



# CUSTOMS NEWS

2017 January • Issue No.57

<http://www.customs.gov.hk>

## THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

In the sunny and bright afternoon of June 3, 2016, over 800 guests joined me at the Passing-out Parade for Probationary Customs Officers from No.372 to 379. Those 154 newly recruited officers were superb members of the department who had not only raced through intensive recruitment exercise but also underwent a 15-week demanding induction training course.

Thinking of what make Customs a team of professional disciplinary officers as I moved on with the inspection of the graduates as the Reviewing Officer - the passing-out squads instantly showed me the answer in their demonstration of high morale, excellent performance, readiness for their tasks and vast potential embodied.

The Customs and Excise Department is an advanced and forward-looking discipline service tasked with the law

enforcement work of protecting revenue, preventing smuggling, fighting drug-trafficking, safeguarding intellectual property rights and consumer interests. The duties are tough and diversified but they come together to contribute greatly to the maintenance of stability and prosperity of our society.

In the pursuit of their careers, graduates should also bear in mind the need to keep pace with the world. Giving thoughts to new technologies, advanced computer systems, forging new business partnerships, all add up to enhance our enforcement effectiveness and trade facilitation.

Looking ahead, our engagement in a number of major infrastructural projects such as the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Lingtang/Heung Yuen Wai Control Point, which



are due for completion in 2017 and the years ahead will surely offer ample opportunities for our graduates to exploit their strengths and abilities.

I hope all graduates as well as colleagues will share the value of life-long learning, progress with time and put into practice the knowledge and skills acquired through training courses and hands on experience in their line of duty. I am sure you will all live up to the spirit of "Commitment and Excellence" of the department and do your best to "guard the gate" for Hong Kong.

The publication of this issue of Customs News coincides with the festive atmosphere of Lunar New Year, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a joyful and prosperous Year of the Rooster.

**Roy Tang**  
Commissioner



## HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CUSTOMS HOLD REVIEW MEETING AND SIGN DOCUMENTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CO-OPERATION

The 2016 Review Meeting between Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China was held in Hong Kong on May 24, 2016. The Hong Kong Customs delegation was headed by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang, while the Mainland Customs delegation was headed by the Minister of the General Administration of Customs, Mr Yu Guangzhou.

This was the 15th annual meeting between the Mainland and Hong Kong Customs since the signing of the Customs Co-operative Arrangement in 2000. The meeting reviewed the co-operation between the two Customs administrations on trade facilitation, information technology development, anti-smuggling, anti-narcotics, intellectual property rights protection and staff training over the past two years. The two administrations also recognised the remarkable achievements resulting from the close co-operation on various fronts.



Delegations of Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs exchange views during the Review Meeting.

To facilitate the implementation of the country's Belt and Road Initiative and to promote economic development, the two administrations also endorsed the Co-operation Plan for the coming two years, which mapped out the collaboration on areas including Customs enforcement, intelligence exchange, trade facilitation, information technology development and capacity building strategy etc.

After the meeting, the two administrations signed a Decision to revise the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on AEO Programmes of the Mainland and Hong Kong, which allows both sides to better promote

the AEO Programmes and bring more business opportunities to the import/export and logistics industries.

In addition, under the witness of the Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, and the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Ms Qiu Hong, Mr Roy Tang and Mr Yu Guangzhou signed a Co-operation Arrangement on Origin of Transshipment Cargo in Hong Kong under Free Trade Agreements (Co-operation Arrangement) at the Central Government Offices, Tamar. The Co-operation Arrangement further enables Mainland-bound consignments passing through Hong Kong to enjoy tariff reduction of the Mainland, so as to strengthen Hong Kong's status as a logistics hub in the region, and enhance the development of local trade, commerce and logistics sectors under the Belt and Road Initiative.

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

**Ports and Maritime Command**

**Office of Supply Chain Security Management**



The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang (back row, third left); the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Ms Qiu Hong (back row, third right), and other guests witness the signing of the Co-operation Arrangement by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang (front row, left), and the Minister of the General Administration of Customs, Mr Yu Guangzhou (front row, right).



## NEW BUDDIES OF CUSTOMS FLEET - SHALLOW WATER CRAFTS



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang (left), presents the New Customs Shallow Water Craft Plaque.

The Commissioning Ceremony of the new Customs Shallow Water Crafts officiated by the Commissioner was held in May 2016. Two commissioning plaques were presented to commemorate the launch of the new crafts.

