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IN FOCUS

17th WCO Asia/
Pacific Regional
Heads of Customs
Administration
(RHCA)
Conference

NEWS FROM THE REGION

MRA on AEO
Programs Signed
Between Malaysia
and Hong Kong
Customs

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Opening of Vice-
Chair Office in
FRCA

ASEAN

The 25th ASEAN
Directors-General
of Customs
Meeting (ADGC)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Earlier GRIPS
Graduates Got
Together Again in
Japan in March
2016

ROCB A/P

ROCB A/P
Introduces the A/P
Region's Good
Practices



CONTENTS	PAGE
EDITOR'S NOTE	3
IN FOCUS:	
◇ 17 th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference	4
◇ Private Sector Engagement Forum 2016	6
NEWS FROM THE REGION:	
◇ MRA on AEO Programs Signed Between Malaysia and Hong Kong Customs	8
◇ Co-operation Arrangement between General Administration of China Customs and Hong Kong Customs on Origin of Transshipment Cargo in Hong Kong under Free Trade Agreements	9
◇ International Customs Day	10
◇ Hong Kong Customs Busted a Transnational Cigarette Smuggling Syndicate - A Good Case of International Cooperation	12
◇ Opening of Vice-Chair Office in FRCA	14
◇ Confirmation of Appointment – General Manager Customs & Excise	14
◇ Hong Kong Customs Launched the "Single E-Lock Scheme" Together With China Customs to Further Facilitate Clearance of Transshipment Cargoes	15
◇ The Royal Malaysian Customs Museum	16
◇ Fiji Detector Dog New Office Construction Begins	19
◇ Drug Seizure	19
WORDS OF HONOUR AND APPRECIATION	20
ASEAN:	
◇ The 24 th Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC)	21
◇ The 25 th ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting (ADGC)	23
CAPACITY BUILDING:	
◇ Earlier GRIPS Graduates Got Together Again in Japan in March 2016	25
◇ English Language Training Programme	27
◇ Japan Customs Hosted the Research Visit of Thai Customs Officers under the JICA Project for Capacity Development on Rules of Origin	29
ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING (ROCB A/P):	
◇ Staff Updates	31
◇ ROCB A/P Reports Its Activities to Directors General and Commissioners in the Region	32
◇ ROCB A/P Introduces the A/P Region's Good Practices	33
◇ ROCB A/P Represents the WCO to Oceania Customs Organisation's Annual Conference to Discuss Digital Customs	34
◇ Publication of ROCB A/P E-Newsletter No. 52	35

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Asia/Pacific Members,

It is my great pleasure to bring you the 52nd issue of the Asia/Pacific Customs News which is the last edition published by Royal Malaysian Customs in its capacity as the WCO Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair which ends in July 2016. This issue highlights the WCO events and regional activities that had taken place in the month of March to June 2016.

The 17th Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur from 14-18 March 2016. Among the significant outcomes of the meeting were the endorsement of Fiji as the next Vice-Chair for the Asia/Pacific region, the revised Term of Reference for the Regional Contact Points (RCP) and the new mechanism for nomination of Vice-Chair.

The conference also marked another milestone for the Asia/Pacific region as the first Private Sector Engagement at the Regional Heads meeting was held on the second day of the conference in the form of a forum and exhibition. With the theme "The Use of Advanced Technology for Effective and Efficient Customs Operations", the event attracted 300 participants comprising Customs, private sectors and other government agencies. Eleven exhibitors from local and foreign companies took part in the exhibition which showcased advanced technology utilized by Customs Administrations in their daily operation.

On a different note, on behalf of the Vice-Chair office and the WCO Asia/Pacific Members in general, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Ms. Harumi Chikada, the WCO Regional Development Officer for Asia/Pacific who ends her tour of duty at the WCO Secretariat on 21st June 2016. Ms. Harumi is a remarkable, hardworking person and her personality is loved by everyone who had the privileges to work closely with her. Her enduring supports and commitments towards enhancing the capacity building in the Asia/Pacific region will always be remembered for many years to come and I wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority for assuming the Vice-Chair post commencing July 2016. I hope all Members will continue to support Fiji in performing her role as the Vice-Chair as had been extended to Malaysia, particularly in contribution of articles for the next issues of Asia/Pacific Customs News which will be published by Fiji for the next two years.

Thank you.

NOR HAZIAH ABD. WAHAB
Editorial Director



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IN FOCUS

17th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference



The 17th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 14 to 18 March 2016. Dato' Sri Khazali Ahmad, Director General of Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) / WCO Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair chaired the conference which was represented by delegations from 20 Member countries. The Secretary General of the WCO, representatives from Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) Asia/Pacific, Head of the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) Asia Pacific, delegates from the United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) and the WCO Secretariat also attended the conference as observers.



IN FOCUS

17th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference



During the conference, Members deliberated and endorsed various Asia/Pacific Customs issues and activities which included endorsement of Fiji as the next WCO Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair; progress on Asia/Pacific Regional Strategic Plan, enforcement activities related to action against counterfeiting, piracy and drugs as well as proposal on a new WCO Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair Nomination Mechanism and review of the Terms of Reference for the Regional Contact Points. Members also had an active discussions on Digital Customs, WCO's Election and Governance, Trade Facilitation Initiatives and Regional Priorities. During the four day event, the conference also witnessed several bilateral meetings between Members and an MRA AEO was signed between Malaysia and Hong Kong, China.



