

New Year Message from ROCB A/P

Dear colleagues and friends of the Asia Pacific Region

A Happy New Year and *all staff of ROCB A/P wish the New Year turns out to be the happiest and the best for all of you.*

Since its establishment in 2004, ROCB A/P is operated by voluntary contribution from regional members. In practice, this means that all resourcing is made available by regional members and all projects/operation is voluntarily supported by regional members. At present, we have (as of 1st January 2013) 7 full time staff from 4 different customs administrations, namely 1 from China, 2 from Japan, 1 from Korea and 3 from Thailand. Hong Kong China is now preparing to second a successor to Mr. Kelvin Wong who has successfully completed his attachment at the ROCB A/P very recently. In addition, a number of regional members contributed to the ROCB activities in various ways. That included, but not limited to, releasing accredited experts for the regional missions/activities, contributing to regional good practice reports and sharing valuable experiences/knowledge at the regional events. The goodwill offered by regional members has enabled ROCB A/P to operate effectively and to conduct a number of high-level capacity building projects in the region in cooperation with the WCO and other development partners. Last year, for instance, we successfully conducted more than 20 regional/sub-regional/national workshops under the CCF. All staff of ROCB A/P together with volunteer members worked very hard on the planning and delivery of these workshops. I would like to take this opportunity, to express my utmost appreciation to the administrations that have been supporting ROCB A/P and regional capacity building activities.

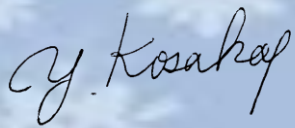
2012 was another extremely busy year for ROCB A/P, with the organization of increasing number of capacity building projects, participating in the WCO/regional meetings and publishing good practice reports to assist with the improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of certain areas of business of A/P regional members. The ROCB A/P believes that 2011/2012 was a year of “enhanced collaboration with development partners”. We organized, in cooperation with the WCO and Thai Customs, “WCO A/P Regional Dialogue on Partnership for Customs Modernization” in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2012. This event offered valuable opportunity for our members and development partners to deliberate as to how to work together to enhance partnership. The feasibility of partnership was explored at the national and sub-regional level. Concrete follow up actions took place later in 2012 that included national donor conference held in Cambodia in November and Joint missions and projects with ADB in South Asian countries.

In addition, there are a number of ongoing discussion/projects on customs capacity building with several development partners that I am sure will bring tangible benefits for the regional development. It is expected that the small seeds planted in 2012 through this regional dialogue will start to bloom in 2013 and beyond.

Based on the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012-2014, ROCB A/P is committed in coming years to “mobilization of regional resources” to meet the capacity building needs from A/P members. To this end, we organized several WCO accreditation workshops such as on ROO, Risk Management and PCA in 2012 and are planning to do some more in 2013. To do this, we will pool/ utilize high level experts in our region. As part of the implementation of “Regional Framework on the utilization of regional resources”, we have also initiated work in collecting information on regionally available expertise from our members. With the concerted effort from the WCO, RTCs, RILO A/P, development partners and, more importantly, regional members, we are planning to provide quality support to those regional experts to further improve their expertise for the ever-betterment of capacity building development in the A/P region. We are really looking forward to having your continued supports in this regard.

As highlighted in all of the WCO related meetings, both customs administrations and development partners have placed great importance on 3Ps, i.e. “Political Will”, “Partnership” and “People” for the successful capacity building. The importance of “ownership” and “leadership” of customs administration for the capacity building program is also repeatedly emphasized. All ROCB A/P staff are ready to work with you hand-in-hand for the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in our region through joint efforts on capacity building. Let us continue or further enhance our work in 2013 for the better future of customs in the Asia Pacific Region.

