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THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

"110 Years of Commitment, Ongoing Pursuit of Excellence" is the resounding slogan for the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Customs and Excise Department this year, which coincides with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, giving a special meaning to the series of celebratory events of the Department.

Looking back, the Preventive Service of Hong Kong was founded in 1909, specialising in matters related to the collection of revenue on liquors. With over a century of remarkable development, this dedicated team has evolved into a fully-fledged, efficient and multi-functional disciplined service with an extensive network and a high degree of professionalism, responsible for carrying out the missions of law enforcement and customs clearance for Hong Kong and our country. Since Hong Kong's return to the Motherland 22 years ago, we have continued to strengthen collaboration with the Mainland and Macao Customs in the areas of customs clearance control and combating smuggling activities under the "one country, two systems" principle, with the aim of enhancing efficiency in customs clearance, law enforcement and trade facilitation. Notable accomplishments have been achieved in this regard.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the West Kowloon Station of the Express Rail Link commenced operation last year. With the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point soon to be completed and commissioned, the HKSAR Government is now actively taking forward various development projects, including the Three-runway System and the high value-added logistics centre. It is foreseeable that the flow of people and goods between Hong Kong and the Mainland and within the region will increase tremendously, and that the business sector will see a boost in trade and investment activities under the "going global" and "attracting foreign investment" policy. Our Department will continue to strengthen co-operation with the Mainland Customs in

information exchange, mutual recognition of regulations and mutual assistance in law enforcement. By harnessing the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area development, we will work in the spirit of such co-operation with a view to fostering better collaboration in the region. In late June, I met with the Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Ni Yuefeng, to discuss various areas of collaboration, such as supporting the development of the Greater Bay Area, strengthening co-operation to combat cross-boundary smuggling activities and enhancing product safety. We also entered into collaboration agreements which laid a solid foundation for promoting Customs co-operation within the Greater Bay Area and capitalising on the unprecedented opportunities for future development. Subsequent to the signing of mutual recognition arrangements under the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme by C&ED with the relevant departments of Israel and Canada at the end of June, the total number of AEO mutual arrangements signed between Hong Kong and other economies has increased to 11, placing Hong Kong fourth in the world ranking. Furthermore, the Single E-lock Scheme has covered all nine municipalities in the Greater Bay Area since May. In view of the above, Hong Kong Customs will take a more active and important role in ensuring regional as well as international cargo movements and supply chain security.

Since its establishment, the Department has been keeping its service abreast of the times. Step by step, we have thrived and evolved into a highly modernised enforcement agency today. The achievement did not come easy. I am pleased that we obtained accreditation approval from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications last December and have become the second disciplinary force in Hong Kong to offer Qualifications Framework-recognised induction programmes to staff members of both the rank-and-file and officer grades. The



Customs and Excise Training School has also been renamed as Hong Kong Customs College since January 1 this year, demonstrating our untiring and fruitful efforts in manpower training. Looking ahead, we will continue our proactive and pragmatic approach in a new era heralded by the Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, and stay committed to the long-term goal of implementing the smart customs blueprint with sustainable development in mind. Embracing innovative ideas and willing to try, the Department will strive to fulfil its multiple roles as a "law enforcer and service provider", "trade facilitator" and "economic development promoter" and forge ahead with continuing efforts.

The Department has come a long way at a steady pace over the last hundred years. While reminiscing about how our predecessors laid the foundation with perseverance and resolve, we must also uphold our fine tradition and work together to overcome all difficulties with a more open and inclusive attitude, as well as a proactive and indomitable spirit to enable the Department to scale new heights with unwavering commitment.

Hermes Tang
Commissioner



HONG KONG CUSTOMS 110TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS



The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) has its root in the Preventive Service established on September 17, 1909 and this year marks its 110th anniversary. The small band of Revenue Officers with only 25 members by that time has evolved into a professional and efficient law enforcement agency of some 7 600 staff. The year 2019 also marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

Hong Kong Customs has organised a series of events in celebration of the anniversary with the theme "110 Years of Commitment, Ongoing Pursuit of Excellence", allowing members of the public to understand the development history as well as the functions of the Department.

Started on June 1, five sessions of the Customs Headquarters Building (CHB) Open Days were organised as

the premier of the series of celebration events. Officiating at the opening ceremony, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, greeted about 100 representatives of the Department's working partners and introduced them to the different functions and duties of Hong Kong Customs. He said that, as the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has been announced, apart from stepping up the current duties, Hong Kong Customs will also develop in accordance with the "smart customs" blueprint to help ensure the implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle. The five sessions held in June and July were well received by members of the public, with around 1 600 participants recorded. In order to help the participants to gain a better understanding of the development history, inheritance and law enforcement of Hong Kong Customs, guided tours were held to



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, eighth left), and fellow guests in a group photo at the Customs Headquarters Building Open Day.



present various facilities of the CHB, including the exhibition gallery and the indoor firing range. Attendees also watched performance by the Customs and Excise Band and demonstration by Customs detector dogs. They were also briefed on the role played by Hong Kong Customs in implementing the “one country, two systems” principle in respect of customs clearance at new boundary control points and trade facilitation, as well as the development of the Hong Kong Authorized

Economic Operator Programme.

The Department started as early as last year to prepare for the celebration events. A theme is needed for mega event like this and a logo design competition with the theme of “Hong Kong Customs 110th Anniversary” was held in August. The competition was a great success and the champion was selected from more than 100 entries by a panel formed by the directorates. The award winning logo was adopted in the series of celebration events. At the prize presentation ceremony held in December, the then Deputy Commissioner, Mr Lin Shun-yin, presented prizes to the winners.

The Department also produced a 4-minute official video to introduce the work and development of the C&ED. The Department is currently responsible for the enforcement of 58 ordinances. The scope of work

includes preventing and combating smuggling activities and drug trafficking, protecting consumer rights and revenue, safeguarding intellectual property rights as well as trade facilitation. The videos have also introduced various initiatives and schemes to facilitate trade and enhance clearance efficiency. Looking ahead, the Department will continue to innovate and develop into “smart customs” to provide excellent services to the public and in building a better Hong Kong.

Office of Service Administration



Hong Kong Customs held five open day sessions at the Customs Headquarters Building in June and July this year to launch a series of events in celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Department's establishment. Photo shows the attendees visiting the indoor firing range.



The Customs and Excise Band performs at the opening ceremony.



Attendees visit the exhibition gallery and the VR experience booth.

GACC MINISTER NI YUEFENG VISITED HONG KONG CUSTOMS

The Minister of General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Mr Ni Yuefeng, led a delegation to Hong Kong from June 18 to 21 this year. During the visit, Mr Ni met Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang at a high-level meeting held at the Hong Kong Customs Headquarters Building (CHB) on June 20. Both sides exchanged views on the co-operative arrangements over issues including, customs clearance facilitation, anti-smuggling enforcement and consumer goods safety protection.