The new Shallow Water Crafts were built in Changzhou, China. With high maneuverability, the new crafts could reach maximum navigating speed of 50 knots, which was 11 knots faster than that of the old model. Apart from the newly installed echo sounder,

the new crafts also adopt more advanced models of radar system, GPS and electronic chart. The mentioned advanced equipment could enhance the overall capability of the Customs fleet on pursuing high speed vessels, patrolling at shallow water areas and supporting the work of diving teams. Another feature of the fleet is the newly introduced Atlantic seats with semi-active progressive shock mitigation system for staff on duty, providing maximum protection to the spine and neck.

The two new crafts fully displayed the ability to pursue targets at high speed at shallow waters in early July. During an anti-smuggling operation, the crafts intercepted a target vessel right within the boundary of administration. Suspected smuggled goods with a value of more than \$1 million were seized.

### Ports and Maritime Command

## 127TH/128TH SESSIONS OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, led a delegation to attend the 127th/128th Sessions of the Customs Co-operation Council of World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, Belgium from July 14 to 16, 2016.

The Council Sessions provided an annual forum for Heads and senior officials of 180 member administrations to engage in a high-level dialogue on emerging Customs issues, for instance, e-commerce, border security and risk management. The Council elected Mr Ruslan Davydov of Russian Federation as Chairman of the next Council Sessions (2016/2017) and endorsed Fiji Customs as the new WCO Vice-Chair of the Asia Pacific Region (2016/2018). At the meeting, Mr Tam congratulated Fiji Customs upon her new appointment as the Vice-Chair and expressed support to Fiji Customs in achieving the goals of the WCO Regional Strategic Plan.

Hong Kong Customs reached a new milestone on supply chain security and trade facilitation. On the sidelines of the meetings, Mr Tam signed two instruments, namely (i) a Joint Administrative Arrangement (JAA) on Smart and Secure Trade Lanes (SSTL) Pilot Project Phase 3 with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, the Directorate-General



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam (first right); the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Hu Wei (second right); the Director-General for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission, Mr Stephen Quest (second left); and the Secretary-General of the WCO, Mr Kunio Mikuriya (first left); shake hands after the Signing Ceremony of Joint Administrative Arrangement on Smart and Secure Trade Lanes Pilot Project Phase 3.

for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission and the Customs Administrations of 15 European Union Member States; and (ii) a Mutual Recognition Arrangement Action Plan (MRA AP) with the Minister Counsellor of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of Australia.

Both instruments are conducive to expediting legitimate international trades and bringing benefits to the local traders. The JAA expands the coverage of SSTL Pilot Project from sea mode to air and rail modes. The traders will have more control over their consignments under different modes of transport. Moreover, through the signing of the

MRA AP, Hong Kong Customs has showcased its strategy in adopting a phased approach to develop MRAs with our principal trading partners in the region, and gradual expansion to economies of other continents. The MRA AP will assist local traders to tap into overseas market thereby opening up more business opportunity.

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

**Office of Supply Chain Security  
Management**



## NEWLY LAUNCHED - SEA CARGO PRE-SHIPMENT DECLARATION AWARD



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Ellis Lai (front row, middle), with all the winning sea cargo carriers and companies.

Hong Kong Customs held an award certificate presentation ceremony for the “Sea Cargo Pre-shipment Declaration Scheme 2016” at the Customs Headquarters Building on August 18, 2016, officiated by the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Ellis Lai. Gold and Silver Award Certificates were presented to 40 sea cargo carriers/companies in recognition of their distinguished participation in various sea cargo information submission schemes by achieving exceptionally high or very high submission rates.

The inaugural award scheme for sea cargo pre-shipment

declaration aims at commending sea cargo carriers of the industry in taking proactive steps to submit advance cargo information to the department, as well as recognising their valuable contribution in improving the overall efficiency of cargo clearance by which more sea cargo could enjoy efficient Customs clearance services. It is hoped that the scheme could enable carriers to better understand and support the development of “Trade Single Window” in the future.

Since 2009, the department has put in place different sea cargo information submission schemes, including the voluntary EMAN

Statement One Submission Scheme for ocean ongoing vessels as well as the voluntary Advance Cargo Information - River Trade Vessel Scheme, etc. All the submission schemes have been running smoothly since their launch. The schemes allow carriers and cargo agents to submit advance cargo information to the department prior to vessels’ arrivals while enabling the department to conduct risk assessment more effectively as well as providing more efficient and seamless cargo clearance service to the industry.