Sincerely



Yoshihiro Kosaka

Head

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)



New ROCB A/P Office

Since its establishment, ROCB A/P has been kindly hosted by Thai Customs Department. The strategic location for time/ cost effective ROCB operation and the continued strong support given by Thai Customs Department, has enabled ROCB A/P to maintain its effective work to support our regional members. With the great efforts undertaken by all ROCB A/P staff as well as our predecessors, our role and areas of support given to AP regional members has been successfully expanded and, in response to the increased needs of capacity building of our regional members, the number of ROCB staff has also been increased. We are quite certain that great recognition of ROCB A/P among our regional members, development partners and the WCO Secretariat contributed to boost this move in the AP region.

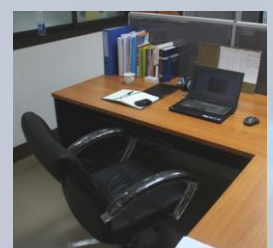
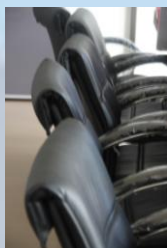
To further enhance her support to our office and to ensure the sound base for our smooth and effective activity for the benefit of regional members, Thai Customs Department kindly offered us to further improve our working environment in the ROCB A/P. While we enjoyed great support extended by Thai Customs Department so far, we appreciated this very kind offer. The practical renovation work of our office commenced at the end of 2012 and now the work is almost complete.



First of all, **Thai Customs Department** kindly offered us to more than double the existing office space which allows us to have wider and better working space for all ROCB A/P staff. All staff have a brand-new bigger table, nice chair and secure personal space which provides a balance of necessary **communication and concentration for our work**. This also enables us to accommodate more staff in comfortable ways in the future if required. Our new office is also equipped with the separate room for the Head of ROCB A/P as well as meeting room for up to 15 persons, which will greatly contribute to our effective work and to further enhance our dialogue and partnership with a number of Development Partners. The new office is also equipped with **big storage space for our accumulated valuable materials, nice and clean kitchen and toilet**. Indeed, after the office renovation, our office is full of smiles.



It is expected that all necessary renovation work will be completed very soon and we are hoping that we can celebrate the birthday of our new office in the very near future. Taking this opportunity, we, all staff of the ROCB, would like to express our utmost appreciation to Thai Customs Department, in particular **Mrs. Benja Louichareon, Director General** and **Mr. Yuttana Yimgarund, Deputy Director General** for their **strong support for this project**.



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Future Activities

Contribution of WCO Accredited Experts in AP Region

Accreditation of customs experts and their utilization for the WCO activities is one of the important capacity building policies of the WCO for providing quality assistance to its members. In the Asia Pacific region, as introduced in the ROCB e-newsletter no. 37 (July 2012), "Framework to Pool, Utilize, Support and Increase Accredited Customs Experts (ACE) in the Region" was adopted by the DGs and Commissioners last year in order to initiate more strategic approach for increasing those capable experts and requesting their contribution for the regional development through the customs capacity building.

There are four categories of WCO accredited experts, namely, Diagnostic Facilitators, Customs Modernization Advisors, Technical and Operational Advisors and Expert Trainers. The WCO introduced a two-step approach for the accreditation of experts, namely "accreditation workshop" and "field mission". ROCB, in cooperation with the WCO, organized a number of WCO accreditation workshops of experts in the last couple of years taking into account the needs and priorities of our regional members. In the first step, i.e. accreditation workshop, nominees are requested to demonstrate their knowledge as well as skills and only those successful participants will go to the second step of accreditation, i.e. field missions. If they are considered capable enough to conduct mission on behalf of the WCO through this second step, they will be formally accredited by the WCO and subsequently receive his/her certificate of accreditation. As a result of collaborative efforts undertaken by the WCO, ROCB and of course regional members, AP region has successfully established certain pool of WCO accredited experts in our region and they are actively contributing to the regional development through capacity building.

In the past years, ROCB together with the WCO requested a number of WCO accredited experts to contribute to the AP regional capacity building activities. For example, in 2012, regionally available WCO accredited experts (including those attached to ROCB) made a great contribution to conduct 14 workshops/missions. Please see the table below for reference. Taking this opportunity, ROCB would like to express our sincere appreciation for their and his/her home administration's kind understanding and cooperation.

