



# CUSTOMS NEWS

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## THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

Browsing through this issue of Customs News, nobody would dispute that the past few months have again been challenging but rewarding, with gainful achievements in staff welfare, border management, trade facilitation as well as consumer protection.

Starting from the basics – border management is the primary mission of all Customs administrations not only due to the threat of terrorist activities, but also because of the need to pursue common good for the global village. Since August last year, we have intercepted three imported or transshipped consignments with 6,400 kg of ivory tusks that serve as a potent message on our firm commitment to stamp out all forms of illicit trade, winning us accolades from Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The swift and effective way in which joint operations were initiated with counterparts in Shenzhen to restore order of passenger flow at major control points also bodes well for our ability to provide timely response to cope with contingencies.

On trade facilitation, ROCAS sailed through its maiden year of operation, outliving many stressful moments and anxious episodes. This is no stroke of luck but a result of hard work, attentive preparation and solid team play. Advanced electronic cargo

declaration combined with on-site behavioural pattern profiling delivered sophisticated risk assessment, while deployment of gadgets like RFID tags reduced the burden of frontline colleagues.

With this tested platform, we are accelerating discussions with the Mainland on extended coverage of the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme based on an integrated control interface, harmonised e-lock technologies and GPS positioning system. Trial runs are already underway for bidirectional traffic that would facilitate seamless conveyance of cargo from Hong Kong to the Guangdong Province, setting a strong case on how innovative thinking could bridge the gap between border management and trade facilitation to yield positive results.

A buoyant residential property market renders future supply of departmental accommodation an issue of growing concern. I was pleased to officiate at the ceremony marking completion of the new staff quarters at Lee Kung Street, Hunghom that would substantially alleviate the shortage among members of the Inspectorate Grade, but there is no place for complacency as the situation among Customs Officers deserves sustained vigilance. Apart from efforts to expedite progress of projects in the pipeline, search for additional sites and



pragmatic means to address the plight of retirees who face difficulty in gaining access to public housing units must continue.

Last but not least, a public consultation exercise on Enforcement Guidelines promulgated in accordance with the Trade Descriptions (Unfair Trade Practices) (Amendment) Ordinance has commenced in December and will last until March, unveiling an enhanced consumer protection regime with wider ambit and targeted deterrence against blatant offences. As I alluded to in the last edition, there should be room for collaboration between civilian officers and uniformed personnel. This is a quest on which we must persevere if Hong Kong is to retain its lure as a marketplace for quality goods and fair play.

Thank you for giving me contentment and fulfillment in the past 12 months, and I expect no less in the Year of Snake.

**Clement Cheung**  
**Commissioner**

## ELECTRONIC LOCK AND GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM IN USE TO EXPEDITE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Strengthening the role of Hong Kong as a major international logistics hub and trading centre has always been a prioritised agenda item of the Hong Kong Customs. By employing advanced technologies, upgrading existing systems and streamlining work procedures, the Department can provide more simplified and convenient clearance service to the movement of cargoes, thereby enhancing the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong as a logistics hub.

With the availability of electronic advanced cargo information after launching the Road Cargo System (ROCARS), the Hong Kong Customs in November 2010 introduced the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (ITFS) to accord further facilitation to the air-land and sea-land intermodal transshipment cargoes. After registration with

the Customs and the installation of approved electronic lock and Global Positioning System (GPS), a truck will be ready to join the ITFS and enjoy the facilitation. The transshipment cargoes conveyed by a truck under the ITFS will normally be subject to Customs inspection at either the entry or exit point and therefore the flow of them will be accelerated.

Hong Kong Customs had refined the ITFS in 2012 after the mandatory implementation of the ROCARS in November 2011. With the simplified operating procedures and adoption of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to automatically activate and deactivate the electronic locks at entry and exit points, the ITFS has further shortened the time required for Customs clearance.

Under the ITFS, the transshipment cargo, after import clearance, will

be sealed by electronic lock to avoid being tampered with when it is conveyed by truck to the exit control point. Customs officers will conduct real-time monitoring of the status of the electronic lock and the routing of the truck through a web-based monitoring platform. If the cargo is not required for inspection at the exit control point, the electronic lock will be deactivated automatically when the truck arrives at the exit control point and thus the cargo can be exported right away. If the Customs is to inspect the cargo at the exit control point, the automatic deactivation function of the electronic lock will be disabled. The truck driver will have to approach Customs officers at exit control points for deactivation of the electronic lock and inspection of cargo.

