



# CUSTOMS NEWS

2019 January • Issue No.61

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

## THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

2018 was a fruitful year for the Customs and Excise Department. During the year, the Department displayed profound persistence and professionalism in its preparation work for the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in September and October respectively. These infrastructure projects have been a testimony of the remarkable development facilitated by strong ties between the Mainland and Hong Kong under the “one country, two systems” principle.

The commissioning of the two major cross-boundary infrastructure projects, which coincides with the historic moment of the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of our country, has far-reaching significance as it signifies closer ties between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the Bay Area development and a stride towards a new era. In the face of these ultra-important blueprint projects, we remain vigilant and made meticulous preparations for the clearance system and workflow as well as manpower and facilities. Our colleagues worked in unison to formulate detailed planning and conducted scenario-based drills during the final stage. Owing to the solid and effective preparation work and concerted efforts of all colleagues, operation has been running smoothly since the commissioning of the projects, projecting an excellent departmental image of professionalism, accuracy and efficiency.

Each of these two projects carries deep significance for the Customs and Excise Department. The unprecedented Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is the first large-scale cross-boundary infrastructure project connecting the three places. To ensure smooth customs clearance, the Customs of the three places specifically signed a memorandum on co-operative and mutual-assistance arrangements for Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Ports. With the successful commissioning of the Bridge, the western part of the Pearl River Delta is accessible within a 3-hour drive from Hong Kong. The business advantages will be more prominent when

the corporate members from our Authorized Economic Operator Programme and goods vehicles under the Single E-lock Scheme can enjoy double benefits from clearance facilitation under their respective programme/scheme as well as transport effectiveness arising from the opening of the Bridge. Moreover, the role of the Customs and Excise Department in “trade facilitation” will be further enhanced. This is a win-win situation to both the Customs and the industry. For the Hong Kong Section of the Express Rail Link, the Department has to perform duty at both the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station and Shek Kong Stabling Sidings in accordance with the principle of co-location and operations have also been running smoothly.

Subsequent to the opening of the two new major control points and based on the solid partnership established in the past, the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Li Guo, and I attended a review meeting between the two Customs administrations in Beijing late November last year, during which a consensus was reached on the co-operation plan for the coming year and made collaborative arrangements in various aspects. In addition, the Department and the Macao Customs Service jointly held an annual meeting in December to discuss how to strengthen mutual co-operation in different areas. It is foreseeable that the co-operation among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao Customs will be further deepened and strengthened within the framework of the Greater Bay Area.

While the new control points were commissioned successfully, the Department also made good progress in various areas of its law enforcement work last year. Since the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance officially came into force in mid-July last year, the relevant law enforcement work has been carried out smoothly and satisfactorily. Moreover, Phase 1 of the Trade Single Window System was already implemented at the end of last month, which is a crucial step forward in providing one-stop clearance service for import



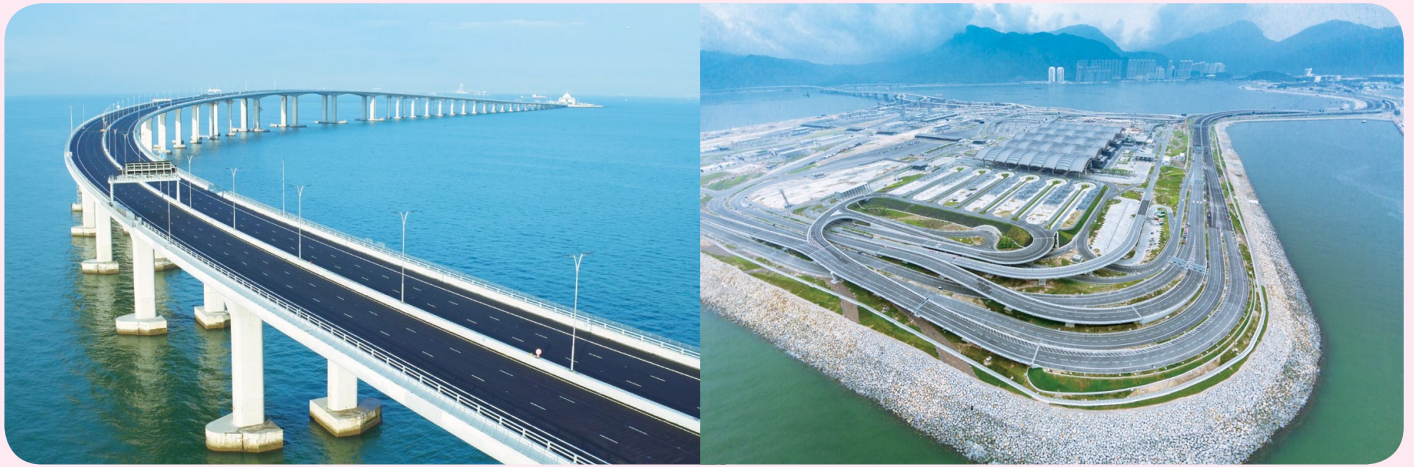
and export shipments to the business and logistics sectors.

Looking forward, the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point is scheduled for completion within the year and subsequent phases of the Trade Single Window System will be launched in due course. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the founding of our country and the 110th Anniversary of the Department. Returning to the Motherland for almost 22 years, Hong Kong has indeed continued to operate effectively and efficiently as a separate customs territory under the “one country, two systems” principle with increasing co-operation with the Mainland Customs in respect of clearance and enforcement. On the 110th Anniversary of the establishment of the Department, my colleagues and I are actively engaged in organising a range of activities not only to share the joy with the members of the public, but also to enhance their understanding of our work under the “one country, two systems” principle. Let us uphold the Department's fine traditions, build on our achievements and forge ahead to reach new heights at this special time of commemoration. As we bid farewell to the outgoing year, I sincerely wish all of you and your families good health and great fortune in the Year of the Pig!

