

ROCB A/P Annual Report 2011/2012 issued!

In early September 2012, ROCB A/P issued “ROCB A/P Annual Report 2011/2012” and distributed to all A/P Regional member Customs Administrations, as well as Regional Training Centers (RTCs), RILO A/P, ROCBs in the other regions and the WCO Secretariat. The Report outlined capacity building activities undertaken by the ROCB A/P in 2011/2012 including information on a number of technical and management assistance programs as well as enhanced cooperation with various development partners. From a strategic perspective, this report is accompanied by the sub-title “Enhanced Partnership with Development Partners” which reflects the great importance placed by the ROCB A/P on this critical issue during the preceding year.

The Report also contains “ROCB Strategic Action Plan 2012-2014” and “ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan for 2012/2013” as Annexes. These were developed taking into account the newly adopted Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012 -2014 and are the foundation for ROCB A/P Activities in the coming years.

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All ROCB A/P staffs are committed to continue our efforts to provide effective and efficient assistance to our members in cooperation with the WCO, RTCs, RILO A/P, Development Partners and more importantly our members.

This Report is available in both electronic copy and hard copy. Should you be interested in this Report, please contact +66 2667 7026 or “benji@rocbap.org” for more information.



Farewell to our friend “Kelvin”



We, ROCB A/P, would like to express our sincere appreciation to [Mr. Kelvin WONG](#), seconded by Hong Kong Customs, for his kind assistance and friendship during his service term at ROCB A/P. Kelvin successfully completed his attachment to our office at the end of September and returned to Hong Kong China with great memories. All of us have enjoyed his tenure here and we really appreciate the opportunity to work with him. In particular, we cherish his constant support and great contribution to a number of capacity building activities.

We hope Kelvin will take away special memories of our time working together. Thank you very much for making our time at ROCB A/P a fruitful and enjoyable one. *All the best!*

Welcome RTC Fiji :

Official Opening of the 7th WCO RTC in the A/P Region

On August 20th 2012, the WCO Regional Training Center (RTC) in Fiji was launched with attendance of Prime Minister of Republic of Fiji, Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and the WCO Secretary General Mr. Kunio Mikuriya.



This is the first RTC for Pacific Islands countries and the seventh in the Asia Pacific region. The Prime Minister mentioned in his opening speech, “Our central location makes Fiji a convenient hub for the South Pacific, and hosting the Customs RTC in Fiji is a significant step towards greater regional collaboration”.

The Secretary General, Mr. Mikuriya said in his congratulatory remarks *“the RTC will provide an opportunity for the region to share expertise and knowledge”*.

The RTC is located in the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) in Nasese, Suva. The center comes equipped with furnished classrooms with the latest technology, a computer laboratory, a library and a staff cafeteria together with a recreational area. The RTC will

be able to further the goals of the WCO in



the Oceania region through greater capacity building, hosting relevant regional training programs, providing expertise and technical knowledge as well as further greater cooperation amongst administrations. Furthermore the RTC will be able to implement WCO programmes and strategies, as well as follow-up on WCO programmes within the Pacific region supporting the

Oceania Customs Organization (OCO).



Three years ago, the FRCA began discussions with the ROCB A/P on the viability of establishing a regional training center in Fiji for the Pacific region. The proposal to establish a RTC in Fiji is in line with FRCA’s strategic vision to be a leading revenue collection and border management agency and helping other Pacific Islands Countries towards international best practice in Customs matters.



Bangladesh acceded to the RKC

Congratulations to Bangladesh, which deposited its instrument of accession to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures known as the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) on 28 September 2012.



This Convention is regarded as a blueprint for effective and modern Customs procedures. Its key elements are the application of simplified Customs procedures in a predictable and transparent environment, the maximum use of information technology, the utilization of risk management, a strong partnership with the trade and other stakeholders, and a readily accessible system of appeals.