**Ports and Maritime Command**

## IPR BADGE PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH AMBASSADORS

To mark the 10th Anniversary of the Youth Ambassadors Scheme, the Hong Kong Customs launched a brand new programme – the IPR Badge Programme, for Youth Ambassadors. The programme was made up of courses in three different levels, including the Foundation, the Advanced, and the Trainer. The Foundation course was a six-day five-night residential training camp, which took place at the Customs and Excise Training School between July 4 and 9, 2016.

Hong Kong Customs has gained full support in the organisation of the programme course from the Intellectual Property Department, the Department of Justice, the Government Flying Service and the City University Apps Laboratory. The designated programme had attracted about 100 Youth

Ambassadors to enroll. The tailor-made courses comprised of physical and leadership training which aimed to strengthen participants' disciplinary mindsets and enrich their knowledge in various aspects including the intellectual property rights (IPR), the legal system of Hong Kong, the core duties of Hong Kong Customs, the updated apps to boost youngsters' cognisance of IPR and civic knowledge; as well as a visit to the Government Flying Service. The courses enabled the Youth Ambassadors to keep abreast of the latest trend and adverse effect of online IPR infringement activities.

The Foundation course was conducted with a Passing-out Parade and an award presentation ceremony. The Director of Intellectual Property, Ms Ada

Leung, was invited to be the Inspecting Officer of the parade. Subsequent to the parade, an award presentation ceremony was held which was officiated by Ms Ada Leung; the Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang; the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Martin Hui; and the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Louise Ho. Prizes and graduation certificates were presented to the outstanding participants in recognition of their efforts in the courses. In addition, Mr Tang appointed Ms Akina Fong, who has collaborated continuously with Customs for IPR publicity campaign, to be the 'Ambassador of the IPR Badge' in the ceremony.

**Intellectual Property  
Investigation Bureau**



The officiating guests celebrate with participants of No.1 Foundation Course of IPR Badge Programme for Youth Ambassadors in the award presentation ceremony.



## HONG KONG CUSTOMS JOINS HANDS WITH EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS SEMINAR



The Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of Customs and Excise, Ms Catherine Yip, delivers an opening speech at the seminar.

Hong Kong Customs and the European Chamber of Commerce (Eurocham) in Hong Kong joined hands in organising a seminar “IPR Protection on the Internet – Sharing Best Practices” on June 21, 2016 to promote protection of intellectual property rights (IPR). Law enforcement agencies and the IPR industry were glad to share valuable experience and expertise in tackling challenges in IPR protection on the Internet. Over 70 participants from more than 40 groups, including brand owners, legal professionals, organisations in the IPR industry and Eurocham members took part in the seminar which was held at the Customs Headquarters Building.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau, Ms Catherine Yip, said that the rapid development of the Internet in the past decade

had drastically changed our living, and at the same time criminals could make use of the advanced technology to commit Cyber crimes. In fact, to tackle new challenges ahead, Hong Kong Customs have been implementing a series of measures. These measures included the setting up of Electronic Recordation and Triage Center (ERTC) to facilitate the recordation clearance procedure; establishment of Electronic Crime Investigation Centre (ECIC) to study IPR crimes, so as to formulate viable enforcement strategies; and the development of new online tool “SocNet Monitoring System” to enable effective online surveillance against infringing activities on social networking platforms. To strengthen law enforcement, Hong Kong Customs will apply Organised Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO) to investigate and prosecute

syndicate-level IPR infringement activities.

Through thematic presentations and interactive panel discussions, participants respectively explored the obstacles and successes faced by enforcement officers and the industry, conducted review of existing preventive measures as well as examined ways to raise awareness and standards of the industry through co-operation. The seminar deepened participants’ insights into the challenges and enforcement on IPR protection. Participants actively took part in the seminar and had expressed their anticipation in taking part in similar events organised by Hong Kong Customs in the future.

**Intellectual Property  
Investigation Bureau**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DETECTOR DOG BREEDING CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

Hong Kong Customs and the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (CSD) joined hands to launch the first ever detector dog breeding co-operation programme in December 2015. Both departments recognised the need to introduce a new source of supply of detector dogs to cope with the enforcement requirement, and to share experiences on dog breeding, puppy rearing and canine training.