According to ITFS, the Customs will normally inspect the transshipment cargo at either entry or exit control



Customs officer uses a handheld device to activate the electronic lock.



Customs officer can check the status of the electronic lock and the route of the truck through a web-based monitoring platform.



One type of the electronic locks and handheld devices used in ITFS.

point. Northbound transshipment cargo will be inspected upon its arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), Kwai Chung Customhouse or River Trade Terminal. Southbound air-land transshipment cargo will be inspected upon its departure at HKIA whereas southbound sea-land transshipment cargo will be inspected on arrival at a land boundary control point.

By employing the technologies of electronic lock and GPS, the

Hong Kong Customs can monitor the freight forwarding process and manage risks more effectively thereby enhancing flexibility of resource deployment and work efficiency. The logistics industry will also benefit from the reduced frequency of examination of transshipment cargo, strengthening the industry's competitiveness.

Currently, five companies have joined the ITFS and on daily average more than 16,000 transshipment consignments are enjoying the facilitation. To encourage more logistics companies to join the ITFS, the Customs had organised a seminar on October 22, 2012 to brief the industry on the system's work flow, the criteria for joining, the latest development, benefits and prospects.

About 100 representatives from more than 50 companies of the shipping and logistics sector attended the seminar. A registration counter was set up at the venue to facilitate participating companies

to instantly register with the Hong Kong Customs for joining the sea-land ITFS if they were interested. Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, in his opening address for the seminar stressed that, the ITFS, which was developed on the foundation of ROCARS, was to facilitate the flow of transshipment cargo by shortening the time required for customs clearance. He encouraged the industry to make the best use of this facilitation scheme so that overall competitiveness of the logistics industry in Hong Kong could be boosted.

Looking forward, Hong Kong Customs will further refine the ITFS to enhance the efficiency of clearance to consolidate the development of the logistics industry in Hong Kong.

#### Boundary and Ports Branch



Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, encourages the industry to participate in the ITFS.



## VISIT TO RUSSIAN CUSTOMS TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL CO-OPERATION

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, led a four-member delegation to Moscow, Russia, to visit the Federal Customs Service of Russia between



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (second right), and the Head of Federal Customs Service of Russia, Mr Andrey Belyaninov (second left), sign agreed minutes after the meeting.

October 22 and 24, 2012. Mr Cheung met the Head of the Federal Customs Service of Russia, Mr Andrey Belyaninov, to explore areas for further bilateral co-operation in the fields of training and information exchange. The two Customs administrations signed agreed minutes after the meeting, aiming to work on a memorandum of understanding for strengthening mutual administrative assistance.

The delegation also attended the “Customs & Business: International and Regional Aspects of Co-operation – 2012” International Forum organised by the Federal Customs Service of Russia on October 23 and 24, 2012. Through participation in the forum, the delegation gained a better understanding of the latest development and trend of other Customs administrations in Eurasia.

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

## STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION WITH MONGOLIAN CUSTOMS

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, and the Director General of the Customs General Administration of Mongolia, Mr Tseveenjav Derjee, signed a Customs Co-operative Arrangement (CCA) during a HK Customs visit to Mongolian Customs in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on October 20, 2012.

The signing of the CCA signified the mutual commitment and determination of the two Customs administrations to enhance co-operation in combating transnational customs crimes. It also laid a solid foundation for the two administrations to co-operate more closely through mutual administrative assistance in various

areas including the exchange of information and enforcement of customs laws.

The four-member delegation also attended the “Globally Networked Customs Academic Conference”

and the “Centennial Celebration Ceremony of the Customs General Administration of Mongolia” in Mongolia.

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



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (right, front row), and the Director General of the Customs General Administration of Mongolia, Mr Tseveenjav Derjee (left, front row), with the delegation members of Hong Kong Customs and Mongolian Customs at the Customs Co-operative Arrangement Signing Ceremony.

## HK/GUANGDONG CUSTOMS ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING ON CLOSE CO-OPERATION ON VARIOUS FRONTS



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (fifth right, front row) and Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs, Mr Lu Bin (fifth left, front row), with other participants at the Annual Review Meeting in Zhaoqing.

The Annual Review Meeting between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs was held in Zhaoqing, Guangdong on August 28, 2012. The Hong Kong Customs delegation was headed by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, while the Guangdong Customs delegation was led by the 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.