**Hermes Tang**  
Commissioner



# HONG KONG-ZHUHAI-MACAO BRIDGE OPENS



The 55-km-long Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) comprises 12-km Hong Kong Link Road, 29.6-km Main Bridge and 13.4-km Zhuhai Link Road. The 130-hectare HZMB Hong Kong Port (HKP) is the first land port connecting Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. The ports of the three places run around the clock and provide 24-hour clearance services under a “separate locations” mode of arrangement.

Officiated by President Xi Jinping, the opening ceremony of the world’s longest bridge-cum-tunnel sea crossing Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) was held on October 23 last year at the HZMB Zhuhai Port, followed by its official commencement in the following day.

The 55-km-long bridge comprises 12-km Hong Kong Link Road, 29.6-km Main Bridge and 13.4-km Zhuhai Link Road. The 130-hectare HZMB Hong Kong Port (HKP) is the first land port connecting Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. The ports of the three places run around the clock and provide 24-hour clearance services under a “separate locations” mode of arrangement.

Customs clearance facilities at the HKP are abundant and comprehensive. Apart from the Passenger Clearance Building and two Private Car Passenger Clearance Annexures, the Hong Kong Customs also runs and administers two cargo examination buildings, two

private car examination buildings, two X-ray vehicle inspection buildings and a Customs dog base. A total of 72 vehicle kiosks, including 8 pairs for inbound/outbound goods vehicle, 22 pairs for inbound/outbound private car, 4 pairs for inbound/outbound coach and 4 shuttle bus kiosks are there to provide vehicular clearance services.

HKP is also equipped with various types

of advanced clearance equipment, among which the Gantry Type X-Ray Vehicle Inspection System and Handheld X-Ray Imager are newly-introduced to Hong Kong and have their first application in the Port. Other types of equipment include Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System and Raman Analyzer.

Laying down a foundation for the three-side co-operation in customs



The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, left); the Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC), Mr Li Shuyu (front row, centre); and the Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong Iao Lek (front row, right), sign a memorandum on the co-operative and mutual-assistance arrangements between GACC, Hong Kong and Macao Customs in Zhuhai on November 13 last year.



Details of goods carried by trucks are instantly revealed under the Gantry Type X-Ray Vehicle Inspection System at the HZMB's Hong Kong Port.

affairs on the HZMB, a memorandum on co-operative and mutual-assistance arrangements was signed among the Hong Kong Customs, Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and the Macao Customs Service on November 13.

The memorandum covers major co-operative measures including the establishment of a liaison mechanism for the three customs administrations; implementation of mutual-reference and recognition of inspection findings;

and the launch of customs co-operation in investigation and law enforcement in different areas. An extension of the Single E-lock Scheme, which is a speedy clearance programme already in force between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, to the Hong Kong and Zhuhai Ports of the HZMB is also confirmed in the memorandum.

In the meantime, the well-renowned Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator Programme (HKAEO Programme) also expands to the HZMB. "AEO Priority Service Counter" and "AEO Priority Clearance Bay"

are established there to provide trade facilitation for eligible operators and yet maintaining a high standard of supply chain security.

Looking forward, Hong Kong Customs pledges to play its role in the HZMB operation to maximise the bridge's mission in the development of the Greater Bay Area.

**Cross-boundary Bridge Command**  
**Land Boundary Command**  
**Office of Supply Chain Security Management**



Customs officer performs clearance duties at the Passenger Clearance Building.



Designated AEO Priority Clearance Bay and AEO Priority Service Counter at HZMB's Hong Kong Port expedites customs clearance procedures.

# HONG KONG CUSTOMS OPERATES WELL IN THE HONG KONG SECTION OF THE GUANGZHOU-SHENZHEN-HONG KONG EXPRESS RAIL LINK



The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link started running on September 23 last year, and the co-location arrangement is implemented at the West Kowloon Station.



Customs officers perform duties at the Arrival Hall of the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station.

The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) started running on September 23 last year. The opening ceremony jointly hosted by Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam and Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Ma Xingrui was held the day before the commencement.

Under the co-location arrangements, "Hong Kong Port Area" and "Mainland Port Area" are set up in the West Kowloon Station (WKS) where XRL passengers can complete both the Hong Kong and Mainland clearance procedures within the same premises. The arrangements greatly facilitate the passengers travelling between Hong Kong and different parts of the Mainland. In order to cover the

customs matters within the XRL Hong Kong Section in an effective manner, the Department has established the Express Rail Link Division and deployed officers to WKS and Shek Kong Stabling Sidings (SSS).

Full preparations were made to ensure a smooth customs operation. Thorough discussions on co-operation in law enforcement, customs clearance matters, intelligence exchanges, emergency handling and clearance procedures for cross-boundary working staff and supplies started between Hong Kong Customs and its Shenzhen counterpart as early as December 2017. With its efficient risk-assessment and intelligence analysis, stringent law enforcement has been carrying out and clearance operation has been smooth since the Hong Kong Section's commencement. In parallel with its "gate-keeping" function, prompt and user-friendly clearance services are also provided.



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho (left), gives an introduction of customs clearance equipment to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam (first right), the Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Ma Xingrui (third right) and other guests.

