



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE 31st MEETING OF THE ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS

7 – 9 June 2022

1. The 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Directors-General (DG) was held in hybrid format on 7 – 9 June 2022, in Singapore. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Ho Chee Pong, Director-General of Singapore Customs, and was attended by 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The ASEAN DGs of Customs noted and provided guidance on the progress of the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC), the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG), the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (CECWG), the Customs Capacity Building Working Group (CCBWG) and the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee (ASWSC).
3. The Meeting welcomed the live operation of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) among eight AMS, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand and looked forward to the live operation of the ACDD by the remaining AMS in 2022. The Meeting also looked forward to the live exchange of the electronic Phyto Certificate among Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in 2022. The Meeting likewise noted the progress of the discussion with the respective Dialogue Partner (DP), namely China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States, on the exchange of electronic documents. The Meeting also noted the agreement to commence the technical and legal framework discussion to prepare for the exchange of the electronic Certificates of Origin with China and Japan, respectively. Considering the positive progress, the Meeting looked forward to the exchange of the electronic Certificate of Origin with ready DPs. The link-up of the ASW with the DPs would further promote the digitalisation of trade processes, allowing the exchange of documents or data which will bring about cost and time savings to businesses.
4. The Meeting commended the finalisation of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2022 and noted that Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have implemented the AHTN 2022. The remaining AMS will intensify efforts to implement the AHTN 2022 by end of this year.
5. The Meeting noted recent cargo movements using the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) among Participating Member States, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Meeting further noted the efforts in improving the use of the ACTS through ongoing initiatives, including the ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building Outreach Events, the Two-Country Transit pilot between Cambodia and Viet Nam, and the feasibility study on Implementing the ACTS along the Borneo Corridor which will involve Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The Meeting looked

forward to having more cargo movements using the ACTS with more diversified stakeholders. The Meeting also looked forward to the ACTS live operation in Myanmar in 2023.

6. The Meeting was pleased to adopt the Joint Action Plan (JAP) on the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programmes of ASEAN Member States. The Meeting looked forward to the signing of the ASEAN AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AAMRA) by 2022 with a view to commencing the pathfinder programme with ready AMS by 2023.

7. The Meeting noted the progress of the discussion on the Low-Value Shipments (LVS) and looked forward to the conclusion of the feasibility study on the simplification of customs procedures for LVS, which could include the simplification of documents and data elements required for the purpose of faster release and clearance of the low-value consignments, among others.

8. The Meeting held consultation sessions with Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the World Customs Organisation (WCO) to exchange best practices and experiences on customs-related issues, including cross-border electronic commerce, development of AEO MRA, digitalisation of Customs procedures, pre-arrival processing, risk management, circularity and Green Customs which are critical to support ASEAN's progress of customs simplification and modernisation. The Meeting looked forward to deepening cooperation with DPs in those areas, among others.

9. The Meeting also held consultation sessions with private sector representatives from the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, the EU-ASEAN Business Council, and the US-ASEAN Business Council to strengthen Customs-to-Business partnerships in the region. The consultation sessions underlined the close engagement between customs and the private sector as a collective effort in deepening ASEAN economic integration, enhancing intra-ASEAN trade, and strengthening supply chain connectivity, in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

10. With the reopening of borders, the Meeting encouraged the Customs administrations of AMS to facilitate the smooth and secure flow of goods and trade, which remain critical to the region's recovery and growth. The Meeting underlined the vital role that the customs has played in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic and encouraged customs to continue being a pillar for the development and prosperity of ASEAN.

11. The Meeting is committed to implementing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025, including enhancing connectivity cooperation in the digital era. The Meeting also noted the need to intensify work that minimises disruption to, and enhances the resilience of supply chains, and improves trade connectivity. To this end, the Meeting encouraged AMS to further improve the transparency of border measures and strengthen border agency cooperation and coordination which are critical in supporting the region's recovery.



(Official photos for use)

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Heads of Delegation at the closing of the 31st Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Customs.



Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, who is Chairperson of the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN DGs of Customs.



Consultation session with private sector representatives from the US-ASEAN Business Council.