The two customs administrations agreed to step up mutual-co-operation to make a more significant contribution to the economic development of both the Mainland and Hong Kong under the context of the development of the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area". In this regard, the two sides specifically reached a consensus on a co-operative arrangement, under



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, fourth right), the Minister of GACC, Mr Ni Yuefeng (front row, fourth left), and members of both sides in a group photo.

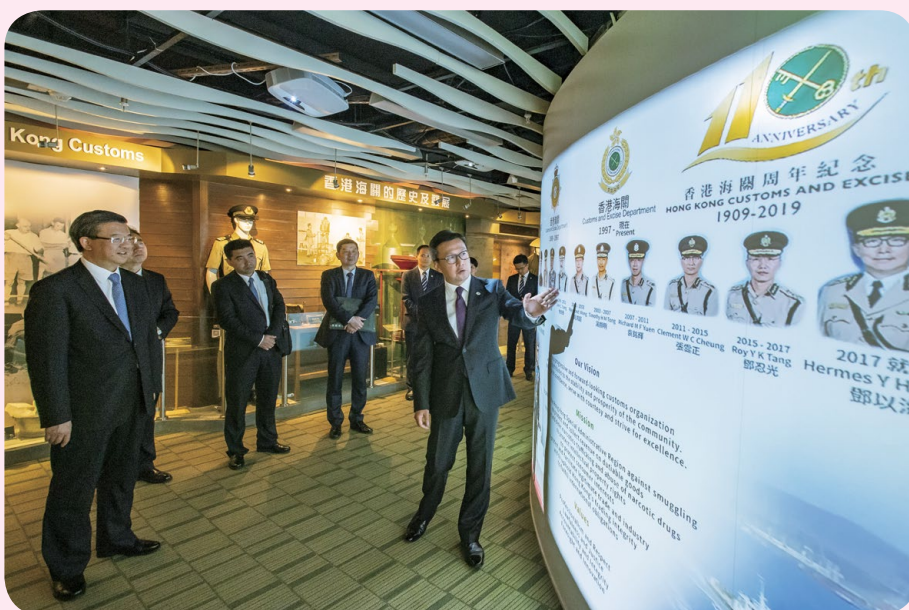
which collaboration and exchange would be strengthened to expedite the customs facilitation within the Greater Bay Area.

After the meeting, the delegation toured the Hong Kong Customs Exhibition Gallery at the CHB, where a full panorama of the Department's history was displayed. They also went to

the Hong Kong Port Area of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Kwai Chung Customhouse and the Hong Kong Port Area of the West Kowloon Station of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. Throughout the visit, the delegation was briefed in details of the Hong Kong Customs' work, in particular its passenger and cargo clearance operation.

With the merge of entry/exit inspection and quarantine duties into the GACC's portfolio last year, the delegation also paid visits to relevant policy bureaux, government departments and organisations during their stay in Hong Kong.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (first right), the Minister of GACC, Mr Ni Yuefeng (first left) visits the Hong Kong Customs Exhibition Gallery.

CE INSPECTS LIANTANG/HEUNG YUEN WAI BOUNDARY CONTROL POINT PROJECT



Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam (right) receives a briefing from Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Mr Chan Tsz-tat on the customs clearance procedure to be implemented at the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, accompanied by Secretary for Development Mr Michael Wong and Under Secretary for Security Mr Sonny Au, inspected the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point project on March 14 this year and saw the latest progress in the building of the cross-boundary infrastructure project.

During the inspection, she was briefed by the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Chan Tsz-tat, on the Hong Kong Customs' preparations for the customs clearance arrangements to be implemented at the new control point. Mrs Lam heard about plans for

various customs clearance facilities, including the passenger terminal building, cargo examination buildings,

private car examination buildings, X-ray vehicle inspection buildings and the Department's dog base there. A total of 30 vehicle kiosks will also be operated to provide vehicular clearance services for goods vehicle, private car and coach.

Mr Chan also gave a briefing on the latest discussion between Hong Kong Customs and its Shenzhen counterpart on the clearance co-operation to be put in place at the new control point, including the extension of the current Single E-lock Scheme to there to ensure a user-friendly clearance services.

Land Boundary Command



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Chan Tsz-tat (front row, third left), gives an introduction on the customs clearance arrangement to be implemented at the new control point to Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam (front row, second left).

WCO SECRETARY GENERAL PAYS COURTESY CALL ON HONG KONG CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER

The Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), Dr Kunio Mikuriya, accompanied by the Head of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), Mr Kazunari Igarashi, paid a courtesy call on the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, on February 27 this year.

Mr Tang congratulated Dr Mikuriya on his re-election as the WCO Secretary General and assured that Hong Kong Customs would continue to actively participate in the activities of the WCO and ROCB A/P. Both sides exchanged views on Hong Kong Customs' roles in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). Mr Tang reiterated that Hong Kong Customs no longer only plays the role as a "law enforcer" and a "trade facilitator", but also acts as an "economic development promoter" to make a bigger contribution to regional and global economic development.

Taking the opportunity, the delegation paid a visit to the customs facilities at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Ngan Hing-cheung (centre), accompanies the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, Dr Kunio Mikuriya (second left) in a visit to the Hong Kong Customs College.

Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. At the port, they saw Hong Kong customs operation in one of GBA's marquee infrastructure projects. Dr Mikuriya was briefed on the passenger and cargo clearance procedures and saw how does the Department's refined equipment work. He was pleased to note the solid efforts and strong determination of the Hong Kong Customs in realising the WCO's theme of this year - "SMART Customs".

The delegation also visited the Hong

Kong Customs College, which is one of the WCO's regional training centers for the Asia/Pacific Region. The delegation was given an introduction of the training programmes accredited under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework. Dr Mikuriya expressed appreciation for the Hong Kong Customs' continued contribution and commitment to customs capacity building.

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



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (second from bottom, right row) meets the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, Dr Kunio Mikuriya (first from bottom, left row) and the Head of the Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building, Mr Kazunari Igarashi (first from top, left row), at the Customs Headquarters Building on February 27 this year.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS CELEBRATES 2019 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY



The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC (centre), the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (seventh left), and directorate of Hong Kong Customs propose a toast to guests.

The Secretary for Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, jointly officiated at a reception held at the Customs Headquarters Building on January 25 to celebrate the 2019 International Customs Day (ICD).

This year, the World Customs Organization (WCO) devotes ICD to the theme of “SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport”, with an aim of facilitating the cross-boundary movement of goods, people and transportation through advanced technology and modernised Customs management.

