



# CUSTOMS NEWS

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## THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

2018 is a year of extraordinary significance for the Customs and Excise Department. Alongside the forthcoming promulgation of the national development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, 3 major cross-boundary infrastructure projects will also come into operation soon. With the rapid pace of development, we are at a critical moment with no room for mistakes. Every Customs member fully understands that the Department has a unique mission in the implementation of these ultra-important infrastructure projects. The management, as well as colleagues in all formations, are well aware of the enormous responsibilities on their shoulders, and will make the best efforts to leverage the opportunities of regional co-operation between Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao and the Pan-Pearl River Delta, in order to bring the efficiency and network of the Department to a brand-new level.

Being a highly effective law enforcement agency which carries out the gatekeeping duty for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Department also has the important task of trade facilitation. Early this year, the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, and the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung, were invited to officiate at the Customs passing-out parade and the International Customs Day respectively. I am gratified to learn that they both highly commended our contributions in upholding the rule of law, safeguarding the security of international trade and creating a favourable business environment in Hong Kong. It is noteworthy that, as Mrs Lam and Mr Cheung had mentioned on different occasions repeatedly, the HKSAR Government has to discharge the responsibilities as a "service provider" or a "regulator", and take up new roles as a "facilitator" and a "promoter", so as to enhance business facilitation and remove red tape for the business sector, thereby improving Hong Kong's competitiveness.

The Department is mindful of the mission to effectively fulfil the new and diverse roles of the HKSAR Government. On advancing the Authorized Economic Operator Programme, I entered into a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with our New Zealand counterpart during the 132nd Session of the Customs Co-operation Council of the World Customs Organization held in late June. Following the signing of an MRA with Mexico in the near future, the number of economies fully implementing the

arrangements with Hong Kong will increase to 10, making Hong Kong unbeatably the world's third economic entity in terms of the number of MRA partners engaged. In the meantime, we are actively holding talks on MRA with Canada and Israel. These developments show that apart from discharging law enforcement duties, the Department also strives to expand trade network for the business sector and has made much headway in this respect.

Moreover, the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance has come into operation since July 16 this year for fulfilling Hong Kong's international obligation to implement Recommendation 32 of the Financial Action Task Force. The Department is the major law enforcement agency of the Ordinance, and we must spare no efforts in performing the gatekeeping function.

As seen from the above, the Department has successfully taken up the multiple roles of a "service provider", "regulator", "facilitator" and "promoter" through different areas of work to keep the Customs service abreast of times and to meet the needs of stakeholders.

In addition to performing the multiple roles, it is also crucial for the Department to work in collaboration with the Mainland and Macao Customs authorities in the light of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development plan. In this regard, I discussed earnestly with Mr Ni Yuefeng\*, the then Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), about the direction and strategy of future co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong Customs when attending the first Global Cross-Border E-commerce Conference held in Beijing this February, and we agreed to enhance co-operation in information exchange, mutual recognition of regulations and mutual assistance in law enforcement. Subsequently, I had further discussions with Mr Ni during the meeting of the Customs Co-operation Council in June. In December last year, I held the Review Meeting between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs with Mr Li Shuyu, the Director General of the Guangdong Sub-Administration of the GACC, and also met with Mr Vong Iao Lek, the Director-General of Macao Customs Service, to have in-depth discussions with them on various Customs issues of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.



Undertaking its duties with gritty determination, the Customs and Excise Department enjoys a reputation for its long-established pragmatism and has succeeded in fostering collaboration and mutual trust with its Mainland and overseas counterparts. The Office of Training and Development and the Intelligence Bureau respectively attended the meeting on "Capacity Building and Integrity" and the Enforcement Committee meeting organised by the World Customs Organization in February and March this year to share their experience in building Smart Customs and in the investigation of infringement of intellectual property rights. I am delighted that the sharing was highly acclaimed and recognised by attending members. It also further testified to the professionalism and high efficiency maintained by the Department all along. We truly understand the saying "either forge ahead or fall behind", and will therefore continue to strive for the best and get prepared for future challenges.

Over the past year since I took up office, all members of the Department have been proactively working together with tireless efforts and have achieved encouraging results in law enforcement and trade facilitation. In the future, we will continue to embrace innovative ideas and adopt a forward-looking approach in enhancing efficiency for sustainable development. While strengthening our traditional functions, we must keep pace with the times and seize the opportunities arising from the commissioning of the 3 new boundary control points, with a view to contributing to the vital role played by Hong Kong in the Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as showcasing our achievement in celebration of our 110th anniversary next year.

**Hermes Tang**  
Commissioner

\* Mr Ni Yuefeng has been appointed as the Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the PRC since March 2018

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE INSPECTS PROBATIONARY CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT PASSING-OUT PARADE



Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam delivers speech at the passing-out parade.

Graced by the inspection by Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam, it is the Hong Kong Customs' honour to stage its passing-out parade for 183 well-trained Probationary Customs Officers at the Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) on April 13 this year.

Four years ago, Mrs Lam was present at a Customs passing-out parade as the Chief Secretary for Administration. She told the participants that it is a pleasure for her to make a return and witness yet another batch of officers' successful completion of the 15-week-long tough and demanding training programme.