English Springer Spaniel was chosen as the breed dog for co-operation given its energetic character, strong stamina and high alertness in drugs detection. With the accomplishment of mission by Customs' "Barney" (male) and CSD's "Atom" (female), seven healthy puppies were born on May 17 and 18, 2016. Among the puppies, a female and a male were handed over to Customs on October 19, 2016 and officially became members of Customs Dog Team.

The puppies will undergo an intensive 12-week drugs detection training jointly organised by the dog instructors of both departments in early 2017. They are expected to be well-trained as professional working dogs for performing frontline duties before late 2017. For the two dogs allocated to Customs, they will be deployed to airport, cross-boundary control points and container terminals to carry out duties.

On August 11, 2016, a joint press



Two puppies were handed over to Hong Kong Customs in October.

briefing was held by the two departments in Stanley to promote the pioneer programme with an attendance of over 50 reporters from 25 media organisations. Positive publicity on the co-operation programme with a wide coverage by the printed and electronic media greatly enhanced the professional image of Customs.

The co-operation programme signified a milestone of the Customs Detector Dog Division (CDDD) in canine training and development.

With challenges posed upon the commissioning of various new cross-boundary control points and infrastructural projects in the years ahead, CDDD will endeavor to work closely with other local and overseas counterparts in canine co-operation to fit in with the future development of Customs.

### Land Boundary Command



## COURTESY CALL OF NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MACAO CUSTOMS SERVICE



The Director-General of the Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong Iao Lek (fifth left), pays a courtesy call on the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang (fifth right), with delegations from both side.

The newly appointed Director-General of the Macao Customs Service (MCS), Mr Vong Iao Lek, paid a courtesy call on the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang, on May 4, 2016. This was the first visit of Mr Vong since he took office in February.

Mr Tang congratulated Mr Vong on his new appointment and believed that closer ties between the two Administrations could be further strengthened under the leadership of Mr Vong.

Mr Vong expressed his appreciation for the continuous support given by Hong Kong Customs and briefly shared with Mr Tang his initiatives and plans in leading the MCS to overcome the new challenges ahead.

During the meeting, both parties discussed a series of agenda items with mutual concern. Both sides acknowledged the need to further enhance the bilateral co-operation on various fronts, in particular combating infringing activities and cross-boundary drug trafficking.

After the meeting, Mr Vong paid a visit to Lok Ma Chau Control Point and Chung Ying Street in Sha Tau Kok to understand the passenger and cargo clearance in Hong Kong.

### Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS SIGNS MRA WITH JAPAN CUSTOMS

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang, and the Director General of Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance of Japan, Mr Mikio Kajikawa, signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in Hong Kong on August 23, 2016 to mutually recognise the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programmes of both sides.

Japan is the third principal trading partner with Hong Kong

in 2015. Under the MRA signed, both administrations reached a new milestone in facilitating and securing trade flows between the two economies. This is the 7th MRA that Hong Kong Customs has concluded with other Customs administrations including the Mainland, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

Looking ahead, Hong Kong Customs will continue developing MRAs with other Customs

administrations proactively and will spare no effort in establishing AEOs that adhere to the security and compliance criteria. At present, MRA developments with Australia and the European Union have commenced and relevant discussions are in good progress.

**Office of Supply Chain  
Security Management**



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Roy Tang (right), and the Director General of Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance of Japan, Mr Mikio Kajikawa (left), exchange the Mutual Recognition Arrangement document.



## "APEC CUSTOMS-BUSINESS DIALOGUE" AND "2ND MEETING OF APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES"

### SCCP Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Meeting

Lima, 17 August 2016



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, led a delegation to attend the "2nd Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures" between August 17 and 19, 2016 in Lima, Peru.

Hong Kong Customs attended the "APEC Customs-Business Dialogue" on August 16, 2016 and the "2nd Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures" between August 17 and 19, 2016 in Lima, Peru, respectively. The host of APEC rotates annually and Vietnam will be the host of APEC in 2017.

More than 100 representatives from APEC Customs administrations, private sector and international organisations attended the meetings to actively discuss

measures and proposals to facilitate trade in the Asia Pacific region including Authorized Economic Operators (AEO), Single Window System and e-commerce.

During the meeting, the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, introduced the key features of Hong Kong AEO Programme. "The Hong Kong AEO Programme is a two-tier accreditation system. It was designed to facilitate the inclusion and participation of Small

and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in particular into the programme," said Mr Tam. Mr Tam also updated members about the latest development of the programme that Hong Kong Customs had signed the AEO Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with seven Customs administrations, including the Mainland, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan.

