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THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

As this edition of Customs News goes into publication, Christmas and New Year should be just around the corner. Judging from latest assessment, our report card for 2013 should be outright impeccable, with enforcement outcome showing remarkable progress across-the-board when compared against that of the previous year.

To name a few key areas of achievement, narcotics interdiction at the airport continues to hit the headlines as we snared two drug couriers arriving from Brazil en route Spain and Beijing carrying with them 60 kilogrammes of cocaine. Swift intelligence exchange led to the subsequent arrest of a third suspect at Beijing Capital International Airport bearing 25 kilogrammes of cocaine, making this the largest attempt of trafficking through the air passenger channel. Significant headway is also being made in protecting government revenue through a series of targeted campaigns against importation of illicit tobacco products and evasion of First Registration Tax by vehicle dealers, whereas stringent marine cargo screening gained us international acclaim yet again for successfully preventing a few large shipments of elephant tusks and other endangered species through our bustling container terminal. Watch out for the annual wrap-up scheduled to be held in January 2014.

On the other hand, export control of powdered formula remains to be a challenging assignment that imposes severe strain on frontline staff, diverting equipment and manpower from traditional core duties. I pay tribute to colleagues who have been sharing out the burden brought upon by this exceptional call, and assure you of

my steadfast commitment to find feasible ways of relieving the work pressure and convey operational difficulties to the concerned policy bureaux. Nonetheless, the trial scheme of engaging retired members of the Customs Officer Grade for ad hoc tasks has proved to be practicable and effective. After evaluating the experience gathered thus far, we will step up the pace of deliberations on how this alternative could help to address various short-term staffing needs of the department.

Meanwhile, the Authorized Economic Operator Programme is gathering steam since we have already ratified two mutual recognition arrangements with the Mainland and India respectively, while negotiations with Korea and Singapore are expected to complete soon. Given the status of Hong Kong as a de facto free port, these arrangements go a long way in manifesting the advantage of gaining accreditation. Our attention should henceforth focus upon sealing similar deals with other major trading partners and actively promoting the programme among small and medium enterprises. This is a move of strategic importance as booming e-commerce transactions will render the global logistics sector an area of merging risk that demands collaborative supervision through industry partnership.

Finally, new legislative provisions governing false trade descriptions and unfair sales practices that came into effect in July created much hype in society. The three-pronged implementation plan according balanced emphasis on education, prevention and enforcement rolled out well. Advertisements and promotional



materials become conservative and informative, marketing tactics turn rational and less aggressive, and staff training is taken as vital corporate imperative. As of to date, some 1,700 public complaints have been received in the past five months - nearly three times the total recorded in 2012 as a whole. Extensive coverage and penetrative reporting by the media is a deciding factor in spreading the right messages across to stakeholders, for which I am immensely grateful, so is the enlightened and proactive approach taken by relevant business associations. Combination of elevated community awareness and rising vigilance among retailers enabled us to conserve investigative resources on flagrant infringements, thereby attaining the objective of safeguarding consumer interest without disrupting legitimate commercial activities. The litmus test now is how effectively we could weed out those obstinate elements fixated on setting premeditated plots for unwary customers.

I conclude by wishing you the pink of health, rewarding accomplishments and emotional fulfillment in the coming year.

Clement Cheung
Commissioner

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE REGULATES UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES



The Head of Trade Controls of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Chan Chi-keung, answers questions from participants at a public seminar.



Customs Officers distributed publicity leaflets to Mainland tourists at Shenzhen Bay Control Point and Lok Ma Chau Control Point during the National Day Golden Week. Photo shows an officer handing out the leaflets on a coach.

The "Trade Descriptions (Unfair Trade Practices) (Amendment) Ordinance 2012" came into effect on July 19, 2013. The Ordinance extends its coverage from goods to services and specified unfair trade practices. Six types of unscrupulous trade practices prohibited under the Ordinance include applying false trade descriptions of goods and services, misleading omissions, aggressive commercial practices, bait advertising, bait and switch, and wrongly accepting payment.

The Customs and Excise Department adopts a three-pronged approach in the implementation of the Ordinance: prevention, education and enforcement.