Speaking high of its dedicated efforts to fight against activities of smuggling and drug trafficking as well as its protection of tax revenue, intellectual property and consumer rights, Mrs Lam commended the Hong Kong Customs for its impartiality solidifying

the city's rule of law which also plays a crucial role in the maintenance of the SAR's stability.

Citing the proactive implementation of the World Customs Organization's Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, Mrs Lam recognised the Hong Kong Customs' achievement in the promotion of trade facilitation which safeguards the global trade security and creates a favourable business environment for Hong Kong.

The Chief Executive also remarked in her speech that the Government should be forthcoming and fulfil its roles of not only as a "service provider" and "regulator" but also a "facilitator". She quoted the Single E-lock Scheme launched by the Hong Kong Customs and the Trade Single Window System which would be rolled out later as good examples of how the removal of red tape for business sector and provision of "one-stop services"

could be beneficial to the community's well-being.

Expressing appreciation to the Department for its tremendous efforts made in preparations for the opening of the three large-scale cross-boundary infrastructure projects this year, Mrs Lam also encouraged the new officers to take up responsibilities with enthusiasm and face the various challenges in their career with a high degree of professionalism, conscientiousness and integrity.

Over 900 guests from various government departments and the private sector as well as family members and friends of the probationary officers joined the Chief Executive in witnessing the momentous occasion, making it a truly solemn yet jubilant celebration.

**Office of Training and Development**



Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam inspects the Probationary Customs Officers at the passing-out parade.



## CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION VISITS SHENZHEN BAY CONTROL POINT



Accompanied by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (first left) and Acting Deputy Customs Commissioner Ms Louise Ho (second left), the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung (second right), visits Shenzhen Bay Control Point and meets front-line officers of the Hong Kong Customs on duty on February 16 this year.

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, made a Lunar New Year Day visit to the Shenzhen Bay Control Point (SBCP) on February 16 this year.

Accompanied by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang, Acting Deputy Customs Commissioner Ms Louise Ho and Head of Land Boundary Command Ms Sandra Tam, Mr Cheung met front-line officers and inspected the operation of the Arrival and Departure Halls to get an understanding of the clearance services provided by Customs officers

for passengers travelling between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

The SBCP is a busy land boundary control point with a passenger throughput of more than 40 million passenger recorded in 2017. To cope with the heavy passenger flow in particular for festive periods, Hong Kong Customs keeps close communications with the Immigration Department and the Mainland Customs, monitors the passenger flow development and takes on-time measures whenever necessary to ensure a smooth cross-boundary

passenger flow all the time.

During his visit, Mr Cheung chatted with front-line officers and got to know their daily work. He also expressed appreciation for the dedication of Customs officers in ensuring speedy Customs clearance services for cross-boundary passengers during the Lunar New Year holiday peak period. He encouraged colleagues to keep up their good work and continue to provide quality services for members of the public.

**Land Boundary Command**

## 132ND SESSION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, led a delegation and joined the 132nd Session of the Customs Co-operation Council of the World Customs Organization (WCO) which was held in Brussels, Belgium between June 28 and 30 this year.

Heads and senior officials of Customs administrations representing 182 Members of the WCO participated in this annual meeting and discussed strategic directions for a wide spectrum of contemporary issues, including cross-border e-commerce, trade facilitation measures and customs enforcement. WCO incumbent Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya was also re-elected for another five-year term with effect

from January 1, 2019.

The Council also witnessed a major step forward in the development of Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (HKAEO) Programme. Mr Tang signed an AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the Acting Comptroller of the New Zealand Customs Service, Ms Christine Stevenson. Under the MRA, the HKAEO Programme and the New Zealand Secure Exports Scheme are mutually recognised, by which AEOs of both economies enjoy mutual customs clearance benefits, including reduced examination and prioritized clearance.

This is the 9th MRA that the Hong Kong Customs has concluded with other Customs administrations after those with the Mainland, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and Australia. The signing of MRA with New Zealand enables accredited Hong Kong traders to better explore the markets under the Belt and Road Initiative.

At the same event, the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise

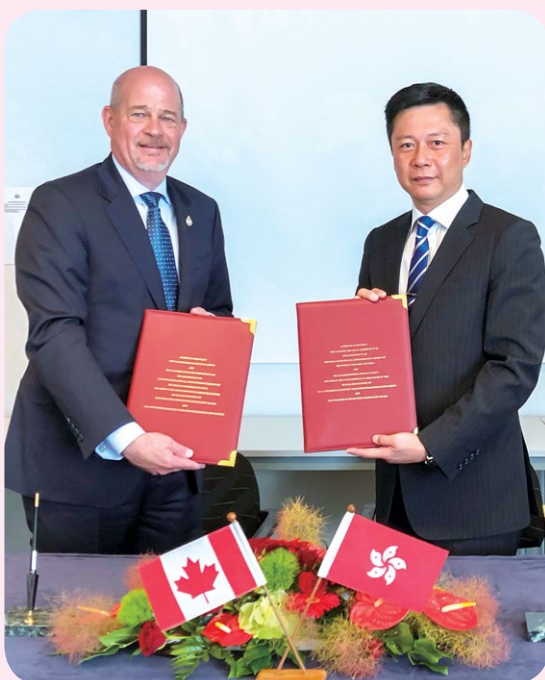


The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (right), exchanges the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement with the Acting Comptroller of the New Zealand Customs Service, Ms Christine Stevenson, during the 132nd Council Session of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, Belgium, on June 28 this year.