Officiating at the reception, Ms Cheng said that Hong Kong Customs has an important role to play in the creation of smart boundaries in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. She recognises Hong Kong Customs’ dedicated efforts in moving towards smart boundary management by establishing an innovative clearance regime and building up a close partnership with other Customs

administrations and the business sectors.

Ms Cheng added that the Trade Single Window and the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme offer the benefits of advanced technology and business knowledge that help saving time and cost for traders. Through the setting up of a prioritised clearance facility at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Control Point, companies accredited under the AEO Programme can further enjoy seamless priority clearance within the Greater Bay Area.

In his remarks, Mr Tang highlighted the twin roles of Hong Kong Customs as both the “trade facilitator” and “community guardian” in the highly-connected world. Using the acronym “SMART”, he shared with the reception’s participants the philosophy of frontiers transformation in five fronts: “Secure”, “Measurable”, “Automated”, “Risk management-based” and “Technology-driven”, by which Hong Kong Customs uses to meet the public expectations.

Mr Tang added that Hong Kong Customs would proactively promote

the development of SMART boundaries in the Greater Bay Area by leveraging on technology and innovation and explore facilitation measures with the Mainland and Macao Customs. Marking the 110th anniversary of the Department’s establishment, Mr Tang pledged that Hong Kong Customs would remain committed to its motto of “Serve the Community with Commitment and Excellence”.

Hong Kong Customs has celebrated the ICD since Hong Kong became a member of the WCO in 1987. At the reception, Ms Cheng presented WCO Certificates of Merit to officers of Hong Kong Customs in recognition of their efforts contributing to facilitating trade, travel and transport.

About 370 guests, including Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, HKSAR Government officials, Consuls General, foreign Customs attachés, 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**

ACCREDITATION OF CUSTOMS INDUCTION PROGRAMMES



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, centre); Chairman and Executive Director of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Dr Alex Chan (front row, ninth left) and Mr Albert Chow (front row, ninth right), with 64 Probationary Inspectors and 124 Probationary Customs Officers at the ceremony.

Hong Kong Customs obtained an accreditation approval from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications in December last year to include its induction programmes for Inspectors and Customs Officers in the Qualifications Register, making it the second disciplinary force in the city after the Hong Kong Police Force to offer Qualifications Framework-recognised induction programmes to staff of both the rank-and-file and officer grades. The Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) was also renamed as Hong Kong Customs College (HKCC)

on January 1 this year, marking a new era for the Department's manpower training.

The two programmes accredited are "Professional Diploma in Customs Management for Inspectors" at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 5 (pitched at the same QF level as a local Bachelor's Degree) and "Professional Diploma in Customs Operations for Customs Officers" at QF Level 4 (pitched at the same QF level as a local Associate Degree or a Higher Diploma).

Speaking at a ceremony on February 25 at the Hong Kong Customs College to mark the launch of the Department's recognised training programmes, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, said that the Department has all along valued high talent training, adding that in the past 44 years, the HKCC has kept up refining and

reinforcing its teaching and training facilities. In order to encourage the Department's officers to pursue continuous learning, HKCC will explore course-exemption arrangements with tertiary educational institutions to facilitate the further studies of accredited programmes' graduates.

Mr Tang said that the Department also needs to develop along the "smart customs" blueprint to meet the needs arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development.

The professional training of the Hong Kong Customs has long been recognised by the World Customs Organization (WCO). As early as March 2004, the then CETS had been designated as the WCO's regional training centre to offer professional customs training to the WCO's members in the Asia-Pacific region in a step to reinforce the Department's global partnership.

Office of Training and Development



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, speaks at the launching ceremony of the Department's Qualifications Framework-recognised training programmes at the Hong Kong Customs College on February 25 this year.

133RD/134TH SESSIONS OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (right), signs the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement with the President of Canada Border Services Agency, Mr John Ossowski, during the 133rd/134th Council Sessions of the WCO in Brussels, Belgium, on June 27 this year.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, led a delegation and joined the 133rd/134th Customs Co-operation Council Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) that were convened in Brussels, Belgium between June 27 and 29 this year.

Heads and senior officials of the customs administrations from the 183 members of the WCO participated in this annual meeting. They discussed the global strategic directions for customs initiatives and reviewed the related mandates' progress.

In the margins of the sessions, Mr Tang signed Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) with

Director General of Israel Tax Authority Mr Eran Yaacov and President of Canada Border Services Agency Mr John Ossowski.

Under the MRAs, companies accredited as AEOs in Hong Kong enjoy customs clearance facilitation in Israel and Canada and reciprocally, companies accredited under the corresponding programmes in these two economies also receive customs clearance facilitation in Hong Kong.

of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam also signed an AEO MRA Action Plan with the Director of International Customs and Public Affairs of the Directorate General of Customs and Excise of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr R. Syarif Hidayat, marking the commencement of the formal MRA discussion between the two economies.

**Office of Supply Chain
Security Management**

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

The signing of the two MRAs with Israel and Canada brings the number of MRAs signed by Hong Kong to eleven in total. Other nine economies that Hong Kong has signed MRA with are the Mainland of China, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Hong Kong Customs will continue to take active steps to reach MRAs with more customs administrations. In the margins of the sessions, Assistant Commissioner



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (right), exchanges the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement with the Director General of the Israel Tax Authority, Mr Eran Yaacov, in Brussels, Belgium, on June 26 this year.

HONG KONG AEO PROGRAMME STRENGTHENS BUSINESS SECTOR'S EDGE

Hong Kong Customs has all along committed to the development of the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (HKAEO) Programme. In the latest batch of admission, a total of six companies received the HKAEO Certificates from the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam at a ceremony held on February 22 this year. Under the witness of more than 140 guests, including consuls, customs attachés, representatives from Hong Kong AEOs, trade associations/private sector stakeholders, their trusted partnership status under the Programme was recognised. With their admission, the number of HKAEOs now raises to 57.

During the ceremony, Mr Tam also presented the newly added Hong Kong AEO Partnership Scheme Awards Gold and Silver Prizes to four HKAEOs in recognition of their excellent performance in promoting the Programme and active participation in Hong Kong AEO related activities.



2019 HKAEO Certificate Presentation Ceremony cum Joint Promotion Seminar with GACC attracts more than 140 participants.

In the same occasion, Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) co-organised a joint promotion seminar on the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme. During the seminar, Deputy Director General of the Department of Enterprise Management and Audit-Based Control of the GACC Mr Zhu Fang gave a talk on the AEOs' advantages under the Mainland-Hong Kong AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in exploring their business opportunities under the context of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) development and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Under the current MRA with the Mainland, the inspection rate for the HKAEO cargo being imported to or exported from the Mainland, including the GBA, can be 80 per cent less than their non-AEO counterparts. The privileges of priority clearance

and reduced examination lower much traders' operating costs, strengthen their competitiveness and marketability, and help them explore the unlimited business opportunities in the markets within the GBA and Belt and Road regions.

