



# CUSTOMS NEWS

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## THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

My days in Hong Kong Customs continue to be busy and yet challenging. In the December 2015 Customs News, I wrote about my visits to the various formations and operation units, meeting colleagues and learned about the daily operation of the Department. In this issue, I will delve into our work and connectivity with Customs administrations and counterparts outside the territory.

With the globalization of trade leading to an increase of cargo and passenger flow across the borders, Hong Kong Customs has been striving to balance trade facilitation and law enforcement. To perform these dual roles effectively, the Department has all along maintained a close cooperation with overseas Customs administrations for benchmarking the best practices and sharing of information, in addition to strengthening risk management in the detection of Customs offences.

As an active member of the World Customs Organization and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation our aim has always been to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations on the one hand, while on the other, facilitate trade by achieving harmony and uniformity of Customs procedures among members. Indeed, it requires dedicated efforts to foster common ground and thus our participation in international Customs fora is vital. In January 2016, we hosted the International Customs Day with the theme of "Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement" in Hong Kong. This traditional event successfully enhanced management capabilities and connectivity among some 350 participating Customs counterparts and stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues' for their concerted efforts in making this event a big success.

To further our aim of trade facilitation, the Department launched the Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme last December. The scheme encourages local and overseas traders using Hong Kong as a transshipment location to enjoy preferential tariffs of the Mainland and its 23 trading partners. I noticed that an encouraging number of over 1,100 applications were received in the first four months, giving traders a substantial saving of over US\$5.1 million in tariffs.

In addition, the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with Malaysian Customs was signed in March this year. This being the sixth MRA ratified in just four years' time. Whole-hearted efforts of colleagues' in the active engagement of developing MRAs with economies abroad have demonstrated our "Commitment and Excellence" motto in trade facilitation coupled with law enforcement. Our professional teams of colleagues will not be complacent and will continue to engage our trading partners and more MRAs are expected to come!

On another component of our connectivity, cooperation with the Mainland is not restricted to trade facilitation alone — other areas such as anti-smuggling, anti-narcotics, intellectual property rights protection, staff training are also items on our agenda. In signing the Cooperation Plan with Guangdong Customs last May, we pledged to enhance our ties in law enforcement and will further explore the various trade facilitation initiatives.

To reinforce our cooperation and ties with our Mainland counterparts, our Department took part in a trip to Beijing last October. The delegation comprised heads and representatives of LEAs and led by the Secretary for Security. The



work of Hong Kong disciplined services were fully recognised by the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Zhang Dejiang. The delegation was able to see the latest development of the Mainland and had open and frank discussions with concerned Mainland authorities.

Apart from enforcement within the territory, we also aim to work closely with international Customs agencies in order to tackle Customs offences brought about by globalisation of trade. By complementing and reinforcing each others' efforts at the international front, we can gauge not merely local routine operation, but also in-depth analysis, more extensive investigation and intelligence exchange world-wide. With committed efforts in combating cross-boundary customs offences, Hong Kong Customs aims to serve as a role model in the Customs community for all.

With more cross-boundary projects in the pipeline, I shared colleagues' views on the need to remain vigilant for emerging risks and to work out initiatives for imminent responses. With the staunch support from all colleagues I believe we can rise to the challenges and contribute to the prosperity and stability of the community!

**Roy Tang**  
Commissioner

## HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG CUSTOMS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CO-OPERATION ON VARIOUS FRONTS

The 2014-15 Review Meeting between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs was held in Guangzhou on December 1, 2015. The Hong Kong Customs delegation was headed by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang, while the Guangdong Customs delegation was headed by the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs and Director General of the 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 the Guangdong and Hong Kong Customs on trade facilitation, anti-smuggling, anti-narcotics, intellectual property rights

protection and staff training over the past two years. The two Customs administrations also recognised the remarkable achievements that have resulted from close co-operation on various fronts.

The two sides mapped out and endorsed the Co-operation Plan for the coming two years. On customs clearance, the two sides will undertake to 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 in reinforcing intelligence exchange and mounting joint enforcement operations in Guangdong Province so as to combat smuggling activities associated with illicit cigarettes,

refined oil, agricultural products, endangered species and other high-risk smuggling commodities. At the same time, both sides will strengthen co-operation on protection of intellectual property rights and regional co-operation on anti-narcotics by jointly suppressing smuggling activities through postal channels between Guangdong and Hong Kong.