and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, also signed an MRA Action Plan with the Vice President of the Canada Border Services Agency, Mr Martin Bolduc. Marking the commencement of formal negotiation for mutual recognition between the HKAEO Programme and the Partners in Protection Program in Canada, the Action Plan also symbolises a significant step of the HKAEO Programme in its marching to the North American region.

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

**Office of Supply Chain  
Security Management**



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam (right), exchanges the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement Action Plan with the Vice President of Canada Border Services Agency, Mr Martin Bolduc, on June 29 this year.



# HONG KONG CUSTOMS CELEBRATES 2018 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

The Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, jointly officiated at a cocktail reception held at the Customs Headquarters Building on January 26 to celebrate the 2018 International Customs Day (ICD).

The World Customs Organization (WCO) dedicates "Security of the Business Environment" as the theme of this year's ICD and complemented by the slogan of "A Secure Business Environment for Economic Development".

Officiating at the reception, Mr Cheung said that a secure and competitive business environment is of utmost importance for Hong Kong. He recognises Hong Kong Customs' devotion in undertaking the dual role of a "regulator" and "facilitator" which contributes to the creation of a favorable business environment and long-term economic development of Hong Kong.

Mr Cheung added that the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator Programme and the Trade Single Window are exemplary measures to enhance cross border supply chain security and facilitate movement of

legitimate goods. With future extension of the Single E-lock Scheme to cover new vehicular control points, Hong Kong's competitiveness would further be strengthened with new economic and trade ties along the Belt and Road corridors.

In his remarks, Mr Tang highlighted the substantial role played by Hong Kong Customs in the 21st century amid the changing landscape of the international trade. He gave an introduction of various measures that the Department has put in place to create a favorable environment supporting Hong Kong's economic growth.

Reiterating that Hong Kong Customs would perform its enhanced roles as "promoter" and "facilitator" in full scale in order to tap into the Mainland's developments, in particular those under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, Mr Tang also told that the year-round recruitment campaign for about a thousand frontline officers is in progress to meet the future operational need.

Hong Kong Customs has celebrated the ICD since Hong Kong became



Chinese drum team of Ying Wa Primary School, "The Thunder Makers", make a marvelous performance at the opening of the 2018 International Customs Day reception.

a member of the WCO in 1987. At the reception, Mr Cheung presented WCO Certificates of Merit to officers of Hong Kong Customs and business stakeholders in recognition of their efforts contributing to a secure business environment for economic development.

About 370 guests, including Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, HKSAR Government officials, Consuls General, foreign Customs attachés and representatives from Customs administrations of the Mainland and Macao, as well as private sector stakeholders, attended the reception.

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



The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung (eighth right), and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (eighth left), propose a toast with other prominent guests and directorate of Hong Kong Customs.

## COMMISSIONER ATTENDS FIRST GLOBAL CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE CONFERENCE



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (third from top, left row), meets with the then Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Ni Yuefeng (third from top, right row).

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, led a delegation to attend the First Global Cross-Border E-Commerce Conference which was held in Beijing on February 9 and 10 this year. During his stay in Beijing, Mr Tang also met with the then Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Mr Ni Yuefeng.

Co-hosted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the GACC, the Conference drew the participation of over 2 000 representatives from Customs administrations, e-commerce operators, international organisations and the academic sector from more than 125 countries and regions.

Under the theme of "An Innovative, Inclusive, Strategic and Collaborative Approach to Sustainable Cross-Border E-Commerce", the delegates discussed the development trends

in cross-border e-commerce and the regulatory regime. They also shared among themselves their strategies and experiences in addressing both the current and potential e-commerce challenges.

The Conference was concluded with the "Beijing Declaration", which upholds the core values of inclusiveness, prudence, innovation and collaboration in advocating a balanced, transparent, non-discriminatory and sustainable e-commerce activities by all stakeholders.

During the meeting with the then Vice Minister of the GACC, Mr Ni Yuefeng, Mr Tang assured that Hong Kong Customs would proactively promote cross-border e-commerce's sustainability through strengthening its co-operation with the Mainland Customs and an active participation in the activities of WCO and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Co-operation strategies between the two Customs administrations and the way forward in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development plan were also deliberated. The two Customs administrations agree to further enhance collaboration in information exchange, mutual supervision recognition and mutual assistance in law enforcement matters. With a view to expedite Customs clearance and step up mechanism of trade facilitation benefiting the economic development of both sides and the national development as a whole, the two Customs administrations pledge to do their utmost in the preparation for the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail and Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point.

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



## "2017 REVIEW MEETING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG CUSTOMS"

Led by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang and Director General of the Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Shuyu respectively, the "2017 Review Meeting between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs" was held in Hong Kong on December 18 last year.