Since the first signing with the Mainland in October 2013, the MRA regime has been promoting a secure and seamless flow of goods under which the member economies enjoy much trade facilitation benefits. It reinforces Hong Kong's advantages as a premier logistics hub and confirms its role and function as one of the powerhouses in leading the regional development under the GBA development plan.

Currently, Hong Kong Customs has ratified MRAs with 11 Customs administrations of the Mainland of China, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Israel and Canada which help capitalising on the new business opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative and GBA development.

**Office of Supply Chain
Security Management**



Deputy Director General of the Department of Enterprise Management and Audit-Based Control of the General Administration of Customs of China Mr Zhu Fang gives a briefing to Authorized Economic Operators on their benefits from the Mainland-Hong Kong AEO MRA under the context of the Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative.

THE SINGLE E-LOCK SCHEME COVERS ALL NINE GUANGDONG MUNICIPALITIES



The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, led a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government delegation to attend the 21st Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference in Guangzhou on May 16 this year, during which the Single E-lock Scheme's expansion to Zhongshan was confirmed, making the scheme to cover all the nine municipalities in Guangdong Province. Photo shows Mrs Lam (third left) and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Ma Xingrui (third right), co-chairing the Plenary.

The Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government have never slowed their footstep in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Bay Area). Eight measures facilitating people to develop in the Greater Bay Area were announced after the second plenary meeting of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area held in March this year. One of the measures is the expansion of the implementation scope of the connection with the Speedy Customs Clearance (also known as the Single E-lock Scheme (SELS)) between Customs administrations. Later in May, the 21st Plenary of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in Guangzhou confirmed the SELS's expansion to Zhongshan, making the scheme to cover all the nine municipalities in the Bay Area.

The nine Guangdong municipalities are: Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing.

Currently, the number of SELS clearance point in Guangdong Province has jumped to 52, making the scheme better meet the development needs of the Bay Area.

The first Zhongshan-bound SELS shipment smoothed its way from the Hong Kong International Airport over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) on June 5. The clearance point network's expansion facilitates the development of the logistic industry on the one hand and helps the whole business sector to make use of the HZMB in exploring the huge business opportunities in the Bay Area on the other. Hong Kong Customs pledges to encourage the logistic industry to ride on the SELS's advantage of speedy customs clearance under the Bay Area context.

Started its operation in March 2016, the SELS puts inter-modal transshipment cargo between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province its target of services. Such cargo includes those air shipment lands in Hong Kong and delivered to the Mainland

by land transport and those in an opposite direction. Effective monitor of cargo transportation and reduction of duplicated customs checks and inspection is made possible by the use of e-lock and GPS technologies.

With its growth and development, the SELS is set to provide speedy customs clearance services for more cargo shipment. A growth in the logistic and trade industries will certainly enhance Hong Kong's competitive edge and strengthen its role as a business and cargo shipment hub.

Looking forward, the SELS will expand to the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point when it comes into operation later. Hong Kong Customs will organise a seminar in Mainland with Guangdong Sub-Administration of China Customs later this year to promote the scheme. It will also work to refine the scheme by enhancing the e-lock security and other related requirements.

Land Boundary Command

THE SECOND INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY STUDY OF HONG KONG CUSTOMS IN THE PIPELINE



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam (second right), chairs the first Project Assurance Team Meeting of the ISSS.

To ensure the Department's sustainable development, Hong Kong Customs has all along been committed to enhancing operational efficiency and services quality through the development of various Information Technology (IT) systems and an innovative application of technologies. At present, there are 51 information systems supporting all sorts of the Department's day-to-day operations, with some of them are being used for law enforcement and trade facilitation purposes while some others are running for the purposes of administrative supports and office management. Over the years, these systems and the IT infrastructure as a whole have been refined and updated from time to time to keep abreast of the times.

An Information Systems Strategy Study (ISSS) was first done in 2003. To proceed along the Department's "Smart Customs" strategy and make it a key and keen player in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, Hong Kong Customs commissioned a consultancy firm to embark on a new round of ISSS

in December last year. This latest round of ISSS aims to formulate an up-to-date and overarching IT strategic plan for the coming decade and beyond.

To take forward such an adventurous and comprehensive study, the second ISSS adopts a diversified approach, ranging from thematic departmental seminars, orientation visits, focus group discussions to consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders at managerial, administrative and operational levels for an in-depth and systematic research. A departmental seminar was held on March 4 this year to introduce the objectives and implementation roadmap of the study to staff members.

The first Project Assurance Team Meeting chaired by Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam with the participation of the Department's formation heads was also convened in

February. Among others, the meeting finalised the study's focus and scope, strategic objectives and phrasal targets. Co-ordinated by the Office of Information Technology, the consultant is reviewing the current models of IT adoption and assessing the feasibility of viable technological solutions. The team will then recommend a series of strategic IT information systems with respective priorities to be adopted by the Department. With all-encompassing information to be gathered throughout the course of study, the ISSS final report is targeted for delivery by the end of 2019.

Office of Information Technology



The Information Systems Strategy Study consultants visit the Air Mail Centre to get an understanding of the customs clearance of postal parcels.

SYMPOSIUM ON MAINLAND-HONG KONG SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT IN GUANGDONG-HONG KONG-MACAO GREATER BAY AREA HELD



The Commissioner of the Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (fourth from bottom, left row), and the Vice Minister of the GACC, Mr Zou Zhiwu (third from bottom, right row), exchange views on customs-related matters during the conference.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, joined a Mainland-Hong Kong conference on supporting the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area organised by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). Chaired by Vice Minister of the GACC Mr Zou Zhiwu, the conference was held in Shenzhen on April 18 this year.

Addressing to the conference, Mr Tang assured that Hong Kong Customs would work along the state policy and make the best use of the opportunities arising from the commissioning of the new cross-boundary projects

to strengthen co-operation with its Mainland counterparts on customs clearance control matters. He also said that Hong Kong Customs would play an active role in the development of the Greater Bay Area under the blue print of "Smart Customs".

Since the promulgation of the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" in February this year, co-operation over customs matters has been stepping up in a proactive manner with an eye on facilitating the logistic industry's development in the Bay Area by speeding up clearance convenience and efficiency.

In the conference, the two sides also discussed and mapped out mechanism for various customs co-operation measures that include, the Single E-lock Scheme extension, friendly measures for high-value temperature-controlled goods and the setting up of a working group on Bay Area customs clearance facilitation.

Head of Guangdong Sub-Administrations of GACC Mr Zhang Guangzhi and Controller, Centre for Food Safety, Dr Ho Yuk-yin also joined the symposium.

