



**SINGAPORE CUSTOMS** 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ASEAN Directors-General of Customs to meet in Singapore next week**

Singapore will be hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting next week from 4 to 6 June 2013.

The meeting is an annual forum that provides strategic guidance and policy direction for all customs cooperation activities in ASEAN. Customs integration is one of the key initiatives that contribute to ASEAN's goal of establishing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.

As part of the AEC vision, it is envisaged that the free flow of goods, services and investments within ASEAN will be achieved by 2015 through the creation of a single market and manufacturing base of about 600 million people. This will result in a more conducive environment for businesses in the ASEAN countries to operate and flourish.

Singapore's Head of Civil Service and Permanent Secretary (Finance), Mr Peter Ong, will officiate at the opening of the meeting on 4 June 2013.

During the meeting, the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs will discuss the progress of ASEAN customs integration and review the work of various ASEAN customs working groups.

These include the Coordinating Committee on Customs, chaired by the Philippines; the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group, chaired by Singapore; the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group, chaired by Malaysia; the Customs Capacity Building Working Group, chaired by Brunei; and the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee, chaired by the Philippines.

On the second and third days of the meeting, a series of consultation sessions will be held with the customs administrations of China, Japan and Korea, and the World Customs Organisation.

A joint consultation session will also be held with three private-sector associations – the Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers, the US-ASEAN Business Council and the ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association.

These consultations will strengthen the customs-to-customs and customs-to-business partnerships in the region.

ASEAN countries take turns to host the annual meeting. Singapore last hosted the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting in 2002.