRENGTHENS FRONTLINE OFFICERS' UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

Being the law enforcement agency at the forefront, Hong Kong Customs plays a significant role in suppressing the illegal importation and exportation of goods, including cultural property, with a view to protecting the community and fulfilling international obligations.

Evaluation of cultural property requires profound knowledge and expertise and frontline officers would encounter difficulties in processing artefact cases if they are not well-trained. In order to enrich the knowledge and heighten the awareness of frontline officers of the cultural property when performing anti-smuggling duties, the Ports and Maritime Command

organised a seminar on cultural property on January 11, 2012. Three experts from the Guangdong Cultural Relic Certification Center, who are veteran curators and renowned for the distinguishing of cultural properties

in different areas, were invited to speak at the seminar.

The three experts gave a detailed presentation on various areas, including the Mainland definition of cultural property, regulatory framework, organisation of certification bodies, introduction of museums and their markings,



The three speakers, Mr Pan Minggao (centre), Mr Li Yuchun (left), and Mr Xie Haishan (right) from the Guangdong Cultural Relic Certification Center at the seminar. Mr Xie speaks on the features of porcelain.

features of different cultural properties as well as identification of artefacts.

More than 250 participants from the Customs, the Police Force, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and the Home Affairs Bureau attended the seminar. They all found the seminar useful and practical.

EXPERIENCE SHARING SESSIONS WITH POLICE

To strengthen the co-operation between Hong Kong Customs and Marine Police in handling sea smuggling cases and subsequent prosecution, the Joint Police/Customs Anti-Smuggling Task Force of Marine Enforcement Group of Customs has planned to conduct a series of experience sharing sessions for the working partners. The first sharing session for the Small Boat Division of Marine Police was held from April 17 to 19, 2012. Similar sharing sessions will be organised for other divisions of Marine Police.



Divisional Commander (Joint Police/Customs Anti-Smuggling Task Force) of Customs Marine Enforcement Group, Mr Benson Lee (first right), shares his working experiences with Marine Police officers.

CUSTOMS PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY

The Eastern District “Say No To Drugs” Fight Crime Pep Talk cum Wonderful Life Youngsters’ Cultural Variety Show was held in Chai Wan Park on February 11, 2012. It aimed to promote the anti-drug message to young people through games and performances. Hong Kong Customs, being a key enforcement department to fight against dangerous drug, also participated in the event.

The officers of the Customs Drug Investigation Bureau had designed a game booth on the theme to help the public better understand the hazards of drug and to reinforce the values of



The Customs game booth helps the public better understand the hazards of drug.

healthy life. Customs Detector Dog Division also participated in the show to enhance

people’s understanding of their work and to remind young people not to defy the law.

“BEST SAFETY SUPERVISOR” AWARD BY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

With a view to providing its workforce with a safe working environment, the Airport Command has established a working group to put forward insightful and practical recommendations on nurturing safety culture and enhancing safety awareness in daily operation.

In recognition of this group’s contribution to work safety, the Airport Command nominated acting Senior Inspector, Wong Chi-chung, for the Airport Staff Safety Recognition Scheme

2011/12 organised by the Airport Authority Hong Kong

and he was awarded the “Best Safety Supervisor”.



At the prize-presentation ceremony on March 29, 2012, Mr Wong (third right, second row) takes photo with other award recipients.