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

THE FIRST 2019 MEETING OF THE APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

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 Santiago of Chile between February 26 and 28 this year.

To echo APEC's annual theme – "Connecting People, Building the Future" and its prioritised mission for a set of uniform customs procedures for the sake of trade facilitation, the SCCP assures that it would continue to undertake its pivotal role in setting forth initiatives over the matters of the

development of smart borders, smart logistics and smart trade.

During the meeting, Mr Tam also shared experience with the members on a number of contemporary issues, including the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement's



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (front row, eighth left) joins the First 2019 Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures which was held in Santiago, Chile.

implementation, the using of hi-tech approach to combat IP cybercrimes and partnership with express courier operators in strengthening the cross-

border e-commerce enforcement action. Hong Kong Customs also undertakes to co-sponsor a project proposal to accredit more small-and-

medium enterprises as Authorized Economic Operators.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation

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



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (first row, tenth right) joins the 20th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference which was held in Cochin, India between May 8 and 10 this year.

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam and Senior Staff Officer (Customs Affairs and Co-operation) Mr Will Ng joined the 20th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference which was held in Cochin, India between May 8 and 10 this year.

This high-level conference aims to

engage the customs' heads and senior officers in the Asia/Pacific Region to review and steer the customs strategies and operations in the region. Major issues of common interests including trade facilitation measures, performance measurement and e-commerce were discussed in details.

The appointment of Mr Norikazu Kuramoto as the next Head of the

WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) for a five-year term from this July was also endorsed in the meeting. Mr Tam expressed appreciation to Mr Kazunari Igarashi for his significant contribution to building up the regional customs capacity as the Head of the ROCB A/P over the past few years.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation

THE 11TH HKC-EU JOINT CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam led a delegation to Brussels, Belgium on July 1 this year and met the Director of International and General Affairs of the Directorate General of Taxation and Customs Union of the European

Commission, Ms Sabine Henzler, in the 11th Hong Kong, China (HKC) - European Union (EU) Joint Customs Co-operation Committee (JCCC) Meeting. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the latest progress in the implementation of the Action Plan on Cooperation in the

Customs Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights and the Phase III of the Smart and Secure Trade Lanes Pilot Project. The two sides pledged for a continuous collaboration in these areas. Active steps to explore for a mutual Authorized Economic Operator Programme recognition will also be taken.



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (front row, second left), Director of International and General Affairs of the Directorate General of Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission Ms Sabine Henzler (front row, centre) and other participants in a group photo during the 11th JCCC Meeting.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement on Co-operation and Mutual Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters between HKC and the EU, the JCCC Meeting also gives an assurance of close ties between the two sides.

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

HONG KONG CUSTOMS SHARES EXPERIENCE AT “RESPECT FOR IP – GROWING FROM THE TIP OF AFRICA” CONFERENCE

The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai, and the Group Head (Intellectual Property Investigation (Operations)), Mr Guy Fong, attended the International Conference “Respect for IP – Growing from the Tip of Africa” (the Conference) in Sandton, South Africa between October 23 and 25 last year.

Organised by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in collaboration



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai (third left), and WCO Secretary General, Mr Kunio Mikuriya (fourth right), in a group photo with other panelists of “Respect for IP Through Collaborative Enforcement” at the International Conference “Respect for IP – Growing from the Tip of Africa”.

with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) of South Africa, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), INTERPOL and the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Conference provided a global dialogue forum for co-operation over intellectual property (IP) rights protection for 400 participants from some 70 countries/regions, including government ministers, senior enforcement officers and representatives from the public and

private sector.

During the panel discussion of “Respect for IP Through Collaborative Enforcement”, Mr Lai shared the enforcement strategies and experience of Hong Kong Customs in joining hands with international law enforcement agencies including customs, police authorities and the IP industry to combat organised transnational IP crimes.

Hong Kong Customs’ participation

in the Conference has further strengthened its collaboration with the international counterparts and IP stakeholders. The Conference is conducive to a closer partnership in the fight against transnational IP crimes as well as the protection of public health and safety.

**Intellectual Property
Investigation Bureau**

THE 38TH WCO ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Senior Superintendent of the Intelligence Bureau Ms Kitty Poon and Divisional Commander (Intelligence Processing) Ms Lisa Au represented Hong Kong Customs at the 38th Session of the Enforcement Committee of the World Customs Organization (WCO) which took place in Brussels, Belgium from March 11 to 15 this year.

Under the theme of “Smart Borders: Knowledge Based Customs Enforcement”, over 200 delegates from the member administrations of the WCO and its partner organisations joined the meeting this year. The theme was chosen to highlight the crucial role played by data and technology in optimising Customs enforcement actions.

During the five-day meeting, delegates from the Customs administrations around the world had good exchanges over a wide range of topical issues,



Senior Superintendent of the Intelligence Bureau Ms Kitty Poon (left) and Divisional Commander (Intelligence Processing) Ms Lisa Au represented Hong Kong Customs at the 38th Session of Enforcement Committee of the World Customs Organization which was held in Brussels, Belgium from March 11 to 15 this year.

including environment protection, anti-narcotics, security maintenance, intelligence and risk management, cultural heritage, Intellectual Property Rights protection, revenue protection, and enforcement on money laundering and terrorism financing. Agenda of the

meeting was rich and substantial while the panel discussion sessions were lively and interactive, making the event an excellent platform for deliberation and experience sharing.

Intelligence Bureau

HONG KONG CUSTOMS ATTENDS WCO MEETINGS ON CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTEGRITY



Senior Staff Officer (Training Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling (left) and Senior Inspector Ms Wong Siu-yin represent Hong Kong Customs at three WCO meetings on capacity building and integrity held in Brussels, Belgium between April 4 and 12 this year.

Senior Staff Officer (Training Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling and Senior Inspector Ms Wong Siu-yin represented Hong Kong Customs in three meetings on capacity building and integrity held by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels between April 4 and 12 this year. The three meetings in order were: the "14th Global Meeting of the Heads of the Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCBs), the Regional Training

Centres (RTCs) and the Vice-Chairs' Offices, the "10th Session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee (CBC)" and the "18th Session of the WCO Integrity Sub-Committee (ISC)".

During the 14th Global Meeting, delegates reaffirmed their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the new WCO Strategic Plan and proliferation of the RTCs.

Under the CBC's theme of "Reflecting on the Past, Embracing the Future", progress and development made over the past decade in terms of capacity building were highlighted. Delegates also discussed the latest initiatives of the WCO and gave further thoughts on the way forward for the promotion of customs professionalism.

In the ISC meeting, delegates shared experience in enhancing integrity awareness. Practices of truthfulness and ethical standards assessment were also discussed.