**Rail and Ferry Command**

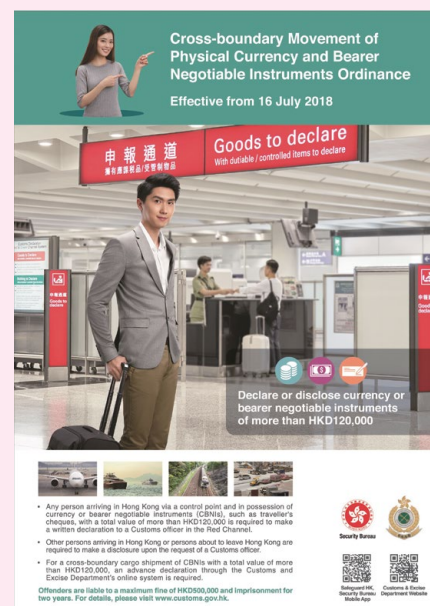
# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHYSICAL CURRENCY AND BEARER NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS DECLARATION AND DISCLOSURE SYSTEM IN HONG KONG

The Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance (the Ordinance) has come into operation since July 16 last year. The Ordinance establishes a declaration and disclosure system to detect the physical cross-boundary transportation of Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments (CBNIs) for the purposes of Anti-money Laundering (AML) and Counter-financing of Terrorism (CFT). Enforced by the Hong Kong Customs, the Ordinance fulfils Hong Kong's international obligation to implement Recommendation 32 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

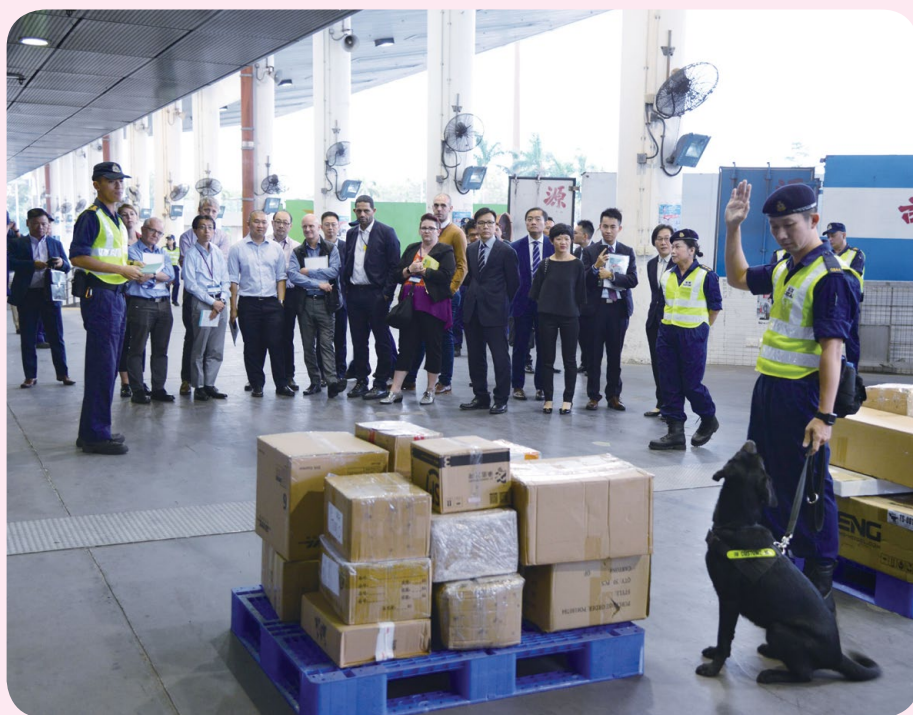
A data management system named Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Declaration System (CDS) is developed for the purposes of collecting and processing declarations received from travelers and cargo importers/exporters. Four cash detector dogs under the Customs Detector Dog Division have also been fully-trained to assist front-line officers in detecting undeclared CBNIs.

Enforcement operation under the Ordinance has been smooth.

FATF conducts Mutual Evaluations (ME) on member's AML/CFT regime with a view of ensuring a full and



Poster on the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance.



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai (ninth right) accompanies the FATF Assessment Team to visit Shenzhen Bay Control Point and watch a demonstration by the cash detector dog.

effective implementation of its recommendations. As a part of the ME, the FATF Assessment Team conducted an on-site visit to Hong Kong in November. Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation) Mr Ellis Lai, the Assessment Team paid a visit to Shenzhen Bay Control Point on November 2 and saw the customs clearance for CBNIs and the related enforcement work at boundary control points.

**Syndicate Crimes  
Investigation Bureau**

# HONG KONG DISCIPLINED SERVICES CULTURAL EXCHANGE DELEGATION

Secretary for Security Mr John Lee and heads of five Hong Kong disciplined services led a 120-strong Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation, comprising 22 representatives from the Hong Kong Customs, to make a visit to the Mainland. Started on August 26 and concluded on September 1 last year, members of the delegation went to Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai. During the first stop in Beijing, Member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Political Bureau and Vice-Premier of the State Council Mr Han Zheng met the delegation in the Great Hall of the People on August 27.

Fully-recognised the work of Hong Kong disciplined services, the Vice-Premier expressed hope that they would fully implement the policy of "one country, two systems", safeguard national security and the rule of law in Hong Kong, provide sound service to the Hong Kong people as well as promote exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

The delegation met and exchanged views with officials from the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the Ministry of Public Security and the General Administration of Customs (GACC).

Visits to business enterprises Alibaba



Member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Political Bureau and Vice-Premier of the State Council Mr Han Zheng (first row, centre), Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr Richard Tang (first row, eighth right), Secretary for Security Mr John Lee (first row, eighth left), Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (first row, fourth left), and other Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation in a picture.

Group and Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Limited, the site of the First National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, National Museum of China, China Aerospace Museum, Hangzhou International Expo Centre and Diaoyutai State Guest House were also made.