IN FOCUS

Private Sector Engagement Forum 2016



In conjunction with the 17th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference, a forum and exhibition with the theme 'The Use of Advanced Technology for Effective and Efficient Customs Operations' was held and attended by 300 participants comprising private sectors, Customs, other government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The opening ceremony of the Private Sector Engagement Forum and RHCA Conference was held on 16 March 2016 and officiated by the Honourable Dato' Seri Haji Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah, Minister of Finance II of Malaysia. In his



IN FOCUS

Private Sector Engagement Forum 2016

keynote address, he highlighted the important role played by Customs in contributing to the government revenue and economic growth. He also encouraged Customs to continue the good work and emphasized the need for strong cooperation between Customs Administrations.



After the opening ceremony, a press conference was conducted involving the Vice-Chair, WCO Secretary General, China Customs, Korea Customs Service and RMCD. Among others, the press conference highlighted the outcomes of the operations on IPR and drugs trafficking conducted in the Asia/Pacific region namely Joint Enforcement Action on IPR Asia/Pacific, Operation Skynet II and Operation CATalyst.



During the Forum a total of 15 presentations were delivered by respective speakers in 3 panel sessions which discussed the following topics:

PANEL 1 :

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY CUSTOMS AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS THEM

Presenters:

- China Customs;
- Japan Customs;
- Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System (NACCS) Center;
- New Zealand Customs Service, and
- US Customs and Border Protection.

PANEL 2:

ADVANCED/MODERN TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL TO ENHANCE TRADE FACILITATION AND SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY

Presenters:

- Nuctech Co. Ltd.;
- SICPA Product Security Sdn. Bhd.;
- Lembah Sari;
- TASCO Berhad/Mega Fortris (M) Sdn Bhd.;
- Prisma Khas Sdn. Bhd.; and
- Ishida Systems (M) Sdn. Bhd.

PANEL 3:

TECHNOLOGY AND THE WAY FORWARD FOR CUSTOMS

Presenters:

- Hitachi High-Technologies (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.;
- Regional Customs Laboratory (Central Customs Laboratory, Japan);
- Royal Malaysian Customs Department;
- Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL); and
- GS1.

The exhibition was participated by 11 exhibitors comprising local and foreign companies namely Nuctech Company Limited, SICPA, Lembah Sari, Tasco Berhad, Prisma Khas Sdn Bhd, Mega Fortris, Ishida Systems (M) Sdn. Bhd, Hitachi Technologies (Singapore) Pte. Ltd , Rigaku Corporation, Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidation Systems (NACCS) and NTT DATA. Most of the items exhibited are tools and devices used by Customs Administrations in their daily operations such as scanner machines, forensic instruments, tracking devices and security ink.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

MRA on AEO Programs Signed Between Malaysia and Hong Kong Customs

The Director General of Malaysian Customs, Dato' Sri Khazali Haji Ahmad representing the Government of Malaysia and The Commissioner of Customs and Excise Hong Kong, Mr Roy Tang signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) programs between the Government of Malaysia and Hong Kong Customs on 17th June 2016.

The MRA signing ceremony was held in conjunction with the 17th World Customs Organization Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 14th to 18th March 2016 and was witnessed by the WCO Secretary General, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya.

The purpose of the MRA is for each participant to accept the validation and approval status granted to Members of the other AEO program. The mutually recognized AEOs will then enjoy substantial, comparable and where possible reciprocal benefits/facilitation provided by both participants of the MRA.



Malaysia started its AEO program in January 2010 and to date there are 56 companies which have been granted the AEO status comprising importers, exporters and manufacturers. The MRA with the Hong Kong Customs is the second MRA on AEO signed by Malaysia.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Co-operation Arrangement between General Administration of China Customs and Hong Kong Customs on Origin of Transshipment Cargo in Hong Kong under Free Trade Agreements



On May 24, 2016, the Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Roy Tang, and the Minister of the General Administration of China Customs, Mr Yu Guangzhou, signed a Co-operation Arrangement on Origin of Transshipment Cargo in Hong Kong under Free Trade Agreements.

To strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international trade and logistics hub as well as to encourage the trade to choose Hong Kong as a transshipment location for their goods, General Administration of China Customs and Hong Kong Customs signed the Co-operation Arrangement to further facilitate mainland China-bound consignments passing through Hong Kong to enjoy tariff reduction of mainland China. The Co-operation Arrangement covers goods traded

between mainland China and its trading partners, including ten Member States of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), Australia, Bangladesh, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, India, Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Taiwan.

Hong Kong Customs has rolled out the Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (FTA Scheme) since December 20, 2015 to provide supervision service and issue a Certificate of Non-Manipulation to enable traders to claim tariff reduction from the Customs authorities at the importing end. As at April 30, 2016, Hong Kong

Customs received 1120 applications with a total value of goods exceeding US\$88 million and estimated tariff reduction of over US\$5.1 million. The FTA Scheme allows goods passing through Hong Kong to enjoy tariff reduction, strengthens Hong Kong's status as a logistics hub in the region, and enhances the development of local trade, commerce and logistics sectors under China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Hong Kong Customs is committed to facilitating global trade and will continue to take an active role in the development of trade facilitation measures with other Customs administrations in benefiting both local and overseas businesses.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

International Customs Day



Fiji joined its 179 counterparts to celebrate the “**International Customs Day**” 2016.

Like previous years the “**International Customs Day**” was celebrated at our various ports with the main event held in Suva- our Head office with the Attorney General and Minister for Finance - Honorable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum officiating as the Chief Guest.

With the theme “**Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement**”, the Fijian Customs launched the ASYCUDA World in outer ports to mark the day.

Digitalization of data and information sharing is crucial as the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority works toward the efficient trade and travel facilitation for better yields in revenues and border security.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

International Customs Day



Across the customs supply chain, traders, agents, freight forwarders, carriers and border agencies are embracing new digital technologies. To remain attractive destinations for trade, we must personalize our services and provide more engaging user experiences—**making life easier** for the trading community, other border agencies and our staff.