The meeting reviewed the co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs on trade

facilitation, anti-smuggling, anti-narcotics, intellectual property rights protection and staff training over the past year. The two Customs administrations also recognised the remarkable achievements resulted from the close co-operation on various fronts.

The two sides mapped out and endorsed the Co-operation Plan for the coming year. On customs clearance, the two sides will further explore and augment the various trade facilitation initiatives. On anti-smuggling, Hong Kong Customs will continue to co-ordinate with the Guangdong Sub-Administration of Customs in enhancing intelligence exchange and mounting joint enforcement operations in

Guangdong Province so as to combat smuggling activities of illicit cigarettes, refined oil, marked oil and other high-risk smuggling commodities. Both sides will further strengthen regional co-operation on anti-narcotics and the protection of intellectual property rights.

The two sides also agreed to provide each other with training programmes and to arrange visits with a view to enhancing the enforcement and management capabilities of officers of the two Customs administrations.

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



## TSING CHAU STREET CUSTOMS STAFF QUARTERS READY FOR STAFF



The new Tsing Chau Street Customs Staff Quarters.

The Staff Quarters Redevelopment Project at Tsing Chau Street and Lee Kung Street in Hung Hom was completed in November last year. On November 20, 2012, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung, and Assistant Commissioners, together with the Project Director of the Architectural Services Department, Ms Chan Hoi-ming, attended an inauguration ceremony of the quarters. Representatives of Customs' staff associations were also present.

The new Tsing Chau Street Customs Staff Quarters is a 23-storey building which provides 80 units each with a usable area of 85 square

metres for officers of inspectorate grade and above. The building also provides 25 car-parking spaces for the residents. Leisure facilities include a podium garden and small-scale children playing fixtures on the second floor as well as a multi-function room on the top floor for meetings and recreational activities.

Upon the completion of the construction works at the Tsing Chau Street Customs Staff Quarters, it is anticipated that eligible officers will move in the quarters shortly.

**Office of Service Administration**

## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ATTENDS 119TH/120TH WCO COUNCIL SESSIONS

Headed by Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung, the Hong Kong Customs delegation attended the 119th/120th Sessions of the Customs Co-operation Council (Council Sessions) at the World Customs Organization (WCO) Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium from June 28 to 30, 2012.

At the Council Sessions, the member administrations shared views on the development of Globally Networked Customs (GNC), and endorsed some concrete directions for the implementation. GNC is the first building block for the strategic direction of the WCO "Customs in the 21st Century". The Council

concluded that GNC is a framework of standards for customs authorities to exchange information in predefined business areas with the aim of promoting connectivity in support of international trade.

The Council also approved the representation of the Asia Pacific (A/P) Region for various WCO Posts

(2012/2014), including the Vice Chairperson, as well as members of the Policy Commission (PC), the Finance Committee, and the Audit Committee. Following the completion of the service tenure as a PC member for 2011/2012, Hong Kong Customs will continue to sit on the PC for 2012/2014. As a PC member, the Department is committed to realising the aspiration of regional members, and strengthening efforts of the A/P Region to take forward the latest agenda of the WCO.

### Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung (left) and Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Fong Tai-wai (right), at the 119th/120th WCO Council Sessions.

## SECRETARY FOR SECURITY VISITS CUSTOMS TO ENCOURAGE OFFICERS

The Secretary for Security, Mr Lai Tung-kwok, visited the Hong Kong Customs on October 16, 2012 to show his support to Customs enforcement work.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, Mr Lai visited the Exhibition Gallery in the Customs Headquarters Building where

he was briefed on the history of Hong Kong Customs and the transformation of Customs work. Mr Lai praised the outstanding performance of Customs officers, in particular in combating parallel traders' smuggling activities. He encouraged the officers to keep up the good work as the gatekeeper of the territory.



The Secretary for Security, Mr Lai Tung-kwok (first right), accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (second right), visits the exhibition gallery.

Mr Lai also met with representatives of the five Customs staff associations and discussed with them the various issues of concern to the staff, such as the manpower strength development and provision of departmental quarters.

### Office of Service Administration



## CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HK CUSTOMS AND KOREA CUSTOMS SERVICE

A Hong Kong Customs delegation, led by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, attended the 30th Customs Co-operation Conference with the Korea Customs Service in Seoul, Korea on December 18, 2012. The conference was aimed at further enhancing co-operation between the two administrations in the areas of drug enforcement, anti-smuggling and protection of intellectual property rights.