They 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**



Mr Roy Tang (fifth left) and Mr Lu Bin (sixth left) with both delegations in Guangzhou.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS CELEBRATES 2016 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY



Mr Gregory So (sixth right) and Mr Roy Tang (fifth left) propose a toast with other guests.

Hong Kong Customs held a cocktail reception on January 25 at the Customs Headquarters Building to celebrate the International Customs Day (ICD), an annual signature event to commemorate the founding of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1953 as well as to promote international Customs co-operation. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang, officiated at the reception ceremony.

The theme of ICD this year is “Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement”. Digital Customs refers to any automated or electronic activities that contribute to the effectiveness, efficiency and co-ordination of Customs operations, such as automated Customs clearance systems, the Single Window concept, electronic exchange of information, websites to communicate and promote transparency, and also the use of smartphones.

This theme promotes the

effective use of information and communications technology in Customs activities, which ultimately leads to enhanced ability of Customs administrations to communicate, process goods, exchange information, co-ordinate border activities, collaborate on law enforcement actions, and most importantly, to address the accelerated pace of trade liberalisation and looming security threats across border.

At the reception, Mr So noted the importance of information and communications technology in spurring economic growth and development. He praised Hong Kong Customs for its endeavours in improving efficiency and its contributions in strengthening Hong Kong’s status as the world’s freest economy as well as one of the most business-friendly cities. “I understand that our Customs has implemented different facilitation measures, including the Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme and the Authorized Economic Operator Program, etc.” said Mr So.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Mr Tang said that Hong Kong Customs has extensively applied advanced technology in clearance and enforcement systems for simplifying clearance procedures and combating crimes. In addition, Hong Kong Customs is dedicated to provide e-customer services to allow greater transparency and predictability on Customs procedures.

At the reception, Mr So presented the WCO Certificates of Merit to officers of Hong Kong Customs who had significant contributions towards realising a digital Customs.

Some 350 guests, including Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, government officials, Consuls General, foreign Customs attaches and representatives from Customs administrations of the Mainland and Macao, as well as private sector stakeholders, also joined the celebration.

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## HONG KONG DISCIPLINED SERVICES CULTURAL EXCHANGE DELEGATION 2015

Twenty three service members of Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) joined the Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation on October 8 to 14, 2015 and visited Beijing, Qingdao, and Shanghai to see the latest developments and significant achievements of the country in areas such as technology, industries, and the military. The delegation comprised over 100 officers from five disciplined services.

The delegation led by the Secretary for Security, Mr Lai Tung-kwok, and heads of the disciplined services including the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang,

was received by the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Zhang Dejiang at the Great Hall of the People on October 9. Mr Zhang gave full recognition of the work of Hong Kong disciplined services. He emphasized that the Central Government would continue to support the administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in accordance with the law. He also requested the disciplined services to continue to work with dedication, rise up to challenges, and uphold the rule of law, so as to maintain the stability and prosperity of the HKSAR, and to provide a solid

foundation for the social and economic development of the HKSAR.

During the trip, the delegation visited the production bases for high-speed trains and commercial aircrafts, police training institutes, as well as some heritage sites and museums. The delegation also had the privilege to get on board the country's first aircraft carrier "Liaoning" to have a sight on its operational facilities. C&ED delegates also took the opportunity to meet officials from the Anti-smuggling Bureau of the General Administration of Customs, Qingdao Customs and Shanghai Customs.



Mr Roy Tang (seventh right, front row) and C&ED delegates in the Great Hall of the People.

## AEO PROGRAMME GROWING AT FULL SPEED: MRA SIGNED WITH MALAYSIA



Mr Roy Tang (second left) and Dato' Sri Khazali bin Haji Ahmad (second right), witnessed by the World Customs Organization Secretary General, Mr Kunio Mikuriya (centre), sign the Mutual Recognition Arrangement document.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang, signed the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the Director General of Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Dato' Sri Khazali bin Haji Ahmad, on March 17 during the 17th World Customs Organization Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This is the sixth MRA that the Customs and Excise Department signed with other Customs administrations, following the MRAs with the Mainland, India, Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

Currently over 3,500 companies with their AEO status granted by the department and the MRA partner administrations have

come to enjoy the trade facilitation benefits. To further promote the AEO programme among local companies, the Office of Supply Chain Security Management (OSCS) spares no effort to pledge an effective provision of tangible benefits under the MRAs.