There are 83 Contracting Parties to the RKC around the world since it entered into force on 3 February 2006. 14 of these are in the Asia Pacific region namely Australia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. In the press release issued by the WCO, Secretary General Mikuriya encouraged more members to accede to this important Customs instrument as soon as possible. ROCB A/P is aware that some members in our region have expressed strong interest in the RKC and will continue to support them towards accession. *(The picture used in the article sourced from WCO public website)*

ROCB A/P Contribution to the Thai Customs' Strategic Planning

ROCB A/P attended a seminar to develop Thai Customs Five-Year Strategic Plan held in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 August 2012. The objective of the seminar was to discuss the development of the 5-year strategic plan of Thai Customs (fiscal year 2013-2017).



Nearly 200 senior Thai Customs officials from all around the country attended the seminar.

The Director General of Thai Customs delivered an opening speech emphasizing the Administration's commitment to Customs Modernization and underlined economic competitiveness in Thailand. ROCB A/P was invited to share information on the latest WCO initiatives, instruments and tools including IPR RKC, Business Partnership, SAFE FoS, Economic Competitiveness Package, Revenue Package, Globally Networked Customs, WCO Data Model and Single Window.

Thai Customs appreciated the contribution made by the ROCB A/P,

which enabled the Administration to formulate its strategic plan in line with WCO standards.

Good Follow-Up Work Makes

a Difference: Sri Lankan Example

Efficient and effective capacity building can only be made with the collaborative efforts of all parties involved. In this regard, ROCB A/P uses every opportunity to emphasize the importance of follow up work by participants to regional events. One of the actions requested is that participants report back what they have studied to their senior managers and disseminate information such as training material to colleagues and staff. This ensures that the benefits of the event are enjoyed not only by the participant him/herself but also by the respective administration as a whole. This article gives an example involving a delegate from Sri Lanka.



Mr. U.K. Asoka Ranjith, Superintendent of Customs from Sri Lanka attended the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Rules of Origin (ROO) 11-15 June 2012 held in Shanghai

Customs Collage, RTC China. He recently sent the WCO and ROCB A/P a progress report on follow up work undertaken in the three months following the workshop.

In his report he explained that his mission report, which contained the findings of the workshop and his recommendations for the improvement of ROO techniques, was forwarded to senior management of Sri Lanka Customs and the Ministry of Finance. He further told us that he had a series of discussions with his senior management on his recommendations and, as a result, some of the recommendations have already been taken into consideration as a part of the Customs Reform and Modernization. In addition, he prepared and organized several training sessions on ROO to his colleagues. It has also been agreed in Sri Lanka Customs to prepare a comprehensive training module on ROO in 2013 focusing on current practices and issues on ROO in due course.

ROCB A/P considers that this is an extremely good example of follow up work done by the participant to the workshop and provides significant benefit to his administration as a whole. ROCB A/P together with the WCO Secretariat is considering sending another mission to Sri Lanka to work with Mr. Ranjith for the organization of a national workshop on ROO to further support this positive initiative.

Conducting more specific national workshops following the conclusion of

a regional workshop is a new approach explored by the ROCB A/P to promote result-oriented capacity building. ROCB A/P is looking forward to working with interested countries similar to this example involving Sri Lanka and ROO. ROCB A/P is aware that a number of workshop participants have undertaken similar follow up work. We encourage them to report what they have done to the ROCB A/P so that we can share their good practice for the benefit of regional members.

The WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passengers held in RTC Japan



The WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passengers was held in Kashiwa, RTC Japan on 23-27 July 2012. This workshop was conducted by experts from the WCO and Japan Customs. Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P, chaired the workshop and his colleague, Ms.

Matchima KIRIPET also participated. 45 participants from 30 Member and counterpart administrations in the Asia Pacific Region attended the workshop.

The workshop enhanced participants' knowledge in regard to increasing methamphetamine smuggling by air passengers. They also shared national best practice investigation and seizure practice, learned how to establish a national intelligence strategy and developed a better understanding of relevant WCO tools.