On prevention, the Customs and the Communications Authority, being the principal agencies responsible for enforcing the Ordinance, have jointly formulated a set of Enforcement Guidelines setting out relevant information and examples for reference by traders.

The Customs has also been working closely with the Consumer

Council in launching a series of educational publicity. These include seminars, exhibitions, television announcements, pamphlets, posters and webpage information, etc. Customs officers have organized more than 50 briefings for traders and the public, and carried out patrol at large-scale commercial exhibitions.

Enforcement by the Customs aims to prevent and stop trade practices that contravene the fair trading sections, promote compliance and raise community awareness, and put offenders under the penalties imposed by the Ordinance.

Since implementation of the Ordinance till end November, about 5,000 enquiries and 1,700 complaints have been received by the Customs. Complaints relating to goods mainly involve foodstuff, electronic products and ginseng and dried seafood, while complaints on services largely cover tourism, beauty/hairdressing, food and beverage trading sectors, etc.

On enforcement, investigation priorities are set by taking into

account the identified risks and making the best use of resources. A civil compliance-based mechanism is also in place to encourage compliance by traders.

Apart from handling complaints, investigative and undercover operations have also been carried out to combat unscrupulous trade practices. In August, the Customs successfully cracked down on some itinerant stalls suspected of selling ginseng and dried seafood to consumers with misleading unit prices. Such trade malpractice of the stalls is believed to contravene the provision of misleading omissions. Prosecution is in progress.

The Government strives to protect consumers' legitimate right and establish an effective regime where consumers and businesses can trade fairly with confidence so as to promote Hong Kong's image in the trading business. As the enforcement agency of the Ordinance, the Customs spares no effort in accomplishing the mission.

Trade Controls Branch

MRA Duet Wins Applause



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (left), and the Vice-Minister of the General Administration of China Customs, Mr Sun Yibiao (right), exchange the MRA document.

Two invaluable gifts are handed out to the industry to celebrate this Christmas as the Customs and Excise Department separately entered into Arrangements with the Mainland and India Customs in October and November 2013 to mutually recognize the respective supply chain security programmes for trusted and reliable enterprises.

Under the mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs), local companies accredited by the Department as Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) can enjoy clearance facilitation, such as reduced examination or prioritized clearance, for their goods imported from or exported to the Mainland and India.

Similarly, companies certified by the Mainland Customs as “AA” class enterprises (equivalent to AEO status in China) or by the India

Customs as AEOs will have their goods cleared expeditiously at entry and exit points of Hong Kong.

Apart from promoting a secure and seamless flow of goods between Hong Kong and the individual signatory, the MRAs enable traders

of the respective economies to enjoy trade facilitation benefits at an international level.

After a 19-month implementation, the Department has accredited 15 AEOs including multi-national companies and local SMEs. A wider participation is expected as it is the wish of the industry to reap the potential benefits brought about by the MRAs to be concluded between the Department and other Customs administrations in the near future.

While the Department expects to sign another two MRAs with the Korea and Singapore Customs in the first and second quarter of 2014 respectively, we are taking active steps to commence MRA discussions with other Customs administrations.

Office of Supply Chain Security Management



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (right), and the Chairperson of the Central Board of Excise and Customs of the Government of India, Ms Praveen Mahajan (left), sign an Arrangement to mutually recognise respective Authorized Economic Operator Programmes.

SSTL Takes Off in Hong Kong



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, (second left), Vice-minister of China Customs, Mr Sun Yibiao (third right), and the Director-General of the Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission, Mr Heniz Zourek (third left) at the accession letter presentation ceremony.

Project Implementation - the Smart and Secure Trade Lanes (SSTL) Pilot Project takes off in Hong Kong with the cargo information of the first SSTL shipment sent to the Netherlands Customs on November 25, 2013.

Shortly after receiving the accession letters to signify Hong Kong's

participation in the SSTL Project in the WCO 121st/122nd Council Sessions held in June, the Customs and Excise Department has been working closely with the China and EU counterparts to implement it locally by end of this year. Our intensive efforts eventually paid off with the first SSTL shipment setting sail for the Netherlands.

and Customs-to-Business co-operation. The China Customs and the respective Customs administrations of EU have been operating it since November 2007. Now that, there are 17 participation ports including Hong Kong. The third phase of its operation is under planning and will be carried out in the second half of 2014.