Also new waves of innovation are driving an urgent need for a common digital platform across the customs supply chain. Using well-defined architectures, governance and services, new digital platforms are accessible by the entire trade ecosystem, as well as third party service providers.

A two day Public Awareness program was also organized at the government referral center on 25th and 26th January.

Some of our key stakeholders like Immigration, Environment, Health and Bio-Security Authority of Fiji also participated in the two day awareness program.

One of the key highlights of the 2016 **International Customs Day** was the launch of C2C- the launch of a facility called the “Single Window” through the Coordinated Border Management concept.

This facility allows Border Agencies to streamline the documentation requirements for small crafts entering the shores of Fiji. It's a win-win situation for both Fijian Customs and the yacht owners.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Hong Kong Customs Busted a Transnational Cigarette Smuggling Syndicate - A Good Case of International Cooperation

Fighting against transnational cigarettes smuggling has been a long standing mission of the Customs world. The WCO has all along made

unceasing efforts calling for tightened cooperation between members on intelligence and information exchange.



NEWS FROM THE REGION

Hong Kong Customs Busted a Transnational Cigarette Smuggling Syndicate - A Good Case of International Cooperation



On the evening of 9 December 2015, HM Revenue & Customs provided a piece of information about the smuggling of cigarettes in four maritime containers. Given that the containers had already arrived in Hong Kong, the illicit cigarettes could have been on the track of further smuggling to another port or being distributed to the local market.

Against this backdrop, Hong Kong Customs worked against the clock to trace the movement and background of the containers. Consequently, the containers were

intercepted. Examination of the containers were conducted subsequently which resulted in the seizure of 19 million sticks of dutiable cigarettes valued at HK\$51.6M from two 40-foot containers.

The success of this cigarettes case did again reflect the good working partnership with HM Customs in battling against cigarettes smuggling syndicates and exchanging intelligence. Both administrations all along enjoy giving full support and appreciating co-operation to each other.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Opening of Vice-Chair Office in FRCA

Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) will be the next World Customs Organization (WCO) Vice-Chair's Secretariat and officiating the launching ceremony on the 28th July, 2016 will be the honorable Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney General and Minister for Finance, Public Enterprises, Public Service & Communications as Chief Guest. Secretary General for World Customs Organization, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya and Director General of Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Dato' Sri Khazali Bin Haji Ahmad will deliver the keynote speeches.

Fiji will also be hosting the WCO sub-regional workshop on Integrity under the sponsorship of Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). This workshop will be held from 27th to 29th July, 2016 at the WCO Regional Training Centre in FRCA complex in Nasese. The WCO sub-regional workshop on Integrity will inject the necessary capacity training to fuel the fight against corruption.

Confirmation of Appointment – General Manager Customs & Excise



Mr. Kumar Sami Goundar was appointed to General Manager Customs & Excise early February this year. He is also known by the name of "Sami" throughout Fiji and the region.

He has a lot of experience in almost all kinds of Customs' frontline jobs through more than 40 years of service to Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority. Based on this experience, he has been involved in a number of international capacity building and regional activities held both in and out of Fiji. His area of specialization is the Harmonized Classification System, and is a WCO accredited expert on HS.

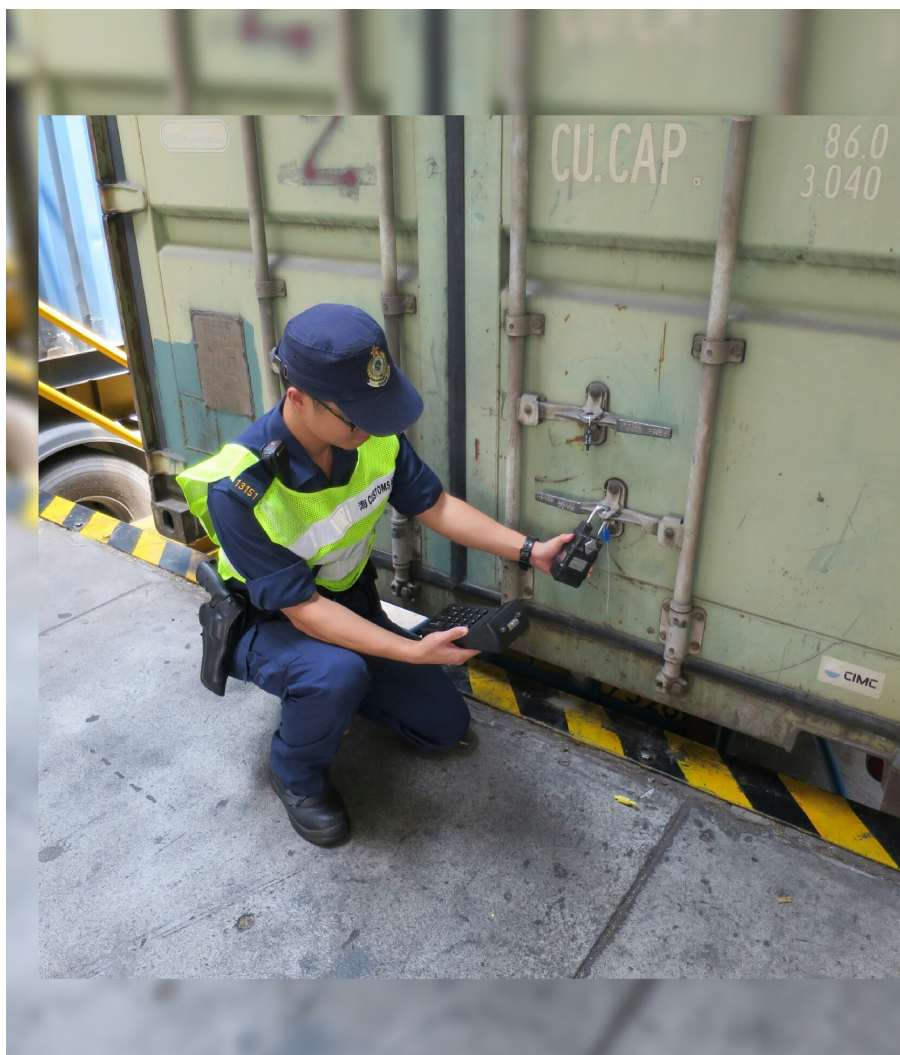
NEWS FROM THE REGION

Hong Kong Customs Launched the “Single E-Lock Scheme” Together With China Customs to Further Facilitate Clearance of Transshipment Cargoes