In their opening remarks, Mr Tang and Mr Li recognised the efforts of mutual co-operation made in the past and pledged to deepen collaboration in various initiatives. In particular, both sides agreed to strengthen co-operation to facilitate trade and economic development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay

Area and Pan-Pearl River Delta region.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed and recognised the co-operation efforts made in trade facilitation and law enforcement in combating smuggling, cross boundary drug-trafficking and violation of intellectual property rights. Matters of staff training over the past years were also discussed.

Both sides also had a way-forward discussion of co-operation in the coming years. On customs clearance, the two sides will continue to explore the optimisation of Customs supervision initiatives in the Bay Area, with the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao

Bridge and the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link as points of focus. On the side of anti-smuggling, Hong Kong Customs will continue to reinforce intelligence exchanges and mount joint enforcement operations with its Guangdong counterparts.

For the sake of enforcement and management capability development, the two sides also agree to organise training programmes, visits and other exchange activities for each other.

### Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, fourth right), and the Director General of the Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Li Shuyu (front row, fourth left), with members of both delegations at the 2017 Review Meeting between Hong Kong and Guangdong Customs held in Hong Kong.

## HONG KONG AND KOREAN CUSTOMS HOLD COOPERATION CONFERENCE



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (right), and the Commissioner of the Korea Customs Service, Mr Kim Yung-moon, exchange the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation and mutual assistance in the rules of origin administration under the China-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement signed on April 10 this year.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Commissioner of Korea Customs Service (KCS), Mr Kim Yung-moon, chaired the 33rd Customs Cooperation Conference (CCC) between the two Customs administrations which was held at the Customs Headquarters Building on April 10 this year.

During the meeting, the two sides updated each other on issues of mutual interest. Various topics included the progress developments of the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on respective Authorized Economic Operator Programmes and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Transshipment Facilitation Scheme, as well as the latest situation of the intellectual

property rights enforcement were also discussed.

At the end of the conference, Mr Tang and Mr Kim signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on co-operation and mutual assistance in the rules of origin administration under the China-Republic of Korea FTA. The MoU recognises Hong Kong Customs as an issuing authority of the Certificates of Non-Manipulation for cargoes from Mainland China transshipped through Hong Kong to Korea, making them eligible for preferential tariffs under the FTA.

After the meeting, members of the Korean delegation visited the Ports and Maritime Command and the Intellectual Property Investigation

Bureau to know more about Hong Kong Customs' work in sea cargo clearance, anti-sea smuggling activities, as well as its strategies and advanced technology used in the protection of intellectual property rights.

CCCs have been held between Hong Kong Customs and the KCS since 1980 on a regular basis, with an aim at enhancing co-operation and experience exchange in law enforcement and trade facilitation matters between the two sides.

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



# HONG KONG AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR PROGRAMME MARKS NEW MILESTONE

Ten newly-accredited Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operators (HKAEOs) received their certificates under the witness of 150 representatives from HKAEO companies and trade associations at an annual certificate presentation ceremony held by Hong Kong Customs on February 2 this year.

The annual event was not only a celebration for the admission of new HKAEOs to the Programme, it was also an important occasion to update HKAEOs and other Customs administrations the latest development of the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs).

Highlight of this year's event was certainly the announcement at a light-up ceremony by Acting Deputy Commissioner Mr Jimmy Tam of the full implementation of MRAs with Australia, Malaysia and Thailand this year.



The Acting Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Jimmy Tam (first left); the Senior Staff Officer of Supply Chain Security Management, Mr Mark Lee (first right); the Consul (Australian Border Force) of the Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong, Mr Dean Hogarth (centre); the Customs Attaché of the Embassy of Malaysia in Beijing, Mr Misman Miskam (second right); and the Consul (Customs) of the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Hong Kong, Mr Senis Pattanasiri (second left), are pictured at the light-up ceremony signifying the full implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements.

Following the light-up ceremony, Senior Staff Officer of Supply Chain Security Management Mr Mark Lee gave a briefing to the ceremony's participants on the latest development of MRAs and how HKAEOs could better explore the markets there by leveraging their edge of accredited status and speedy customs clearance

privileges under the Belt and Road Initiative.

By the day the ceremony held, Hong Kong Customs has ratified MRAs with 8 major trading partners of Hong Kong including the Mainland, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and Australia, among which 6 are along the Belt and Road region.



The Acting Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Jimmy Tam (front row, centre), is pictured with representatives of the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operators (HKAEOs), including the 10 new HKAEOs, at the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator certificate presentation ceremony on February 2 this year.

Looking forward, Hong Kong Customs will continue to maintain its long-term partnership with HKAEOs while striving to accredit more eligible companies. Active steps are also being taken to conclude MRAs with more economies, including the European Union, Israel and Canada.

**Office of Supply Chain  
Security Management**

# HONG KONG CUSTOMS MAKES ITS DEBUT IN SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2018

Hong Kong Customs made its debut in the "Science Festival (SciFest) 2018" organised by the Hong Kong Science Museum from March 17 to April 25 this year. The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, was invited as one of the guests of honour to officiate at the opening ceremony of the Festival cum its Fun Science Carnival.