The meetings are good platform for delegates to keep abreast of the latest development of the WCO's initiatives on capacity building and integrity. As one of the RTCs in the Asia Pacific region, Hong Kong Customs College pledges to keep up its support for the WCO's capacity building development in the region through organising workshops and sharing good practices with other customs administrations.

Office of Training and Development

EU-HK ACTION PLAN ENHANCES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT

In order to learn about the policies and field operation conducted by customs authorities of the European Union (EU) on intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement and to further enhance co-operation under the EU-HK Action Plan, Senior Superintendent of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Mr Kwan Kin-keung led a three-member delegation to visit

the customs authorities of Germany, Belgium and France from December 4 to 8 last year. This was also the first time the delegation had attended the annual coordination meeting organised by customs authorities in the EU regarding the EU-HK Action Plan in Belgium on December 7.

During the visit, the delegation visited

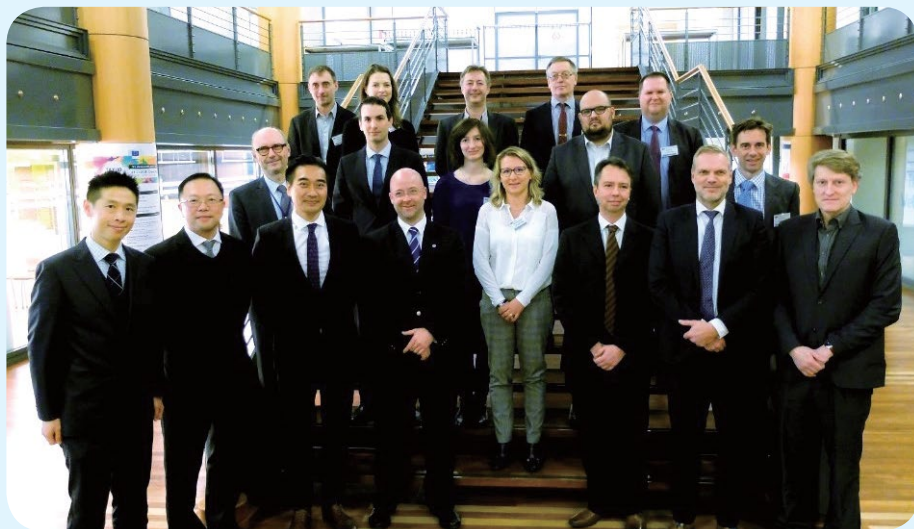
Frankfurt Airport in Germany and Roissy Airport in France, and were briefed the procedures of customs clearance on air consignments. The delegation also visited the Antwerpen seaport and Liege Airport in Belgium, which are respectively the second busiest seaport and the seventh largest cargo airport in the EU. The delegation gained a good understanding of sea

cargo and express cargo clearance in the country.

Amid the visits, the delegation attended for the first time the annual

co-ordination meeting organised by customs authorities in the EU regarding IPR enforcement under the EU-HK Action Plan. During the meeting, the two sides frankly reviewed the collaboration, reaffirmed their commitment to continue the co-operation and explored the feasibility of extending the enforcement operation against counterfeits from air mode to sea mode, broadening the scope of co-operation under the EU-HK Action Plan.

**Intellectual Property
Investigation Bureau**



Senior Superintendent of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Mr Kwan Kin-keung (front row, third left) and delegation members attended the annual coordination meeting in Belgium organised by customs authorities of the EU regarding IPR enforcement under the EU-HK Action Plan.

THE FIFTH 3-COUNTRY-4-PARTY ANNUAL MEETING

The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai, led officers from Intelligence Bureau and Customs Drug Investigation Bureau and joined the Fifth Three-Country-Four-Party (3C4P) Annual Meeting held in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province on April 9 and 10 this year.

With an aim of strengthening joint efforts in combating transnational drug-trafficking activities and enhancing intelligence network, the 3C4P Group was set up in 2015 by the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of General Administration of Customs of China, Australian Border Force, Australian Federal Police, Hong Kong Customs and New Zealand Customs Service. Operation has been good since its establishment.

In the meeting, latest drug trafficking trends and details of significant co-



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Ellis Lai (front row, fourth right), Deputy Director General of the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of General Administration of Customs of China, Mr Wang He (front row, middle) and other representatives in a group photo.

operation cases were shared. Hong Kong Customs also highlighted the development of drug detection database and enforcement action in the year. Members also voted for the admission of the Macao Customs Service to the Group. Looking forward, the Group will expand the areas of co-

operation to the enforcement actions against the smuggling of endangered species, solid wastes and tobacco products.

**Intelligence Bureau
Customs Drug Investigation
Bureau**

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

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Mr Chan Tsz-tat 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 to join the Third High-Level Meeting for Customs Clearance Co-operation at the Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point. The meeting was held in Shenzhen on March 19 this year. The Shenzhen delegation was led by Shenzhen Customs Counsel Mr Lin Guozhong.

At the meeting, views on different customs issues and mutual-co-operation were exchanged. The discussion was good for strengthening



Both sides exchange views on co-operative measures for the Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point.

mutual-understanding and facilitating further co-operation in different areas. Members of both sides also visited the works site of the Liantang / Heung

Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point to have a look at the construction progress.

Land Boundary Command

HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND FOREIGN COUNTERPARTS



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (centre), meets the Consul-General of Japan to Hong Kong, Mr Mitsuhiro Wada (second right), at the Customs Headquarters Building on March 11 this year.

Playing an active role in the global customs community and positioning itself as an economic development promoter, Hong Kong Customs' top echelon frequently meets representatives from foreign customs and government bodies to strengthen customs co-operations in areas of law enforcement, trade facilitation and other matters.

On March 11 this year, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, met the Consul-General of Japan to Hong Kong, Mr Mitsuhiro Wada. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the strengthening of

customs collaboration, facilitating the legitimate trade and promoting the economic development between the two economies.

On March 18 this year, Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam met a delegation led by the Director of International and General Affairs of the Directorate General of Taxation and Customs Union of the European

Commission, Ms Sabine Henzler. Both sides discussed the latest progress for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement under the Authorized Economic Operator Programme. Collective efforts by both sides in the area of intellectual property rights protection were also raised during the meeting.

On March 25, the Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Mr Chan Tsz-tat had a meeting with

a delegation led by the President of Bahrain Customs Affairs, His Excellency Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Both sides exchanged views on matters of customs clearance and trade facilitation. On the next day, the delegation continued their visit to the customs facilities at the Cathay Pacific Cargo Terminal.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (fourth right) meets Director of International and General Affairs of the Directorate General of Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission Ms Sabine Henzler (fourth left), at the Customs Headquarters Building on March 18 this year.