The collaboration with frontline officers of sea, land and air modes of the supply chain is essential to drive the implementation of the programme to a higher horizon. The OSCS has been taking concrete steps to put in place a two-pronged package, i.e. the set-up of AEO priority counters and posting of eye-catching signs and banners at various control points to facilitate the provision of AEO services, and in parallel the production of training videos to update frontline

officers the latest development of the programme and strengthen their knowledge and techniques on handling AEO consignments. The objective is to drive the programme forward at full force so that all AEO consignments, local or foreign, may enjoy clearance facilitation at sea, land and air modes.

While the department will continue to take active steps to conclude MRAs with other principal trading partners, especially those along the "Belt and Road", the OSCS is committed to foster closer partnerships with frontline officers and keep track of the AEO global development to give constant impetus to the AEO programme for a pragmatic and solid advancement.

**Office of Supply Chain Security Management**

## IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT TRANSHIPMENT FACILITATION SCHEME

Hong Kong Customs launched the Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme on December 20, 2015 with a view to enriching the facilitation service provided under the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) and facilitating more transshipment cargo in Hong Kong to enjoy preferential tariff of concerned importing countries. Through proactive discussion with the Mainland, Korea and Australia counterparts, the scope of the scheme has extended from the ECFA to other 12 Free Trade Agreements signed by the Mainland.

To allow the industry have a better understanding of the arrangement of the scheme, Hong Kong

Customs arranged a series of publicity campaigns including a large-scale briefing session held by the Ports and Maritime Command (PMC) in collaboration with Airport Command, Land Boundary Command and the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau at the Auditorium of Customs Headquarters Building on December 15, 2015. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr Hermes Tang, (held the post of Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports Branch) at the material time) delivered an opening speech in the briefing session. Over 200 industry players attended the session and enthusiastically raised questions and provided views relating to the scheme. PMC has set up the

“FTA Scheme” Customs Office at the Kwai Chung Customhouse to centralise application processing and provide supervision service under the scheme. Hotline has also been set up to facilitate public enquiries.

It is expected that the scheme will attract more shipments to be transhipped in Hong Kong, which will help strengthen Hong Kong’s position of logistics hub in the region. The scheme has been well received by the logistics industry. Up to the end of February 2016, Hong Kong Customs has received 467 applications with total value of the goods exceeding 38 million US dollars and tariff reduction estimated exceeding 2.15 million US dollars.



Hong Kong Customs briefs industry players of the scheme.

## COURTESY CALLS ON COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE BY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN HONG KONG



Mr Roy Tang (right) greets Mrs Alicia Buenrostro Massieu (left) at the Customs Headquarters Building.

In order to enhance mutual understanding and strengthen co-operation with the local official representatives on enforcement and trade facilitation front, the Hong Kong Customs receives officials from Consulates-General and delegations in Hong Kong from time to time.

On October 15, 2015, Head of Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao (EU Office), Mr Vincent Piket, and Head of Trade Section of the EU Office, Mr Alessandro Paolocchi, visited the

Hong Kong Customs. During the visit, both sides discussed issues of mutual concern with a view to strengthening the co-operation ties between the Customs authorities of the European Union and Hong Kong Customs.

On November 23, 2015, the Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong, Mr Kuninori Matsuda, led a two-member delegation to pay a courtesy call on Commissioner Roy Tang. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the adoption of risk management

while striking a balance between facilitating normal trade and combating smuggling activities.

On March 21, 2016, the Consul General of Mexico in Hong Kong and Macao SAR, Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, led a three-member delegation to pay a courtesy call on Commissioner Roy Tang. The two sides exchanged views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

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

## THE 21<sup>ST</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING ON OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF CONTROL POINTS WITH GUANGDONG CUSTOMS

The 21<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting on Operational Efficiency of Control Points between the Guangdong Sub-Administration of China Customs (GSAC) and Hong Kong Customs was held in Hong Kong on November 19, 2015. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr Hermes Tang, (held the post of Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) at the material time) led a five-member delegation, comprising representatives from the Land Boundary Command, the Ports and Maritime Command, the Office of

Project Planning and Development, and the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation, to attend the meeting. The Guangdong delegation was led by the Deputy Director General of GSAC, Mr He Li. The five delegates came from GSAC, Guangzhou Customs, Huangpu Customs and Shenzhen Customs.