In its first-ever participation, Hong Kong Customs caught visitors' attention by its interactive "Smart Customs" booth and workshop, which demonstrated vividly to members of the public its adoption of innovative technology for upholding the Department's mission of "Commitment and Excellence" while providing passenger and cargo clearance services.

Thanks to the concerted efforts by various participating formations, namely the Office of Information Technology, Office of Project Planning and Development, Land Boundary Command, and Office of Training and Development, the public engagement and interactive programmes succeeded in deepening the public's understanding of the various innovative and advanced technologies adopted by the Department to provide "Smart Clearance" services for enhancing trade facilitation and law enforcement capability. These technologies include E-lock system, GPS monitoring system, Radio Frequency Identification and non-intrusive contraband detections.

Thanks must also be given to the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech



A boy shows strong interest in the interactive programmes at "Smart Customs" booth and workshop.

R&D, and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department for their strong support without which, the Customs' participation in the SciFest would not have been so successful.

**Office of Information Technology**



The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (centre), the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (first right), and other guests of honour officiate at the opening ceremony of the "HK SciFest cum Fun Science Carnival".



## HONG KONG CUSTOMS ATTENDS ANNUAL WCO A/P REGIONAL HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS CONFERENCE



Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Thomas Lin (right) and Senior Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation) Mr Will Ng attend the 19th World Customs Organization Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference which was held in Sigatoka, Fiji between May 15 and 17 this year.

Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Thomas Lin and Senior Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation) Mr Will Ng attended the

19th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference which was held in Sigatoka, Fiji between May 15 and 17 this year.

This high-level conference brought together heads and senior officials from 24 Customs administrations

in the Asia/Pacific Region to review and steer the Customs strategies and operations in the Region. Major issues of common interest, including counter-

terrorism work and cruise ships/border security were discussed.

Arrangements for the next term of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and Pacific (RILO A/P) were also raised in the meeting. Current host --- Korea Customs Service proposed to extend its hosting capacity for another term of 4 years. The proposal is agreed by other member administrations and Mr Lin expressed appreciation to Korea for running the Office over the past few years which marked with substantial achievements.

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

## THE FIRST MEETING OF APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES IN 2018

The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, led a delegation to join the "First Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)" which was held in Port Moresby of Papua New Guinea between February 27 and March 1 this year.

Echoing the APEC's theme this year – "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future", the SCCP pledges to push together for connectivity, trade facilitation and economic growth in the region.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr Tam shared views with members on a number of topical issues, including



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam (second row, fourth left), led a delegation to join the First Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures in 2018 in Port Moresby of Papua New Guinea.

the implementation of World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the development of the Authorized Economic Operators Programme and intellectual property rights border enforcement. Member economies also had in-depth discussions on issues such as supply

chain connectivity, information technology and risk management, as well as cross-border e-commerce activities.

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

## HIGH-LEVEL MEETING FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE CO-OPERATION AT LIANTANG / HEUNG YUEN WAI BOUNDARY CONTROL POINT



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, middle), meets the participants before the High-Level Meeting for the Co-operation on Customs Clearance for the Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point. Shenzhen's camp is led by Deputy Director General of the Shenzhen Customs District Mr Lin Guozhong (front row, second left), and Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Ms Louise Ho (front row, second right) leads the Hong Kong side.

Led by Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Ms Louise Ho, officers from the Land Boundary Command, the Intelligence Bureau, the Office of Project Planning and Development and the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation joined the first High-

Level Meeting for the Co-operation on Customs Clearance at the Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (LT/HYW BCP) with their Shenzhen counterparts. The meeting was held in Hong Kong on March 21 this year and the Shenzhen team was led by Deputy Director General of the

Shenzhen Customs District Mr Lin Guozhong. Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang met the participants before the meeting.

At the meeting, both sides reported the latest construction progress of the portion in their own areas and exchanged views on co-operation in different areas, including the mechanism for information and intelligence exchange as well as joint efforts for anti-cross boundary smuggling activities. The discussion was constructive in enhancing mutual understanding and facilitating future co-operation in Customs matters.

As a part of the meeting, officers also had a look at the works progress of the LT/HYW BCP.

**Office of Project Planning and Development**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS VISITS NATIONAL COPYRIGHT ADMINISTRATION ON INTERNET COPYRIGHT PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT

The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai, and Assistant Superintendent Ms Shek Yuk-ying of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau paid a visit to the

National Copyright Administration of China (NCAC) in Beijing on March 14 and 15 this year.

The NCAC has been a close partner

with the Hong Kong Customs in copyright protection matters. During a meeting with the Deputy Director of General Copyright Department of the NCAC, Ms Duan Yuping, the two sides exchanged views on Internet copyright



protection and explored possibilities of further co-operation.

After the meeting, the delegation also went to the Copyright Society of China's Monitoring Center, which was set up in 2016. The visit is helpful in getting a better understanding of the latest development of online copyright protection in Mainland China.

#### Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai (centre), visits the National Copyright Administration of China to understand the latest development of Internet copyright protection in the Mainland.

## IPR PROTECTION SEMINAR PLEDGES CO-OPERATION ON TRANSNATIONAL IPR ENFORCEMENT

The vigorous development of e-commerce activities and international logistics industry does not only create unlimited opportunities for the international trade but also brings much challenge to the work of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection. To combat transnational IPR infringement, Hong Kong Customs has all along been working closely with

the local IPR sector, logistics industry as well as the law enforcement agencies outside Hong Kong.

A seminar entitled "Cooperation on Transnational IPR Enforcement" was jointly organised by Hong Kong Customs and the Intellectual Property Rights Protection Alliance on February 9 this year. In his opening

remarks, the Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai, expressed appreciation to all the participating representatives for their staunch support given all the time to the Department in its battle against IPR violation.

Speaking at the seminar, representatives from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, logistics industry as well as the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of Hong Kong Customs shared experiences and exchanged views on combating transnational IPR infringement. Also joined by representatives from the IPR industry and Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the seminar helps strengthening the strategic IPR protection partnership among various stakeholders.



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai, delivers an opening speech at the "Cooperation on Transnational IPR Enforcement" Seminar.

#### Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND GUANGDONG COAST GUARD HOLD OPERATIONAL MEETING ON ANTI-SEA SMUGGLING



The then Head of Ports and Maritime Command of Hong Kong Customs, Ms Kitty Poon (front row, third right), and Provincial Head of the Guangdong Provincial Branch of the China Coast Guard Corps Senior Colonel Mr Du Yanhua (third left) in a picture with officers from both sides.

An “Operational Meeting on Anti-Smuggling at Sea” between the Hong Kong Customs and Guangdong Provincial Branch of the China Coast

Guard was held on December 7 last year at the Hong Kong Customs Marine Base. Led by Provincial Head of the Guangdong Provincial Branch

of the China Coast Guard Corps Senior Colonel Du Yanhua, the Mainland side discussed measures to enhance mutual co-operation with the then Head of Ports and Maritime Command of Hong Kong Customs, Ms Kitty Poon. Both sides also considered ways to optimise the existing communication mechanism, and explored opportunities to step up training exchanges.

After the meeting, members of the Mainland delegation went on board a Sector Patrol Launch and took a look at the latest technology used by Hong Kong Customs in its law enforcement at sea.

**Ports and Maritime Command**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS SHOWS EXEMPLARY APPROACHES IN CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTEGRITY



Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling (left) and Senior Inspector Ms Wong Siu-yin (right) represent Hong Kong Customs at the four WCO meetings on capacity building and integrity held in Brussels, Belgium between February 22 to March 2 this year.

Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling and Senior Inspector Ms Wong Siu-yin represented Hong Kong Customs at four meetings on capacity building and integrity held by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels between February 22 and March 2 this year. The four meetings were: the “13th Global Meeting of the Heads of the Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCBs), the Regional Training Centres (RTCs) and the Vice-Chairs’ Offices”, the “15th Meeting of Heads of the WCO Asia Pacific RTCs”,



the “9th Session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee (CBC)” and the “17th Session of the WCO Integrity Sub-Committee (ISC)”.

During the meetings, participants had in-depth discussions of the WCO's latest initiatives on capacity building and integrity development with an aim to enhance professionalism. Echoing the CBC's theme of “Smart

Customs”, Ms Tam in particular shared in the meeting Hong Kong Customs' experience in the use of information technology to develop e-learning programmes and the application of blended-learning approach for training purposes. Representatives from Asia Pacific ROCBs and other RTCs expressed a high opinion of the Department's remarkable achievement in this regard.

At the ISC meeting, participants discussed the adoption of information security and data management techniques for integrity building and the application of risk management approach to fight against corruption.

**Office of Training and Development**

## THE 37TH WCO ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Senior Superintendent of the Intelligence Bureau Ms Kitty Poon and Assistant Superintendent of the Risk Management Division Ms Rita Li represented Hong Kong Customs at the 37th Session of the Enforcement Committee of the World Customs Organization (WCO) which was held in Brussels from March 19 to 23 this year.

Under the theme of “Customs Enforcement: Securing Trade and Travel”, the meeting in this year was attended by over 150 delegates from member administrations of the WCO and its partner organisations. Invited by the WCO Secretariat, Hong Kong Customs shared with the meeting's participants its experience in investigation strategy over the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringement cases. Showcasing professionalism and effectiveness, the presentation was well-responded and was highly-regarded by the participants.

The 5-day meeting provided an excellent discussion platform for delegates from Customs administrations around the world over a wide range of topical issues, including the work of anti-narcotics, public security maintenance, IPR protection, intelligence and risk management, revenue protection and matters related

to cultural heritage and environment protection. Agenda of the meeting was substantive and the programme was rich, making the event an effective forum for deliberation and experience-sharing.

**Intelligence Bureau**



Senior Superintendent of Intelligence Bureau Ms Kitty Poon (right) and Assistant Superintendent of Risk Management Division Ms Rita Li (left) represent Hong Kong Customs at the 37th Session of Enforcement Committee of the World Customs Organization which was held in Brussels, Belgium from March 19 to 23 this year.