An officer of the Ports and Maritime Command sends the cargo information of the first SSTL shipment to the Netherlands Customs.

Hong Kong's participation has not only created synergy to the SSTL Project but also extended its scope, heralding a new epoch of Customs cooperation among China, the EU and Hong Kong.

SSTL at a Glance - the SSTL Project aims at minimizing Customs controls while upholding end-to-end supply chain security through enhanced Customs-to-Customs

Future Endeavours - while the Department will review the overall arrangement of SSTL in Hong Kong and make improvement where necessary, we are having close discussion with the Mainland Customs for starting up the operation at the earliest opportunity in 2014.

**Office of Supply Chain
Security Management**

KAI TAK CRUISE TERMINAL OPENS



The new Kai Tak Cruise Terminal

In anticipation of arrival of the next cruise liner after Kai Tak Cruise Terminal's soft opening in June 2013, Customs officers have been preparing to receive coming calls of other world-class ships. When Voyager of the Sea docked at the Cruise Terminal on October 15, some 3,000 passengers were provided with smooth customs service.

The Cruise Terminal is situated on the site of the old Kai Tak Airport runway. Being a major tourism infrastructure project, it is crucial to develop Hong Kong into a regional

cruise hub in Asia and strengthening our city's status in tourism. The Cruise Terminal provides two berths capable of accommodating cruise ships of up to 220,000 gross tonnages, with the first already in use and the second in 2014. Together with two existing berths at Ocean Terminal, the berthing capacity for cruise ships in Hong Kong has been greatly enhanced.

Customs, immigration and quarantine facilities in the new Terminal Building can normally clear up to 3,000 passengers per hour. Flexibility in the design

allows conversion of part of the building into other uses, such as convention and exhibition venues during the non-peak seasons of cruise operations. Its roof garden offers overseas and local visitors an outdoor greenery area to enjoy the spectacular views of Victoria Harbour.

To ensure the timely commissioning of the Cruise Terminal, the Office of Project Planning and Development has worked closely with relevant policy bureaux and departments on resources and site works with an aim to bring the software and hardware of the Cruise Terminal in line with international standards. A dedicated team is set up in the Rail and Ferry Command to handle customs clearance of all cruise ships in Hong Kong. In addition, Customs Detector Dogs and the use of specialized equipment can help speed up the clearance process.



Cruise passengers proceeding to Customs Arrival Hall in the Terminal Building

**Rail and Ferry Command
Office of Project Planning and
Development**

ELECTRONIC CRIME INVESTIGATION CENTRE COMBATS CYBER CRIME

With technological advancement, cyber crimes have been fast growing in recent years. To cope with new enforcement challenges arising from cyber technologies, the Electronic Crime Investigation



The R&D laboratory of the ECIC is equipped with advanced investigative tools.

Centre (ECIC) was established in February this year with a budget of \$4 million.

The ECIC comprises a Research and Development (R&D) laboratory and a training centre. The R&D laboratory is specially designed with advanced investigative tools to conduct research on network technologies and services, tele-communication services and hardware and storage devices. The training centre is equipped with an interactive

multimedia audio-video system and computer systems to provide high quality training.

ECIC will compile quality and insightful research reports, develop models in investigation, formulate procedures and guidelines, and develop cyber crime monitoring systems. ECIC will also share research findings with other law enforcement agencies, industries and academic institutions.

**Intellectual Property
Investigation Bureau**

HONG KONG/GUANGDONG CUSTOMS' ANNUAL MEETING TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CO-OPERATION ON VARIOUS FRONTS



Mr Clement Cheung (fourth right, front row) and Mr Lu Bin (fourth left, front row) with other participants at the 2013 Annual Review Meeting.

The Annual Review Meeting between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs was held in Hong Kong on September 10, 2013. The Hong Kong Customs delegation was headed by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, while the Guangdong

Customs delegation was headed by the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs and the 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 outcome of co-operation between the Guangdong and Hong Kong Customs on trade facilitation, anti-smuggling, anti-drug trafficking, intellectual property rights protection and staff training in the past year.