During the conference, Hong Kong Customs shared its experiences in computer forensic investigation and the latest development of

Hong Kong Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme, whereas the Korea Customs Service gave a brief on its Single Window System. Mr Cheung signed the agreed minutes with the Commissioner of Korea Customs Service, Mr Joo Yung-Sup, to foster closer co-operation between the two administrations. They also signed an Action Plan regarding mutual recognition arrangement of the respective AEO Programme.

The delegation also visited the Incheon International Airport,

Incheon Seaport and the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific in Seoul to have a better understanding of the relevant working procedures of Korea Customs Service.



Mr Cheung (left), and Mr Joo (right) exchange agreed minutes at the 30th Customs Co-operation Conference.

## WCO'S 68TH POLICY COMMISSION SESSION



Mr Cheung (third right, last row) with head of delegations at the 68th Session of the Policy Commission of the WCO.

Led by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, the Hong Kong Customs delegation attended the 68th Session of the Policy Commission (PC) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Kyoto, Japan from December 3 to 5, 2012.

As the major responsibility of the PC

is to formulate policy directions for WCO members to implement the WCO initiatives, some major topics were discussed during PC sessions, including the "WCO Revised Strategic Plan 2013/2014 to 2015/2016", the "Strategic Review of the Harmonised System", and the "Economic Competitiveness Package" (ECP).

In a session on ECP, which was led by Mr Cheung, and Comptroller General of the Nigerian Customs, Mr Dikko Inde Abdullahi, the members discussed the "ECP Action Plan" and the "Next Steps for Promotion of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)". After hearing the reports made by the group, the PC eventually endorsed the ECP Action Plan and issued a communiqué to highlight the importance of the ECP as well as the RKC in the context of trade facilitation.

The Hong Kong Customs delegation also visited the Osaka Customs to exchange views on cargo inspection, drug enforcement and trade facilitation.



## THE 9TH MEETING OF THE EU-HKC JOINT CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



Mr Fong (left) and Director for Security & Safety, Trade Facilitation & International Coordination, Taxation and Customs Union Directorate-General of European Commission, Mr Antonis Kastrissianakis (right) exchange souvenirs.

The 9th Meeting of the Joint Customs Co-operation Committee (JCCC) was held in Brussels,

Belgium on November 22, 2012. It is a biennial meeting between the European Union (EU) and Hong Kong under the “Agreement Between the European Community and Hong Kong, China on Co-operation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters”.

At the meeting, Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic

Support) of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Fong Tai-wai, reviewed with the EU side the work progress for the past two years. Both sides set out directions for further co-operation in various areas of mutual interest, in particular the Smart and Secure Trade Lanes (SSTL) Pilot Project, Authorised Economic Operator Programme and protection of intellectual property rights. Mr Fong and the delegation also took the opportunity to visit the Antwerp Port in Belgium to see the operation of SSTL project.

## WCO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACCREDITATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORS

The World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Workshop on the Accreditation of Risk Management Advisors was held at the Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) in Hong Kong from November 19 to 23, 2012. Sixteen Risk Management experts coming from 12 member administrations attended the workshop. Besides, four facilitators from the WCO and WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building were also present to co-ordinate the workshop, lead the discussion sessions and assess the performance of the participants.

This five-day workshop enhanced participants’ knowledge and skills

on Risk Management and provided an opportunity for participants to prepare themselves to be a trainer. WCO will select qualified

participants to accomplish field missions before they can be accredited as WCO experts on Risk Management.



WCO facilitators at the workshop to advise the participants.

## NEW INITIATIVES BY HONG KONG CUSTOMS FOR THE WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation), Mr Fan Chi-kong, and Inspector Au Yin-yee of the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation attended the 22nd World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific (A/P) Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting in Adelaide, Australia from September 24 to 26, 2012. Mr Fan delivered a presentation on “Computer Forensic Investigation for Customs in the 21st Century”, and shared his

experiences on the application of computer forensic in combating customs-related crimes with the members. Hong Kong Customs also agreed to conduct a survey to identify the capacity building needs of regional members with a view to organising a regional workshop on computer forensic in 2013.

