



**ROOTED IN A CULTURE
OF VOLUNTEERISM**

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As we stand on the cusp of 2018, inSYNC looks back at some initiatives Singapore Customs has undertaken in the past few months to fulfil its mission of securing and facilitating trade.

On the security front, Singapore Customs marks the 20th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) by reaffirming its support for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' goal of a world free of chemical weapons. Read about how Singapore Customs, the National Authority of the CWC, engages the industry to keep Singaporeans safe from the dangers of chemical weapons (page 4). Singapore Customs officers also mounted a surprise free trade zone operation at the Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC) in September (page 10). Companies operating in the CAC were inspected and the goods stored there were verified to be legitimate.

On facilitation, Singapore Customs began serving travellers at the new Changi Airport Terminal 4 on 31 October. With the array of GST refund kiosks and digital payment machines available at the tax payment office, travellers can look forward to fast and seamless customs services (page 2).

To maintain an effective customs administration which supports the flow of international trade, partnership with international and local counterparts is vital. In July, five Singapore Customs middle managers met their counterparts from Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia at the 2nd Joint Customs Middle Management Programme hosted by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE), Indonesia (page 3). inSYNC took the opportunity to speak with Director General (DG) of the DGCE Heru Pamudi, and sought his views on the opportunities and challenges facing ASEAN customs administrations and his experience as the DG of the DGCE (page 6).


Singapore Customs also joined hands with our partner at the borders, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, to give back to the community while strengthening relations with each other (page 1).

Toh Shi Ting
Editor

FEATURES

DOING GOOD TOGETHER

Singapore Customs and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) joined hands to volunteer at the AWWA Senior Community Home.

Singapore Customs and the ICA play complementary roles in facilitating trade and upholding border security. As close working partners, Singapore Customs and ICA officers jointly organised a community service event at the AWWA Senior Community Home on 22 September 2017 to give back to the society together. 



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1. In the early morning, more than 50 Singapore Customs and ICA officers gathered at the home's garden, ready to spruce it up and plant a batch of vegetables.

2. Director-General of Customs Ho Chee Pong and ICA Deputy Commissioner (Corporate Development & Administration) Vijakumar Sethuraj (from right in photo) loosening the soil and planting the seedlings.

3 & 4. After a morning of hard work weeding, trimming and planting seedlings, the garden was soon filled with neat patches of greens and beds of seedlings. Finally, it was time to water the seedlings! The vegetables will be harvested a few months later and cooked for the residents' consumption.

5 & 6. After the gardening activity, Mr Ho and Mr Vijakumar visited the elderly at the home and helped to distribute lunch to them.

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SERVING YOU AT CHANGI AIRPORT TERMINAL 4

Travellers can enjoy the same efficient customs services at Changi Airport's newest terminal.

At less than half the size of Terminal 3 (T3) but able to handle two-thirds of T3's capacity, Changi Airport's Terminal 4 (T4), which boasts a handling capacity of 16 million travellers a year, opened on 31 October 2017. Singapore Customs worked closely with the Changi Airport Group (CAG) to operationalise our services at T4.

Similar to the other terminals, travellers can continue to look forward to a full range of customs services at T4. Arriving travellers will be able to make duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) payment for their overseas purchases seamlessly at the Singapore Customs office at T4, using a range of digital payment options, including NETS, Visa, Mastercard, Apple Pay and Android Pay. Travellers who prefer to make payment at their convenience before arrival at Changi Airport can use the Customs@SG mobile app.

Departing travellers can obtain GST refunds under the electronic Tourist Refund Scheme, and

endorsement for their hand-carried exports permits at the GST refund counters located in both the public and transit areas of T4's Departure Hall. Self-service kiosks are available at these counters to allow travellers to process their GST refund applications.

Getting ready to serve

In the lead-up to its opening, Singapore Customs collaborated with the CAG and other partners since October 2016 to prepare for flight operations at T4. This includes planning the space configuration of the various Singapore Customs customer touchpoints, familiarising staff with the new terminal and its operating procedures and ground deployment exercises.

The staff also went through rounds of trials involving mock and real flights with the CAG to test out our systems and processes to ensure a smooth and pleasant experience for travellers.