It also mapped out and endorsed the Co-operation Plan for the coming year:

- to further explore and strengthen various trade facilitation measures;
- to step up enforcement actions against cross-boundary smuggling activities;
- to strengthen regional co-operation on anti-narcotics and the protection of intellectual property rights;
- to provide each other with training programmes and to arrange visits.



Guangdong Customs delegation visited Hong Kong on June 29, 1983.

Since 1983, Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs have been collaborating on various fronts and enhancing co-operation between the two sides. Taking this opportunity, the Editorial Board selected a photo of past precious moment to mark the 30th anniversary of co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs.

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

WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMPUTER FORENSICS



The Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping (centre, first row), in a group photo with participants of the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Computer Forensics.

exercises. Delegates of Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and Malaysia were invited to share with participants their work experience and investigative techniques in computer forensics. Participants also visited the Computer Forensic Laboratory and the Electronic Crime Investigation Centre of Hong Kong Customs.

In collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO), Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) and Hong Kong Customs organised the first ever Regional Workshop on Computer Forensics for the A/P Members from August 20 to 22, 2013 in Hong Kong. A total of 34 officials from 25 Customs administrations and two facilitators of ROCB A/P participated in the Workshop.

Hong Kong Customs, by way of a survey, identified the capacity building needs of A/P Members on the application of computer forensics in Customs investigation. The Workshop aimed to provide Members with a platform for sharing knowledge and work experience on computer forensics.

Three experts of Hong Kong Customs provided lectures on essential theories and hands-on

Looking ahead, Hong Kong Customs will work with ROCB A/P and other members to develop a repository of good practices on computer forensics to enhance the regional efforts in the fight against technology-related crimes.

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

WCO ADOPTS NEW COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT PACKAGE



Mr Clement Cheung (left) and Mr David Fong (right) at the 69th Session of the WCO Policy Commission.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, led a delegation to attend the 69th Session of the Policy Commission and the 121st/122nd Sessions of the Customs Co-operation Council at the World Customs Organization (WCO) Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium from June 24 to 29,

2013. In the meeting, the WCO adopted the new Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP) to assist Member administrations in implementing effective compliance and enforcement activities in five high-risk areas, namely revenue assurance, security, intellectual property rights/health and safety, drug enforcement as well as environment and other new risks. The package is useful in enhancing Customs' role in border management. The increasing global problems on drugs trafficking and environmental crime have underscored the importance of Customs co-operation on the enforcement front. Hong Kong Customs shared the strategy in drug enforcement and encouraged members to consider a sustainable

approach against global drug trafficking problem.

Apart from the CEP, the Council also adopted the Organisational Development Package. Together with two packages adopted previously covering revenue and economic competitiveness, the four packages formed the important pillars of the WCO Strategic Plan 2013/14 to 2015/16.

To further contribute to the Customs' community, Hong Kong Customs will continue to serve as one of the Asia Pacific regional representatives in the Policy Commission and formulate the overall strategy and policy of the WCO for another term until June 2014.

HK CUSTOMS ATTENDS APEC MEETINGS IN INDONESIA

The Senior Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation), Mr Leung Shung-chi, and Senior Inspector, Ms Cheung Wan-ki, represented Hong Kong Customs to attend the 2013 2nd APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP2) Meeting which was held from June 19 to 21, 2013 in Medan, Indonesia.

At the meeting, Ms Cheung gave a presentation on development of computer forensic investigation by Hong Kong Customs. She also introduced the Department's Electronic Crime Investigation Centre and shared with the SCCP members past experience in computer forensic investigation.

Since China will be the SCCP Chair



Mr Leung Shung-chi (fourth right), and Ms Cheung Wan-ki (first right), with the Director General of Indonesian Customs and Excise, Mr Agung Kuswandono (third left), and the 2013 APEC SCCP Chair, Mr Syarif Hidayat (second left).

in 2014, Hong Kong Customs, as invited by this year's chair - Indonesia, joined the 2014 Friends of the Chair (FOTC) Group to assist China in formulating the goals for 2014.

On June 18, the Hong Kong

delegation also joined the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue on the progress and future plan on enhancing co-operation and co-ordination between public and private sectors with a view to taking forward SCCP's priorities.

ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAO CUSTOMS

The 31st Meeting between Hong Kong Customs and Macao Customs Service / Macao Economic Services was held in Macao on July 15, 2013. The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, led a delegation to attend the meeting with the Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Chôl Lai Hang, and his delegates.

At the meeting, both parties reviewed the outcome of their

co-operation relating to protection of intellectual property rights, combating cross-boundary drug trafficking and smuggling activities in the past year. They also examined the situation of exporting dutiable goods from Hong Kong to Macao. In addition, both parties exchanged views on their latest development.



Mr Clement Cheung (left) signs on the commemorative album of Macao Customs.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS SIGNS CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH COUNTERPARTS



Mr Clement Cheung (third right) and Mr Nguyen Ngoc Tuc (third left) at the signing ceremony.

Hong Kong Customs concluded Customs Co-operative Arrangements with Argentina, Vietnam and Russian Customs to pledge for further collaboration in combating transnational offences.

On June 27 and 28, 2013, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, signed a Memorandum of Understanding

Regarding Co-operation and Mutual Administrative Assistance (MoU) with the Federal Administrator of the Federal Administration of Public Revenue of the Argentine Republic, Mr Ricardo Echegaray; and a Customs Co-operative Arrangement (CCA) with the Director General of the General Department of Vietnam Customs, Mr Nguyen Ngoc Tuc, in the margins

of the 121st /122nd Sessions of the Customs Co-operation Council in Brussels, Belgium.

On October 9, 2013, Mr Cheung exchanged a MoU with the Deputy Head of the Federal Customs Service of Russia (FCS), Mr Sergey Komlichenko during his visit to Hong Kong Customs. The MoU was signed earlier by Mr Cheung and the Head of FCS, Mr Andrey Belyaninov.

The signing of the co-operative arrangements marks a milestone in co-operation between Hong Kong Customs and the respective administrations. It also signifies the common wish of the administrations to strengthen bilateral co-operation in areas including exchange of information and law enforcement.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS ATTEND OVERSEAS SYMPOSIA



A glimpse of the symposium.

The 31st Cambridge International Symposium On Economic Crime

The Assistant Superintendent, Mr Barry Lai, attended the 31st Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime in Jesus College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom from September 1 to 8, 2013. Over 1,000 scholars, bankers,

legal practitioners, law enforcement officials, etc. shared thoughts and experiences on co-operation between the public and private sectors in fighting economic crimes in the modern world.

The Second WCO Global Dog Forum in Moscow

The Second Global Dog Forum co-hosted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Federal Customs Service of Russia was held in Moscow from May 28 to 30, 2013. The Senior Inspector, Mr James Ng Tsz-ming and Inspector, Mr Raymond Hon King-yin of Customs Detector Dog Division were among the 28 delegates from worldwide Customs administrations attending the Forum.

The Forum achieved its objectives through experience sharing by

experts on dog breeding and running of canine centre. It also served as a common platform for customs administrations to exchange views on the practical aspect in setting up a WCO Regional Dog Training Centre.

The delegates also shared the memorable moment on May 29, when the WCO Regional Dog Training Centre for the Russian Federal Customs Service was inaugurated.



Delegates from worldwide Customs administration in a group photo.

Seminar On Customs Valuation And Transfer Pricing in Seoul

Senior Inspectors, Ms Lee Lai-yee and Mr Chan King-wai, of the Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration participated in the Seminar on Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing from May 6 to 10, 2013 in Seoul, Korea. The Seminar was jointly organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and OECD Korea Policy Centre.

The Seminar aimed to foster closer co-operation between the Customs and revenue authorities in areas of valuation and transfer pricing.



Ms Lee Lai-yee (centre) and Mr Chan King-wai (right) at the Seminar.

MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND FACILITATION OF PORT CLEARANCE BETWEEN HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND GACC



Mr KH Yu (third right, front row) and Mr Xu Daowen (middle, front row), with participants of the two sides.