## HONG KONG AND MACAO CUSTOMS FOSTER CLOSER CO-OPERATION



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, fourth left), the Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong Iao Lek (front row, fourth right), and officers in a group photo.

Led by Commissioner Mr Hermes Tang, Hong Kong Customs paid a visit to Macao Customs Service on May 9 this year and had a meeting with Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong Iao Lek.

At the meeting, both sides discussed the construction progress of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge clearance facilities. They also had a discussion of the co-operative measures to ensure an efficient and effective port clearance and law enforcement after the Bridge

has been open for public use.

The two Customs administrations also exchanged views on the implementation of the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance and explored the prospects of future co-operation. The Ordinance has been effective in Hong Kong since July 16 this year, fulfilling the city's international obligation to implement Recommendation 32 of the Financial Action Task Force. Hong Kong Customs being the principle enforcement agency will perform the gate-keeping role.

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

## CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT KEEPS ALIVE EXCHANGES WITH CONSULS-GENERAL

Hong Kong Customs' top echelon always keeps exchanges with consular officials alive to foster understanding and co-operation on fronts of customs

enforcement and trade facilitation.

On February 2 this year, Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes

Tang met the Consul-General of Australia to Hong Kong and Macau Ms Michaela Browning. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, including the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement for the Authorized Economic Operator Programme and development in human resources management. Stronger joint efforts in combating cross-boundary drug trafficking activities was also reaffirmed.



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (second from bottom, right row), meets with the Consul-General of Australia to Hong Kong and Macau, Ms Michaela Browning (left row bottom), at the Customs Headquarters Building on February 2 this year.

In another occasion on March 5 this year, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) Mr Ellis Lai met the Consul-General of Mexico



to Hong Kong and Macau, Mr Damián Martínez Tagüeña. Both sides agreed to strengthen co-operation to fight against the smuggling of endangered species through a stronger intelligence exchange. After the meeting, Mr Lai accompanied Mr Tagüeña to tour the Exhibition Gallery in the Customs Headquarters Building.

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



The Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai (middle in the right row), meets with the Consul-General of Mexico to Hong Kong and Macau, Mr Damián Martínez Tagüeña (second from bottom, left row), at the Customs Headquarters Building on March 5 this year.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS VISITS SHENZHEN INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS CARGO AND MAIL INSPECTION CENTRE

On January 24 this year, Head of Rail and Ferry Command of Hong Kong Customs Ms Ida Ng led officers from the Boundary and Ports Branch in a visit made to the Shenzhen International Express Cargo and Mail Inspection Centre, during which a meeting with Director of the Luggage and Mail Supervision Division of Shenzhen Customs Mr Lin Shaobin was made.

Locating in the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, the Inspection Centre has commenced operation since January this year.

During the visit, Hong Kong officers received a detailed introduction of the Inspection Centre's operation. The officers had a look into how Shenzhen Customs co-ordinates with the express cargo enterprises in exercising a centralised Customs inspection. They also saw the use of Computed Tomography X-ray Checkers, express-cargo selection by electronic means and the operation of the automatic cargo triage and transport system there.



The Head of Rail and Ferry Command, Ms Ida Ng (centre), accompanied by the Director of the Luggage and Mail Supervision Division of Shenzhen Customs, Mr Lin Shaobin (second right), listens to an introduction of the operation of the Shenzhen International Express Cargo and Mail Inspection Centre.

Operating around the clock and equipping with full range of top-notch facilities, the Inspection Centre can complete clearance for one single cargo shipment under the streamlined customs procedures within 22 seconds.

Alongside with the site visit, the officers from Hong Kong also had an exchange with their Shenzhen counterparts on

express cargo clearance procedure, frontline enforcement and the latest smuggling trend.

The visit deepens Hong Kong Customs' understanding of the innovative Customs controls over express parcel/mail in our neighboring city.

**Rail and Ferry Command**

## FANLING MAGISTRATES VISIT LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT



Head of Land Boundary Command Ms Sandra Tam (ninth right) accompanied Principal Magistrate Mr Lin Kam-hung, Ernest Michael (tenth right) and his colleagues in a visit to Lok Ma Chau Control Point to know more about the Customs' front-line enforcement work.

Leading by Principal Magistrate Mr Lin Kam-hung, Ernest Michael, 5 magistrates and 5 court prosecutors of the Fanling Magistrates' Courts

made a visit to Lok Ma Chau Control Point on March 5 this year. They were briefed of Customs' frontline operation in the aspects of anti-drug

and smuggling activities, Road Cargo System, vehicle clearance and fleeing vehicle interception.

A simulation of passing through a Customs kiosk as a private car driver and a drug detection demonstration session by Customs detector dog were also arranged for the visitors.

Enabling the visiting magistrates to have a better understanding of Customs' front-line operation, the visit also strengthened ties between the Judiciary and Customs.