Meanwhile, at the 24th Administrative Meeting of National Contact Points (NCP) of WCO

Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P), held from October 31 to November 2, 2012 in Jaipur, India, Mr Fan delivered the presentation on computer forensic investigation again. In the light of the growing number of dangerous drugs seized from seaborne containers by the Department and other enforcement authorities, the Divisional Commander (Drug Investigation (Manufacturing and Distribution)), Mr Ip Kwok-leung, who was also present at the meeting, put up an initiative of setting up an immediate notification system between regional members to notify each other detection of sea smuggling drug cases in order to enhance the drug enforcement co-ordination. The initiative was supported in the meeting and the Department is now mapping out a proposal to set up the said notification system for regional members' consideration.



Mr Fan (second right) and Ms Au (first right) with delegates of China Customs and Macao Customs at the 22nd WCO Asia and Pacific Regional Contact Points Meeting.

## THE 10TH HEADS OF WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES MEETING

Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development), Mr Chan Wing-kin, and Senior Inspector, Ms Phoebe Wong of the Hong Kong Customs attended the 10th Heads of World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Training Centres

(RTC) Meeting at the Customs Training Institute in Kashiwa, Japan from October 25 to 26, 2012.

Officers responsible for the RTC from Fiji, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Hong Kong as well

as officials from the WCO, WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB), WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) and WCO Regional Vice Chair Office attended the meeting. They had comprehensive discussion on



Customs training issues and co-operation plan in the Asia Pacific region. The meeting also suggested all RTCs to formulate a compendium on “Evaluation of Training Courses” for regional members’ reference.



Mr Chan (fourth left, front row) and Ms Wong (fifth left, second row), with other participants of the Meeting.

## HK CUSTOMS JOINS HANDS WITH EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATION OF IPR PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Hong Kong Customs joined hands for the first time with the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong to promote intellectual property rights (IPR) protection by organising the First Annual Regional European IPR Protection and Enforcement Conference on September 18 and 19, 2012, at the Customs Headquarters Building in Hong Kong.

The conference was aimed at promoting the collaborative working relationships between brand owners, law enforcement officials, legal professionals and industry organisations in the Asia Pacific region and Europe on IPR protection and enforcement.

Addressing the conference, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung, noted that the sustained enforcement efforts by Hong Kong Customs in the fight

against pirated and counterfeiting activities had all along been well recognised internationally and had earned the trust of the industry, including the renowned brand enterprises from Europe.

Featuring interactive panel discussions and presentations, the conference provided an opportunity for participants to obtain insights from the recent successes,

challenges and outlooks on IPR protection and enforcement in the region. It also helped to build strong ties between regional IP partners to create wide networks for IPR protection and enforcement.

Over 150 participants representing 17 countries’ enforcement agencies, IP related organisations and companies attended the conference.



Mr Tam speaks at the First Annual Regional European IPR Protection and Enforcement Conference.

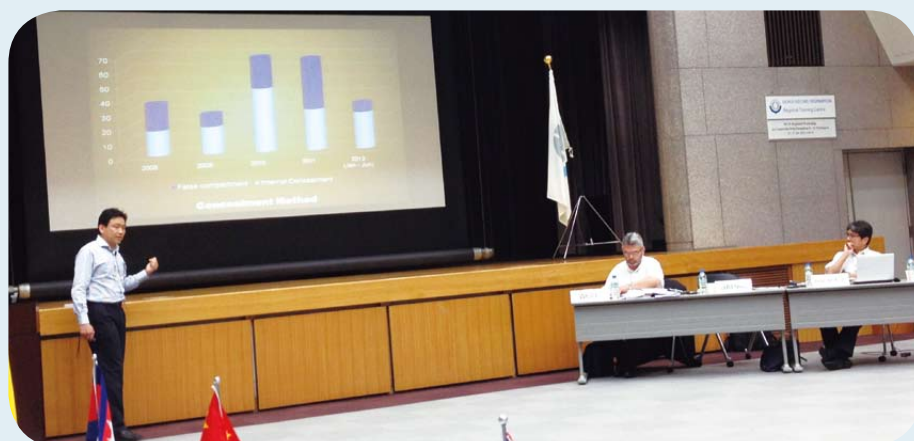
## HK CUSTOMS STEPS UP ENFORCEMENT CO-OPERATION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

The Head of Airport Command, Mr Albert Ho, and Divisional Commander (Airport Investigation), Mr Lee Kam-wing, attended the World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Workshop on

Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passengers in Kashiwa, Japan from July 23 to 27, 2012. A total of 45 representatives from 35 countries/territories in the Asia Pacific Region shared invaluable experience on the

interdiction of narcotics through the air passenger channel.