The 10th Meeting of the Expert Group on Information Exchange and Facilitation of Port Clearance between Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) was held in Hangzhou from September 11 to 13, 2013. The Hong Kong delegation was headed by the Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing,

while the Mainland delegation was led by the Director General of the Department of Customs Control and Inspection of the GACC, Mr Xu Daowen.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the accomplishments in the implementation of various co-operative initiatives to facilitate port clearance in the past year. They also held an in-depth discussion

on five topics, including (a) strengthening information exchange for small vessels plying between the Mainland and Hong Kong; (b) fostering unification of the format of electronic information for road cargo manifests; (c) stepping up measures to contain the activities of “passenger couriers”; (d) continuing collaboration on monitoring shipments of solid wastes between the Mainland and Hong Kong with the establishment of a more effective inter-departmental liaison mechanism, and (e) setting up a tripartite working group to proactively study and co-ordinate the requirements of port facilities and customs clearance matters, and jointly conceive facilitative clearance measures among the three respective control points in the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project.

NEW ONLINE ANTI-PIRACY SET UP UNVEILED TO INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

“Borderless enforcement – empowering those who combat transnational organized crime through training” was the theme of the 7th International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference held in Dublin from October 15 to 17, 2013.

In his keynote speech, the Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Albert Ho,



Mr Albert Ho delivers a keynote speech at the conference

emphasized that the best way forward to tackle intellectual property crime in the Internet era was through closer international co-operation. At the same time, full support of the industry and the public was also important. To ensure the investigative ability of enforcement officers would be on the same pace with technology, Mr Ho said that ongoing enforcement innovation was critical in the fight

against online piracy.

Mr Ho introduced the newest online anti-piracy set up in Hong Kong Customs, the Electronic Crime Investigation Centre (ECIC), to the 500 delegates from more than 60 countries. The ECIC drew immense interest and discussion on combating cybercrime.

The conference is the INTERPOL's

annual signature event to raise awareness of the international law enforcement community towards emerging intellectual property crime challenges. This year's conference was co-hosted by the INTERPOL and the An Garda Síochána (Police) of Ireland. The delegates are worldwide intellectual law enforcement officials, prosecutors and rights holders.

SENIOR OFFICIALS VISIT HK CUSTOMS



Mr Clement Cheung (centre), Mr Frans Weekers (fifth left), and Consul-General of the Netherlands in Hong Kong, Mr Wilfred Mohr (fifth right), with the Netherlands delegation.

Meetings with official representatives from overseas counterparts help Hong Kong Customs get a good grasp of the co-operation on the fronts of law enforcement and trade facilitation.

On June 5, 2013, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, met with a six-member delegation led by the State Secretary for Finance, Ministry of Finance of the Netherlands, Mr Frans Weekers, to discuss matters of mutual concern and the common wish to strengthen ties for combating transnational crimes.

The delegation also visited Kwai Chung Customhouse to study the latest development of sea cargo clearance operation in the territory.



Mr Clement Cheung (second right) meets with Mr Clifford Hart (second left).

On July 23, the Director General of Shenzhen Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, Mr Gao Yu-chao, accompanied by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services of Hong Kong, Mr Chan Fan, led a five-member delegation to meet with Mr Cheung in Hong Kong.

On September 12, Consul General of Consulate General of the United States in Hong Kong, Mr Clifford Hart, paid a courtesy call on Mr Cheung.

SHENZHEN AIRPORT CUSTOMS DELEGATION VISITS HK CUSTOMS

A delegation led by the Head of Shenzhen Airport Customs, Mr Wu Qiang, visited Hong Kong Customs' Airport Command on August 9, 2013. After visiting the Customs Arrival Hall, Backup Air Traffic Control Tower, Cathay Pacific Cargo Terminal and DHL Central Asia Hub, the delegation gained a better understanding on the operational strategies against drug trafficking and the application of specialized equipment to provide fast and

efficient clearance service at the Hong Kong International Airport. The visit enhanced mutual understanding between the two parties and formed a solid foundation for future co-operation.



The delegation visits the Cathay Pacific Cargo Terminal.

VISIT BY CIVIL LITIGATION UNIT OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Ms Christina Cheung (fifth right, front row), Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping (fourth left, front row) and members of both parties at the Customs Headquarters Building.