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

## POST-OPERATIONAL WORKSHOP UNDER PROJECT CUSTOMS ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

Jointly hosted by Hong Kong Customs, Korea Customs Service, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO A/P), a Post-operational Workshop under Project Customs Anti-drug Strategy (CADS) was convened between June 22 and 24, 2016 in Hong Kong.

The workshop aimed to provide a platform for Customs administrations of the Asia Pacific region to enhance regional co-operation in combating drug trafficking and to evaluate the effectiveness of regional anti-narcotics operations under Project CADS conducted since July 2015.

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Louise Ho, and the Head of RILO A/P, Mr Hwang Seung-ho, officiated at the opening ceremony. In delivering the opening remarks, Ms Ho highlighted the importance of adopting a regional approach to tackle drug trafficking problem and called on participating administrations to continue strengthening co-operation.

A total of 43 participants from 31 Customs administrations in the region and international organisations participated in the workshop. The participants actively shared their experience in anti-narcotic enforcement actions and

engaged in constructive discussion on topics of common concerns.

The workshop ended with fruitful results. It not only evaluated the effectiveness of the regional anti-narcotics operation, but also laid a foundation for a sustainable anti-narcotics strategy in the Asia Pacific region.

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



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Louise Ho (front row, sixth right); the Head of WCO Asia Pacific Regional Intelligence Liaison Office, Mr Hwang Seung-ho (front row, fifth left); Senior Staff Officer of the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation, Mr James Chui (front row, fifth right); and other participants attend the "Post-Operational Workshop under Project Customs Anti-drug Strategy".



## THE 3RD EXPERT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN KOREA AND HONG KONG CUSTOMS

Superintendent Mr Tse Kwok-keung, Assistant Superintendent Ms Wong Sek-yan and Senior Inspector Mr Wong Che-yin of the Hong Kong Customs attended the 3rd Expert Exchange Programme (EEP) between Korea Customs Service and Hong Kong Customs in Daejeon, Korea between July 26 and 28, 2016.

As an annual programme, the EEP enables officers of the two Customs administrations to share their experience and knowledge in the operation modes, enforcement activities and tactics, etc. During the three-day programme, participants were briefed on the development of the single window system in Korea and their success has shed light

on the planning and development of the trade single window in Hong Kong.

**Office of Information  
Technology**



Superintendent of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Tse Kwok-keung (second left), with delegates of Korea Customs Service.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS ATTENDS ASIA PACIFIC TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING AND TRADE-RELATED ECONOMIC RISKS WORKSHOP

The Asia Pacific Trade-based Money Laundering and Trade-related Economic Risks Workshop co-organised by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Singapore Police Force was held from July 26 to 28, 2016 in Singapore. A total of 65 prosecutors and law enforcement officers from 12 jurisdictions attended the workshop. Hong Kong Customs was represented by Assistant

Superintendent, Mr Ng Chun-wah, and Senior Inspector, Mr Hui Chi-hang, from the Syndicate Crimes Investigation Bureau.

During the three-day workshop, participants discussed and shared views on ways to combat trade-based money laundering, trade-related economic risks investigative techniques and the latest money laundering trend. Hong Kong

Customs representatives gave presentation respectively on anti-money laundering enforcement efforts and the co-operation with other overseas law enforcement agencies against money laundering activities.

**Syndicate Crimes Investigation Bureau**



Assistant Superintendent, Mr Ng Chun-wah, gives a presentation on Hong Kong Customs' anti-money laundering work in the workshop.



## THE 15TH HONG KONG OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AWARD



The then Commissioner for Labour, Mr Donald Tong (third right), presents the “Safety Culture Silver Award” to Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Lin Shun-yin (third left).

Hong Kong Customs enrolled in the 15th Hong Kong Occupational Safety and Health Award Competition organised by the Occupational Safety and Health Council to recognise colleagues’ years of hard work in promoting occupational safety and health. Taking part in the competition for the first time, the department was brought to face more than 160 competitors from other government departments and private sector.

With well-established occupational safety culture, the department overcame the intense competition and was awarded the “Safety Performance Award” and the “Safety Culture Silver Award” in the ceremony on September 5, 2016. The department also gave a presentation with a video showing the established safety culture in Hong Kong Customs. The presentation concluded with a live show by a dog handler and

his detector dog, demonstrating the importance of occupational safety in the course of performing Customs duties. The presentation won enthusiastic applause from the audiences and successfully delivered the message of “Safety is our top priority” to the public.