At the workshop, Mr Ho shared with the participants the computer software system, namely "COMPASS", developed by Hong Kong Customs in risk analysis of drug couriers and the participants were impressed by the fruitful result of Hong Kong Customs' enforcement work against international drug couriers at the Hong Kong International Airport. The workshop also introduced the operational plan of "WESTERLIES", which is a joint enforcement operation against illicit trafficking in drugs by air passengers in November 2012.



Mr Ho (first left) shares with the participants the Hong Kong Customs enforcement work against international drug couriers.

## WCO PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SESSIONS

Senior Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation), Mr Leung Shung-chi, and Senior Inspector of the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation, Ms Chiang Yi-lee, attended the 197th/198th Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) in Brussels, Belgium from November 5 to 9, 2012.

The PTC is a biannual forum of the WCO for members to discuss technical and procedural matters relating to Customs operations. During these PTC Sessions, members exchanged views on various WCO initiatives, including

the introduction of a global e-ATA Carnet System, the development of the Globally Networked Customs, and the promotion of Co-ordinated Border Management.

During the visit, Mr Leung also met with Director of the WCO Compliance and Facilitation Directorate (CFD), Mr Zhu Gaozhang, and Technical Attache of WCO CFD, Mr Ng Shi-tuen, on the latest initiatives of the WCO for enhancement of co-



Mr Leung (left) and the Chairperson of the 197th/198th Sessions of PTC, Mr Francois Abouzi (right), at the meeting.

operation. Mr Ng is the first service member of Hong Kong Customs and Excise seconded to WCO and has commenced his service tenure since September 24, 2012.



## FAMILIARISATION VISIT FOR NEW ATTACHÉS FROM OVERSEAS CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES



Assistant Commissioner (Boundary & Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing (sixth left), and Senior Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation), Mr Leung Shung-chi (fourth left), with the attachés.

In order to lay a solid foundation for closer co-operation between Hong Kong Customs and overseas Customs administrations as well as law enforcement agencies, the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation organised a familiarisation visit on September 20, 2012, for seven new attachés of the overseas Customs administrations. By visiting the Kwai Chung Customhouse, Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen Bay Control Point, the attachés had deepened their understanding of the work of the Department at the air, sea and land control points.

## EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH ABU DHABI CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION ON NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION EQUIPMENT

Hong Kong Customs has been maintaining strong networks with other Customs administrations as well as enforcement agencies on the application and management of non-intrusive inspection equipment on the security realm. The collaborative partnership enables the Department to introduce timely advanced inspection equipment to enhance its capability in combating cross-boundary smuggling activities.

On July 24 and 25, 2012, Staff Officer (Project Planning and Development), Mr Lai Lau-pak, and Divisional Commander (Lok Ma Chau (Operations)) of Land Boundary Command, Mr Hui Kim, joined by colleagues of Highways

Department and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, visited Abu Dhabi Customs Administration and Dubai Airports Company in the United Arab Emirates. During the visits, the delegation studied the gantry-type X-ray vehicle inspection system installed at Al Ghuwaifat Border Crossing and Dubai Airport. Through exchanging views and sharing experiences with the frontline staff, the delegation gained valuable information about the technological development,

on-site operations, performance and maintenance services of the X-ray scanning system. The visits help the Department formulate the procurement strategy for the Customs clearance equipment of the infrastructural projects under planning.



Mr Lai (second left) and Mr Hui (first right) study the gantry-type X-ray vehicle inspection system at Al Ghuwaifat Border Crossing.

## 88 OFFICERS INSPECTED AT CUSTOMS PASSING-OUT PARADE

A passing-out parade was held at the Customs and Excise Training School on November 9, 2012 with 31 Probationary Inspectors and 57 Customs Officers being inspected by the Secretary for Security, Mr Lai Tung-kwok. Over 500 guests from various government departments, private sectors and relatives of the graduates attended the ceremony.

Addressing at the parade, Mr Lai praised Hong Kong Customs for its professionalism and contribution in maintaining the safety and security of the territory and in trade facilitation. He encouraged the graduates to strive to achieve the Customs' pledge of "Commitment and Excellence" when performing duties and adopt a life-long learning attitude to meet the ever-changing environment.



Mr Lai (second left) inspects the Probationary Inspectors and Customs officers.

## NO. 71 ATCO INDUCTION COURSE TRAINEES' GRADUATION CEREMONY

After undergoing a 26-week rigorous training, 20 Assistant Trade Controls Officers (ATCO) had completed the Induction Course and became a part of the Customs family after the graduation ceremony on October 12, 2012.