Significant seizure in Cambodia with the knowledge obtained at the workshop

Right after the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passengers, ROCB A/P received a very positive report from the participant of Cambodia on a series of seizures of Methamphetamine and Cocaine at Seam Reap Airport.

As of 15 August 2012, Cambodia Customs seized 6 cases which reached more than 10kg of Methamphetamine and more than 29kg of Cocaine.

This is one of the tangible results made by the participant to the workshop that he shared his knowledge and materials obtained by the workshop to his colleagues in his own follow up efforts. ROCB A/P is very much pleased to know such immediate positive result of the workshop and would like to share this great achievement made by Cambodia Customs.

The WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for OCO Members held as the first official event in RTC Fiji

Following the official launch of the RTC in Fiji, the WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for OCO Members was held from 20 to 24 August 2012 as the first official event. It was co-organized by the ROCB A/P and the Oceania Customs Organization in cooperation with Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA). 24 participants from 6 WCO members namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu as well as other OCO members attended the workshop.

The workshop was opened by the Secretary General, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, followed by Mr. Jitoko Titokolevu, the Chief Executive Officer of FRCA. Mr. Shigeaki Katsu Deputy Head of ROCB A/P and two Japanese experts facilitated the workshop.



Throughout this workshop, participants had a very intensive discussion on a number of key issues relating to the effective implementation



of PCA including infrastructure and Risk Management on PCA, practical Case Studies on Valuation and PCA, awareness and education programs for the trade community, and some of the difficulties and challenges that implementing agencies would face. The participants agreed to work together to review the OCO PCA guidelines which are currently under development.



Participants improved their technical knowledge and expertise on PCA and confirmed their commitment to develop the OCO PCA Guidelines in accordance with the road map adopted at the workshop. (The pictures in the article provided from FRCA)

The WCO IPR Regional Workshop on Development of the Enforcement Regime held in RTC Japan

The WCO IPR Regional Workshop on Development of the Enforcement Regime was held in Kashiwa, RTC Japan on 11-14 September 2012. WCO was represented by the two WCO-accredited experts from Luxembourg and Hong Kong China while IPR-experts from Japan Customs participated in and contributed to the workshop. Mr. Shigeaki KATSU, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P as well as his

colleague, Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPOGKOSON facilitated the workshop. 31 participants from 23 A/P Customs Administrations attended the workshop.



Considering the importance of IPR for Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific region, ROCB A/P organizes regional workshop on IPR every year highlighting different perspectives on the development of an enforcement regime. This year, participants in particular shared their experience on awareness-raising for both Customs and the public. Throughout this workshop, a number of useful information sessions were held including the Global Review on Counterfeiting and Piracy, WCO Capacity Building and its Strategy, Regional Capacity Building experience on IPR, and WCO Tools & Instruments related to IPR. With the assistance of Japan Customs and CIPIC (Customs Intellectual Property Information Centre) of Japan, participants had a chance to exchange views directly with 17 Rights Holders on how to enhance cooperation between them. On the third day of the workshop, Japan Customs also kindly arranged a field visit to the IPR National Center and the Clearance Division at Tokyo Customs which helped participants understand

how to put the theory into practice.

The participants expressed great appreciation for the arrangements and found the workshop very practical and useful. At the end of the workshop, participants were requested to disseminate the knowledge gained through the workshop to their respective administrations.

The 22nd WCO Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points Meeting

Adelaide, Australia

On 23-26 September 2012, the 22nd WCO Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting and the Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting were held in Adelaide, Australia. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, participated in and contributed to those meetings. The meeting discussed a number of key issues for Asia Pacific regional development including the progress of the Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014, regional priorities for 2014-2016 and other issues including the review of ROCB A/P TOR.