"I'm honoured to be involved in the operationalisation of Singapore Customs' customer touchpoints in T4 and I'm excited to serve here," said Higher Customs Officer Nurul Ertiyana, who is stationed at the Singapore Customs office at T4.

Where to find Singapore Customs at T4



Images: Changi Airport Group

DEVELOPING CUSTOMS MIDDLE MANAGERS



The Joint Customs Middle Management Programme (JCMMP) is an annual training programme organised by the customs administrations of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to enhance the competency of their middle managers.

Five middle managers from Singapore Customs attended the 2nd JCMMP hosted by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE), Indonesia, in Bogor and Jakarta, from 31 July to 3 August 2017.

Over the four days, the participants exchanged insights and best practices on topics such as effective border management and combating illicit trade, with Singapore Customs sharing our experience in effective border management and the implementation of the World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement. Besides classroom learning, the participants also went for some site visits, including the DGCE's joint gate and monitoring room in Jakarta to understand its operations.

The participants also engaged in a fireside chat with a leadership panel comprising the Directors-General from Singapore and Indonesia, and the Deputy Directors-General from Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.



1. "The fireside chat was an invaluable experience due to the candid sharing of views between the leaders and the participants. This helps to promote greater trust among the four customs administrations and lay the foundation to achieve greater common goals," said Singapore Customs' Deputy Head of Special Investigation Tan Siong Beng, who participated in the programme.



2. "This training programme was a good way of networking with our regional counterparts. This benefits all the participating customs administrations because when the time comes, we can rely on the resource persons that we are familiar with," said Singapore Customs Deputy Head of International Relations Vivien Tng, another participant of the JCMMP.

TOWARDS A WORLD FREE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) marks 20 years of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 2017. As the National Authority of the CWC [NA(CWC)], Singapore Customs plays a part in fulfilling Singapore's commitments under the CWC.

Senior Superintendent of Customs (SSC) Alice Neo and Higher Superintendent of Customs (HSC) Corina Lim are part of a team of Singapore Customs officers who fulfil the responsibilities of the NA(CWC).

Singapore's implementation of the Convention includes administering an NA(CWC) licensing regime as well as conducting inspections, outreach and training sessions.

The team also works closely with agencies like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to ensure the effective implementation of the CWC in Singapore.

WHAT IS THE CWC AND THE OPCW?

The CWC is an international treaty implemented by the OPCW which aims to prohibit the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. Some 192 countries representing 98 per cent of the global population have ratified the Convention since it entered into force in 1997. For its extensive efforts in eliminating chemical weapons, the OPCW received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2013.

Singapore ratified the Convention in May 1997. The Chemical Weapons Prohibition Act (CWPA) was subsequently enacted in 2000 to provide a legislative framework to fulfil Singapore's obligations under the Convention.

Administering a robust NA(CWC) licensing regime

Singapore Customs implements a robust NA(CWC) licensing regime where companies are required to obtain a licence before carrying out any activities pertaining to CWC-scheduled chemicals and Unscheduled Discrete Organic Chemicals (DOCs).

Singapore Customs NA(CWC) officers also conduct national inspections of companies dealing with CWC chemicals. In addition to the national inspections, there are regular visits to the companies by inspections teams from the OPCW.

A typical inspection process involves a pre-inspection briefing, physical inspection of the plant site, as well as a review of the company's records.

"Inspection is one of the crucial aspects of our job to ensure the legitimate use of CWC-scheduled chemicals," said SSC Neo. "These inspections allow us to engage the chemical industry on the authorised and legitimate uses of controlled chemicals."

1 & 2. Singapore Customs' NA(CWC) officers conducting a physical inspection at a chemical plant site.



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Collaborations with the OPCW and the chemical industry

As the liaison between the local chemical industry and the OPCW, the team also conducts outreach and training sessions to update the chemical industry on important developments of the OPCW and regulatory changes. Singapore also works with the OPCW to conduct various courses for participants from other countries. Such courses include the OPCW Associate Programme, Training Course for National Authorities, and the Training Course on Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents for Asian States Parties.

These events serve to support international cooperation as well as build up national capacities of States Parties within the Asian region. Singapore will be organising the fifth run of the Emergency Response Course in December 2017.

The team also attends various OPCW training courses and meetings such as the Annual Meeting for National Authorities as well as the Conference of State Parties.

