



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS HOSTS APEC SINGAPORE 2009 SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES MEETING

Singapore Customs is proud to host the first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) meeting in 2009 held from 23 to 26 February 2009 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. The meeting is attended by Customs officials from 20 APEC member economies.

Singapore Customs Chairs APEC Singapore SCCP 2009

2 The four-day SCCP meeting is chaired by Singapore Customs' Assistant Director-General Mr Loh Fook Meng (卢福明). The 20 APEC member economies attending the meetings are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Republic of the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States and Viet Nam.

3 Said Mr Loh Fook Meng in his opening remarks, "Traders place a lot of importance on the ease, speed and predictability for the clearance of their goods. Customs play a key role in trade facilitation by ensuring that customs procedures are simple and transparent. During difficult times such as the one that we are experiencing right now, it is even more imperative for Customs to help reduce business costs by being as facilitative as possible without compromising trade security."

SCCP 2009 Agenda

4 The SCCP meeting discussed Trade Facilitation issues in the context of the APEC Second Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP 2) which aims for a further reduction in trade transaction costs by five percent in the period of 2007 to 2010. The meeting discussed progress made in achieving the key performance indicators under TFAP 2 that have been tasked to the SCCP, namely (i) Time Release Survey, (ii) APEC Framework based on the WCO Framework of Standards, (iii) Simplification and Harmonisation on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention, (iv) Paperless and/or Automation of Trade-related Procedures, (v) Harmonisation of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention, and (vi) Appropriate, Transparent and Predictable Trade-related Procedures.

5 Member Economies also deliberated and reported progress on the Single Window Initiative, the Authorised Economic Operator Programs, simplification of customs documentation on rules of origin and possible customs responses to the Global Economic Crisis.

About APEC SCCP

6 Established in 1994, the main objectives of the APEC SCCP are to simplify and harmonise regional customs procedures to ensure that goods and services move efficiently, effectively and safely through the region, and to reconcile and facilitate border controls.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- About SCCP:
http://www.apec.org/apec/apec_groups/committee_on_trade/sub-committee_on_customs.html
- About APEC Singapore 2009 (including programme details for the various meetings):
http://www.apec2009.sg/attachments/094_Programme%20for%20APEC%20SOM1_090209.pdf

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