Hong Kong Customs is constantly developing initiatives in optimizing the Customs clearance procedures to enhance the security and increase the speed of cargoes moving across the boundary with the Mainland China. In November 2010, the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (ITFS) was launched to facilitate the trade by minimizing repeated inspection of transshipment cargoes at both the points of entry and exit. Under ITFS, transshipment cargoes, if examination is required, will normally be subject to customs inspection once either at the point of entry or exit in Hong Kong. Electronic locks (E-lock) are applied to the cargo compartments of goods vehicles to prevent the transshipment cargoes from being tampered with during the journeys. Besides, Global Positioning System (GPS) devices are used for monitoring the status of the E-Lock and tracking the movement of the goods vehicles to ensure the security of the cargoes in the conveyance within Hong Kong territory.

To expand the scope of facilitation, Hong Kong Customs and China Customs joined hands to launch the Single E-lock Scheme (the Scheme) on 28 March 2016 by interconnecting the ITFS with the China Customs' Speedy Customs Clearance (SCC). Under the Scheme, one single E-lock and GPS technology are applied to monitor and safeguard the security of the transshipment cargo by the two Customs administrations on the principle of “Across the Boundary with One Single E-lock under Separate Monitoring”. By using a Single E-lock, duplicate inspection on the same shipment by both Customs administrations will be reduced at the boundary, which helps to streamline the clearance process and expedite the flow of transshipment cargo. The scheme has now extended to the major clearance zones in Guangdong, China covering 22 clearance points and 264 routes.

Participation in the Scheme is on a voluntary basis. Interested parties must be registered user of ITFS and SCC and their vehicles have to be installed with an E-Lock and GPS equipment approved by the two Customs administrations.



NEWS FROM THE REGION

The Royal Malaysian Customs Museum

BACKGROUND

The museum is located at Quayside Street, Banda Hilir in the State of Melaka. It was established to showcase the collection of Royal Malaysian Customs (RMCD) historical items as well as to educate the public and also tourists about the roles and responsibilities played by Customs.

The collection of historical items on display covered the history of RMCD before the country gained its independence in 1957 to the present time. The museum portrayed collections of photographs of activities of RMCD, equipment that were used during the operation to collect taxes, tax regulations and guidance books and prohibited goods seized which were brought into or out of Malaysia. Exhibition at the Museum is presented in 'edutainment' form in three-dimensional graphics with interactive displays in Malay and English.



NEWS FROM THE REGION

The Royal Malaysian Customs Museum

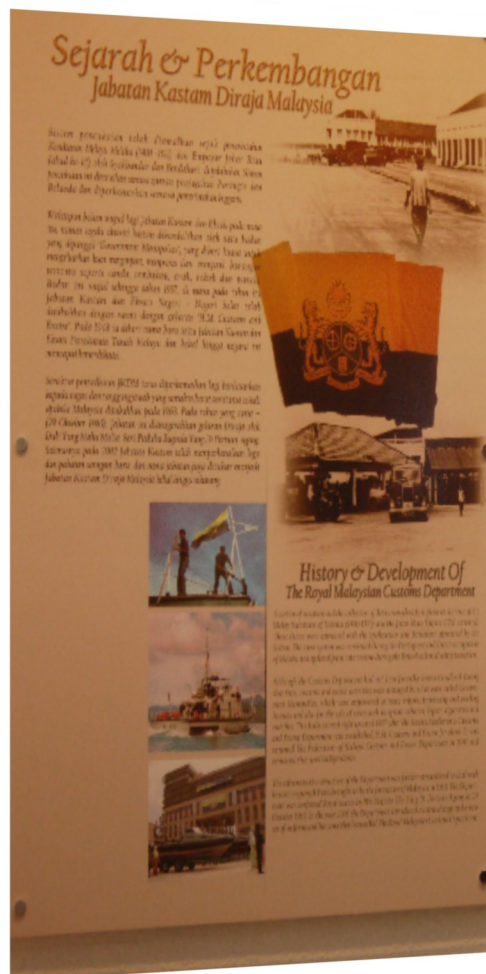
HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM'S BUILDING

The building was designed and built by the British in the early 1890s using bricks and clay roof tiles. Originally, the building was used as a warehouse to store imported goods such as rice, sugar, flour, spices, textiles, and ceramics imported from China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines as well as exported goods.

The building was also a Customs warehouse for temporary storage of goods of unpaid taxes which were transported by barges from ships anchored in the Port of Melaka. As the Port of Melaka grew its importance as a "Barter Trade" port, the building was

made the Customs Office and played an important role for Customs officers to conduct inspections and collect taxes during the British rule until after Malaysia's independence.

When the office of the Port of Melaka was completed in 1965, the building still continued its role as a warehouse and Customs Office. In 1980, a part of the building had been turned into the Office and Stores for the Customs' Prevention Division. Later in 2001, imports and exports at the Port of Melaka had been discontinued and were moved to the Port of Kuala Linggi and Sungai Rambai.