In December 2016, Singapore Customs attended the 21st Session of The Conference of the State Parties at The Hague, Netherlands. Singapore's participation in these events provided a good opportunity for Singapore Customs' NA(CWC) officers to be kept up-to-date on the latest CWC developments.

"Our engagement and collaboration with the OPCW ensures that Singapore remains highly committed to enhancing its capability in preventing the proliferation of chemical weapons," said HSC Lim.

Beyond 20 years of success in chemical weapons disarmament

Scientific advancements and rising global threats such as terrorism continue to challenge the goals of the Convention.

To remain relevant, Singapore Customs' NA(CWC) officers conduct regular reviews on Singapore's licensing regime and its regulations on the control of CWC-scheduled chemicals.

In 2015, Singapore Customs reviewed Singapore's regulations on the storage of CWC-scheduled chemicals to safeguard chemicals from theft or sabotage that could release the chemicals into populated areas. Licensing renewals are also regularly called for to ensure that chemical production companies remain compliant with the CWC.

Director-General of Singapore Customs Ho Chee Pong met Director-General of the OPCW Ahmet



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Üzümcü twice in 2017 to reaffirm Singapore Customs' commitment in the complete and universal implementation of the Convention. They also discussed possible collaborations between the OPCW and other international organisations.

With the near complete destruction of declared chemical stockpiles, it is important for Singapore Customs to keep pace with emerging technologies and new threats in our rapidly changing environment, and work closely with the OPCW to keep up-to-date with the CWC's developments.

This is especially timely as the OPCW commemorates 20 years of progress in the elimination of chemical weapons and the promotion of the peaceful use of chemicals in 2017.

3. The Fourth Training Course on Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents for Asian States Parties jointly conducted by Singapore Customs, the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the OPCW in 2015.

4. Singapore Customs Director-General Ho Chee Pong (left in photo) met Director-General of the OPCW Ahmet Üzümcü for a bilateral meeting at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, in June 2017.

GAINING STRENGTH THROUGH CHANGE AND COLLABORATION



In recent years, the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE) has evolved beyond its traditional role as a revenue collector to an administration which supports Indonesia's industry and trade. Guided by the reform programme of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, the DGCE has integrated the programme's transformative vision as part of its department's ethos. While the DGCE continues to face challenges both inherently (such as limitations arising from its geographical structure) and extrinsically (such as the changing customs operating environment), it rises above these challenges by driving change and working with its partners on the national and international front. Mr Heru Pambudi, Director-General of the DGCE tells inSYNC how he leads the department in achieving these goals.

Images: DGCE, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia.

Can DG Heru please share with us some of the DGCE's key priorities in the next five years?

The DGCE's key priorities are in line with the Ministry of Finance's reform programme. This programme aims to achieve better reinforcement of integrity, organisational and institutional culture; revenue optimisation; customs facilitation optimisation; and enhancing service efficiency and surveillance effectivity.

How does the DGCE keep up with the rapid changes in the customs operating environment?

The DGCE cannot work alone, we need to have close cooperation with many related agencies especially the Immigration and Quarantine to carry out our duty to protect the borders. Among other things, we have incorporated Indonesia Single Risk Management into Indonesia's National Single Window to further expedite the release of goods. We have also established the Passenger Name Record for Government with the cooperation of airline companies.

We also maintain good cooperation with both internal and external agencies. For example, on a national level we cooperate with the Indonesian National Police and National Narcotics Agency to fight illicit drugs. Furthermore, we also establish close cooperation with the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and many other agencies in relation to customs operations in industrial and trade facilitation programmes.

In terms of international collaboration, the DGCE is actively involved and participates in regional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation with related parties. For instance, Indonesia and Singapore are currently in the midst of discussions to initiate coordinated patrol programmes, while Indonesia and Malaysia already have sustainable joint customs patrol programmes, for example "PATKOR KASTIMA". Undeniably, the DGCE needs to strengthen good cooperation with other related agencies, particularly between customs administrations, to achieve its goals.

What do you think are some of the future challenges faced by ASEAN customs administrations?

One of the challenges that we are facing is the evolving transaction method of trading as e-commerce becomes a more prominent trend. Customs authorities are expected to support the e-commerce industry development by contributing efficiency, speed, accuracy, ease of tariff calculation, and also shipment tracking. Furthermore, the rapid change of technology in the case of blockchain, artificial intelligence, and 3D printing are some other issues that also have to be anticipated by customs authorities.