During the stop in Beijing, Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang met with Minister of the GACC Mr Ni Yuefeng. Both sides exchanged views on the enhancement of co-operation in information exchange, mutual recognition of regulations and mutual assistance in law enforcement under the context of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development. It is agreed that both sides should make the most of the opportunities arising from the commissioning of

the new cross-boundary projects to refine customs supervision, improve business environment and boost trade facilitation.

The exchange delegation is conducive to the development of mutual-exchange between the Hong Kong Customs and its Mainland counterparts. Through the visits and exchanges, the delegation members keep abreast of the Mainland's latest developments and deepen their understanding of the mother country.

**Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation 2018**  
- Customs delegation

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

## Thoughts:

The exchange tour allowed me to see myself the rapid development of the country after 40 years of reform and opening-up. I also had an opportunity to make invaluable exchanges with over 100 officers from Hong Kong's different disciplined services and various Mainland organisations. It is a profound experience.

**Deputy Head of Customs Delegation**  
Ida Ng



Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (side row, first left) joins the Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation led by Secretary for Security Mr John Lee (top left). Picture shows a courtesy call on the Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Zhang Xiaoming (top right).

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS HOLD REVIEW MEETING

The 2018 review meeting between the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) and the Hong Kong Customs was held in Beijing on November 28 last year. Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang and the GACC's Vice Minister Mr Li Guo presided at the meeting.

This is the 16th review meeting between the two sides since the signing of the customs co-operative arrangement in 2000. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the implementation of the

co-operative plan over the past two years and recognised the remarkable achievements made on customs clearance facilitation, anti-smuggling, intelligence exchange, development of new boundary control points and staff training during the period.

Mr Tang assured that Hong Kong Customs would work along the national policy and strengthen its co-operation with the Mainland Customs to create a business-friendly environment and safeguard the country.

In order to give full support to the Greater Bay Area development, the two Customs administrations also reached a consensus on the co-operative plan for the year 2019-2020, under the principles of "information exchange", "mutual recognition of regulations" and "mutual assistance in law enforcement".

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



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (right), and the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of People's Republic of China, Mr Li Guo (left), pictured after the 2018 review meeting between GACC and Hong Kong Customs.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS WINS OMBUDSMAN'S AWARDS



The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau (front row, fourth right), is pictured with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, third right) and other representatives of awarded organisations and individual awardees at The Ombudsman's Awards 2018 Presentation Ceremony on November 2 last year.

Hong Kong Customs was awarded The Ombudsman's Awards 2018 for Public Organisations. The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, the Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Ngan Hing-cheung, and the Head of Trade Controls, Ms Teresa Fu, joined the presentation ceremony which was held on November 2 last year.

Speaking in the ceremony, The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau, said that there is one thing in common among the winning organisations and public officers: being empathetic with people's feelings, understanding the public's predicament, knowing what people need and trying their utmost to help.

As an award winner, the Department

was recognised for its earnest and timely responses to both the public enquiries and the Office of The Ombudsman's investigations by offering details of individual cases and the Department's follow-up actions, as well as the rationales or legal justifications behind the decisions.

With their professionalism in handling complaints with tremendous diligence and dedication, Senior Trade Controls Officer of the Consumer Protection Bureau Mr Lee Wai-man and Inspector of the Complaints Investigation Group Mr Yip Chi-hang also beat other candidates and won The Ombudsman's Awards 2018 for Officers of Public Organisations.

Also spoke in the ceremony, Mr Tang expressed gratitude to each and every colleague for their unswerving efforts

in serving the community throughout the years. He stressed that the awards not only mark the Ombudsman's recognition of the Department's unfailing dedication in public services, but are also a good testimony of its fulfillment of public expectations. The strong sense of self-satisfaction brought about by the awards serves as a big boost for the Department's continued pursuit for excellence.

Mr Tang pledges that the Department would continue to stay united and committed under the principle of "Commitment and Excellence" and perform its "gate-keeping" role properly for the sake of quality and efficient public services.

**Office of Departmental  
Administration**

# HONG KONG CUSTOMS PROVES ITSELF A MODEL OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH



Secretary for Labour and Welfare Dr Law Chi-kwong (back row, centre) with the representatives from Hong Kong Customs.

Hong Kong Customs won the “Safety Promotion Gold Award” in the 17th Hong Kong Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Award 2018 organised by the OSH Council and the industry. At the sharing-cum-award presentation ceremony held on September 5 last year, the Department’s “OSH online Quiz” was highly recognised for its contribution in raising OSH awareness. The Gold Award, which came after the “Safety Culture Silver Award” under the same competition in 2016, tells itself the Hong Kong Customs’ sustainability in its promotion of OSH through the joint dedication and commitment by both the management and the staff.

Organised by the Office of Prosecution and Management Support (OPMS) in October 2017, the “OSH Online Quiz” tested participants’ OSH knowledge under customs-related scenarios in the forms of short question, multiple choice question and interactive-picture question. With the participation of around 1 000 officers, the quiz raised

substantially OSH knowledge and awareness among colleagues.

In vying for the OSH Award, OPMS, the Ports and Maritime Command, the Land Boundary Command and the Office of Training and Development joined hands to strive for excellence with momentous determination in all and every stage of the race, from competition report compilation, site assessment arrangement for adjudicators to OSH experience

sharing with other competitors. Apart from the “Safety Promotion Gold Award”, Hong Kong Customs also outperformed its competitors in the sharing session, with its wrapping up of bronze medals in the “Best Performance Award”, “Best Performer Award” and “Best Visual Effects Award”.