ROCB A/P made two presentations relating to RSP 2012-2014, namely a progress report of Focus Area 3 “Capacity Building” and a general presentation on regional capacity building policy. We highlighted the good progress made by our members on the actions listed in the RSP 2012-2014 and welcomed these great efforts and achievements. We also stressed the importance of the 3P concept (Political Will, Partnership and People) for the successful capacity building and requested all participants to work together for the further betterment of regional capacity building activities. We also requested participants to nominate experts to be placed on the “candidate list” to be developed based on the “Regional Framework on the utilization of regional expertise”.

Many participants expressed their appreciation for the good work and contribution by the ROCB A/P. As for the review of the ToR of the ROCB A/P, it was agreed that a Working Group be established for this purpose. ROCB A/P is committed to work with interested members for the further improvement of regional capacity building activities.

ADB TRS Workshop for Afghanistan and Pakistan

At the invitation of Asian Development Bank (ADB), two ROCB A/P experts, Mr. Lee Sang hyup and Mr.

Kelvin Wong, conducted the ADB Time Release Study (TRS) workshop in Islamabad on 25-26 September 2012. 10 Afghanistan and 15 Pakistan Customs officials attended this workshop.

This is a good example of collaborative work between ROCB A/P and ADB assisting regional Customs administrations. The TRS workshop was fully sponsored by the ADB under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) umbrella. The first TRS workshop was held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2011 and this year, Pakistan Customs agreed to host this second workshop.

During the workshop, the ROCB A/P experts introduced WCO TRS guidelines and software as well as TRS best practices of several countries while Afghanistan and Pakistan Customs introduced their national Customs procedures. Following these information sessions, the participants were divided into groups and discussed the development of TRS Questionnaires and Work Plan/Timetables.

Participants recognized the importance and usefulness of TRS and also how to undertake a TRS. The participants and ADB expressed their



deep appreciation for a well-organized workshop. It provided significant benefits to both Pakistan and Afghanistan Customs and greatly enhanced collaboration between the ADB and ROCB A/P.

The 7th Conference on Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD)



The WCO, in cooperation with the University of Cadi Ayyad and Morocco Customs, held the 7th WCO Conference on the Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) in Marrakesh, Morocco on 25-27 September 2012. It was attended by more than 230 delegates from WCO Members, the academic world, international organizations, the private sector, donor organizations and other interested parties. Mr. Jing CHENG, technical attaché from ROCB AP also joined this grand event.

The papers and thematic discussions of this conference were facilitated according to three key topics, namely: the Impact of Regional Economic Integration and Preferential Trade Arrangements on Customs

Services; Emerging and Evolving Risks; and Customs Strategic Human Resource Management. Participants discussed their research findings and explored how to utilize the research based knowledge to support customs decision making. The conference identified some key topics which need further research to take them to the next stage of development.

Participants witnessed the signing ceremony of a Bilateral Agreement between Switzerland and Morocco in the area of training support to be implemented by 2013. The WCO thanked the University of Cadi Ayyad and the Moroccan Customs administration for their outstanding support for the Conference and announced that the 8th PICARD Conference would take place in St. Petersburg, Russia, in September 2013.

The 3rd GDCE and Development Partner Meeting held in Cambodia

At the invitation of the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) of Cambodia, Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P attended the 3rd Meeting between the GDCE and Developing Partners (DPs) held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 27th September 2012. 50 persons joined the meeting from the GECE and relevant Ministries in the Cambodian government as well as DPs such as ADB, EU, Japan Embassy, JICA, World Bank,

IMF and UNESCAP. The meeting was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Economy and Finance of Cambodia who stressed in his opening remarks that “the Prime Minister and the Minister of Economy and Finance have always attached great importance to the reform and modernization of Customs administration in Cambodia.”