Above all, one of the biggest challenges for ASEAN customs administrations is customs-related transnational crimes such as the illicit trade of drugs, terrorism, money laundering or cross border cash carrier, environmental crime, and national and cultural heritage smuggling.

To overcome these transnational crime issues, ASEAN customs administrations should determine the best way to cooperate with one another, in the form of joint operations and exchange of information.

How do you think ASEAN customs administrations can work together to achieve greater operational efficiency and bring about greater facilitation or benefits for businesses?

To show ASEAN commitment to trade facilitation under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Member States have developed the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Framework (ATFF). Customs administrations play a vital role in the ATFF as its scope includes customs and transport facilitation. The implementation of ATFF is expected to achieve a competitive, efficient and seamless movement of goods within the region. This will in turn enhance ASEAN's trade and production networks, better participate in global value chains, and establish a highly-integrated and cohesive economy. Hopefully, it will also improve the monitoring mechanism for the implementation of trade facilitation measures, to increase the effectiveness, responsiveness, and competitiveness of ASEAN industries and businesses, particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

With the entry into force of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on 22 February 2017, how can ASEAN customs administrations collaborate further to strengthen trade growth in the region, and remain relevant and competitive in an evolving trading landscape?

ASEAN customs administrations work closely together to enhance trade growth in the region through active participation in regional platforms such as the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG), the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on E-commerce (ACCEC) and the development of frameworks such as the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Framework (ATFF). Moreover, most ASEAN Member States have ratified the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) as the standard of technical recommendation for customs administrations, implying that ASEAN customs administrations are moving towards the same direction with the WTO TFA since the RKC itself is in line with the WTO TFA. Such frameworks and working groups are developed to provide platforms for sharing ideas and formulating strategies to keep up with the more competitive trade environment and evolving trading landscape.

After two years and four months in this appointment, what struck you most about being the Director-General of the DGCE?

Being the Director-General of the DGCE is quite challenging in terms of managing the work coverage under the DGCE's supervision. As the biggest archipelago country, Indonesia, comprises thousands of islands and long coast lines with large differences in the level of infrastructure development. DGCE's human resources are short in comparison to our wide range of supervision coverage. With the existing human resources, the DGCE should design proper strategies to deal with the limitations. This struck me the most, and is one of the biggest challenges I face.

With the successful run of the 2nd JCMMP hosted by the DGCE, what are DG Heru's vision and aspirations for the JCMMP going forward? What are the areas of growth you hope to see in the JCMMP?

I hope more ASEAN Member States can join the JCMMP programme so that we can have a better understanding of our regional customs administrations. Other than that, in the next JCMMP, I hope we can have breakout sessions to discuss specific matters. As participants in each breakout session are in the same field of expertise and face similar tasks in their daily operational work, the sharing will be deeper and more focused on practical and technical discussions.

"Read more about the JCMMP, an annual joint training programme for middle-managers from the customs administrations of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, on Page 3.

"The implementation of ATFF is expected to achieve a competitive, efficient and seamless movement of goods within the region. This will in turn enhance ASEAN's trade and production networks, better participate in global value chains, and establish a highly-integrated and cohesive economy."



FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO CREATE YOUR CORPPASS ACCOUNT

Register now to continue assessing Singapore Customs' e-services.

The Singapore Corporate Access (CorpPass) will be used to access all Singapore Customs e-services come 2018. To avoid any inconvenience when the current mode of login will no longer be available, traders, declaring agents and shipping agents are strongly encouraged to register and start using CorpPass.