The meeting was conducted in a co-operative and harmonious atmosphere. Topics discussed included a review of the preparatory

work for cooperation on Customs clearance at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, inter-connection arrangement for the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme of Hong Kong, the Speedy Customs Clearance in Guangdong and extension of data exchange on river trade vessels, etc. Several agreements were reached in the meeting, which contributed immensely to the future co-operation between the two Customs administrations.



Mr Hermes Tang (third right) with Mr He Li (fourth right) and members of the delegations for both sides.

## 2016 1<sup>ST</sup> APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES MEETING



Representatives of member economies attend the first meeting of 2016 APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Meeting.

Representing Hong Kong Customs, Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, led a delegation to attend the first meeting of 2016 APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP1) in Lima, Peru between February 24 and 26.

Following the theme “Quality Growth and Human Development” of APEC this year, the SCCP1 focused to work on initiatives to remove cross-border trade barriers, simplify trade procedures and enhance Customs enforcement capability.

At the meeting, delegation of Hong Kong Customs actively participated in the discussions and contributed to reviewing and endorsing proposals or projects that put forward to SCCP. In particular, Mr Tam shared with participants the best practices of Hong Kong Customs on Authorized Economic Operators Programmes (AEO) and the experience in achieving Mutual Recognition Arrangements with other Customs administrations.

Apart from AEO, SCCP1 had fruitful discussions on relevant topics

including the implementation of World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, international interoperability of Single Window Systems, the use of Passenger Name Record in Customs Enforcement, challenges arisen from cross-border e-commerce, the economies’ collaboration in the Intellectual Property Right enforcement, etc.

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

## SSTL WILL EXTEND COVERAGE TO AIR MODE

The Smart and Secure Trade Lanes Pilot Project (SSTL) Thematic Meeting on Air Mode was successfully held between March 2 and 3, 2016 in Hong Kong. During the meeting, Hong Kong Customs, the General Administration of

China Customs (GACC) and the Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission (TAXUD EC) discussed the implementation details of air mode operation for the third phase of SSTL preparing to take forward the project from sea

mode to air mode. The Department will continue to actively participate in the project to strengthen Hong Kong's competitiveness and maintain our status as a premier logistic hub as well as a supply-chain base.



A glimpse of the meeting.

### **SSTL at a Glance**

*Riding on the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade adopted by the World Customs Organization, the GACC and TAXUD EC launched the SSTL Pilot Project in 2007, which aims at enabling traders to enjoy more efficient and predictable cargo*

*clearance, in terms of reduced examination or prioritized clearance, at both exporting and importing ends through enhanced Customs-to-Customs and Customs-to-Business cooperation. While the*

*SSTL Pilot Project now covers only sea mode operation, it will be extended to air mode and rail mode operations in the future.*

## WCO PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SESSIONS

Senior Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation), Mr Chui Ka-leung, and Acting Senior Inspector of the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation, Ms Tse Hoi-lun attended the 211th/212th Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) in Brussels, Belgium from March 2 to 4, 2016.

The PTC Section meets biannually for members to discuss technical

and procedural matters relating to Customs operations. In aligning with the annual theme of the WCO - Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement, the PTC Sessions focused on different aspects of Digital Customs and identified new avenues for promoting the WCO Data Modal to achieve a holistic approach in automating cross-border procedures.

At the Meeting, members exchanged views on data security

standards, modernization of management through the use of information and communication technology as well as Single Windows solutions. Emerging issues such as e-commerce, the impact of 3D printing and drones on the Customs and trade environment were also discussed.

### Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Mr Chui Ka-leung (left) and Ms Tse Hoi-lun attend the 211th/212th Sessions of the WCO Permanent Technical Committee in Brussels, Belgium.

## DUTIABLE COMMODITIES CUSTOMERS LIAISON GROUP MEETING



Mr Jimmy Tam (center, front row) and members of the Dutiable Commodities Customers Liaison Group.

Under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, the Dutiable Commodities Customers Liaison Group (DCCLG) meetings were held from December 14 to 15, 2015. Over 50 representatives coming from four sectors, namely tobacco, hydrocarbon oil, liquors and warehousing/logistics/duty free

shop/ship store supply attended the meetings.

In the meetings, DCCLG members and Customs Officers actively exchanged views on the day-to-day operational issues in relation to excise administrative control as well as cooperative measures against illicit trade of dutiable commodities.