Mr. Katsu made a presentation on “WCO and A/P Regional Capacity Building Policy and Strategy” highlighting the importance of the “3Ps concept” as a key to successful capacity building. He also briefed the meeting on the successful conclusion of regional dialogue between customs administrations and DPs held in Thailand early this year and noted that this national follow up meeting in Cambodia can be regarded as good practice by other members.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for both the GDCE and DPs to discuss “As-Is” and “To-Be” analysis to the Strategy and Work Program of GDCE’s Reform and Modernization efforts, to share information on priority areas of respective DPs and to exchange views on the way forward.

At the end of the meeting, H.E. Dr.

Pen Siman, Director General of the GDCE expressed his deepest appreciations to all participants for support and cooperation given and stressed the importance of continuing this kind of meeting between the GDCE and DPs.

Capacity Building Activities of RILO A/P



RILO AP (Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific) relocated to Seoul, Korea at the beginning of 2012. Thanks to the great cooperation of member administrations and unsparing financial and administrative support from Korea Customs Service, RILO AP has been successfully carrying out its duty. RILO has eight staff seconded - six from Korea customs and one each from Hong Kong and Japan Customs. Under the new motto “Bridge across borders”, RILO AP is undertaking a variety of activities to facilitate information and intelligence exchange amongst member customs and support their enforcement activities. Under the sponsorship of the Korea Customs Service there have also been a number of capacity building

activities during the last 9 months.



➤ SEMINARS

The main purpose of RILO AP's capacity building program is to extend technical assistance to member customs in order to strengthen their enforcement capacity and motivate them towards more active information sharing. In this sense the first seminar of RILO AP in Seoul, organized on 1-2 February on the theme of "Customs Enforcement and the Role of RILO AP" was both timely and adequate. It clearly showed RILO AP's resolve to fully undertake its role as the regional center for information and intelligence exchange. 37 officers participated in this seminar. It was followed by the Seminar on CEN and Intelligence Analysis on 10-13 July. With Mr. Giorgio Sincovich, WCO secretariat, widely known for his expertise to the CEN, invited as a guest lecturer, extensive training on the utilization of the CEN database for intelligence analysis was provided for 27 officers from member administrations.

➤ ATTACHMENT TRAINING

Attachment Training aims to provide in-depth intelligence analysis training to invited officers. The first

Attachment Training of the Seoul office was conducted during 18-29 June with the participation of eight officers from India, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore and RILO ME. Because of the success of the 1st session, a 2nd Attachment Training is planned for November.

➤ EXPERT MISSION

In addition to domestic missions, RILO AP also organizes overseas training missions which involve the posting of experts to a member administration to provide extensive training on CEN utilization and intelligence analysis. The first Expert Mission of RILO AP Seoul was completed with the full support of India Customs during 18-20 April. Three expert analysts trained 20 customs officers from all over India. The second Expert Mission was finished successfully on 22-24 August with great cooperation of Nepal customs, where 16 Nepalese customs officers participated.

➤ FUTURE PLAN

The second Attachment Training is scheduled on 12-23 November. RILO AP will continue to endeavor to respond to member administrations' growing needs for technical assistance by offering timely and efficient capacity building programs. At the same time, RILO AP will make extra efforts to reach out to THE MEMBERS to identify their new priorities in the ever-changing environment of customs enforcement area.

Promoting CEN

The CEN (Customs Enforcement Network)

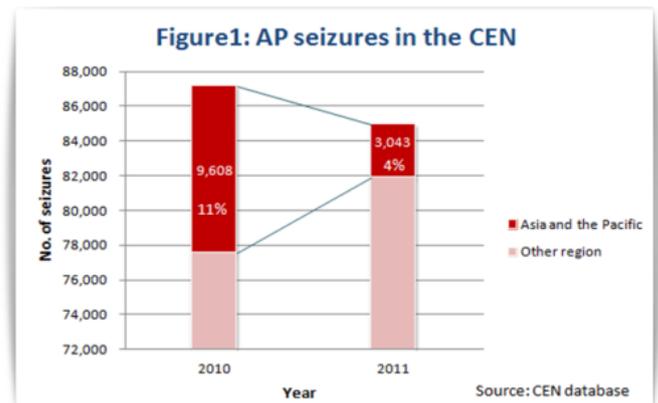


is a global database that contains information on seizures made by customs all around the world. The CEN was developed by the WCO in order to facilitate information and intelligence exchange among customs administrations challenged with transnational crimes. It provides a database containing customs seizures and offences of 13 main commodities, a secure e-mail system, and the CEN website where a wide variety of intelligence products can be shared.