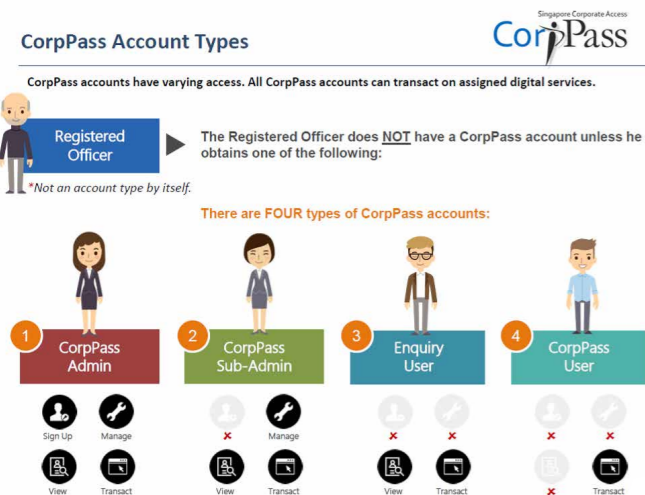
Here are four simple steps to get you started:

STEP 1: NOMINATING CORPPASS ADMIN

There are four types of CorpPass accounts, and varying levels of access are granted to each type of account.

The Registered Officer (RO) is a person officially registered to the entity with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) or a relevant Unique Entity Number (UEN)-issuance agency such as business owners, partners, directors, board members and corporate secretaries. He will choose a person in his entity as the CorpPass Admin.

The CorpPass Admin will be in charge of managing all CorpPass-related matters for the entity. There can only be a maximum of two CorpPass Admins per entity, but the CorpPass Admin can create multiple Sub-Admin and User accounts.



STEP 2: REQUESTING FOR APPROVAL OF CORPPASS ADMIN FROM RO

The appointed CorpPass Admin will log in through the CorpPass portal (www.corppass.gov.sg) with his SingPass to submit an approval request to the RO for the CorpPass Admin Account.

To do so, the CorpPass Admin can either:

- Fill in the last five characters of the RO's NRIC or FIN number and the email address of the RO on the page, and an email notification will be sent to the RO selected by the CorpPass Admin, or;
- If the RO does not have a SingPass account, the CorpPass Admin will upload a Letter of Authorisation (LOA) from the RO through the portal.



Request Registered Officer Authorisation

Select one of the two options.

Request Online Approval by Registered Officer OR Upload Letter of Authorisation (Click [here](#) to download letter template.)

Registered Officer's Identity No. Last 5 Characters*
e.g 4567D of S1234567D

Registered Officer's Email*
abc@abc.com

[Add another Registered Officer](#)

Request e-Service Access

I would like to access all e-Services available on CorpPass with my Admin Account.

Cancel Next

STEP 3: APPROVING CORPPASS ADMIN

The RO will log in through the CorpPass portal with his SingPass to approve the CorpPass Admin account request. If the CorpPass Admin had submitted an LOA in the earlier step, it will be routed to the CorpPass Central Administrator for approval.

Home About Us Services Help

Welcome
Your one-stop platform to manage and transact with the Government in an easy and secure manner.

New to CorpPass? Find out more or view the digital services you can access with CorpPass.

Register as a CorpPass Admin

- Register for CorpPass
- Check Registration Status
- Activate CorpPass Account
- Retrieve CorpPass / Entity ID
- Reset Password
- Manage Admin
 - Approve Admin Accounts
 - View Approved Admins

Get started with CorpPass

CorpPass ID: GRABRIELPHANG87

Registered Officer Authorisation

Method of Approval: Request online approval from Registered Officer

Registered Officer's Identity Number: Sxxxx7232B

Registered Officer's Email: abc@abc.com

Request e-Service Access

All e-Services' access will be assigned to the CorpPass Admin upon Registered Officer's approval.

Approve / Reject Admin Account

Approve Admin Account OR Reject Admin Account

Cancel Submit

With this, you have successfully created your CorpPass account!

For users of Singapore Customs' e-services such as Customs Account, Declaring Agent Account, Authorisation of Declaring Agent, Government TradeNet Application and Services, and Web Manifest Reconciliation Statement (WMRS), the CorpPass ID conversion will be done upon successful first-time CorpPass login.

For Inventory Control System and Petroleum Refund users, you will be required to do a CorpPass conversion to map your CorpPass ID to your existing SingPass or eCustoms ID.

For more information on how to do so, refer to Notices No. 07/2016 and 03/2017 on www.customs.gov.sg

You may also contact the CorpPass helpdesk on 66430577 from 8am to 8pm on Mondays to Fridays, or 8am to 2pm on Saturdays, or email your queries to support@corppass.gov.sg for queries on CorpPass.