To keep on refreshing OSH promotion, OPMS organised a “Day & Night” OSH Digital Photo Contest in September and October. Colleagues were encouraged to make lens capture of moments of daily works’ perfect match with OSH culture. The contest was very well received, with a total of 125 entries poured in to vie for prizes in the “professional” and “mobile phone” categories of the contest. A presentation ceremony was held on October 31 and the winning and shortlisted entries were displayed during the ceremony and in the lobby of the Customs Headquarters Building.

## Office of Supply Chain Security Management



Senior management appreciate the winning photos.

## YAU YUE WAN CUSTOMS STAFF QUARTERS OPENS

Marking a new page in the departmental quarters development, Yau Yue Wan Customs Staff Quarters in Tseung Kwan O was open in an inauguration ceremony officiated by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang on November 7 last year.

The proposal was firstly brought up in 2010. It is the first quarters project for Customs Officer Grade officers with planning essentially formulated by the department. With the support from the local District Council and a funding approval from the Legislative Council, construction works commenced in

2015. Completed in 2018, it now provides 136 units for our officers.

Members of the two Councils as well as local community figures joined the ceremony and toured the premises. On behalf of the Department, the Commissioner expressed appreciation for their continuous support to the Department's staff quarters development. The visit strengthens exchanges on the quarters matters and lays a solid foundation for a good community neighborhood.

With the Department's continuous development, quarters demand

will keep on rising. Thanks to the completion of the Yau Yue Wan Customs Staff Quarters, such demand is better fed. Looking forward, quarters demand will be further met with the available of 102 quarters units in Kwun Tong this year. Besides, the construction works of the quarters projects in Tseung Kwan O (Mau Wu Tsai) and Tsz Wan Shan (Sheung Fung Street) also started in late last year.

**Office of Service Administration**



Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (center), Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise by that time Mr Lin Shun-yin (second left), chairmen of staff associations, and guests celebrate together.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS SIGNS CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH FIJI CUSTOMS



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (right), and the Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, Mr Visvanath Das (left), sign the Customs Co-operative Arrangement at the Customs Headquarters Building in Hong Kong on October 24 last year, with an aim of stepping up mutual co-operation in law enforcement and trade facilitation.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Chief Executive Officer of Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, Mr Visvanath Das, signed a Customs Cooperative Arrangement (CCA) in Hong Kong on October 24 last year, with an aim of

stepping up mutual co-operation in law enforcement and trade facilitation.

The signing of the CCA marked the common wishes of both customs administrations to strengthen all forms of co-operation through mutual-

administrative assistance, including information exchange and customs law enforcement co-operation to fight against transnational crimes.

Apart from law enforcement fronts, both sides would also strengthen information sharing to facilitate co-operation in trade facilitation procedures, import/export controls and formalities streamlining so as to create a business-friendly environment for legitimate trade activities.

Hong Kong Customs has so far signed CCAs with 25 customs administrations, comprising the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and 24 overseas Customs administrations.

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

## THE 35TH ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND MACAO CUSTOMS SERVICE / MACAO ECONOMIC SERVICES

Led by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang and Deputy Director-General of Macao Customs Service Mr Ng Kuok Heng, the 35th Annual Meeting between Hong Kong Customs and Macao Customs Service / Macao Economic Services was held on December 7 last year in Macao.

President Xi Jinping noted that support must be given to Hong Kong and Macao in their integration into the country's development and the co-



Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (front row, fourth left), Deputy Director-General of Macao Customs Service Mr Ng Kuok Heng (front row, fourth right) and officers from both sides in a group photo.

operation with the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao must be pushed forward in full swing under the context of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development. Mr Tang assured in the meeting that Hong Kong Customs would strive to strengthen its co-operation with the Customs administrations of the Mainland and Macao in order to facilitate the Bay Area development.

The two sides also reviewed the co-operation in intellectual property rights protection and elimination of drug trafficking and smuggling activities. View exchanges on Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge customs clearance matters and the enforcement of the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance were also made. Pledging

for a closer co-operation in various fronts, the meeting was effective in enhancing mutual exchange and strengthening co-operation between the two Customs administrations.

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

## HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON CUSTOMS CLEARANCE COOPERATION AT LIANTANG / HEUNG YUEN WAI BOUNDARY CONTROL POINT

Subsequent to the First High-Level Meeting on the Cooperation in Customs Clearance for the Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (LT/HYW BCP) which was held between Shenzhen Customs District and Hong Kong Customs last March, the second meeting was held in

Shenzhen on August 2 in the same year. The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho, led 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 meeting. The Shenzhen side was led by Deputy Director General of the Shenzhen Customs District Mr Lin Guozhong.

At the meeting, both sides reported the latest construction progress in their own sides and had an exchange in various co-operative measures, including information/intelligence exchange mechanism and joint anti-smuggling enforcement arrangement. With the constructive discussion, sound foundation is laid for solid co-operation measures for the smooth running of the new control point in the future.

Members of both sides also visited the works site to have a look at the construction progress.

#### Land Boundary Command



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho (fourth left), Deputy Director General of the Shenzhen Customs District Mr Lin Guozhong (sixth left) and members of the delegations.

## IT EXPERT GROUP MEETING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CUSTOMS

With a view to strengthening communication and mutual co-operation in informatisation between the Hong Kong and Mainland Customs, the "Sixth Meeting of the Mainland and Hong Kong Customs Expert Group on Informatisation" was held in Hong Kong on October 30 last year. Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (centre, left row) and Deputy Director General of the Department of Scientific and Technological Development of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Mr He Yu led members and joined the meeting.



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (centre, left row) in a meeting with Deputy Director General of the Department of Scientific and Technological Development of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Mr He Yu (third from bottom, right row).