At the initiative of Dato' Haji Md. Hassim Pardi, former Director of Customs, Melaka in collaboration with the Melaka State Government and Melaka Museum Corporation (PERZIM), the building was granted the status of the Royal Malaysian Customs Museum. The museum was then officiated by The Honourable Datuk Wira Mohd Ali bin Rustam, the Chief Minister of Melaka on August 25, 2006.

The entrance to the museum is free and it is frequently visited by the public, tourists and students who want to learn more about RMCD.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

The Royal Malaysian Customs Museum

THE COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL ITEMS

The museum had more than 200 historical items. Among the historical item on display was 'Gencana Diraja (the Royal Crest)' bestowed by His Majesty the 3rd Yang Dipertuan Agong (Supreme leader of Malaysia) on October 29, 1963 to commemorate the award of the 'Royal' title to the Department of Customs and Excise. It was followed by collections of Customs Officer's uniforms complete with the accessories that were used before and during the British rule, after the independence and the uniforms worn in the 1980s until 2002.

Tax regulations and guidelines, such as Customs Tax Ordinance 1952, the Federation of Malaya Government Gazette 1952, Trade Classification and Customs Tariff 1978, Customs Officers' salary record books in the 1940s, visits' book by Senior Customs Officers in 1960s, Customs Officers' authority cards from the year 1920s until 1960s are also on display. In addition, there are also Customs equipment and supplies such as typewriters, calculators, scales and others that are still in good condition.

One of the main roles of Customs is to eliminate drugs and smuggling of illicit goods. This could be seen from the exhibits of equipment such

as pipes for opium smoking, processed opium and seizures of illicit goods which were smuggled into and out of Malaysia. Among the seized items on display are fake guns, fireworks, sharp weapons such as swords, knives, daggers, textiles and garments with printed verses of Quran, toddy-tapping equipment and etc. The museum also displayed techniques used by smugglers to smuggle prohibited goods in the 1960s which would certainly attract the visitors.

In addition, a collection of photographs of Customs' Staff and Office in Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak as well as from Tanjung Pagar, Singapore (under British rule) and pictures of former Directors General of Customs, Malaysia are also displayed. In summary, other than becoming a reference and source of historical information, a visit to the museum is indeed a visit that would evoke nostalgic memories of the past.



NEWS FROM THE REGION

Fiji Detector Dog New Office Construction Begins



The Fiji Detector Dog project has commenced with the construction of the new office at the Nadi International Airport.

This joint venture between Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA), Fiji Police, New Zealand Customs Service and New Zealand Police has finally reached the construction phase.

"The project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the stakeholders followed by training of Customs and Police officers in New Zealand last year and now we have reached this phase which is constructing a new office for this project," Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Visvanath Das explained.

Representatives from relevant agencies for this project were present at the construction site last week.

"FRCA General Manager Customs, Mr Kumar Sami Gounder, Mr David Huff from New Zealand Customs, Mr Brendon Gibson from New Zealand Police, Fiji Police Project Lead, Mr Meli Sateki and Airports Fiji Limited Manager Security, Mr Josaia Lacanikaibau inspected the site the week before the construction started.

Drug Seizure



Officers from the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) intercepted a parcel containing Methamphetamine from the Suva Post Office this morning. The illicit drug which was concealed inside a tube was sent from the United States and was addressed to a local woman.

The suspect went to the Post Office to collect the parcel. The Customs Officer based at the Suva Post Office felt suspicious and upon examination it was established that Methamphetamine was allegedly obscured in a tube.

"I commend our officers for carrying out their duties diligently in ensuring our borders are protected from the infiltration of illicit drugs," Acting CEO Mr. Visvanath Das said.

"We now have qualified and trained officers who are able to detect such drugs from entering Fiji. While the drug concealment methods are getting complex, we have to work smarter to apprehend the perpetrators."

The seizure is also a warning to all those individuals wanting to bring in illegal drugs that FRCA officers and police are vigilant in their work to ensure borders are safe".

The seizure will be handed to Police for further investigations.

WORDS OF HONOUR AND APPRECIATION

*T*he time has come to complete my tenure at the WCO Secretariat to return to my home administration. Three years of service at the WCO Secretariat as Regional Development Manager (RDM) for Asia/Pacific (A/P) had been enriching and honourable one to work towards a shared goal with the WCO Members in the A/P region, regional entities and institutional partners.

It has been a great pleasure to work with colleagues of the A/P Members, the Vice Chair Secretariat, regional entities namely the ROCB, the RTCs, the RDTC and the RCL, who are always very much motivated and committed, forming a cohesive team of the WCO Members, regional structures and the WCO Secretariat. Being as RDM for the A/P region, I always appreciated invaluable efforts that Members and this dream team have been making, and had a great honour to be a part of such team.

A good example to illustrate this is the process in which the A/P region set Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2014-2016 and 2016-2018 respectively, where the region identified areas of common interest and shared a goal to work together, then the RSPs were turned into specific actions of the Members, regional entities and concerned. As RDM I had a great pleasure to take part in this discussion, ensuring sound linkage of the WCO

strategies and needs and interests of the A/P region, as well as to support implementation process by co-designing regional Capacity Building activities. I also had privileges to accompany various processes where Customs modernisation initiatives of the Members, supported by WCO Capacity Building activities, flourished as tangible outcomes such as accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention, streamlined Customs procedures and adoption of Risk Management framework, to name a few.

A/P Members, regional entities, the WCO Secretariat, everyone has his/her own strength and expertise, and it is a matter of how we orchestrate to

bring us closer for collective wisdom to empower ourselves for bigger and more robust outcomes. And I really enjoyed our professional relations, being helped by insights and views of such partners.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the A/P region on its dedication, willingness and passion to work towards Customs reform and modernisation, and would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support and cooperation extended by the region to the WCO Secretariat, including me as RDM. In concluding, I wish from the bottom of my heart further success of the A/P region in this journey for collective achievement.