STEP 4: CORPPASS ADMIN CREATES CORPPASS USER ACCOUNT(S)

Once the CorpPass Admin account request is approved, the CorpPass Admin can choose to log in to the CorpPass portal to create CorpPass User accounts, and assign access to all the available government e-services to each CorpPass User.

The CorpPass User can subsequently visit the CorpPass portal to verify the account details with his SingPass and set up a CorpPass ID and password (if the CorpPass Admin has not done so).

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- Activate CorpPass Account
- Retrieve CorpPass / Entity ID
- Reset Password
- Manage Admin

Get started with CorpPass

CorpPass ID: GRABRIELPHANG87

Registered Officer Authorisation

Method of Approval: Request online approval from Registered Officer

Registered Officer's Identity Number: Sxxxx7232B

Registered Officer's Email: abc@abc.com

Request e-Service Access

All e-Services' access will be assigned to the CorpPass Admin upon Registered Officer's approval.

Approve / Reject Admin Account

Approve Admin Account OR Reject Admin Account

Cancel Submit

Home My Account Users e-Service Help

Welcome to CorpPass,
PHANG GABRIEL

Update your password before it expires on 18 Dec 2016

24 new e-Services are available on CorpPass as of 19 Sep 2016

User Accounts e-Service Access

Create User Accounts
Add accounts to your Entity

Manage User Accounts
View and edit your entity's user account details

UPHOLDING THE SECURITY OF FREE TRADE ZONES

inSYNC followed a team of Singapore Customs officers as they went from warehouse to warehouse in the Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC) to inspect the goods stored there, to uphold the security of Singapore's Free Trade Zones (FTZs).

Among Anna and Belle's responsibilities as Singapore Customs officers is conducting inspection of goods stored in FTZs to ensure that no customs regulations are contravened. By doing so, they ensure that our FTZs continue to be used only for legitimate trade.

In the first nine months of 2017, Anna, Belle and their colleagues have been involved in more than 270 such inspections in Singapore's FTZs. These include routine checks and surprise operations.

The operation on 7 September 2017 in the CAC, a 45-hectare FTZ where companies enjoy facilitation such as the suspension of duties and Goods and Services Tax (GST), was one of the largest operations they conducted this year.

Before the start of the operation, Anna who was also the Deputy Operation Commander, conducted a briefing of the day's plan for the officers involved. Their role was to inspect over 220 warehouse units for possible infringements of the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act, Free Trade Zones Act, Customs Act, Strategic Goods (Control) Act, and intellectual property rights and strategic goods control regulations, and the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Textile Chapter. Once the briefing was over, Anna and Belle set off for the CAC together with the other officers.

At the CAC, Anna and Belle kept an eye out for illicit goods. To ascertain the legitimacy of the goods, the duo requested for the supporting trade documents from the companies' representatives and inspected the goods closely.

In one of the warehouses, Belle inspected a box that appeared to contain cigarettes. In the trade documents provided by the company, the cargo was declared as "Printed packaging for (computer) mouse" and not cigarettes.



It turned out that the manufacturer had packed the goods in boxes that were previously used to contain cigarettes before they were exported to Singapore. The contents were verified and tallied with the declaration made by the company. It was not the first time that Belle has come across such a situation, but as the inspecting officer, it is her job to always ensure that proper verification is done.

Besides enforcing against illicit trade in the FTZs, Singapore Customs officers also enforce against duty-unpaid cigarettes in such operations. Five offenders were caught for possessing duty-unpaid cigarettes that day. Three offenders were issued with composition sums of up to \$3,500 and two offenders were each administered with a stern warning.

"We are not using their real names to protect the identity of these officers."



PARTNERS IN STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL

Singapore Customs' Deputy Director-General (Corporate & Facilitation) Lim Teck Leong (centre in photo) met with the United States Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Rich Ashooh (left) and Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Richard Majauskas (right) at the 11th Bilateral Meeting held in Washington D.C. on 18 and 19 October 2017.

During the meeting, both sides discussed strategic goods licensing and enforcement matters, and explored areas for future cooperation.

They also exchanged views on current proliferation trends, and both Singapore Customs and BIS reiterated the need for countries to work together to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS, JAPAN CUSTOMS CONDUCT AEO COURSE

Under the auspices of the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century, Singapore Customs and Japan Customs jointly conducted a course on Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) for officers from the customs administrations of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam at the Singapore Customs Academy from 25 to 27 September 2017.