**Office of Prosecution and Management Support**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VISITS MAINLAND CUSTOMS

The Deputy Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Hermes Tang, led a four-member delegation to visit Beijing from April 21 to 22, 2016 and paid courtesy calls on senior officials of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) for the first time since taking office. The delegation met with Vice Minister of the GACC, Mr Sun Yibiao; Director General of the Department of Science and Technology, Mr Chen Zhenchong; Director General of the Anti-smuggling Bureau, Mr Liu Xiaohui; and Director General of Beijing Customs District, Mr Gao Rongkun.

The delegation and GACC officials took the opportunity to exchange views on stepping up future co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of Customs business on various fronts. Discussions were held over a number of key areas, including the collaboration on single window and information technology development; the co-operation in road cargo data sharing; the development of the Wine Facilitation Scheme; Co-operation Arrangement on Origin of Transshipment Cargo in Hong Kong under Free Trade Agreements;

Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programmes; cross boundary enforcement against drug trafficking and smuggling activities, as well as Customs Regulatory and Cooperative Mechanism at the Mainland and Hong Kong Airports.

### Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



The Deputy Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Hermes Tang (fourth right), and Director General of the Department of Science and Technology, Mr Chen Zhenchong (fourth left), with delegation members of the meeting.



## GOVERNMENT COUNSELS VISIT CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING



Government Counsels visit the Exhibition Gallery located at the Customs Headquarters Building.

Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr William Tam, SC, leading two Government Counsels visited Customs Headquarters Building on May 11, 2016. They visited the Exhibition Gallery and have a grasp on the department's development in the past 100 years. At the Electronic Recordation and Triage Centre (ERTC) and the Electronic Crime Investigation

Centre (ECIC), they were briefed on the innovative enforcement modes conducted by the Customs against infringing activities and cybercrimes. They also took the opportunity to meet with the directorate staff of the Customs at a luncheon to exchange views on enforcement and prosecution work. In particular, the current crime trend and Customs enforcement strategy

against ever-changing modus operandi of criminals were shared. Various co-operative measures for enhancing the effectiveness of prosecution of significant cases were prompted for discussion.

**Office of Prosecution and Management Support**

## OVERSEAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES VISIT HONG KONG CUSTOMS

Meetings with senior officials from overseas law enforcement agencies help Hong Kong Customs maintain a close partnership with overseas counterparts and foster mutual understanding and co-operation on various enforcement fronts.

On June 1, 2016, Director of Drugs and Firearms Division, National Police Agency, Japan, Mr Mitsuhiro O'hara, led a five-member delegation to pay a courtesy call on Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Louise Ho. Both sides exchanged views on anti-drug enforcement.

On July 21, 2016, a four-member delegation led by Deputy General Director of Netherlands Tax and Customs Administration, Mr Bert Langerak, met with Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and

Investigation), Ms Louise Ho. Both sides discussed issues on anti-drug and money laundering enforcement.

On July 26, 2016, Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Mr Kevin McAleenan, led a four-member delegation to meet with Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Louise Ho. During the meeting, both sides discussed on enforcement issues relating to the protection of wildlife and intellectual property rights. After the meeting, the delegation visited Kwai Chung Customhouse and was briefed by Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Ellis Lai, on sea cargo clearance and enforcement control.

On August 5, 2016, Group Manager (Intelligence, Investigations and

Enforcement) of New Zealand Customs Service, Mr Jamie Bamford, led a three-member delegation to meet with Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Louise Ho. Both sides agreed to enhance co-operation on intelligence exchange and anti-drug enforcement.

On August 16, 2016, Assistant Commissioner of Australian Federal Police, Mr Ian McCartney, led a two-member delegation to pay a courtesy call on Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Louise Ho. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views and agreed to further explore co-operation opportunities on anti-drug enforcement.

### Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Ellis Lai (front row, fifth right), meets with Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Mr Kevin McAleenan (front row, sixth right), at Kwai Chung Customhouse.



## THE NO. 19 CUSTOMS COMMAND COURSE

The Higher Training Division of the Office of Training and Development organised the No. 19 Customs Command Course for 15 Senior Inspectors and four Senior Trade Controls Officers between September 5 and 22, 2016. The course provides training on brand-new management skills and knowledge to Customs officers, enabling them to apply the relevant management concepts in daily operations and develop their leadership potential to cope with the challenges brought by the ever-changing global environment. Course lecturers included former senior government officials, veteran media practitioners, experienced

human resources management consultants and university lecturers etc. Participants found the course inspiring with innovative ideas and

practical experience shared by the speakers.