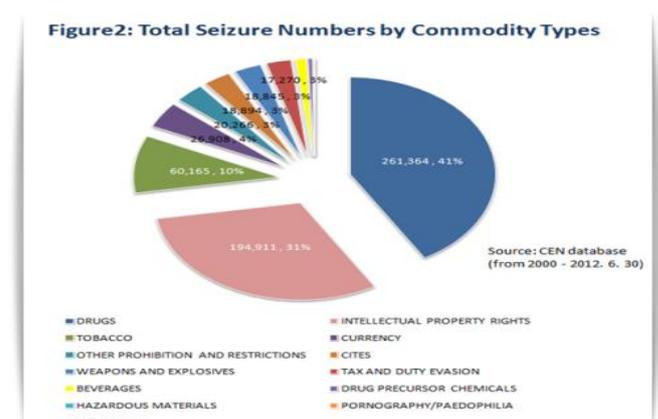
With the success of the CEN, WCO subsequently developed other CEN applications: CEN comm and nCEN.

CEN comm is a secured communication platform for the operation or project users and

n CEN is a national version of the CEN developed especially for customs administrations without a national database in place.



The start of the current CEN in April 2011 is one of the major changes and challenges the system has experienced since its launch in 2000. Despite the improved system interface, the number of users dropped and the existing users had to familiarize themselves to the new system. The number of seizure reports recorded a significant decrease and it is only since March 2012, when the WCO re-started the automatic spreadsheet upload of a large amount of seizure data, that reporting has shown signs of recovery. Figure 1 shows the number of cases reported to the CEN by Asia Pacific members during 2010 and 2011. The contribution of AP members plunged from 9,608 seizure cases to 3,043 cases, accounting for only 4% of global seizures made in 2011.



The drop of AP seizures is a serious concern not only for RILO AP but also for the global customs community. The CEN is a powerful intelligence tool that enables efficient information sharing among the member customs. Moreover, the intelligence produced from information held on the CEN database, including trafficking trends, modus operandi and routes of cross-border crimes, helps members develop risk indicators and gives strategic benefits to their enforcement activities. However, intelligence produced from the CEN will be only reliable when the CEN database has enough seizure records to reflect regional and global dynamics. Therefore, members' active

reporting to the CEN will provide the quality intelligence to support them in the battle against trans-border crimes.

RILO AP publishes various intelligence products such as Monthly Circular, Analysis Report and Alert to support the members but the accuracy and the quality of those products will depend on members' participation.

Finally, with the figure of total number of seizures reported to the CEN as of 30 June 2012, I would like to call AP members' attention to the importance of providing seizure reports and using the CEN database for effective customs border control.

(The picture and the article provided by RILO A/P)

Future Activities of ROCB A/P

4-8 Nov 2012	WCO Regional Workshop on Green Customs in Maldives.
19-23 Nov 2012	WCO Regional Workshop Accreditation of Risk Management Advisors at RTC in Hong Kong China.
3-7 Dec 2012	WCO Regional Workshop Accreditation of Expert Trainers on Valuation Control via PCA at RTC Japan.
28 Jan – 1 Feb 2013	WCO Sub-Regional workshop on PCA for South and West Asia at RTC India.

Coming Soon

- WCO Sub-Regional workshop on RKC for South East Asia (TBC)
- WCO Sub-Regional workshop on PCA for Pacific Islands at RTC Fiji
- WCO Regional Workshop on TRS (TBC)