The two sides exchanged views on the latest development of information technology (IT) systems and shared experience in mobile applications and IT network security. The Mainland delegation also visited the Computer Forensic Laboratory and had a look

at the Department's operation in computer forensics.

**Office of Information Technology**

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

## THE 16TH MEETING OF HEADS OF THE WCO ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling and Senior Inspector Ms Wong Siu-yin joined the 16th Meeting of Heads of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific Regional Training Centre which was held at the Shanghai

Customs College (SCC) between October 24 and 25 last year.

The meeting provided a platform for the delegates to exchange views on stepping up co-operation and optimising the technical assistance

programmes for the regional members. The twenty-eight delegates held comprehensive discussions on WCO training strategy and capacity building issues and the Hong Kong Customs gave a presentation on its latest training activities and the development of e-learning programme. The delegates valued high Hong Kong Customs as a pioneer in e-learning in the Asia-Pacific region.

Under the arrangements by the SCC, delegates also visited the Shanghai Free Trade Zone for a deeper understanding in the successful reform and modernization by the Mainland Customs in trade facilitation measures.



President of Shanghai Customs College Mr Cong Yuhao (centre), Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling (front row, third right) and other participants in a group photo during the 16th Meeting of Heads of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Training Centre in Shanghai.

**Office of Training  
and Development**

## NEW TENURE OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP STARTS



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (front row, middle) and Head of Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA) Mr Fan Chi-kong (front row, fourth left) with officers of ODCA and trade representatives in the appointment certificate presentation ceremony.

Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration held four meetings with the Dutiable Commodities Customer Liaison Group in May and June subsequent to its commencement

of a new tenure last year, with an aim of strengthening the department's communication and co-operation with the related trade sectors in dutiable commodities issues.

Over 60 representatives from four sectors, namely hydrocarbon oil, liquors, tobacco and warehouse/logistics/duty-free shop/ship's store, joined the meetings during which in-depth exchange and discussions on both management and operational issues were made. Traders' understanding of the department's excise control and work of revenue protection was substantially enhanced. At the end of the meetings, Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam presented appointment certificates to the group members as a token of recognition for their continuous support and contributions.

**Office of Dutiable Commodities  
Administration**

## MEETING WITH MACAO CUSTOMS ON INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE AND CO-OPERATION

On August 30 last year, Head of the Intelligence Bureau of Hong Kong Customs Ms Kitty Poon led

a delegation and met with Macao Customs Service officers in Macau with a view of enhancing intelligence

exchange and co-operation.

Both sides agreed to extend intelligence exchange, with anti-firearms and anti-sea smuggling as focal areas. Macao Customs Service was also briefed of details of the newly-established Inter-departmental Counter-Terrorism Unit by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Counter Terrorism Coordination Group under the Hong Kong Customs. The two Customs administrations agree to step up co-operation in the matters of counter-terrorism training and intelligence sharing.



Head of Intelligence Bureau Ms Kitty Poon (front row, third left), Head of Operation Management Department of Macao Customs Service Mr Ferguson Cheng (front row, third right) and officers.

**Intelligence Bureau**

## HKAEO PROGRAMME EXPERIENCE FIRST SHARED ON WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION PLATFORM

In a pioneer move of making the World Trade Organization (WTO) a platform to share the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme experience, Hong Kong Customs showcased its commitment to facilitate legitimate trade activities. Speaking at the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation Meeting which was held from October 9 to 11 last year in Switzerland's Geneva, Staff Officer (Supply Chain Security Management) Mr Kaison Chan shared with over 300 representatives from 164 WTO member states and regions the Hong Kong AEO Programme's successful experience in clearance facilitation and how the Programme uplifts business competitiveness.

In the meeting, Mr Chan gave a briefing on the Hong Kong AEO Programme's objectives and details of its accreditation mechanism. Apart from giving an account of the support given to the small and medium enterprises, Mr Chan also recounted the achievements by the Hong Kong Customs in extending AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangements with other customs administrations.



Staff Officer (Supply Chain Security Management) Mr Kaison Chan (front row, second left) shares the successful experience of the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator Programme at the World Trade Organization Committee on Trade Facilitation meeting.

The sharing not only enabled member states and regions to understand the roles of AEO programme in trade facilitation, but also fostered discussions and exchanges over the AEO matters. Participants also get a good understand that the Hong Kong AEO Programme is a reflection of the Hong Kong Customs' dedication to facilitate trade and fulfil international obligations.

To further expedite the import and export clearance, the Office of Supply Chain Security Management pledges to keep up the highest validation standard for AEO Programme applicants and provide frontline officers with full-training in AEO cargo clearance.

**Office of Supply Chain  
Security Management**

### *Thoughts:*

I am privileged to have taken part in this international conference and shared experiences over the years on the HKAEO Programme with the participants of other regions. Looking forward, I hope that Hong Kong Customs can all share more fruitful results with other Customs administrations through central core of efforts in enhancing regional connectivity in the near future.

**Kaison Chan**

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT WORKS OUT STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Secretary for Security Mr John Lee (centre) chaired a meeting with the heads of six disciplinary services on December 11 last year to steer the strategic direction of Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit.

Secretary for Security Mr John Lee chaired a meeting with the heads of six disciplinary services on December 11 last year to steer the strategic direction of Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU).

Held on a half-year basis, the meeting reviewed the latest global and local terrorism threats and discussed the priority issues. A vision is also set to ensure that Hong Kong shall remain free from terrorist activities through collaboration between the government and the community.