In addition to requesting the contribution of WCO accredited experts in the AP region, ROCB made great efforts to increase the number such experts, in cooperation with the WCO and regional members, to meet the ever increasing members needs on capacity building. Taking into account the result of annual capacity building needs survey, ROCB made a gap analysis on the needs and the available expertise in the AP region and proposed to conduct several WCO accreditation workshops to fill those gaps. In 2012, ROCB requested the WCO to conduct accreditation workshops on three areas namely Rules of Origin, Risk Management and Post Clearance Audit. As a result of these workshops, WCO and ROCB identified a number of capable experts who will surely contribute to the regional capacity building in the future.

Furthermore, ROCB also initiated our work on the so-called “candidate list” for the purpose of providing systematic support for regional experts as well as, where necessary, supplementing the capacity building needs of our members in particular on the areas which there is no WCO accredited experts.

ROCB A/P in cooperation with the WCO, regional members and RTCs, will continue our efforts to provide quality assistance to our members in cooperation with those regional experts.

List of contributions made by the WCO accredited experts in 2012

WCO Events Name (unless otherwise specified)	Timing	Home Administrations of WCO Accredited Experts
National workshop on Customs valuation in Lao PDR	23-27 January	ROCB
National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention in Cambodia	13-17 February.	India and ROCB
National Workshop on Post Clearance Audit in Vanuatu	20-24 February.	Japan and ROCB
PCA workshop in the Philippines (funded by JICA)	21-23 March	ROCB
Regional Workshop on Rules of Origin at RTC China	11-15 June	China
National Workshop on Valuation and PCA in Sri Lanka	11-15 June.	Sri Lanka and ROCB
Valuation and PCA workshop for Bhutan in Bangkok (Self-funded)	18-22 June	ROCB
PCA workshop in Pakistan (funded by JICA)	2-6 July	ROCB
National Workshop on Action Planning in Mongolia	14-17 August	Australia and ROCB
Sub-regional workshop on Post Clearance Audit at RTC Fiji	20-24 August.	Japan and ROCB
Regional workshop on IPR Border Enforcement at RTC Japan	11-14 September.	Hong Kong
Sub-regional workshop on Green Customs in Maldives	4-8 November.	Sri Lanka
National Workshop on RKC (funded by ADB)	27-29 November	ROCB
Accreditation workshop on Valuation control via PCA	3-7 December	ROCB

(Note: there may be some more missions conducted by the accredited experts that directly coordinated by the WCO)

Enhanced Collaboration with Development Partners

Enhancing cooperation/collaboration with Development Partners (DPs) is one of the important action items for ROCB A/P in 2012. In fact, ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO and Thai Customs, organized “Regional Donor Conference on Partnership for Customs Modernization” in Bangkok in May 2012 for boosting the collaboration between the DPs and customs administrations. In 2012, several follow up meetings and projects of this Regional Conference have already taken place in the Asia Pacific Region for moving our partnership into practice. The following are some of the examples of concrete cooperation/collaboration which took place in the latter half of 2012.

- JICA national workshop on PCA in Pakistan (July 2012)
- National donor meeting in Cambodia (Sep. 2012)
- WCO/ADB joint mission to Bhutan (Sep. 2012)
- WCO/ADB TRS workshop for West Asia (Sep. 2012)
- UN/ESCAP TF forum and customs workshop in Sri Lanka (Oct. 2012)
- ADB Consultation in Manila (Nov. 2012)
- WCO/ADB RKC workshop in Bhutan (Nov. 2012)
- UNEP project REN meeting in Manila (Nov. 2012)

Let us introduce some of the latest activities with Asian Development Bank (ADB), one of our biggest partners below.

1. ADB Consultation on future collaboration

As part of its ongoing efforts of ROCB A/P to further enhance partnership with DPs, Head of ROCB AP paid a visit to ADB Headquarters in Manila in November to discuss further enhancement of collaboration with a number of ADB high-level officials. ADB concluded MOU with the WCO in 2010 and has been promoting customs reform and modernization in the Asia Pacific region as one of the key components of their efforts on regional development through trade facilitation.