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Chan Tsz-tat (front row, third right), meets the President of Bahrain Customs Affairs, His Excellency Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa (front row, third left), at the Super Terminal One on March 25 this year.

VICE MINISTER OF GACC VISITS HONG KONG CUSTOMS

The Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Mr Li Guo, visited the Hong Kong Customs on May 5 and 6 this

year and had a meeting with the Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho.

During the meeting, both sides made a

good exchange in matters of customs facilitation and mutual co-operations. Foundation of sound co-operation between the two sides for the sake of the economic development within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development was also laid.

The Mainland counterparts also visited the Hong Kong Port Area of the West Kowloon Station of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. They were briefed of the Hong Kong Customs' passenger and cargo clearance operation.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



The Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho (front row, fourth right), the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of China, Mr Li Guo (front row, fourth left), and delegation members in a group photo.

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION VISITS LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT



Accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho (third right), and the Head of Land Boundary Command, Ms Sandra Tam (fifth right), the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung (fourth right), inspects Lok Ma Chau Control Point on the Lunar New Year's Day.

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung, paid a visit to the Lok Ma Chau Control Point (LMCCP) on February 5, which was the first day of this year's traditional Lunar calendar.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner

of Customs and Excise Ms Louise Ho and Head of Land Boundary Command Ms Sandra Tam, the Chief Secretary met front-line officers and saw for himself the smooth customs clearance operation at the Arrival Hall.

Being one of the busiest land boundary control points in Hong Kong, LMCCP always put Hong Kong-Shenzhen connectivity on top of its agenda and strive to keep smooth passenger and cargo flows between the two places. Thanks

to the good traffic projection and well co-ordinated contingency plans formulated beforehand, smooth go-through went uninterrupted during the busy new year period. The Chief Secretary was briefed of the customs operational plan for passenger clearance and was pleased to know that all the concerned government agencies had been working well in the critical period.

During the visit, Mr Cheung gave his best wishes to the front-line officers. Expressing an appreciation to the officers at LMCCP for their dedication, he also encouraged colleagues to keep up their good work and continue to serve the public with excellence.

Land Boundary Command

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SECURITY PANEL VISITS AIR MAIL CENTRE AND KWAI CHUNG CUSTOMHOUSE

Members of the Legislative Council Panel on Security visited the Air Mail Centre in Chek Lap Kok and the Kwai Chung Customhouse on January 29 this year to get an understanding of the customs clearance procedures for the air mail and seaborne cargo in Hong Kong.

Led by Panel Chairman Hon Chan Hak-kan, Panel Members Hon Paul Tse, Hon Michael Tien, Hon Yiu Si-wing, Hon Chan Chi-chuen, Dr Elizabeth Quat and Dr Cheng Chung-tai joined the visit. Accompanied by Deputy Customs and Excise Commissioner Ms Louise Ho, the delegation first visited the Air Mail Centre and saw themselves how the Hong Kong Customs' Airport Command stops smuggling activities in the air mail channel with the assistance



Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise Ms Louise Ho (centre) accompanies Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security Hon Chan Hak-kan (fourth right) and Panel Members at a visit to the Air Mail Centre.

of a variety of advanced non-intrusive examination equipment.

The visitors subsequently went to the Kwai Chung Customhouse where customs clearance examination over seaborne cargo was demonstrated by officers from the Ports and

Maritime Command. Through the visits, the Panel Members got a good understanding of the customs' anti-smuggling efforts.

**Airport Command
Ports and Maritime Command**

GACC AND HK CUSTOMS STRENGTHEN DOG HANDLER TRAINING

The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and the Customs Detector Dog Division (CDDD) jointly organised a post-course training programme in Hong Kong for two Mainland-trained dog teams between February 18 and 27 this year. Thanks to the professional lecture by the GACC Anti-smuggling Bureau's veteran dog trainer who shared precious experience with his Hong Kong counterparts, the training programme well consolidates the trainees' dog-handling skill and partnership with their canines.

Subsequent to the successful completion of the post-course training, Deputy Director General of Anti-smuggling Bureau Mr Li Yunlong came to Hong Kong and had a meeting with



Dog instructor from the General Administration of Customs of China conducts parcel search training for Customs Detector Dog Team in Hong Kong.

the Hong Kong Customs between February 28 and March 1. Apart from making a review of detector dog training cooperation in the past years, both sides also discussed the

way forward with an aim to further consolidate mutual co-operation in the matters.

Land Boundary Command

HONG KONG CUSTOMS TAKES ACTION IN COUNTER-TERRORISM EXERCISE "POWERSKY"

The Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU) set up by the Security Bureau co-ordinated its first inter-departmental counter-terrorism (CT) exercise, codenamed "Powersky",

in February and March this year. The exercise simulated a terrorist cell plotting an attack in Hong Kong with home-made explosives.

"Powersky" was a three-phase intelligence-led exercise in which the Hong Kong Customs' Counter Terrorism Coordination Group (CTCG) took the lead to organise and coordinate. In the first phase of the exercise, member departments conducted scenario-based intelligence gathering and development on an individual basis and reported the CT intelligence to ICTU. Through the intelligence collation and analysis in the second phase, ICTU identified a terrorist cell planning to smuggle precursor chemicals for a plotted attack in Hong Kong.

The third and final phase was a field operation exercise conducted at Lei



Officers of the Customs and Excise Department conduct an examination on a goods vehicle with the Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System.

Yue Mun Park on March 25 which involved about 270 officers from six ICTU member departments. Customs participants consisted of officers from the Intelligence Bureau, Cross-boundary Bridge Command, Land Boundary Command and Ports and Maritime Command. As a kick-start, Hong Kong Customs conducted an examination on a suspicious incoming goods vehicle at a simulated land boundary control point with the assistance of the Mobile X-ray Vehicle

Scanning System and explosive detector dog. Upon the detection of a batch of suspected bomb-making chemicals, CTCG swiftly reported the findings to the ICTU. Under ICTU's co-ordination, member departments promptly took respective actions and foiled the terrorist plot.

Effectively enhanced the co-ordination for quick response amongst various departments to CT intelligence, the successful conclusion of the first inter-

departmental CT exercise "Powersky" also strengthened the public understanding of the ICTU's CT work.

Scan below QR code to play the footage of CT Exercise "Powersky":



Intelligence Bureau

PASSING OUT PARADES OF HONG KONG CUSTOMS COLLEGE



President of the Legislative Council Hon Andrew Leung inspects the Probationary Customs Officers at the passing-out parade.

Graced by the inspections by the then Deputy Commissioner of the Customs and Excise, Mr Lin Shun-yin, and the President of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Andrew Leung, it is the Hong Kong Customs' honour to stage two passing-out parades for 15 Probationary Inspectors and 418 Probationary Customs Officers at the Hong Kong Customs College (HKCC) on January 4 and May 10 this year respectively.