The Civil Litigation Unit (CLU) of Department of Justice handles a wide spectrum of civil matters for Customs and Excise Department, including civil claim cases, judicial review cases, forfeiture proceedings

before the District Court and the Court of First Instance. On June 6, 2013, the Deputy Law Officer of CLU, Ms Christina Cheung, and seven colleagues paid a visit to Hong Kong Customs. The visit

offered an excellent opportunity for experience sharing on handling cases and discussing issues of common concern, hence strengthening ties between the two departments.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS OFFICERS ATTEND LAW ENFORCEMENT CO-OPERATION DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN MAINLAND

To foster closer co-operation and liaison in the fight against cross-boundary crimes, the first Hong Kong Customs - Mainland Ministry of Public Security Law Enforcement Co-operation Development Course

was held between October 28 and November 4, 2013 at the People's Public Security University of China in Beijing. A total of 25 participants from different major formations attended the course.

Participants of the course shared their experience on a wide spectrum of issues including investigation techniques with an aim to enhance Mainland-Hong Kong enforcement co-operation.



Participants of the Law Enforcement Co-operation Development Course in a group photo.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTEND COUNTER PROLIFERATION INVESTIGATION WORKSHOP

A Counter Proliferation Investigation Workshop, organized by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE), was held between July 29 and August 1, 2013. A total of 40 participants, including 21 Customs officers, a District Judge and frontline

officers from other Government Departments, attended the workshop.

Through lectures and scenario-based exercises, investigators from the USICE shared their expertise on recruitment of human resources,

surveillance, controlled deliveries and undercover operation with the participants. The workshop also provided a platform for the exchange of investigative experience between overseas and local law enforcement agencies.



Customs officers and other participants with the USICE investigators at the workshop.

POST-COURSE TRAINING FOR DOG HANDLERS



Mr. Thomas Lin (eighth left, rear row) and Mr. Tan Jun (eighth right, rear row) with Staff of the Boundary and Ports Branch and GACC delegation.

The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and the Customs Detector Dog Division (CDDD) jointly organised a post-course training programme for three Mainland-trained dog teams

in Hong Kong between August 6 and 16, 2013. With the provision of a series of on-site training and valuable recommendations for skill refinement offered by two well experienced dog instructors, the

course was effective in strengthening and consolidating three trainees' dog handling skills, safety concept as well as confidence.

The course was successfully completed on August 16 and followed by a graduation ceremony officiated by Mr Thomas Lin, Head of Land Boundary Command.

The Ceremony was attended by a delegation led by Mr Tan Jun, Director of Anti-drug Smuggling Division from GACC, and respective Formation Heads.

No. 25 Mainland Customs (GAC) Development Course

Both the Mainland and Hong Kong Customs have been actively co-organizing various training programmes for officers to enhance mutual understanding and co-operation. From October 15 to 25, 2013, Ms Pang Lai-yee, Assistant Staff Officer (Service Personnel) 1, Office of Service Administration of the Hong Kong Customs, led a delegation, comprising 11 officers of different formations and Trade Controls Branch, to attend the No. 25 Mainland Customs (GAC) Development Course at Shanghai Customs College.

This 11-day training course comprised topical lectures, site visits and a symposium. The topical lectures were taught by

scholars or operational experts of the Mainland Customs. The lectures included an overview of the Mainland Customs; the reform of Customs control and its challenge, legal system and enforcement; the control on the collection of Customs and taxes; enforcement in anti-smuggling; the application of information technology in Customs management; risk management and the introduction of the “China E-port”, an electronic platform for customs declaration.

Through the site visits to Ningbo Customs and the newly opened “Shanghai Free-trade Zone”, the delegation gained a better understanding of the daily operation of the Mainland Customs as well as exchanging views with the frontline

officers. To echo with the anti-corruption policy in the Mainland, the symposium provided a platform for both the officers from Shanghai Customs and the delegation to discuss their work and experiences in the anti-corruption aspect. Lastly, the delegation briefly outlined the organization, recruitment and training of Hong Kong Customs to the lecturers of Shanghai Customs College.

To sum up, the development course has provided a precious opportunity for officers to better understand the Mainland Customs and to get a direct contact with their frontline staff.



Ms Pang Lai-yee (sixth left) and the delegation of the No. 25 Mainland Customs (GAC) Development Course.