Through this dialogue, ADB officials and ROCB A/P agreed to work together to identify several concrete cooperation projects related to, for instance, RKC, AEO and TRS and to further explore possibilities of future cooperation/collaboration in support of the member's reform and modernization. In order to provide wider quality support to our regional members, ROCB A/P will continue its efforts in maintaining the effective link with DPs including ADB.

2. WCO/ADB Joint workshop on RKC in Bhutan

At the invitation of ADB and Bhutan Customs, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P as well as WCO accredited expert on RKC, visited Thimphu, Bhutan and conducted the WCO/ADB joint workshop on RKC. This 3-day workshop was fully funded by ADB and, in total, approximately 70 participants, including 50 participants from Bhutan customs that consists of Director General and other senior officials joined this workshop.

Bhutan customs identified accession to RKC as one of the priority activities. Both Bhutan customs and ADB are of the view that WCO involvement for this project is extremely beneficial and therefore requested us to have a support. From the ROCB perspective, this can be an excellent example of donor engagement and also a practical follow up work of the regional donor dialogue that ROCB A/P organized in Bangkok in May 2012.

The 3-day program covered wide areas related to RKC, including the outline, benefit, rights and obligation, accession process of the RKC as well as introduction of the provisions of General Annex and Specific Annexes. Bhutan customs made significant progress in finalizing so-called gap analysis between RKC and their national legislation, deepened their understanding on RKC and confirmed their preparedness towards accession to RKC through this workshop. Task force for RKC was established and initiated their work of concrete preparation and, at the end of this workshop; they reported the roadmap of accession to RKC. With the great level of ownership of Bhutan Customs as well as timely and effective support extended by ADB, ROCB is confident that their coordinated work on this project will be a great success.



The workshop initiated a number of positive discussions and outcomes. Participants were of the view that this tripartite coordinated effort of Bhutan customs, ADB and WCO/ROCB can make huge difference and welcomed the WCO/ROCB involvement for this work. From WCO/ROCB perspective, this is a good example of “ownership”, “leadership”, “partnership” and “regionalization”. It is expected that similar collaborative work will take place in 2013 too.



The 10th Meeting of Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers

The 10th Meeting of the Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs) was held at the Customs Training Institute in Kashiwa Japan on 25 to 26 October, 2012. It was attended by the representatives from six RTCs (Fiji, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Korea and Malaysia) as well as those from the WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair Office of the Asia Pacific Region and Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO AP). The Head of WCO Secretariat also attended the meeting as observer.

In the spirit of (Regional Strategic Plan) 2012-2014, high on the agenda of this meeting were issues such as “Exchange of Information on the evaluation of training courses”, “Framework to pool, utilize support and increase accredited experts in the region” and “Involvement of RTCs for the improvement of training techniques of regional experts”. This reflects the regional demand for sustainability and effectiveness of capacity building.



All RTCs provided updates the meeting on their latest capacity building activities and explored how to further enhance the initiative of “Centre of Excellence”.

Participants also shared their valuable experience in training quality control and engaged in active discussion on how to make effective use of regional expertise, including the ACEs (Accredited Customs Exports) and candidates. ROCB advised the meeting of their plan to compile a compendium on training evaluation and invited all RTCs to contribute their best practices in this area after the meeting. All participants acknowledged the timely nature of this work and expressed a willingness to cooperate.

The WCO Asia Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop on **Green Customs** for South and West Asia Members [Male, Maldives on 4-8 Nov. 2012]

In collaboration with Maldives Customs Service, and under the sponsorship from Customs Cooperation Fund, Japan, WCO and ROCB A/P held the Asia Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop on Green Customs in Male, Maldives from 4-8 November 2012. This workshop was facilitated by the experts from WCO, UNEP ROAP, RILO A/P, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat, INTERPOL NCB Maldives, Sri Lanka Customs as well as the facilitators from ROCB A/P, Mr. Shigeaki KATSU Deputy Head of ROCB A/P and Ms. Ben CHAMKROM Customs Technical Officer. 23 participants from 8 Customs Administrations namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and fifteen officials from Maldives Customs Services attended the workshop.

