

insync

ISSUE
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SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MAGAZINE

— P.01 —

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with regional counterparts



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EDITORS' NOTE

2022 was an eventful year for Singapore Customs.

In June, we hosted the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General (DGs) of Customs, nine years since Singapore last hosted the regional meeting. We were also the first to resume hosting the DG-level meeting in-person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the same month, Singapore acceded to the Revised Kyoto Convention, which is the World Customs Organisation's flagship convention on customs procedures and trade facilitation. This ensures that our customs procedures are consistent with international best practices.

In September, we bade goodbye to our Director-General, Mr Ho Chee Pong, who led Singapore Customs for more than eight years, and welcomed Mr Tan Hung Hooi, previously Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations).

Wrapping up the year, we launched the Container Track and Trace service on the Networked Trade Platform to provide supply chain visibility to Singapore-based traders and their logistics partners. Read more about the key highlights of 2022 on pages 2 and 3.

We are also happy to share that we won the Best Customer Satisfaction Score for Transactional Services (Medium Agency) for the second consecutive year, at the recent Digital Services Awards organised by GovTech (page 10). We will continue to review and improve our service standards and customer experience.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of inSYNC. Wishing all a great year ahead.

TAN XIAN LIN AND ISABEL CHIA
Editors

FEATURES

Reaffirming close partnerships with regional counterparts

- Singapore Customs maintains a close working relationship with its regional counterparts and contributes to efforts to facilitate trade in the region, thereby strengthening Singapore's position as a global trade hub.

BILATERAL MEETING WITH INDONESIA DIRECTORATE OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

A Singapore Customs delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Indonesia Directorate of Customs and Excise (DGCE) in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 7 and 8 November 2022.

At the meeting, Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Tan Hung Hooi, and DGCE Director-General Askolani discussed ongoing bilateral projects and explored further areas of collaboration between the two customs administrations.

Both sides also highlighted the importance of leveraging data exchange to achieve the twin goals of trade facilitation and revenue protection. The visit also reaffirmed the close partnership between the two customs administrations.



DGCE Director-General Askolani (left) and Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Tan Hung Hooi (right), engaging in a discussion.



DGCE Director-General Askolani and Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Tan Hung Hooi, visited various premises where DGCE Director-General Askolani shared insights on the multi-faceted work of Indonesian Customs officers.

37TH ASEAN MEETING OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS

Singapore Customs chaired the 37th ASEAN Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC), which took place from 22 to 24 November 2022 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The CCC discussed the progress of the various ASEAN customs initiatives under the Strategic Plans of Customs Development. These ongoing initiatives aim to improve customs clearance of goods traded within ASEAN.

During the CCC, the ASEAN customs administrations also held consultation sessions with the customs administrations of Australia, China, Japan and South Korea, respectively. These sessions helped to strengthen the cooperation and partnership between the dialogue partners.



The meeting reaffirmed its commitment in working together to drive the agenda of economic integration in the region.

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Highlights of the Year

1 JANUARY 2022

The world's largest free trade agreement, the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP)**, entered into force on 1 January 2022. With its entry into force, businesses can benefit from preferential tariff treatment for exports of Singapore-originating goods to parties under the RCEP, as well as for imports of RCEP-originating goods into Singapore.

26 JANUARY 2022

As part of its annual tradition, Singapore Customs joined the global Customs community in observing **International Customs Day** at the Customs Operations Command. Ten Singapore Customs officers were awarded the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Certificate of Merit, for demonstrating commitment in their work towards scaling up customs digital transformation through data, which was WCO's theme for 2022.

9 MARCH 2022

A 39-year-old motor vehicle importer was fined over \$5.5 million for evading duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 464 imported motor vehicles, the biggest case convicted for motor vehicles in 2022. Singapore Customs launched an investigation after detecting that the importer had failed to declare the value of optional features of the vehicles to Singapore Customs for assessing the duty and GST payable for the vehicles.

JAN - MAR
2022

APR - JUN
2022

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, visited Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station, where he was given a tour of the station, and observed first-hand how Singapore Customs officers inspected cargo and used artificial intelligence to improve checkpoint operations. He also took part in a virtual engagement session with about 80 Customs officers.

6 MAY 2022

Singapore Customs hosted the **31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General (DGs) of Customs** in hybrid format in June 2022. Over the three-day meeting, the ASEAN DGs took stock of the work of the various customs working groups and committees. A key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the Joint Action Plan for the ASEAN Authorised Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

7 - 9 JUNE 2022

In the same month, Singapore acceded to the **Revised Kyoto Convention**, which is the WCO's flagship convention on customs procedures and trade facilitation. Singapore's accession affirms our commitment to reinforce our position as a reputable major trading hub, and to maintain procedures and standards that facilitate international trade.

25 JUNE 2022

29 JULY 2022

Singapore Customs and the Ministry of Trade and Industry received the Public Sector Transformation Award for Regulatory Excellence, for their work on the **Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES)**. The establishment of EODES is in line with the national drive towards digitalisation of trade and has further strengthened Singapore's bilateral trade relationship with China.

1 SEPTEMBER 2022

After leading Singapore Customs for more than eight years, Director-General Ho Chee Pong relinquished his appointment, with Mr Tan Hung Hooi, previously Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), taking over from 1 September 2022. Under Mr Ho's leadership, Singapore Customs embarked on a transformation journey, stepping up efforts in leveraging technology to enhance overall effectiveness of customs operations.

12 - 16 SEPTEMBER 2022

Singapore Customs and its US and Japan counterparts jointly organised the week-long **Singapore Export Control Summit**, which comprised the annual Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management, the inaugural Women in Strategic Trade Forum, and the 2nd Southeast Asian Forum on Export Control, to engage industry stakeholders on latest developments.

JUL - SEP
2022

OCT - DEC
2022

Journalists from local media outlets joined and observed an enforcement operation targeted at smokers of duty-unpaid cigarettes in Chinatown and Geylang. Thirty-three male offenders, aged between 32 and 70, were caught smoking and possessing duty-unpaid cigarettes. The regular enforcement operations are part of Singapore Customs' efforts to tackle duty-unpaid cigarette activities in Singapore.

8 OCTOBER 2022

At the 18th Joint Council for Bilateral Cooperation, Singapore Customs and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China announced the launch of the **Container Track and Trace service**, to provide supply chain visibility to Singapore based traders and their logistics partners (more on page 7). A Memorandum of Understanding on China-Singapore (Nanjing) Customs Twinning Cooperation was also signed, to deepen cooperation in areas such as customs supervision of free trade zones, trade facilitation and enforcement.

1 NOVEMBER 2022

The public sector-wide **eGuarantee@Gov** initiative was launched to digitalise guarantees submitted to the government. The programme, modelled after Singapore Customs' Electronic Banker's Guarantee Programme launched in 2020, is delivered by the Networked Trade Platform (NTP), leveraging existing NTP digital capabilities. Seventeen government agencies and over 20 participating financial institutions are on board the initiative.

2 NOVEMBER 2022

GST payable on imported low-value goods from 1 January 2023: WHAT CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW

With effect from 1 January 2023, Goods and Services Tax (GST) has increased from 7 percent to 8 percent, with the second round of increase taking place on 1 January 2024, from 8 percent to 9 percent. New rules to charge GST on imported low-value goods and non-digital services have also taken effect from 1 January 2023 to level the playing field for local businesses.

As announced in Budget 2021, with effect from 1 January 2023, consumers in Singapore will need to pay GST on the purchase of low-value goods from GST-registered suppliers which are imported into Singapore via air or post.

This is to level the playing field for local businesses competing with overseas suppliers, and keep Singapore's GST system fair, effective and relevant as the e-commerce economy continues to grow.

There is no change to the GST treatment for goods imported via sea or land as well as goods valued above S\$400 which are imported via air or post. Consumers will need to pay GST at the point of importation of such goods.

To help consumers and businesses better understand the change, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions and other key information below:

WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW

What are low-value goods?

Low-value goods are goods that are located outside Singapore at the point of sale and will be imported via air or post, and have a value not exceeding S\$400. This includes any item valued at S\$400 and below bought online directly from a GST-registered seller or through a GST-registered marketplace or redeliverer, which is then shipped to Singapore via air or post.

How do I know if the suppliers are GST-registered?

More than 300 overseas vendors, including overseas online marketplaces with various sellers on their platforms, have registered for GST under Singapore's Overseas Vendor Registration regime to charge, collect and remit the GST to the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS). [GST Registered Business Search](#) lets you check whether the overseas supplier is registered for GST.

When will I incur GST on low-value goods?

| Scenario | When will GST be incurred? |
|--|---|
| Purchase of low-value goods from a GST-registered overseas seller | Overseas seller will charge GST on the good and shipping fees at the point of sale. GST is not payable to Singapore Customs when the transporter imports the good as GST has already been collected by the GST-registered overseas seller*. |

| Scenario | When will GST be incurred? |
|--|---|
| Purchase of low-value goods from GST-registered and non-GST-registered sellers via a GST-registered Electronic Marketplace Operator (EMO) | Regardless of the GST registration statuses of the shops, the EMO (i.e. online shopping platform) will charge and collect GST on the goods at the point of sale. GST is not payable to Singapore Customs when the transporter imports the goods as GST has already been collected by the GST-registered EMO*. |
| Purchase of low-value goods from a non-GST-registered seller via a GST-registered redeliverer | GST-registered redeliverers, which provide redelivery services to Singapore consumers, will charge GST on the sale of the good and delivery fees before it ships the good into Singapore. GST is not payable to Singapore Customs when the transporter imports the good as GST has already been collected by the GST-registered redeliverer*. |

* If the overseas seller / EMO / redeliverer is not GST-registered, GST is not payable to Singapore Customs when the goods enter Singapore, as the goods [with Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value not exceeding S\$400] qualifies for import relief.

For more information, please refer to [IRAS' website](#).

WHAT BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW

What is the OVR regime?

Administered by IRAS, the Overseas Vendor Registration (OVR) regime was implemented from 1 January 2020 to impose GST on supplies of digital services to non-GST registered customers in Singapore. From 1 January 2023, the OVR regime has been extended to imported low-value goods and non-digital services.

Charging of GST for overseas suppliers

The OVR vendors will be required to collect GST at the point of sale on supplies of low-value goods to:

- Non-GST registered customers; and
- GST-registered businesses purchasing for non-business use.

The OVR vendors will be required to pass the following information down the logistics chain so that the relevant GST information will be made available for import permit application:

- Whether GST has been paid for each item; and
- GST registration number (GSTN) of the OVR vendor

Customs permit requirements

Currently, import GST relief is granted on goods imported by air, excluding intoxicating liquors and tobacco, of a total value (on a CIF basis) not exceeding S\$400.

There is no change to the import procedure and permit requirements for goods imported via air after 1 January 2023. As long as the total CIF value of the consignment does not exceed S\$400, an import permit is not required to account for the importation of the low-value goods if they are non-controlled (excluding intoxicating liquors and tobacco). However, the relevant import permit is required if any of the goods are controlled by any Competent Authorities.

For more information, please refer to [OVR Regime](#) and [Circular 11/2022](#) on Singapore Customs' website.

Case files: Enforcement Highlights

CASE 1: MORE THAN 400 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED IN OPERATION

On 8 July 2022, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at Pasir Panjang Ferry Terminal and conducted checks on six men – four Singaporeans, one Malaysian and one Indonesian – leaving the place with large bags. Officers found 140 cartons and 25 sticks of duty-unpaid cigarettes in their possession. Four of the men were arrested, while two of the Singaporeans were detained for further investigations.

Officers conducted further checks on a ferry and uncovered another 200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes onboard. They also arrested another Indonesian man.

A follow-up search at the offenders' residences led to a seizure of 46 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Another 13 packets and 25 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in one of the offender's workplace and another offender's car respectively.

Investigations revealed that two of the Singaporeans and the Malaysian were working at Pulau Busing. They had been purchasing duty-unpaid cigarettes from unknown Indonesian crewmen with the intention of re-selling the cigarettes for profit. The trio then sought help from the other two Singaporeans to carry the duty-unpaid cigarettes from Pulau Busing to Pasir Panjang Ferry Terminal.

The two Indonesians who were the captain and engineer of a ferry had been smuggling duty-unpaid cigarettes into Singapore by concealing them in the ferry and re-selling them for profit.

A total of 411 cartons, 13 packets and 25 sticks of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to more than \$47,320 and \$3,600 respectively.

For their offences involving duty-unpaid cigarettes, the two Indonesians were sentenced by the State Courts to jail terms of four months and two weeks, and five months respectively. The Malaysian was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and a fine of \$12,500. He failed to pay the fine and served an additional one month and five days' imprisonment in default. The two Singaporeans were sentenced to 18 weeks' and 20 weeks' imprisonment respectively. Investigations are ongoing for the remaining two Singaporeans.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found concealed in the ferry.

CASE 2: COMPANY FINED FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF DUTY AND GST ON IMPORTED MOTOR VEHICLES

A company in the motor vehicle trade was sentenced by the State Courts on 2 November 2022 to a fine of about \$128,760 for fraudulently evading duty and GST on imported motor vehicles by suppressing the declared values of motor vehicles imported into Singapore between April 2016 and December 2017.

The company pleaded guilty to two charges of evading duty and GST amounting to about \$25,750 for the imports of 63 motor vehicles. Another two similar charges for the imports of 152 motor vehicles, where the total duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$57,390, were taken into consideration during sentencing.

In August 2018, Singapore Customs officers conducted checks at the company's office and seized trade documents relating to the import and export of motor vehicles. Among the seized documents were bank telegraphic transfer records for transfers that were made to the company's overseas suppliers.

Investigations revealed that the amount remitted by the company to its overseas supplier was more than the declared values in the Declaration of Facts submitted to Customs to assess the duty and GST leviable. The company had under-declared the values of the imported motor vehicles to evade paying the full amounts of duty and GST to increase its profit margin.

Improving supply chain visibility with new Container Track and Trace service on NTP

••• The Container Track and Trace service was announced by Singapore Customs and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) at the 18th Joint Council for Bilateral Cooperation on 1 November 2022. The service aims to provide supply chain visibility to Singapore-based traders and their logistics partners.

COVID-19 has caused major disruptions to the global supply chain, with containers being held up due to factors such as port congestions and labour shortage. Do you wish that you have the real-time status and location of your containerised shipments so that you can better plan your logistics operations?

If you are importing or exporting containerised goods from or to Shanghai's Yangshan Port or Guangxi's Qinzhou Port in China, you can now make use of the Container Track and Trace service on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) to track your containers. All you need is an NTP account and the container number that you wish to track.

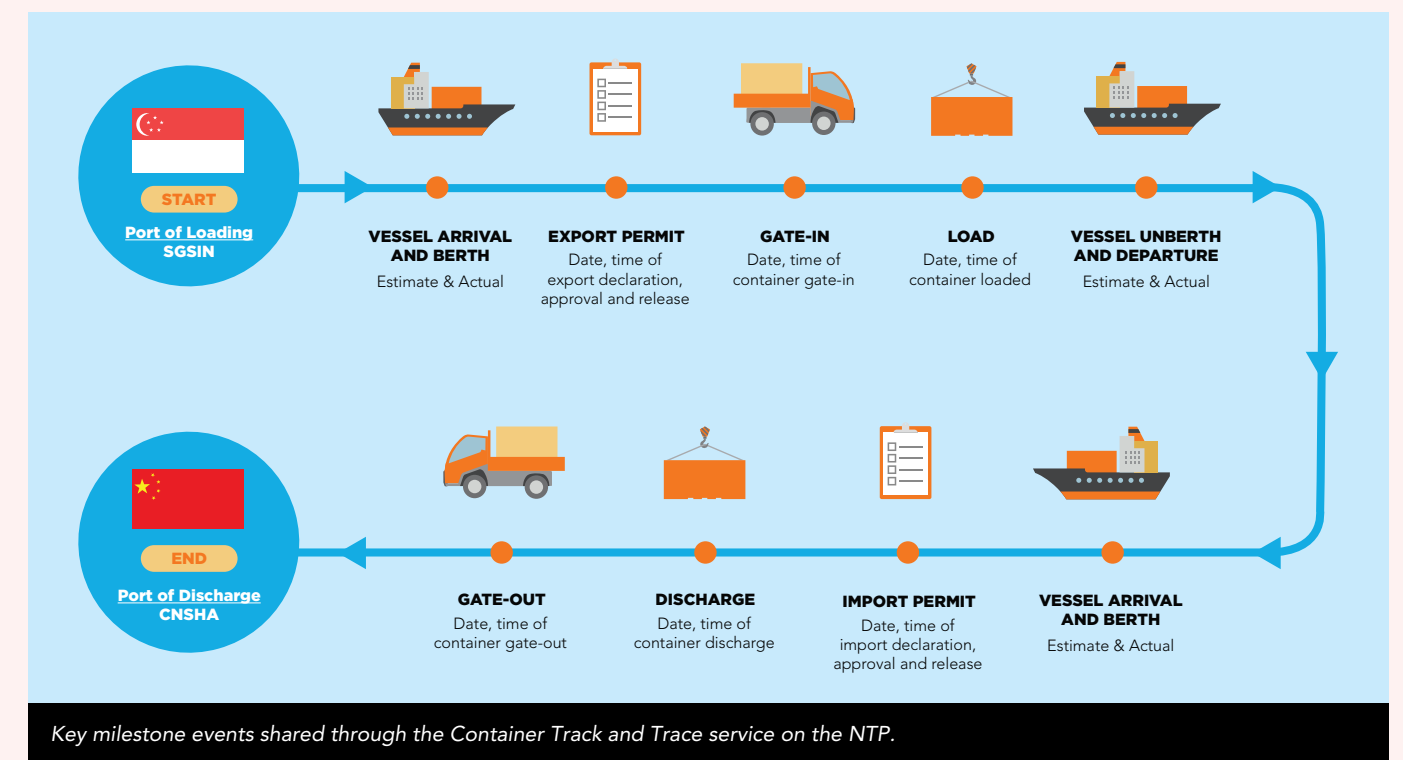
Information relating to vessel events, container events and customs-related events is available on the

service, enabling businesses to see the location of a particular container at one glance.

"The track and trace service on the NTP is a service to look forward to as it links events that are important in the supply chain to smoothen the whole process," said Mr Eric Koh, Shipping, Warehouse & Distribution Manager of Shimano (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

The service is developed jointly by a government-industry partnership among Singapore Customs, GACC, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, and PSA Singapore.

Find out more about the Container Track and Trace service on NTP: <https://go.gov.sg/track-and-trace>.



eGuarantee@Gov launched to digitalise banker's guarantees and insurance bonds

The Ministry of Finance and the Monetary Authority of Singapore launched a public sector-wide eGuarantee@Gov initiative on 2 November 2022 to digitalise guarantees submitted to the government. The programme, modelled after Singapore Customs' Electronic Banker's Guarantee Programme launched in 2020, is delivered by the Networked Trade Platform (NTP), leveraging existing NTP digital capabilities.

eGuarantees@Gov is a simple and secure digital process for businesses and individuals to provide a

banker's guarantee or insurance bond (collectively, "guarantee") to government agencies as swift as within a day. It was jointly developed with the Association of Banks in Singapore and in consultation with the General Insurance Association of Singapore.

The eGuarantees@Gov initiative is part of the government's digitalisation efforts to transform service delivery and reduce transaction costs. It is a win for all parties in the ecosystem – financial institutions, their customers and beneficiary agencies – who will reap greater efficiency in processing guarantees and reduce the risks associated with manual paper-based workflows.

eGuarantee@Gov is estimated to save businesses about \$120,000 per annum from the elimination of printing, courier and storage cost; and financial institutions and government agencies close to 500 man-days from manual processes.

The initiative was officially launched by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, at Singapore Fintech Festival on 2 November 2022, with 17 government agencies and over 20 participating financial institutions on board.

For more information on the initiative, please visit www.eguarantee.gov.sg.

eGuar@ntee Gov
Digitalising the issuance and discharge of banker's guarantees and insurance bonds

SWIFT ✓ **SEAMLESS** ✓ **SAVINGS** ✓

- Faster issuance process, from 5-7 days to within 1 day
- eGuarantee lodged and discharged on a secure IT system via a straight through process
- No need for courier charges and costs for physical storage of paper guarantees

Kick-start your eGuarantee journey today
Find out more at: <https://www.eguarantee.gov.sg>

Brought to you by: MOF, MAS, abs, GENERAL INSURANCE

eGuar@ntee Gov
Digitalising the issuance and discharge of banker's guarantees and insurance bonds

eGuarantee application in 3 easy steps

- YOU (APPLICANT)**: Go to www.eguarantee.gov.sg to review instructions from the Agency on how to fill in your eGuarantee application
- AGENCY**: Provide the eGuarantee application to any Participating Financial Institution
- FINANCIAL INSTITUTION**: Financial Institution will then issue eGuarantee to the Agency

You no longer need to collect paper guarantee from the Financial Institution and send it to the Agency

More than 30 Financial Institutions and Government Agencies are already using eGuarantees. Find out more at www.eguarantee.gov.sg

Brought to you by: MOF, MAS, abs, GENERAL INSURANCE

Customs Unified Scheme of Service for seamless career advancement opportunities

Singapore Customs launched the Customs Unified Scheme of Service on 1 November 2022. The scheme now features an integrated grade structure offering officers equal and seamless advancement opportunities.

This unified career track also features regular job rotations under Customs' Managed Posting System, which offers many opportunities for competency and skills development.

Officers in the OneCustoms team can look forward to taking on the following key roles:

- Trade Facilitator:** We facilitate customs connectivity across borders for a seamless and resilient end-to-end international supply chain and work closely with local and international partners to advance Singapore's economy.
- Trade Regulator:** We uphold the rules of trade and tariffs and keep a close watch on strategic goods and technologies to maintain an effective and robust regulatory regime.
- Law Enforcer:** Adopting a whole-of-government approach, we protect Singapore's revenue and

level the playing field for law-abiding businesses by working closely with other agencies to enforce against revenue-related and trade offences. We also contribute to efforts to safeguard the integrity and security of the global supply chain by partnering regional and international counterparts to enforce against different types of illicit trade.

In Singapore Customs, we work, play, learn and grow together as OneCustoms team.

Visit www.customs.gov.sg/careers to find out more and kickstart your career with us today!



Integrated Grade Structure under the Customs Unified Scheme of Service that was launched on 1 November 2022.

TRADE FACILITATOR



TRADE REGULATOR



LAW ENFORCER



Various roles of the OneCustoms team.



Singapore Customs wins GovTech award for excellence in digital service

Singapore Customs won the Best Customer Satisfaction Score for Transactional Services (Medium Agency) for the second consecutive year, at the Digital Services Awards organised by GovTech's Whole-of-Government Application Analytics (WOGAA) team on 23 November 2022.

Hosted in a hybrid format this year, the awards recognised public officers and agencies for their excellence in raising government digital services' standards through data, and to celebrate their achievements in providing better digital experiences for citizens.

A total of 16 awards across eight categories were given out to government agencies that have delivered digital services that have excellent functionality and usability.

In particular, the award received by Singapore Customs recognised agencies that exceeded user expectations with the best

customer satisfaction scores from WOGAA sentiments, a feature that allows agencies to collect public feedback and ratings on their websites and digital services.

Acknowledging the win, Ms Cheryl Sim, Chief Information Officer, Singapore Customs, said: "We are honoured to receive the award for the second consecutive year. We will continue to review and improve our service standards and customer experience."



Ms Cheryl Sim, Chief Information Officer, Singapore Customs, receiving the award from Guest-of-Honour Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information, and Minister in-charge of GovTech, at the Digital Services Awards on 23 November 2022.

Singapore Customs hosts first Trilateral Secure Trade Lane Initiative Workshop

Singapore Customs hosted the first Trilateral Secure Trade Lane Initiative Workshop held from 1 to 3 November 2022. Participants from the Australian Border Force, New Zealand Customs Service and Singapore Customs explored the feasibility of further streamlining border processes for Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) companies to enhance the benefits accorded to them.



Participants of the inaugural Trilateral Secure Trade Lane Initiative Workshop, which took place from 1 to 3 November 2022.

AEO is a customs administration's partnership programme with businesses to secure and facilitate trade. Singapore Customs' AEO programme is named the STP programme and is based on the World Customs Organisation's Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (WCO SAFE Framework of Standards).

The WCO SAFE Framework of Standards comprises various standards or measures that companies and customs administrations could take to ensure the security of the supply chain. It also encourages customs administrations to establish AEO programmes to certify companies which adopt robust supply chain security practices.



The workshop explored the feasibility of further streamlining border processes for AEO companies.

Sharing on NTP

NTP leveraging data obtained through digital connectivity to capture opportunities in trade digitalisation and facilitation

On 7 and 8 November 2022, public and private sector stakeholders gathered virtually at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on "Smart Customs, Smart Borders and Smart Connectivity", to discuss issues relating to trade security, facilitation, and how customs authorities could capitalise on technology and innovation to achieve smart connectivity.

At the seminar, Ms Choo Wai Yee, Director of the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) Office, shared about the importance of government and customs authorities seeking opportunities to collaborate with different stakeholders – both domestic and overseas, to create win-win outcomes that benefit the larger trade ecosystem.

The Container Track and Trace Service on NTP is an example of how Singapore Customs uses data obtained through cross border digital connectivity with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to enhance cargo movement visibility. Traders and logistics supply chain partners will be able to monitor the status and location of containerised shipments to facilitate their supply chain and logistic planning.

NTP advancing digital trade transformation and connectivity in APEC and ASEAN

With the prevalence of digital technology, policy makers and regulators of the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies recognise the need to enable its wider adoption, particularly amongst the micro, small and medium enterprises. With this comes an opportunity to advance the digitalisation of trade and supply chain finance.

Ms Choo Wai Yee, Director of NTP Office, was invited to be a panellist at the Digital Trade Transformation Symposium held on 16 November 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The symposium, co-organised by the Asia Pacific Financial Forum, Thai Bankers' Association, and the International Chamber of Commerce Thailand, focused on ecosystem reforms and the sharing of best practices from live pilots and proof of concept to benefit member economies and facilitate trade.

During the panel discussion, Ms Choo shared that NTP has established connectivity with Thailand's National Digital Trade Platform (NDTP) to enable businesses in the two countries to securely exchange trade-related documents. This is because files exchanged through NTP are scanned extensively for malicious codes and are encrypted and transmitted via a secure channel, and users are authenticated via the Corppass system.

Businesses interested in connecting with their Thai counterparts through NTP may get in touch with us at NTP_Operations@customs.gov.sg.



Director of NTP Office, Ms Choo Wai Yee (second from right), speaking at the symposium in Bangkok on 16 November 2022.

New STP partner on board

The Secure Trade Partnership (STP) is a Singapore Customs certification programme that encourages companies to adopt robust security measures and contribute towards improving the security

of the global supply chain. It is consistent with the World Customs Organisation SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. The following companies were STP-certified in the third quarter of 2022.

Aviat Networks Pte Ltd Global provider of microwave transport and backhaul solutions

"The STP certification is in line with the culture and practices of Aviat that are built on a strong set of values that govern our relationships with customers, partners, shareholders and the communities in which we operate. We are firmly committed to strict adherence to the export control laws and regulations in all geographies we do business in," said Mr Anthony Chan, Strategic Goods Control Officer, Trade Compliance.

DO YOU KNOW?

SUBMIT YOUR ACDD VIA NTP FOR REDUCED CUSTOMS CLEARANCE TIME

The ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) is a set of export permit declaration data fields transmitted between ASEAN Member States (AMS), aimed at supplementing risk management by the customs authority of the importing country. Goods for which ACDD has been sent to the importing AMS could potentially enjoy faster customs clearance.

WHICH ARE THE AMS THAT YOU CAN SEND ACDD TO?

Singapore-based exporters can opt to send ACDD to the following exchange-ready importing AMS:



HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Traders have to log in to the Networked Trade Platform (NTP), to consent to Singapore Customs sending the ACDD to the destination customs authority. On NTP, traders can also specify the declaring agents whom they wish to authorise to send the ACDD on their behalf, if applicable.

HOW DO I SUBMIT ACDD VIA TRADENET?

Traders or their declaring agents will need to indicate the following when declaring the export permit on TradeNet:

- "International Connectivity" under the "Customs Procedure Code (CPC)" field; and
- "ACDD" at the "Processing Code 1 (PC1)" field.



More information on participation in the electronic submission of ACDD can be found at <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/international-connectivity/acdd/>.

TRAINING CALENDAR

With the appointment of Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) and Republic Polytechnic (RP) to conduct the existing suite of business courses since January 2020, the business courses conducted by Singapore Customs Academy has ceased from January 2020.

To sign up for the business courses conducted by NYP or RP, please visit the respective polytechnic's website. All courses will be conducted virtually, except for SC111.

SC100

NYP:
13 TO 14 FEB 2023,
13 TO 14 MAR 2023,
17 TO 18 APR 2023
SC101

15 FEB 2023, 15 MAR 2023,
19 APR 2023
Same dates for SC102 & SC103

RP:
6 TO 7 FEB 2023,
6 TO 7 MAR 2023,
10 TO 11 APR 2023
SC101

8 FEB 2023, 8 MAR 2023,
12 APR 2023
Same dates for SC102 & SC103

BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT

This course provides 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.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS

Conducted by Singapore Customs, this 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 procedure for certificates of origin, and the compliance requirements.

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

SC111

NYP:
16 FEB 2023, 16 MAR 2023,
20 APR 2023

RP:
10 FEB 2023, 10 MAR 2023,
14 APR 2023

HANDS-ON TRADENET DECLARATION

This one-day workshop provides new declarants with basic information on TradeNet and its various message and declaration types.

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

SC200

NYP:
17 FEB 2023, 17 MAR 2023,
21 APR 2023

Same dates for SC201 & SC202

RP:
9 FEB 2023, 9 MAR 2023,
13 APR 2023

Same dates for SC201 & SC202

STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL PROGRAMME

This one-day seminar provides an overview of Singapore's strategic goods control system and its regulations, registration procedures and permit requirements for strategic goods transactions, as well as the essentials of an internal (export control) compliance programme.

The seminar comprises two modules:

- SC201 Basics of Strategic Goods Control (half-day)
- SC202 Essentials of Internal (Export Control) Compliance Programme (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.