Addressing at the graduation ceremony, the Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung, noted that the Trade Controls Branch would take up heavier responsibilities to enforce the Anti-Money Laundering

and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance enacted in 2012 and the Trade Descriptions (Unfair Trade Practices) (Amendment) Ordinance to be enacted in 2013. In order to achieve good performance in this challenging and rewarding duty, Mr Au Yeung encouraged the graduates to do their utmost and to continuously equip themselves. Mr Au Yeung also reminded them to be constantly alerted of their conduct and to strictly comply with the discipline in order to maintain the professional image of the Department.



Mr Au Yeung (fifth left, first row) and other directorate officers with the ATCO graduates.

The induction course included training on related legislation, inspection and investigation skills, teambuilding and leadership as well as field attachment practical training.



## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHARES WORKING EXPERIENCES WITH NEW INSPECTORS

In order to broaden the horizons of new inspectorate officers, and show his support and encouragement to

them, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung, met the trainee inspectors of No. 86 Inspector

Continuation Course at the Customs and Excise Training School on September 27, 2012.

Mr Au Yeung shared his working experiences with the trainees and encouraged them to get prepared to face challenges arising from future development of the Department. He also reminded them of the importance of efficient policy execution through inter-departmental co-operation for ensuring Hong Kong's stability and prosperity.



Mr Au Yeung (first left) shares working experiences with the trainees.

## AIRPORT COMMAND TEAMS UP WITH QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING

Standing on the very frontline in battlefield against transnational drug trafficking activities, the Airport Command has reached closer co-operation with Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in handling internal concealment suspects more efficiently. A seminar on "Handling of Internal Concealment Suspects - the Medical Perspective" delivered by Chief of Service of Accident & Emergency Department, QEH, Dr Ho Hiu-fai, on August 23, 2012 was the first move of the tightened co-operation.

Furthermore, the Airport Command and QEH would conduct a joint research on streamlining the procedures for handling suspected

drug swallows and exploring the feasibility of applying other inspection technologies, such as the introduction of computed tomography and ultrasound for diagnosing suspected internal drug concealment cases. It is

expected that the co-operation between the Department and the hospital could contribute to a more effective detection of drug trafficking activities by means of internal body concealment.



Dr Ho (first left) shares with Customs officers the experience in handling internal concealment suspects from the medical perspective. Officers from the Airport Command, Customs Drug Investigation Bureau, Land Boundary Command as well as Rail and Ferry Command participate in the seminar.

## KENNEL MANAGEMENT AND SAFE HANDLING TECHNIQUES COURSE FOR OFFICERS OF CUSTOMS DETECTOR DOG DIVISION

To enhance the knowledge of kennel management and safe handling of dogs, Senior Inspector Lai Chi-wai and Chief Customs Officer Li Chuen-tong of Customs Detector Dog Division attended a three-week “Kennel Management and Safe Handling Techniques Course” organised by the Surrey Police Dog Training School in the United Kingdom from July 23 to August 10, 2012.

Apart from attending lectures and practical exercises in risk assessment on kennel environment, setting up of control measures for the risk, and the application of safety equipment, the officers also visited kennels of different law enforcement units and a large adoption centre for dogs and cats to see for themselves the management of dog kennels.



Mr Lai (first left) and Mr Li (second right) visit the Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.

## SEMINAR ON “BURDEN OF PROOF” TO ENHANCE OFFICERS’ SKILLS IN EVIDENCE COLLECTION

In response to a Court of Final Appeal judgment concerning the burden of proof under Section 26(4) of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, the Office of Prosecution and Management Support organised a seminar on May 29, 2012 to enhance frontline officers’ enforcement skills.

At the seminar, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Department of Justice, Mr Wesley Wong, shared his views on the interpretation of the judgment, the difference between a “persuasive burden” and an “evidential burden” of proof and the implication on the collection of evidence by frontline officers in future counterfeit cases.

Around 250 officers from different formations participating in the seminar found it very informative

and useful in enhancing their understanding of the judgment and skills in evidence collection.



Mr Wong elaborates the “burden of proof” at the seminar.



## HK CUSTOMS-INTERPOL HOST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION TRAINING DAY

Following the International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference held in Hong Kong in 2010, Hong Kong Customs and INTERPOL joined hands again to co-host an intellectual property crime regional training seminar and international dimension training day in 2012 to promote and share best practices in Intellectual Property (IP) rights enforcement and protection.