The DCCLG was established in 1994. It served as an effective channel in fostering understanding and cooperation between traders and the department on dutiable commodities issues.

**Office of Dutiable  
Commodities Administration**

## FORMAL LAUNCH OF THE SINGLE E-LOCK SCHEME

Hong Kong Customs and the Customs administrations of Guangdong Province formally launched the Single E-lock Scheme (the Scheme) on March 28, 2016. The Scheme aims to enhance the clearance efficiency of intermodal transshipment cargo across the boundary and to facilitate trade through the application of advanced technology.

Besides, to promote the Scheme, Hong Kong Customs accepted the invitation of the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies to set up a booth at the LSCM Roadshow 2016 held on March 17, 2016. Samples of electronic locks employed in the Scheme were displayed at the

booth for introducing the Scheme to the industry and the public.

Under the Scheme, the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (ITFS) of Hong Kong Customs is interconnected with the Speedy Customs Clearance (SCC) of the Customs administrations of Guangdong Province to build a “green lane” for facilitating logistics flow through seamless clearance service. On the principle of “Across the Boundary with One Single E-lock under Separate Monitoring”, the two Customs authorities apply one single electronic lock (e-lock) and the technology of global positioning system to monitor and safeguard the security of the transshipment cargo. By using a single e-lock, both Customs authorities can

reduce duplicate inspection on the same shipment at the boundaries, which helps streamlining the clearance process and expediting the flow of transshipment cargo.

There are as many as 264 routes under the Scheme shuttling between the five clearance points at the air cargo terminals and seven clearance points at the sea container terminals of Hong Kong, and the 22 clearance points in the Guangdong Province. Currently 80 per cent of the air-land intermodal transshipment cargoes enjoy the seamless clearance facilitation provided by ITFS. The Scheme will enhance the trade facilitation measures to cope with the rapid development of the cross-boundary e-commerce logistics.



On the briefing of the Single E-lock Scheme held on March 15, 2016, representatives of Hong Kong and Mainland Customs host the kick-off ceremony to announce that the Single E-lock Scheme would be formally launched on March 28.

## HONG KONG/MAINLAND CUSTOMS TRAINING COOPERATION MEETING



Hong Kong / Mainland Customs Training Cooperation Meeting.

The Director General of National Education and Training Centre of the General Administration of China Customs (GACC), Ms Qiu Yueling, led a five-member delegation to visit Hong Kong Customs and attended the Hong Kong/ Mainland Customs Training Cooperation Meeting from November 25 to 28, 2015. Assistant

Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development) Mr Lin Shun-yin chaired the meeting and reviewed the training co-operation of both sides in the past year and explored further ways to enhance the exchange and collaborations between Customs academies. The delegation also

visited the Civil Service Training and Development Institute and the Customs and Excise Training School to understand the training system of Hong Kong civil servants and the latest development of practical trainings in our department.

## FANLING MAGISTRATES VISIT CUSTOMS CONTROL POINTS

Principal Magistrate Ms Bernadette Woo leading five magistrates and six court prosecutors of the Fanling Magistrates' Courts visited Lok Ma Chau (LMC) and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (LMCSL) control points on November 7, 2015. At LMC, they were briefed on our frontline work against smuggling. They also had the opportunity to simulate the experience of a truck driver going through a customs kiosk. The visual and audio instructions under the scenario of being selected for a secondary inspection was demonstrated. At LMCSL, they were shown the utilization of advance equipment such as Passive Millimeter Wave

Screening System on detection of body packing. The visit not only enabled the magistrates to have a better understanding on our enforcement work so as to

assist their decision making in court but also strengthened the tie between the judiciary and the department.



The visiting magistrates inspect the operation of ROCARS at Lok Ma Chau Control Point.

## HK CUSTOMS PROMOTES THE CUSTOMS FACILITATION SCHEME FOR WINE AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL WINE AND SPIRITS FAIR

The Office of Dutable Commodities Administration (ODCA) set up a booth at the Hong Kong International Wine and Spirits Fair held in November 2015, promoting the latest developments of the Customs Facilitation Scheme for wine entering the Mainland through Hong Kong.

The Fair drew more than 20,000 traders, and those traders visiting the departmental booth expressed great interest in the facilitation measures of the Scheme. The

Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, paid a visit to the booth respectively and shared views on the Scheme with ODCA officers.