As terrorist activities around the world have become increasingly treacherous, Mr Lee noted that preventive and contingency measures are a must, adding that ICTU's member departments would need to strengthen efforts in intelligence gathering and analysis to ensure a full-preparation for the city's anti-terrorism proficiency.

After the meeting, heads of the six member departments visited the ICTU's workplace to see its daily work.

ICTU was established on April 23 last year under the co-ordination of

the Security Bureau. Optimising the existing government CT mechanism, it strengthens CT intelligence coordination and analysis, coordinates inter-departmental CT efforts and advises the Secretary for Security on all the CT-related matters.

Hong Kong Customs has set up a dedicated Counter Terrorism Coordination Group under its Intelligence Bureau to support the ICTU's operation. The Group gives advices on CT regime and strategy at departmental level, handles and co-ordinates CT-related intelligence and tailor-makes training programmes to enhance frontline officers' CT awareness, knowledge and capabilities.

### Intelligence Bureau



Accompanied by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (first right), Secretary for Security Mr John Lee (second right) listens to an introduction by Customs members of the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit.

## UNITED STATES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR VISITS HONG KONG CUSTOMS



The then Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Thomas Lin (centre in the right row), and the Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development (Commerce & Industry)3, Ms Alice Choi (second from bottom, right row), meet the United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator Mr Vishal Amin (third from bottom, left row) and delegation.

The United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator Mr Vishal Amin led a delegation to visit Hong Kong Customs and had a meeting with Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise by that time Mr Thomas Lin and Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development (Commerce & Industry)3 Ms Alice Choi on August 28 last year. Both sides exchanged views on Intellectual

Property Rights (IPR) protection and reaffirmed determination to strengthen collaboration in combating IPR crimes.

After the meeting, the delegation visited the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau's Electronic Crime Investigation Centre of Hong Kong Customs, followed by field visits to Ports and Maritime Command

and a service centre of an express courier operator to get an in-depth understanding of the multi-pronged enforcement strategy adopted by Hong Kong Customs in combating transnational IPR crimes.

**Intellectual Property  
Investigation Bureau**

## HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND OVERSEAS COUNTERPART



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation) Mr Ellis Lai (second from bottom, right row) meets with the Acting Director of Customs Intelligence Center cum Director of Post-Clearance Audit Bureau of Customs Department of Thailand, Mr Chairit Patsamarn (fourth from bottom, left row), at the Customs Headquarters Building on August 15 last year.

Hong Kong Customs strives to strengthen international enforcement co-operation through high-level exchanges with its foreign counterparts.

On August 15 last year, the Acting Director of Customs Intelligence Center cum Director of Post-Clearance Audit Bureau of Customs Department of Thailand, Mr Chairit Patsamarn, led

a delegation and paid a courtesy call on Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation) Mr Ellis Lai. Both sides exchanged views on intelligence co-operation and anti-

narcotics enforcement. During their stay in Hong Kong, the delegation also visited the Airport Command and Rail

and Ferry Command to learn Hong Kong Customs' passenger and cargo clearance in the frontline.



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho (centre), meets with Director General of Department of Trade, Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar Mr Yan Naing Htun (fifth right) at Shenzhen Bay Control Point on August 21 last year.

On August 21 last year, Director General of Department of Trade, Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar Mr Yan Naing Htun and his officers paid a courtesy call on Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) by that time Ms Louise Ho. Both sides shared experiences on trade facilitation and customs clearance. After the meeting, the delegation went to Shenzhen Bay Control Point and had a look at the Hong Kong Customs operation and facilities there.

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

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS VISITS QINGDAO CUSTOMS TARGETING CENTER AND AUTOMATIC CONTAINER TERMINAL

Senior Staff Officer (Trade Single Window Operation) Mr Rudy Hui and three officers had a visit to the Customs Targeting Center (Qingdao) and the Asia's first fully-automated sea cargo terminal in the Qingdao Customs District between September 5 and 7 last year.

As one of the three nationwide targeting centers operating under the General Administration of China Customs, the Targeting Center in Qingdao is responsible for conducting risk-assessment and identify high-risk maritime cargo across the country. The visiting officers received a detailed introduction of the centre's risk-assessment work, with focus on the application of big data system in analyzing those data collected through the Single Window or other external sources. They also saw the referral of such data to the automated container terminal for further examination.



Senior Staff Officer (Trade Single Window Operation) Mr Rudy Hui (third right), meets officers of the Customs Targeting Center (Qingdao) on September 6 last year.

The Targeting Center shared with Hong Kong Customs much of its valuable experience in the centre's operation, big data application and system-interface. The experience sharing does help much the design of

the Cargo Clearance Module of Trade Single Window System and targeting center by the Hong Kong Customs.

**Office of  
Trade Single Window Operation**

### *Thoughts:*

Technology and innovation are the keys to the future development of Customs.

**Rudy Hui**

## PASSING OUT PARADES OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL

Graced by the inspections by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service, Ms Teresa Ko, Hong Kong Customs staged two passing-out parades for a total of 87 Probationary Inspectors and 432 Probationary Customs Officers at Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) on August 3 and November 22 last year.

The August parade sets record pool size in one single passing-out-parade since the CETS's establishment in 1974. Addressing in the parade, Mr Yau encouraged the graduates to strive for excellence in their work and build on the unswerving professionalism of Hong Kong Customs. Highlighting the Department's achievement in customs clearance efficiency and



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, inspects Probationary Inspectors at the passing-out-parade on August 3 last year.

trade facilitation, he also encouraged them to embrace themselves for the challenge ahead.

In the November parade, Ms Ko further encouraged the probation officers to get prepared for all the possible challenge with the commencement

of major cross-boundary infrastructure projects and the development of the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. She also expressed confidence that the officers would keep on enhancing professional competence through continued learning.