**Office of Training and Development**



The Principal of Christian Zheng Sheng College, Dr Chan Siu-cheuk, shares his experience in facing adversity.

## THE NO.3 CUSTOMS PRACTICES TRAINING COURSE

The Office of Training and Development organised the “No. 3 Customs Practices Training Course” for 14 officers from Guangdong Customs from July 4 to 18, 2016. Apart from frontline operations and management systems of Hong Kong Customs, the programme also comprised of the development of Hong Kong society, judicial system and promotion of healthy lifestyle in the department. Through the multifarious course content and on-site visits, participants were able to gain a clearer picture on the functions and work of Hong Kong Customs. The course is conducted

annually and aims at promoting communications between officers of the two Customs administrations

and enhancing collaboration on different fronts.

**Office of Training and Development**



Hong Kong Customs training officers pictures with Guangdong Customs officers at the closing ceremony.

## FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Financial Investigation Course organised by the United Kingdom HM Revenue and Customs (“HMRC”) was held at Southend-on-Sea, the United Kingdom from May 9 to 13, 2016. Among the nine participants of the course, the representative sent by the Hong Kong Customs Syndicate Crimes Investigation Bureau was the only participant from an overseas jurisdiction, the other eight participants were HMRC financial investigators from different cities of the UK, including London, Newcastle, Kent and Wales.

The course was designed to enhance participants’ knowledge in the relevant legislation, statutory powers and codes of practice related to financial investigation. Through lectures,



Senior Inspector Mr Ng Tze-hin of Hong Kong Customs Financial Investigation Group pictures with course instructors and participants.

group discussions and practical exercises, participants were able to deepen their understanding in anti-money laundering laws and various financial investigation skills.

In addition, the course also offered a valuable platform for the participants from different jurisdictions to share

their practical experience and practices in financial investigation. They also took the opportunity to build a strong network for future co-operation in anti-money laundering.

**Syndicate Crimes Investigation Bureau**

## ERB MANPOWER DEVELOPER AWARD SCHEME

The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) has been awarded the “Manpower Developer” status by the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) in May 2016 which recognises the department’s outstanding achievements in the training and development of manpower.

The C&ED enrolled for the “ERB Manpower Developer Award Scheme” organised by ERB in 2015. The effectiveness of the strategies and practices of the “Training and Development” system of C&ED were reviewed and evaluated in accordance with a set of objective and stringent assessment criteria established by the independent Technical Consultant appointed by ERB.

During the assessment, ERB highly commended the resources



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Lin Shun-yin (left), represents Hong Kong Customs to receive the “Manpower Developer” Award.

and effort that C&ED involved in training and development, whilst acknowledge the effectiveness

of the department’s work and professionalism of our staff.

**Office of Training and Development**



## BUSINESS-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Office of Training and Development of the Hong Kong Customs organised a career talk cum visit for over 120 secondary school students in the Customs and Excise Training School on June 30, 2016, to introduce the work of the department and the life of trainees in the training school. Watching a demonstration performed by Customs Detector Dogs, the students were able to understand more about the harmful effects of drug and the importance of abiding by the law. The department has joined the “Business School-Partnership Programme” organised by the Education Bureau since 2014. The objectives of the programme

are to nurture students’ positive work attitudes for better adaptation to economic and social changes,

and ultimately to achieve the goal of whole-person development.

**Office of Training and Development**



Students attend career talks and detector dog demonstration at Customs and Excise Training School.

## “LIFE BUDDIES” MENTORING SCHEME

The Commission on Poverty launched the “Life Buddies” Mentorship Scheme in 2015 to promote mentoring culture in the community. In support of this scheme, Hong Kong Customs arranged various visits for secondary school students on July 28 and 29, 2016. A total of 42 secondary school students enrolled for the scheme and they visited a number of locations and facilities of the department. Through the visits, the students were able to know more about the mission and values of Hong Kong Customs and our diverse duties

and functions. Direct sharing and mentoring from Customs officers also served to benefit the student

in their personal growth and future career development.

**Office of Departmental Administration**



Participants of the “Life Buddies” Mentorship Scheme visit the Customs Marine Base on Stonecutters Island.