The Scheme was officially launched in June 2010. Up to late February in 2016, around 10 million bottles of wine (valued at HK\$510 million) had been exported to the Mainland under the Scheme. In October 2015, the applicability of

the Scheme was extended from designated ports in Shenzhen and Guangzhou to all ports in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou Customs districts. The extension further benefits Hong Kong traders who deal in wines with Mainland enterprises, particularly those located in eastern and northern China.

**Office of Dutable  
Commodities Administration**



Mr John C Tsang (third left) visits Hong Kong Customs' booth.

## ENHANCEMENT OF EXHIBITION GALLERY AT THE CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING



Overview of the thematic section on "Protection of Endangered Species".

In recent years, the department has spared no efforts in combating the transnational smuggling of endangered species and was committed to raising the public awareness of endangered species conservation. The new thematic section about "Protection of Endangered Species" at the Exhibition Gallery of the Customs Headquarters Building is a showcase of the department's dedicated efforts in fulfillment of international obligation in wildlife protection. The seized exhibits were displayed in a fabricated wildlife environment and we hope the new thematic section will bring the visitors a surprise and new experience.

## NO. 29 MAINLAND CUSTOMS (GAC) DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Acting Superintendent Mr Wu Yan-kit led a seven-member delegation to attend the No. 29 Mainland Customs (GAC) Development Course organised by Shanghai Customs College from October 12 to 16, 2015.

The five-days training course provided a platform for exchange of ideas on the enforcement strategies of two selected themes - Coordinated Border Management and Import and Export Control of Endangered Animals and Plants. The Mainland Customs Officials of respective Offices were invited to attend and share their experiences. An on-site visit to the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone was

arranged, allowing the delegation members to understand the latest development of the Mainland economy.

The delegation members not only acquired the related professional knowledge but also took the opportunity to extend networking with Mainland counterparts.



The Hong Kong Customs delegation members and officials of the Shanghai Customs College attend the No. 29 Mainland Customs (GAC) Development Course.

## THE NO. 4 CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT COURSE

The Office of Training and Development organised the No. 4 Customs Management Course for 15 Mainland Customs director-grade officers from November 16 to 28, 2015. Through introduction of the legal system of Hong Kong, human resources management of Customs, Customs clearance

management and integrity management, the managerial officers from the Mainland Customs had a better understanding on the administration and integrity management of both the HKSAR Government and Customs and Excise Department. The course also served as a valuable platform

for the managerial officers from the two administrations to exchange work experience and good practices in different areas, with a view to further strengthening administration efficiency and officers' integrity awareness.



Participants of the No. 4 Customs Management Course visit the Professional Development Training Block.

## NATIONAL STUDIES COURSE FOR HONG KONG DISCIPLINED SERVICES



Mr Barry Lai (third left) and other participants in the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong.

The 66<sup>th</sup> National Studies Course for Hong Kong Disciplined Services was held at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong, Shanghai from December 11 to 18, 2015, with the participation of 40 representatives from five disciplined services, namely, Customs and Excise Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Immigration Department, Fire Services Department and

Correctional Services Department. A six-member Customs delegation, led by Acting Superintendent Mr Barry Lai, took part in this course.

This eight-day training programme covered the recent political, legal, economic and social development of modern China after a series of reforms. Besides classroom lectures, on-site visits were

arranged for participants, allowing them to have a closer look at the achievements in technological advancement and environmental protection in the Mainland. Through active interactions, participants from different disciplined services built up a sustainable network beneficial for future cooperation.

## CUSTOMS' PASSING-OUT PARADE



Mr Yu Koon-hing inspects the Passing-out Parade.

A Passing-out Parade was held on January 15, 2016 at the Customs and Excise Training School with 34 Probationary Inspectors and 122 Probationary Customs Officers inspected by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr Yu Koon-hing. More than 800 guests from various government departments, private sectors as well as families and friends of the graduates attended the ceremony.

Addressing the parade, Mr Yu commended the graduates for their excellent performance and demonstration of the unique attributes of the disciplined services. He encouraged them to exert exceptional drive, earnestness and enthusiasm to tackle challenges and obstacles at work. He also urged them to uphold the principles of justice and execute their duties with courtesy and professionalism. By serving the public with the

Customs' spirit of Commitment and Excellence, the graduates would be able to make contribution for the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

Taking the opportunity, Mr Yu bade farewell to the big family of the Customs and Excise prior to his pre-retirement in late January 2016 and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the colleagues who worked with him in the past.