Harumi Chikada
Former Regional Development
Manager for Asia/Pacific,
Capacity Building Directorate,
WCO Secretariat

**ASEAN***The 24th Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC)*

The Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC) was held on 3-5 May 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and also the ASEAN Secretariat officers attended the Meeting.

The Meeting was officiated by Dato' Sri Khazali Haji Ahmad, Director-General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department. In his opening remarks, he recalled the 27th ASEAN Summit which was held in Kuala Lumpur on November 2015 where ASEAN Leaders have re-affirmed strong commitment to speed-up ASEAN Integration for the well-being of the people and intensify efforts to facilitate ASEAN Customs Integration. The facilitation of goods and services can be achieved through regional Customs cooperation such as the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS), ratification of Protocols under ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT), the reviewing of the Strategic Plans on Customs Development (SPCDs) and the introduction of new cycle to SPCDs. He noted that CCC's consultations with external partners such as China, Japan and EU-ABC would also strengthen regional cooperation and facilitate trade. Moreover he emphasized the importance of balancing Trade Facilitation and borders control of Customs to ensure safety and security of the people.





ASEAN

The 24th Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC)



The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Khalid Halim, Acting Deputy Controller of Customs, Brunei Darussalam. During the Meeting, various important issues involving working group such as Customs Procedure Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG), Customs Enforcement & Compliance

Working Group (CECWG) and Customs Capacity Building Working Group (CCBWG) were discussed. The ASEAN Secretariat also briefed the Meeting on Broad Directions for Customs Activities 2016-2025 and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Sectoral Work Plans.



ASEAN

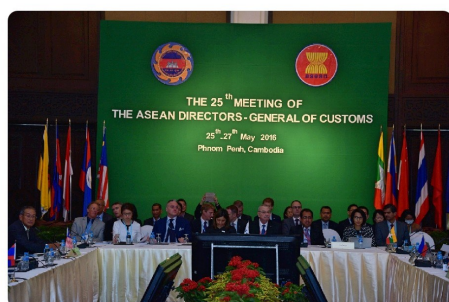
The 25th ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting (ADGC)



The Twenty Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 25-27 May 2016. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Kun Nhem, Director General of the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia. The Meeting was attended by the representatives from all ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat

In his opening remark, Dr. Kun Nhem, Director-General of the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia

expressed sincere thanks to Brunei Darussalam for the excellent work during her Chairmanship. He recalled the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, a key milestone in ASEAN integration and stated that the ASEAN Customs played an important role in contributing to the freer flow of goods and investments. He also highlighted some of the achievements made namely, (i) the ASEAN Agreement on Customs; (ii) ASEAN Customs Transit System; (iii) Tariff Classification; (iv) Rules of Origin; as well as the other aspects of Customs integration.



**ASEAN***The 25th ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting (ADGC)*

During the Meeting, Brunei Darussalam as the Chair of the coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC) reported that the CCC has agreed to endorse the Broad Directions for Customs Activities encompassing the period of 10 years, from 2016-2025, the ASEAN Secretariat's proposal on the way forward in developing the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of Sectoral Workplan for Customs and the Proposals for the ACTS Central Management Team, to be based in the ASEAN Secretariat, to manage the ACTS Roll-out Phase and Long-Term Operations.

The meeting also agreed to urge the Member States to finalise the text and signing of Protocol 2 of the ASEAN

Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT), expedite domestic procedures for the ratification of Protocol 7 of the AFAFGIT, expedite and complete all the AEC 2015 measures and coordinate closely with the ASEAN Secretariat to finalise the KPIs for Customs workplans in timely manner and in accordance with the "Guide in Identifying KPIs" prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting was also briefed on various important issues involving working group such as Customs Procedure Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG), Customs Enforcement & Compliance Working Group (CECWG) and Customs Capacity Building Working Group (CCBWG).



NEWS FROM THE REGION

Earlier GRIPS Graduates Got Together Again in Japan in March 2016



Group photo with Dr. Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO

Eleven Customs officials from nine countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) who had graduated from National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme (Scholarship Programme) got together in Japan from 29 February to 4 March 2016. This first-ever reunion program was organized by Japan Customs as “Seminar on Customs Modernization” and the graduates of GRIPS from academic year 2000 to 2004 were invited to the program.

The Seminar was officially opened by Mr. Hiroshi Kishimoto, Deputy Director General of Japan Customs who, in his speech, extended his warm welcome to all graduates. The participating graduates then kindly agreed to make a brief report on their personal and organizational updates since their respective graduation from GRIPS. Both Japan Customs and participating graduates were happy to learn the positive involvement of graduates for the development of their respective Customs administration



and the value of Japan-WCO HRD Programme in that regard. After that, participating graduates enjoyed the intensive discussion on Customs modernization and human resource development with a surprise guest, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the Secretary General of the WCO who coincidentally visited Japan during this Seminar and kindly agreed to share his valuable time with them even in his extremely busy schedule. Besides the sessions above, the participating graduates attended wide variety of activities throughout the program which included the discussion on AEO, risk management and human resource development, field visits to Central Customs Laboratory (first WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) in the world) as well as Tokyo and Moji Customs. The participating graduates also had an opportunity to pay a courtesy visit to Dean of GRIPS and had an informal gathering with incumbent GRIPS scholars under the Japan-WCO HRD Programme.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Earlier GRIPS Graduates Got Together Again in Japan in March 2016

Since its commencement of the Japan-WCO HRD Programme at GRIPS in 2000, the environment surrounding Customs has changed dramatically. Customs administrations are now expected to take a broader role and the cooperation among Customs administrations has become critically important. In this

regard, network among Customs officials can play a significant role in enhancing Customs operation. Bearing this in mind, Japan Customs firmly believe that this reunion program was an invaluable opportunity for both the participating graduates and Japan Customs to strengthen their cooperation. Japan Customs will continue to seek similar opportunities.