During the workshop, the participants were attended sessions on Green Customs Initiatives, and the role of Customs, and were provided with a pre-course and post-course multiple-choice questionnaire. They also received an Overview of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and illegal in wild life, WCO Global RILO Network, Outline, activities of RILO A/P CEN, CENcomm and ENVIRONNET, ODS, non-ODS substances. These sessions highlighted CFC and HCFC phase-out schedule and other important aspects of the Montreal Protocol, HS Maintenance and HS 2012 amendments focusing on social and environmental issues, including trends in smuggling methods and practical aspects of enforcement such as Mixing of legitimate trade and illegal traffic, Incentives for customs, Detection, Handling and safety procedures. Participants were divided into three discussion groups. Taking this opportunity, the participants and the representative from nine Customs Administrations made presentations on existing efforts on compliance with MEAs, success and challenges of MEAs, capacity building and intelligence sharing. The participants expressed great appreciation for the arrangements and found the workshop very practical and useful.

On their return to their home administrations, all participants were expected to disseminate the knowledge gained through the workshop to their colleagues so that its benefits can be enjoyed not only by the participants but also by the respective administrations.



Training under the Programme

Global Shield

The WCO in cooperation with Asia-Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) and the Thai Customs Department held a training session under the Programme Global Shield (PSG) at Millennium Hilton, Bangkok - Thailand on October 22 - November 2, 2012. The training was facilitated by WCO expert on Programme Global Shield, US CBP and expert trainer from Azerbaijan Customs.

The training was separated into two segments as "train-the-trainer" and "intermediate program". In total, 14 participants from 8 Customs Administration joined this training program. In the first week, i.e. on October 22 -26, 8 participants from 7 Customs Administration attended "train-the-trainer" programme and participants were successfully certificated as PGS trainer, joining a global pool of talented trainers. In the second week, from October 27 to November 2, all 14 participants deepened their understanding and knowledge on the illicit diversion and trafficking of precursor chemicals that may be used in manufacturing improvised explosive devices. Those participants also studied risk assessment, targeting and identification of precursor chemicals under PGS, as well as basic investigation techniques and prosecution procedures.



WCO Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on ROO

The WCO Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on ROO was held in Shanghai Customs College (RTC China) from 15th to 19th October 2012. 12 selected participants from 8 member Customs administrations attended the Workshop. Mr. Jing CHENG from ROCB A/P joined two WCO officers as facilitators.



This workshop was conducted to measure each candidate's all round quality including their expertise on ROO, HS, and training delivery skills.

All participants actively contributed to both breakout sessions as group activities and plenary sessions for various discussions and presentations. A Face-to-face feedback interview with each participant was conducted on the last day of the workshop. During the interview, the participant was encouraged to review and evaluate his or her personal performance during the workshop. The WCO facilitator then provided feedback the candidate's performance and informed the initial result of accreditation. During the workshop, WCO successfully identified a number of capable experts for the next step. They will be expected to contribute to the future regional capacity building activities.

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Accreditation of Risk Management Advisors

From 19th to 23th November 2012, the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Accreditation of Risk Management Advisors was held in Hong Kong at the Customs and Excise Training School (HKCTS), Hong Kong China. A total of 16 selected participants from 12 member administrations attended the Workshop.

The workshop was conducted to measure the candidates' expertise on overall risk management capacity. It also measured progress towards compliance with relevant international instruments and the skills of training delivery including Risk Management Essentials, WCO Risk Management Compendium, WCO Capacity Building Development Compendium sub-section on Strategic Risk Management, WCO Diagnostic Framework on Risk Management, Revised Kyoto Convention, and components of producing effective reports, risk management policies and plans.

The WCO facilitators introduced WCO Accreditation Process, WCO Columbus Program, and WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium, RILO, CEN, nCEN, CTS, as well as informative training tips and allocation of subjects to participants. On behalf of ROCB A/P, Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON briefly introduced the WCO regional structure and regional capacity building policy to the workshop.