Over 900 guests from various Government Departments, private sector as well as family members and friends of the graduates joined the Inspecting Officer at each parade in witnessing the momentous occasions, making them truly solemn yet jubilant celebration.



The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service, Ms Teresa Ko, delivers speech at the passing-out-parade held on November 22 last year.

**Office of Training and Development**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS KEEPS UP PACE IN ANTI-TERRORISM



The Counter Terrorism Coordination Group of the Hong Kong Customs' Intelligence Bureau organised a large-scale counter terrorism seminar for around Customs frontline officers at the Customs Headquarters Building.

Fire Services Department for the first time, a scenario of customs officers encountering a suspected hazardous material leakage during a cargo examination was designed and participating officers got a good training experience in using the required procedures for emergencies.

Both events were very well received by the participants and more similar seminars and exercises will be organised to step up officers' anti-terrorism expertise and sense of self-protection.

**Intelligence Bureau**

In the wake of an increasing terrorist threat to the global security, the Intelligence Bureau's Counter Terrorism Coordination Group (CTCG) spares no effort to keep up the Department's pace in anti-terrorism task and strengthen its officers' alertness and knowledge in the area by organising seminar and exercise.

On September 6 last year, a large-scale CT seminar was held for 200 frontline officers from 25 major formations. During the seminar, roles and functions of the newly established Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU) and the Department's CTCG were introduced. Experienced officers from the ICTU and Forensic Firearms Examination Division of the Hong Kong Police Force were also invited to share their expertise and experience with the participants.

In another development, a large-scale CT exercise codenamed 'FRIGATE' was held at the Kwai Chung Customhouse on June 29. In conjunction with the



The Counter Terrorism Coordination Group of Intelligence Bureau co-ordinated a large-scale Counter Terrorism (CT) Exercise codenamed 'FRIGATE' at the Kwai Chung Customhouse on June 29 last year. Photo shows participants in a briefing.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS BADGE PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH AMBASSADORS – TUTOR COURSE

Hong Kong Customs launched the Intellectual Property Rights Badge Programme for Youth Ambassadors in 2016, with an aim of promoting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) awareness among the youth by means of lively publicity and education. Following the successful conduct of its Foundation Course and Advanced Course in July 2016 and August 2017 respectively, the master-grade Tutor Course was held between July 8 and 14 last year with the participation of 30 Youth Ambassadors.

The course started with a four-day study tour in Korea during which the participants stayed at the Customs Border Control Training Institute of the Korea Customs Service and learnt how the Korean Government and the related organisations protect IPR and promote their creative industries. When they returned to Hong Kong, they took part in discipline, leadership and presentation skill trainings. They also attended seminars on the customs law enforcement and the Internet's latest development. Visits to magistrates' courts were arranged



Graduation ceremony for the Tutor Course of the Intellectual Property Rights Badge Programme for Youth Ambassadors was held on July 14 last year.

and enlightening dialogues with a magistrate and the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (DDPP) Mr Martin Hui, SC, were made.

Officiated by Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise by that time Mr Thomas Lin, Acting Deputy Director of Intellectual Property Ms Joyce Poon and DDPP, the Tutor Course's graduation ceremony was held on July 14 last year at the Customs Headquarters Building. A total of 30 Youth Ambassadors were

awarded the Certificate of Completion of the Programme's Tutor Course and became the first batch of IPR Tutors. They will play an important role in IPR promotion and education activities organised by the Hong Kong Customs, other government departments and various youth uniformed groups in the future.

**Intellectual Property  
Investigation Bureau**

## THE AIR CARGO CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The Air Cargo Customer Liaison Group (ACCLG) held its 2018-2020 Inauguration Ceremony on October 22 last year. Deputy Commissioner of the Customs and Excise by that time

Mr Thomas Lin presented Certificates of Appointment to members. Representative of Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited Mr Simon Fu was elected again as the Chairman for

the new tenure.

Setting up in 1994 with an aim of consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international and regional aviation

hub, the ACCLG serves as a platform for Hong Kong Customs to work closely with the air cargo industry. It speeds up cargo clearance efficiency and helps promote the air cargo and logistics industries of Hong Kong.

#### Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise by that time Mr Thomas Lin (front row, fifth right) in a picture with newly elected Chairman of the Air Cargo Customer Liaison Group Mr Simon Fu (front row, fifth left) and other members at the Inauguration Ceremony.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS SIGNS MoUS WITH SIX CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATORS



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports, Ms Louise Ho (fourth left), signs Memorandums of Understanding with six container terminal operators at the Customs Headquarters Building.

The Customs and Excise Department signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with six Hong Kong container terminal operators (CTOs) on September 20 last year. Laying down various co-operative arrangements for sea cargo customs clearance, including the liaison mechanism, cargo detention

notification and case reporting, the MoUs underpin a closer collaboration between the Department and the CTOs.

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) by that time Ms Louise Ho signed the MoUs on behalf of the Department.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, she noted that the Department values its co-operation with the CTOs, adding that both parties have all along been working closely and pragmatically to handle issues relating to sea cargo customs clearance.

The six CTOs are Asia Container Terminals Limited, COSCO-HIT Terminals (Hong Kong) Limited, CSX World Terminals Hong Kong Limited, Hongkong International Terminals Limited, Modern Terminals Limited, and River Trade Terminal Company Limited.

On the same occasion of the MoU signing, an annual award presentation ceremony was also held during which 50 sea cargo carriers/ cargo agents were awarded for their active participation in the Sea Cargo Pre-shipment Declaration Scheme.

#### Ports and Maritime Command