[Program Information]

Public Finance Program at GRIPS starts every September. Invitation to this Japan-WCO Scholarship Programme will be circulated to Members administration from the WCO approximately ten months prior to the program. Applicants to the program are required to make online entry to GRIPS by February following the administrative provisions attached to the invitation from the WCO.

For more information on the program, please see the WCO website.

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/capacity-building/activities-and-programmes/scholarship-programme.aspx>



CAPACITY BUILDING

English Language Training Programme

The English Language Training (ELT) Programme was offered to Customs officials as well as officials of the Immigration, Police and Maritime agencies from Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.



CAPACITY BUILDING

English Language Training Programme

Thirty four (34) officers from these organizations participated in the ELT programme which was conducted across 13 weeks and delivered by the University of Adelaide in Australia. The selected nominated participants were talented officers and those who were seen as eligible future leaders of their organization and likely to be serving in roles that require an excellent command of English and would represent their organization at international forums.

The ELT programme was designed to improve the English language skills of officers in border agencies to further assist them in detecting and combating irregular people and cargo movements, human trafficking and fraudulent identification documents. At a broader level, the ELT programme aimed to build a network of professional relationships and strengthen relations between the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of Australia (including the Australian Border Force) and their regional partners. This programme also aimed at enhancing the capacity of officers to participate in regional and multilateral forums of mutual interest where English is the official language.

There are 2 intakes for the ELT programme which are from 11 February to 14 May 2016 and from 28 April to 30 July 2016.

The programme consists of 3 components namely:

General English Language Training (10 weeks)

This component built a solid command of English by providing a necessary foundation in the language, including syntax, grammar and phonics. The course focused on the development of communicative fluency in English across the four macro skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Participants were enrolled in module levels consistent with their International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score.

English for special purposes (ESP) (2 weeks)

This unit focused on border management themes and included immigration, customs and maritime elements. It introduced information on Australian migration trends, Australian law, and Australian border management arrangements. The vocabulary and conversation were aimed at enhancing the participants' professional English language skills in border management.

Site visits / Document Examination training (1 week)

During the programme there was a visit to the DIBP (ABF) office. Participants also undertook a three-day document examination course prior to departure. These activities were an integral part of the programme and provided an opportunity for the officers to build relationships with counterparts working at the other end of migration and trade routes into Australia.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Japan Customs Hosted the Research Visit of Thai Customs Officers under the JICA Project for Capacity Development on Rules of Origin

Japan Customs hosted a research visit of 11 officers from the Thai Customs Rules of Origin Division with the sponsorship of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The research visit was organized under the Project for Capacity Development on Rules of Origin which is aiming for the enhancement of efficient Customs procedures regarding rules of origin in Thai Customs.

The team of Thai Customs officers visited the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance (the Japan Customs Headquarters), Tokyo Customs, and Yokohama Customs to research Japan's practices on the administration of rules of origin from 4 April to 8 April 2016.

Rules of origin are indispensable for properly applying the preferential tariff rate under a free trade agreement (FTA). Facing the rapid increase of FTAs entering into force, the effective and efficient implementation of the rules of origin is one of the urgent tasks that Customs administrations have to address. In this context, Japan Customs has

continued to develop and improve its operations in this area throughout the recent decade. Ms. Suchaya, Director of Rules of Origin Division of Thai Customs who was the head of the research team, told that her team and herself were very much inspired by the efforts and experience shared by Japan.

At the Customs and Tariff Bureau, the officers from the Rules of Origin Section of Japan Customs shared the recent developments regarding Japan's FTAs including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as well as the domestic organizational framework for the administration of rules of origin.

During the visit to Tokyo Customs, the participants had intensive discussion with the officers of Origin Administration Center regarding the topics of interest such as effective implementation of origin verification and advance ruling. At Yokohama Customs, the participants visited the field offices to study the actual operations in processing the claims for preferential tariff treatment and the checking of documentary evidence on origin of goods.



NEWS FROM THE REGION

Japan Customs Hosted the Research Visit of Thai Customs Officers under the JICA Project for Capacity Development on Rules of Origin

After the research visit, Thai Customs has developed an action plan for the enhancement of efficient operations regarding rules of origin, as planned under the JICA project. The result of the research visit was fully taken into account in developing the action plan.

Both Japan Customs and Thai Customs hoped that the Japan's experience shared through the research visit would contribute to the improvements in the operations of Thai Customs in the area of rules of origin.



ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING (ROCB A/P)

Staff Updates

On 1 March 2016, Ms. Jate-arpa Benjaphong, nick-named “Mai”, has been newly recruited by the Thai Customs Department and assigned to ROCB A/P to succeed Ms. Narumon Siricharoenwat (Khun Nok) as a Program Coordinator. Before joining the Customs and ROCB A/P, she worked at several private companies. She may be reached by e-mail at jatearpa@rocbap.org.



On 1 May 2016, Ms. Vareemon Chairungsrilert, nick-named “Op”, was newly recruited by the Thai Customs Department and assigned to ROCB A/P to succeed Ms. Chanakarn Songsiri (Khun Foam) as a Program Manager. She majored in international relations at Thammasat University. She may be reached by e-mail at vareemon@rocbap.org.