During the Workshop, all participants actively participated in the individual and group work sessions and demonstrated their training skills and ability to undertake an advisor role. They agreed that the knowledge and techniques conveyed through this workshop would be beneficial for them to undertake the future roles.

The result of the Workshop will be formally informed to each of participating administrations after the Workshop.

WCO Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on Valuation Control via Post-Clearance Audit

The WCO Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on Valuation Control via Post-Clearance Audit (PCA) was held in Kashiwa, WCO Regional Training Center Japan from 3rd to 7th December 2012. 15 selected participants from 10 member Customs administrations attended the Workshop. Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P and his colleague, Ms. Matchima Kiripet joined two WCO officers as facilitators.



This workshop, Valuation Control via PCA was a pilot event for a new programme initiated by the WCO with a view to establishing a pool of expert trainers capable of developing training materials on the subject matter and leading training activities on behalf of the WCO in the Asia Pacific Region.

The workshop was highly intense, with a review of the latest WCO training policy, sharing with the new WCO Revenue Package approach and tools and conducting group discussions and presentations as well as individual work to develop training plan etc.

During the workshop, all participants actively contributed to the breakout sessions as group activities and plenary sessions for various discussions and presentations. They also learned the importance of being equipped with the latest WCO knowledge, international exposure and effective delivery skills, as well as having advanced technical knowledge and experience in the field of Valuation and PCA.

All participants committed to develop training materials and some of which will be used for the upcoming sub-regional workshop on Valuation Control via PCA in India to be held at the end of January 2013. Those participants successful in completing this workshop are expected to meet the demand of the subject matter requirements in the Asia Pacific region.

North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation

During 23rd – 25th October 2012, Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) and UN ESCAP's joint Forum on "North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation" was held in Seoul, Korea. In total, 50 officials from China, Korea, Mongolia (as members), Japan, Sri Lanka (as observers) and other international bodies including ROCB, GIZ, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization attended the Forum. Mr. Lee, Sang Hyup from ROCB was invited as a resource person.

GTI is the intergovernmental cooperation mechanism supported by the UNDP with four member countries of China, Mongolia, Korea and Russia. It has cooperative bodies in Transport, Energy, Tourism, Environment and Trade

This Forum was a combination of Private-Public Dialog on Trade Facilitation, the second meeting of the GTI Trade Facilitation Committee, and a seminar on the Development and Facilitation of International Intermodal Transport in North-East Asia.

Mr. Sang Hyup Lee was invited as a panelist to lead the discussion on Bridging Private-Public collaboration Gaps in Trade Facilitation in North-East Asia. The WCO and ROCB partnership concepts in the WCO policy such as RKC and AEO were introduced. He also emphasized the importance of Capacity Building, and some issues on building social capital (trust), public awareness and culture of integrity were added to the discussion session.

‘UNESCAP’s Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2012 and Other Related Venues

‘UNESCAP’s Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2012 and Other Related Venues were held from 29th October to 2nd November in Colombo, Sri Lanka. For the main venue, up to 200 participants from 27 countries and related international organizations attended.

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) Annual Meeting was held on the first day. ADB, APEC, WCO ROCB, ECO, SAARC, OCO, AFACT, World Bank and UNECE participated and introduced their capacity building programs and the way forward.

On the 30th – 31st October, the Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2012 was opened with the theme “Partnership”. Mr. SangHyup, Lee from ROCB made a presentation on “Strengthening Customs Business Partnership through Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program” and a WCO expert also made a presentation on “Improving Connectivity through Globally Networked Customs”.

On the next day, the Expert Review Meeting on Regional Arrangements for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade was held. During the meeting, the ESCAP resolution 68/3 on paperless trade was introduced with the discussion

session of the follow up review on the study report on regional arrangements for the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade. In cooperation with Sri Lanka Customs, two special sessions were organized on the last day. Discussion was mostly dedicated to AEO in the morning session. Mr. SangHyup, Lee made presentations related to the topic. For the last session, the Revenue Package, Small and Medium Enterprises and Transit Issues, were introduced by the WCO expert. For more useful information, ESCAP published “Capacity Building Kit for Single Window Implementation”.