**Land Boundary Command**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS VISITS UNITED KINGDOM BORDER FORCE AND SURREY POLICE DOG TRAINING SCHOOL

Deputy Head of Land Boundary Command (Shenzhen Bay) of the Hong Kong Customs Mr Mak Wai-chung and Senior Inspector of Customs Detector Dog Division Ms Bonnie Lo paid a visit to the United Kingdom Border Force (UK Border Force) and Surrey Police Dog Training School from March 27 to 29 this year and had good exchanges with their British counterparts on detector dog training issues.

With an eye on the sustainable development of the Department's detector dog division, the visiting officers first visited the UK Border Force Dog Unit to learn more about its training programme and facilities. The officers also took a look into the unit's operation at the Port of Dover.

The visit then went on to the Surrey

Police Dog Training School. Apart from reviewing with the British side the current collaboration on dog training matters, Mr Mak and Ms Lo also joined a course-completion ceremony on March 29 and witnessed the successful completion by a team of Hong Kong Customs Officers who joined an intensive dog handler training course in January.

After the ceremony, the newly-trained dog handlers went back to Hong Kong with their new workmates - 4



Deputy Head of Land Boundary Command (Shenzhen Bay) of the Hong Kong Customs Mr Mak Wai-chung (second right) visits the United Kingdom Border Force Dog Base.

Labrador Retrievers, and started their busy preparations for implementation of the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance.

**Land Boundary Command**



## THE SIXTH CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR MAINLAND CUSTOMS OFFICERS

The Office of Training and Development organised the Sixth Customs Management Course between January 8 to 20 this year for 15 officers from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China. Apart from an introduction to the management systems and frontline operations of Hong Kong Customs, programmes on Hong Kong's judicial system, integrity building, as well as healthy lifestyle promotion were also included. Through the comprehensive curriculum and on-site visit programmes, participants were able to understand thoroughly functions and operation of Hong Kong

Customs. The course is conducted annually with a view to promoting mutual exchange and co-operation on different fronts between officers of the

two Customs administrations.

**Office of Training and Development**



Course participants watch a demonstration by Customs Detector Dogs.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS JOINS EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO 2018

Hong Kong Customs participated in the Education and Careers Expo 2018 organised by Hong Kong Trade Development Council between February 1 and 4 this year at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. An exhibition booth was set up to give

an introduction of recruitment exercise and functions of the Department.

The Department's booth was jointly set up by the Office of Training and Development, the Office of Service Administration and the Trade Controls

Branch. Members of Customs Detector Dog Division were also at the scene to demonstrate the work of drug detection. This year, a Virtual Reality Panel was installed at the booth, to provide visitors with a virtual experience in various parts of the induction training offered at Customs and Excise Training School, including foot-drill, firearms and abseiling training.

The Expo attracts thousands of students, job seekers and employees every year. It provides an effective platform for the Department to promote its professional image and to recruit talents.

**Office of Training and Development**



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Ngan Hing-cheung (second row, tenth right), visits the Customs booth at the Education and Careers Expo 2018.

## SEA CARGO CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP INAUGURATION CEREMONY



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho (front row, third left), in a picture with Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group (SCCLG) Chairman Mr Ron Chan (front row, third right) and other members at the inauguration ceremony of the SCCLG.

The Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group (SCCLG) held its 2017-19 Inauguration Ceremony at Kwai

Chung Customhouse on December 14 last year. Mr Ron Chan of the Hong Kong Shippers' Council was elected

as liaison group's Chairman. At the ceremony, Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Ms Louise Ho presented Certificates of Appointment to all the 18 members. Setting up in August 1994, the SCCLG provides a platform for members of the shipping and sea cargo industries to channel their views and opinions to the Hong Kong Customs. Through regular meetings, mutual communications is enhanced and service standards of cargo clearance improved.

**Ports and Maritime Command**

## CUSTOMS STAYS CONNECTED WITH NON-ETHNIC CHINESE COMMUNITY

Hong Kong Customs has never been falling short in staying connected with members of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) groups in our community, fostering them a sense of belonging and giving them an encouragement in joining the disciplinary forces in Hong Kong.

On November 30 last year, 10 NEC community leaders were invited to make a visit to the Customs Headquarters Building during which they were briefed of the history, visions and missions of the Department.

During a lunch hosted by Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation) Mr Ellis Lai, the community leaders exchanged views with Customs officers on different issues of NEC groups' interests, such as social integration, employment opportunities, joining

the disciplinary forces and giving co-operation in enforcement matters. Officers joining the lunch also included Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau (IPIB) Ms Catherine Yip, Staff Officer (Training Development) Mr Kenneth Chu and other IPIB's officers.

Alongside with this, IPIB also organised a briefing session on IPR enforcement matters to 9 NEC Police Community Liaison Assistants at the IPIB's IPR Enforcement Centre on November 14 last year.

Helpful in establishing mutual-trust between Hong Kong Customs and



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai (front row, fourth left), the Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau, Ms Catherine Yip (front row, second left), Staff Officer (Training Development) Mr Kenneth Chu (front row, first left) and Customs officers in a group photo with the visiting non-ethnic Chinese community leaders.

the NEC groups, the activities also lay a foundation for further connection in the future.

**Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau**