



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS TURNS 100!

Singapore Customs (SC) is 100 years old this year!

2 SC's rich heritage traces back to 1910 when it was first established as the Government Monopolies Department under the British colony. Since then, Customs has undergone various organizational changes and expanded our roles beyond that of a revenue collection agency. Today, SC is entrusted with the vital mission of assuring the integrity of our international trading system. Singapore's trade and customs regulatory systems have been favourably acknowledged in various reputable surveys and studies, such as the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" report.

3 To kick off its centennial celebrations, SC is holding a launch event this morning at the Orchid Country Club. Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong is gracing the event and sealing the Customs' Time Capsule. About 450 SC's staff, trade partners, industry leaders and representatives from government agencies are attending the event. The guests will have the opportunity to tour Customs' exhibition which features its rich history and heritage over the past 100 years.

4 In addition, SC is launching its commemorative magazine and centennial microsite at the event. A set of Customs' commemorative stamps has also been produced to mark this significant milestone.

Singapore Customs' Centennial Celebrations

Customs' Time Capsule

The Customs' Time Capsule will be sealed by Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong at SC's centennial launch event. The Time Capsule is a repository of significant items that are reflective of the metamorphosis of the department through the century, and is a record of the achievements by the department as it turns 100. The time capsule captures a point in time for future generations of customs officers to remember the excellent work attained by the organisation, when they look back years later.

Some meaningful items that will be placed inside the time capsule include old and current permits, customs uniforms, staff passes, corporate reports, photographs of staff, news articles and well wishes. After the launch event, it will be kept at Singapore Customs' Headquarters at Revenue House at Level 9. The Time Capsule will remain sealed for the next 20 years and will be opened up in 2030.

First Day Cover Stamp

SC has worked with Singapore Post to produce a first day cover stamp to mark its centennial year. The design of the stamp captures the diverse roles of the organisation, and is a reflection of its current roles and responsibilities. The background of Singapore's port and skyline of the financial district signifies SC's mission to assure the integrity of the trading system and to support Singapore as a global trade hub.

Commemorative Magazine

Highway for Trade - Celebrating 100 years of Singapore Customs is a special magazine that commemorates the centenary of SC. It provides insights into the rich heritage and evolving roles of the department from its formation during British colonial rule, through independence and nation building, to its vital mission today of supporting Singapore's development as a secure, global trade hub. The magazine provides a glimpse into the department's exciting plans ahead as it gears up to meet the challenges of a dynamic and ever-evolving international trading landscape as it embarks on its journey into its next 100 years.

Centennial Microsite

Together with Temasek Polytechnic, SC has developed a centennial microsite (<http://www.customs.gov.sg/100Years/index.html>) depicting an exciting living city filled with symbolic buildings to bring out Customs' 100 years of history in a fun and simple manner. The buildings include the department's former headquarters located at ex-Custom House along Maxwell Road, the Treasury Building where the department's parent ministry – Ministry of Finance – resides and a seaport. Each building has a story to tell. For example, the ex-Custom House highlights the department's key milestones through the eyes of a long-serving Customs officer. The seaport reflects SC's role today as a builder of Singapore's trade highway to make trade easy, safe and secure.

**ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS
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