Aimed at building capacity among ASEAN countries, trainers from Singapore Customs and Japan Customs shared with 15 participants from the four ASEAN customs administrations about the objectives, benefits, challenges, and good practices in implementing AEO programmes, and the two customs administrations' experiences in the signing of Mutual Recognition Arrangements.






MRA JOINT VALIDATION WITH THAI CUSTOMS

As part of the joint validation of the compatibility of Singapore's and Thailand's Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes, representatives from Singapore Customs visited Thai Customs Department from 12 to 15 September 2017. This is part of the negotiation for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of both countries' AEO programmes.

While in Thailand, Singapore Customs representatives joined Thai Customs officers for site assessments at three companies and observed how Thai Customs carries out its validation of companies applying for or renewing their AEO statuses.

Both sides achieved consensus on the various aspects of the MRA implementation and the visit marked another milestone towards the establishment of a MRA between Singapore Customs and Thai Customs. 

NEW STP COMPANIES ON BOARD

The Secure Trade Partnership (STP) is a voluntary certification programme that encourages companies to adopt robust security measures and contribute towards improving the security of the global supply chain. The following companies joined the STP in the third quarter of 2017.

COMPANIES WITH STP STATUS

Nippon Express (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Nippon Express (Singapore) Pte Ltd provides logistics services such as air freight, marine transport and moving services to connect customers around the world and meet their logistics needs.

"We are very honoured to be certified under the reputable STP," said Mr Motohiko Suzuki, General Manager. "This certification not only affirms our quality of service, it also gives our clients more confidence when partnering with us."

SDC Technologies Asia Pacific

SDC Technologies Asia Pacific (SDC) manufactures and distributes premium proprietary abrasion resistant coatings for various industries such as aviation, medical and safety to ophthalmic solutions.

"SDC decided to embark on the STP certification as a form of our commitment to global supply chain security," said Ms Joan Ong, Senior Logistics Manager. "The certification instils trust in customers and customs organisations in other countries that we provide secured delivery with minimal risk of our cargoes being exploited for ulterior motives."

Energizer Holdings, Inc.

Energizer Holdings, Inc. manufactures primary batteries and portable lighting, providing power solutions with a full portfolio of products.

"The STP certification helps Energizer facilitate trade not only in Singapore, but also in several of Energizer's global markets where Singapore has signed mutual recognition agreements with," said Mr Seetoh Zhiwei, Trade Compliance Manager, APAC Markets & International Plants.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Please note that dates are subject to change. For full programme and registration details, please refer to www.customsacademy.gov.sg

SC100 BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT

This course provides trade declarants with an overview of customs procedures pertaining to the import and export of goods, the basic requirements for preparing TradeNet declarations, classification of goods, and the rules of origin:

- SC101 Customs Procedures (2 days)
- SC102 Classification and the Harmonised System (half-day)
- SC103 Rules of Origin / Free Trade Agreements (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.

8-10 JANUARY
2018

SC111 HANDS-ON TRADENET DECLARATION

This one-day workshop provides new declarants who have just entered the industry with basic information on TradeNet, and its various message and declaration types.

The guided practical session uses simulated scenarios to help new declarants prepare and submit a declaration using the Government Frontend Solution.

16 JANUARY
2018

SC401 CUSTOMS COMPETENCY TEST FOR DECLARANTS

This module is designed to test an individual's knowledge of the customs procedures and documentation requirements. Upon passing this test, the individual can then apply for registration with Singapore Customs as a declarant to submit TradeNet permit declarations.

This is an open-book test comprising 50 multiple-choice questions. The topics tested include: customs procedures, TradeNet declarations, valuation, classification, rules of origin and specialised procedures. The one-hour test can be taken during the AM or PM session.

Individuals who wish to sit for the test are advised to familiarise themselves with the above-listed subject areas. They can do so through courses or eLearning at Singapore Customs Academy, the Customs Virtual Academy and by visiting the Customs website.

28 DECEMBER
2017

(AM AND PM
SESSIONS
AVAILABLE)

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS

This bimonthly programme is designed to equip newly-registered manufacturers with a better understanding of the rules of origin under Singapore's free trade agreements, the application procedures for certificates of origin, and the compliance requirements.

For enquiries, please email customs_roo@customs.gov.sg



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