Mr. Cheng Jing, Program Manager for Pacific Sub-region and CCF/China Operation Manager, is leaving the ROCB A/P in mid-June 2016 after the successful completion of his 4-year long secondment term and back to the Shanghai Customs College (SCC), one of the WCO A/P Regional Training Centers. He was seconded to ROCB A/P in June 2012 and specialized in various topics including environment issues. With the commencement of CCF/China in 2014, he has been assigned as the CCF/China Operation Manager and successfully organized the first CCF/China event in cooperation with the WCO and UPU. His post will be succeeded by his SCC colleague, Mr. Tong Hua. As a token of appreciation from the WCO Secretariat, he was awarded a certificate.



Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P expresses its sincere appreciation to Ms. Narumon Siricharoenwat, Ms. Chanakarn Songsiri and Mr. Cheng Jing for their dedication and support for the ROCB A/P's undertakings and wishes their continued success in their respective future careers.



ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING (ROCB A/P)

ROCB A/P Reports Its Activities to Directors General and Commissioners in the Region



Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 17th Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference held on 15-18 March 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and reported the ROCB A/P's activities in 2014/2015 and the latest progress in the undertakings over the last 8 months in 2015/2016. In the course of the report presentation, he highlighted among other things: the increasing number of the participants in the WCO A/P regional workshops in the previous year; increasing access to the ROCB A/P website; conducting the Workshop Follow-Up survey and publication of the survey summary. He also reported the ramifications from the

region's joint IPR enforcement operation, code-named "Action IPR A/P", which was initiated under the Vice Chair's leadership and supplemented by the pre- and post-operational training sessions to optimize its results. The reports were well received and delegates to the RHCA Conference took the floor to encourage the ROCB A/P to continue its supports for the region's joints efforts forward reform and modernization through delivery of high-quality capacity building programs.

For more information, please visit the ROCB A/P homepage at www.rocb-ap.org.

ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING (ROCB A/P)

ROCB A/P Introduces the A/P Region's Good Practices



Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi and Mr. Cho Kangsik of the ROCB A/P attended the 11th Global Meeting of the Heads of the ROCBs and RTCs and Vice Chairs' Offices, which was convened on 7-8 April 2016 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, along with the representatives from the RTC Malaysia, Japan and India. The Meeting discussed, among the other things, the WCO's policy on experts accreditation and mobilization policy, development of best practice guidance of ROCBs and RTCs, Regional Training Evaluation Package, and the way to foster core competence for sustainable capacity building environment. At the Meeting, in addition to active participation in the discussion on series of important agenda items, the ROCB A/P representatives made contributions to share its initiatives and the region's good practices. Mr. Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, made a presentation on the findings from the A/P region's test run of the WCO's draft Regional Training

Evaluation Package and the agreed way forward. He also introduced gist of the ROCB A/P's Good Practice Report on the Exemplifying Follow-Up Actions after the Regional Workshops in 2014/15, which was published in February 2016. Mr. Miyoshi, Program Manager, made a presentation on the outline, characteristics, tangible outcomes, impacts and lessons learned of the WCO-ADB Multi-year Project, which started from July 2013 to end June 2016. As the lessons learned from the Project, in which he involved from its inception, Mr. Miyoshi highlighted the needs for the clear identification on the countries' needs and situation, strategic coordination and collaboration with stakeholders, and ensuring competent and adequate human resource and sound working environment for the project implementation.

For more information, please visit the ROCB A/P's homepage at www.rocb-ap.org.

ROCB A/P Represents the WCO to Oceania Customs Organisation's Annual Conference to Discuss Digital Customs



For more information, please visit the ROCB A/P's homepage at www.rocb-ap.org.

ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING (ROCB A/P)

Publication of ROCB A/P E-Newsletter No. 52

In April 2016, ROCB A/P published its E-Newsletter, which is released on a quarterly basis. This issue features the ROCB A/P's activities during the period from January to March 2016. It also carries special contributions from Maldives Customs and Sri Lanka Customs on their successful completion of the WCO-ADB Multi-Year Projects to enhance valuation control through post-clearance audit. It also touches upon the publication of the ROCB A/P's Good Practice Report on the exemplifying follow-up actions taken after the participation in the WCO regional workshops. Next issue of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter will be published in early July 2016.

For more information, please visit the ROCB A/P homepage at www.rocb-ap.org.



**E-newsletter
Issue No.52:
April 2016**

ROCB
WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

In This Issue:

- Special contributions from Maldives Customs and Sri Lanka Customs on successful completion of Multi-year CB Projects
- Publication of the ROCB A/P Good Practice Report
- Increased visit to the ROCB A/P homepage



Calendar of Events

July — October 2016

EVENT/ MEETING	PLACE	DATE
75 th Session of Policy Commission	Brussels, Belgium	11 – 13 July
127 th /128 th Sessions of Council	Brussels, Belgium	14 – 16 July
ICAO - WCO Joint Conference on Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	26 – 28 July
WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Integrity for the Pacific	Suva, Fiji	27 – 29 July
The Launching of WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office	Suva, Fiji	28 July
Data Model Project Team	Brussels, Belgium	12 - 16 September
71 st Meeting of Information Management Sub-Committee (IMSC)	Brussels, Belgium	19 - 20 September
PICARD Conference	Manila, Philippines	27 - 29 September
Working Party of Harmonized System Committee	Brussels, Belgium	26 - 27 September
58 th Session of Harmonized System Committee	Brussels, Belgium	28 September - 7 October
6 th Meeting of Agreement on Trade Facilitation Working Group	Brussels, Belgium	10 - 11 October
213 th / 214 th Sessions of Permanent Technical Committee	Brussels, Belgium	12 - 14 October
43 rd Session of Technical Committee on Customs Valuation	Brussels, Belgium	17 - 21 October
Private Sector Consultative Group	Brussels, Belgium	24 - 25 October
SAFE Members Only Meeting	Brussels, Belgium	25 October
16 th Meeting SAFE Working Group	Brussels, Belgium	26 - 28 October



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