Contribution for the 24th Administrative Meeting of NCP for the RILO A/P

The 24th Administrative Meeting of National Contact Points (NCP) for the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) was held at SMS Function Centre in Jaipur, India from 31st October to 2nd November 2012. In this meeting, a number of informative presentations were provided by the representatives of RILO A/P, participating members and observers. They included a Progress Report, CEN update, and Regional Trends on Cross Border Crimes related to drugs, environment crimes, IPR and Commercial Fraud. The meeting also took note of Intelligence Needs and RILO AP Action Plan & Work Plan 2013.

Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, as a representative from ROCB A/P, participated in and contributed to this meeting by presenting Activity Report of ROCB A/P. In his presentation, he highlighted some of the Workshops organized by the ROCB A/P to which RILO A/P made great contribution by sharing their expertise. He also expressed his expectation on the continuous cooperation with RILO A/P, Vice-Chair Office as well as Members for the better and coordinated Capacity Building activities.

25th Administrative Meeting of National Contact Point for the RILO A/P will be held in Vietnam.

The First Workshop of the Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (Project REN)

The 1st Workshop of the Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (Project REN) was held in Cebu, the Philippines on 21–23 November 2012. The workshop was hosted by United Nations Environmental Programme, Regional Office of Asia and Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) and attended by 25 representatives from the member administrations. On behalf of ROCB AP, Mr. Jing CHENG technical attaché of ROCB AP joined the workshop.

This Project REN features the UNEP Ozone Action and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) partnership aiming at addressing the challenge of ODS illegal trade. It will be implemented by UNEP Ozone Action CAP ROAP in cooperation with 25 countries in the region. Project REN aims to reduce unwanted trans-boundary movement of harmful substances and hazardous waste (HSHW) in Asia by preventing illegal trade and encouraging legal trade. Through the improved enforcement cooperation regionally and globally, and the targeted problem-solving capacity-building at the national level through a network, the project will enable customs officers and other key enforcement officers to monitor and control trans-boundary movements of chemicals and waste more efficiently. The duration for the project is three years.

During the workshop, Mr. Jing CHENG made a presentation related to the initiatives of ROCB AP related to the project REN. In its capacity as the regional hub for customs capacity building, ROCB AP will render some tangible support to the implementation of REN including to reconcile the regional expertise for the mission of technical assistance, to establish the effective linkage between UNEP and RTCs as well as to ensure the effectiveness of REN national contact point list.

He highlighted that Green Customs has always been an important agenda of WCO and a rewarding and effective partnership have been established between ROCB AP and UNEP through a series of joint activities on Green Customs. He also stressed that this positive relationship will be carried further through the project REN and will definitely bring tangible benefits to the regional members.

At the request of International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), Mr. CHENG also joined the discussion on the potential areas for further cooperation under the project REN along with the representatives from the UNEP and RILO AP at the margins of this meeting

Future Activities

No.	Event Name	Timing
1	Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via PCA for South & West Asia (RTC India)	28 Jan. – 1 Feb. 2013
2	National Workshop on IPR in Cambodia	11 – 13 Feb. 2013
3	National Workshop on PCA in Tonga	18 – 22 Feb. 2013
4	8 th Informal Meeting of Heads of ROCB and RTCs and Vice-Chairs' Offices (Brussels)	21 – 22 Feb. 2013
5	WCO Capacity Building Committee (Brussels)	25 – 27 Feb. 2013
6	National Workshop on Risk Assessment in Thailand	26 – 28 Feb. 2013
7	Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on TRS (RTC Japan)	4 – 8 Mar. 2013
8	National Workshop on Risk Assessment in Malaysia	12 - 14 Mar 2013
9	Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for Pacific Islands (RTC Fiji)	25 – 29 Mar. 2013
10	Sub-Regional Workshop on RKC for Southeast Asia (RTC Malaysia)	4 – 8 Apr. 2013