In the January's parade, Mr Lin expressed his appreciation in inspecting

the parade and congratulated the graduates who had successfully completed the 15-week tough training programme. He encouraged the graduates to overcome the challenges ahead with confidence and enthusiasm. He also expected the graduates to perform duties in full strength and demonstrate professional commitment.

In the May's Parade, Mr Leung congratulated the Department on its 110th anniversary, the 45th anniversary of the commissioning of HKCC (formerly known as Customs

and Excise Training School), and the accreditation of the induction programmes for both Inspectorate grade and Customs Officer grade staff under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework. He praised all graduates who marched in synchronised steps with high spirits, embodying in full the training outcome and extraordinary perseverance. Mr Leung also told the graduates that the duties of the Department are highly diversified and closely related to the people's life. He encouraged the graduates to keep their learning process, boost professional ability, remain committed to the rule of law, uphold integrity and fulfill their duties impartially and diligently.

Over 800 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.

Office of Training and Development

ELEVENTH CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT COURSE



A course instructor shares experience with participants of the Eleventh Customs Management Development Course held from March 11 to April 3 this year.

The Eleventh Customs Management Development Course organised by the Office of Training and Development was held from March 11 to April 3 this

year. Eighteenth officers comprising 14 Assistant Superintendents and four Chief Trade Controls Officers from various commands received invaluable

lectures from Ex-Deputy Commissioner Mr Richard Yu and other renowned scholars.

This 18-day course covered a wide range of subjects, ranging from leadership and management skills, media knowledge to legal training.

The course also included a four-day study visit to the Guangdong Customs. Beefing up the participants' understanding of the Mainland Customs' practice, smooth operational collaboration with the Guangdong counterparts is also maintained.

Office of Training and Development

HONG KONG CUSTOMS REACHES OUT TO PROMOTE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION

Hong Kong Customs has been committed to protecting the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) through enforcement and education.



Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise Ms Louise Ho (back row, seventh left) and Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Intelligence and Investigation) Ms Ida Ng (back row, sixth right) are pictured with officers of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau and Customs Detector Dog Division.

On April 17 and 18 this year, Assistant Superintendent of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Ms Leung Suet-kwan led 18 youngsters to pay a visit to Huizhou, Guangdong under the "Guangdong/Hong Kong IPR Exchange Visit for Youngsters" programme jointly organised by Hong Kong Customs, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) and the Guangdong Copyright Bureau. During the visit, the participants actively engaged in the exchange programme with local students which further enhanced their knowledge and awareness on the protection of IPR.

Also, to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day set on April 26 annually,

the Scout Association of Hong Kong organised the "Respect for Intellectual Property Rights Fun Day" at Macpherson Playground, Mong Kok on May 5 this year with Hong Kong Customs as a supporting organisation. The Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho, joined the event and officiated the launching ceremony.

A booth was manned by Hong Kong Customs with both informative and entertaining activities. A specially designed promotion truck jointly run by Hong Kong Customs and the IPD featured the "Youth Ambassadors Against Internet Piracy Scheme" and the "I Pledge" Campaign. The event was well-received by over 2 000 participants.

Hong Kong Customs will continue to reach out the community by organising and joining different kinds of events to convey the message of respecting IPR and promote the Department's image.

**Intellectual Property
Investigation Bureau**

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST FUND SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTATION CEREMONY



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (sixth left), member of Trust Fund Committee Mr Alexander Wong (sixth right), member of Investment Advisory Board Mr Choi Ka-tsan (fifth left), and awardees at the Scholarships Presentation Ceremony.

The first Customs and Excise Service Children's Education Trust Fund Scholarships Presentation Ceremony was held at the Auditorium, Customs Headquarters Building on April 1 this year. Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang, Chairman of Trust Fund Committee Mr Sin Ngayan, member of Trust Fund Committee Mr Alexander Wong, and member of Investment Advisory Board Mr Choi Ka-tsan, presented scholarships to

the awardees. Guests, senior officers, awardees and their families gathered at CESSOM to share happiness.

Customs and Excise Service Children's Education Trust Fund Ordinance has been in place since 1997. It aims to provide assistance for customs officers' children to receive higher education or special education. The Fund offers assistance to more than a hundred officers' children each year. This year,

the Trust Fund Committee raised the amount of higher education grants and special grants, and introduced the Sports Scholarships and Dean's List/Best Academic Performance Scholarships, further strengthening its commitment to support customs officers' children.

Office of Service Administration

ANTI-ILLCIT CIGARETTE CO-OPERATION WITH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES STEPPED UP

Revenue and General Investigation Bureau of the Hong Kong Customs has all along stepped up its ties and cooperation with the District Fight Crime Committees (DFCCs) in its bid to combat illicit cigarette activities.

In 2018, its officers joined DFCC meetings in all the 18 districts of Hong Kong to brief the committee members of the Department's anti-illicit cigarette efforts and promote anti-illicit cigarette messages in district level. Officers also made street-level outreach by setting up promotional booths to raise public awareness against illicit cigarette activities. Besides, officers also made an eye-catching presence in the Yuen Long DFCC Carnival,



Head of Revenue and General Investigation Bureau Mr Wong Jug-tung (second right) briefs the Sham Shui Po District Fight Crime Committee of the Department's anti-illicit cigarette efforts and promotes anti-illicit cigarette messages.

reminding members of the public through interactive means to stay an arm length from the activities. Positive reactions were given and the efforts have been well-rewarded.

Meanwhile, a newly-produced TV Announcement of Public Interest disseminating anti-illicit cigarette

message has been broadcast since March this year. Hong Kong Customs pledges to continue its enforcement action and publicity efforts in the front of anti-illicit cigarette mission.

Revenue and General Investigation Bureau

NEW CUSTOMS RADAR MONITORING COMMAND CENTRE STARTS OPERATION



The Customs Radar Monitoring Command Centre at the Customs Marine Base.

Hong Kong Customs strives to step up its radar monitoring efficiency so that the highest degree of effectiveness in law enforcement at sea can be guaranteed. Thanks to the opening of the new Customs Radar Monitoring

Command Centre in mid-November last year, the purpose is achieved.

Located in the Customs Marine Base, the radar monitoring system runs with the support of three computer

workstations. It also features a mega screen made up of 12 sets of 55-inch LED TVs. Apart from that, there is also a system transferring real-time field images to the Command Centre, by which an excellent marine command is made possible.

Besides, signals from as many as 13 radar stations throughout Hong Kong can now be received concurrently by the new radar system. Other new functions, such as target identification as well as optimal route and speed for target interception are also available. All these new functions help much the Hong Kong Customs in its marine enforcement.

Ports and Maritime Command