The seminar, held from June 11 to 14, 2012 in Customs Headquarters Building, gathered over 60 IP crime

investigators, prosecutors and private sector investigators from more than 10 countries. It targeted at promoting co-operation and enforcement capabilities with an all-dimensional studies on IP protection strategies from an international perspective. On the training day held on June 15, the participants shared their investigative techniques and experiences in IP protection and enforcement from an international dimension with the frontline officers of Hong Kong Customs.

Speaking at the seminar's opening ceremony, Head of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau, Mr Andrew Ki, called for increasing co-operation and timely exchange of intelligence among jurisdictions, the industries and relevant stakeholders to counter the new challenges arising from the increasing transnational nature and fast developing technology.



The participants of the Intellectual Property Crime Regional Training Seminar visit the Shenzhen Bay Control Point to see for themselves the work of Hong Kong Customs.

## OPMS OFFICERS ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST PROSECUTION WEEK ORGANISED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To promote Hong Kong's criminal justice system and enhance public awareness in the enforcement of the rule of law, the Department of Justice launched its first ever "Prosecution Week 2012" between July 7 and 14, 2012. Various activities were held during the week including seminars, visits to the Department of Justice, school visits, meetings with community groups, mock trials and quiz competitions. Information pamphlets and souvenirs were also distributed to the public.

Staff Officer (Service Prosecution), Ms Susan Lam, and officers of the Office of Prosecution and Management Support (OPMS) of Hong Kong Customs participated



Ms Lam (centre) with the Secretary for Justice, Mr Rimsky Yuen, SC (second left), and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Kevin P Zervos, SC (second right) at the opening ceremony.

in the opening of the prosecution week and met with the counsels on prosecution matters which further consolidated the smooth

communication and co-ordination between the Department of Justice and Hong Kong Customs.

## ACCLG INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR THE TERM OF 2012-2014

The Air Cargo Customer Liaison Group (ACCLG) Inauguration Ceremony for the new term of 2012-2014 was held on September

19, 2012, during which Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, presented the Certificate of Appointment to the

15 members. Mr Simon Fu of Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited was elected by the members as ACCLG chairman.



Mr Yu (fifth left, front row), and ACCLG chairman, Mr Fu (fourth left, front row), with other members and Customs Officers at the inauguration ceremony.

ACCLG, set up in June 1994, provides a regular and formal forum for air cargo industry to channel their views and opinions to Hong Kong Customs with a view to enhancing mutual communication as well as improving the service standards of cargo clearance in the Airport Command. Its members are appointed by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise for tenure of two years.



## CUSTOMS PRESENTS AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR CERTIFICATES TO FIVE COMPANIES

On December 13, 2012, Hong Kong Customs (C&ED) presented certificates to five local companies in recognition of their successful application as Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) under the Hong Kong AEO (HKAEO) Programme.

As key stakeholders in the international supply chain, the five companies were accredited as HKAEO by the C&ED following comprehensive assessment of their compliance with the pre-determined security criteria in the programme.

The HKAEO Programme operates in an open and voluntary certification regime. Accreditation not only ensures the security compliance of

individual traders, but also realises the ultimate goal of the World

Customs Organization in securing and facilitating global trade.



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Fong Tai-wai (centre, front row), and representatives of the five companies, namely Lee Kum Kee (HK) Foods Limited (first left, front row), Lee Kum Kee International Holdings Limited (second right, front row), Lee Kum Kee (International) Trading Limited (first right, front row), Fuji Xerox (HK) Limited (third right, front row) and KerryFlex Supply Chain Solutions Limited (third left, front row) at the presentation ceremony.

## THE OMBUDSMAN'S AWARDS 2012



Mr Lam (fourth right) with the Ombudsman, Mr Lai Nin (fourth left), the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (third right), the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Administration and Human Resource Development), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping (third left), the Head of Airport Command, Mr Albert Ho (second left) and his family members at the presentation ceremony.

Customs Officer of Airport Command, Mr Lam Man-chi, was awarded the Ombudsman's Awards 2012 in recognition of his excellent customer services when performing customs clearance duties. Mr Lam received his award at a presentation ceremony on October 31, 2012.

The Ombudsman's Awards Scheme was introduced in 1997. Since 1999, the Scheme has been extended to honour individual public officers for their efforts in contributing a fair, open, accountable and efficient public administration continuously.