



## **DIGITALISE, CONNECT, GROW: NETWORKED TRADE PLATFORM OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The Official Launch of NTP took place on 26 September 2018, and was attended by some 700 representatives from the trade, logistics, and trade finance sectors, as well as government agencies. Minister for Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat, delivered the keynote speech, officially launched the NTP and unveiled the NTP's new name – the Networked Trade Platform. Go to page 2 to read more about the launch and find out about new Customs eServices and new Value-Added Services that are now available on the NTP.

To keep officers' skills on identifying intellectual property rights (IPR)-infringing goods up to date, we collaborated with React – a not-for-profit organisation fighting trade in counterfeits – to organise a product training session on 24 October 2018 (page 11).

In a similar vein, Do You Know on page 12 talks about our role in IPR border enforcement, and is accompanied by a quick guide on what copyright and trademark owners should note when lodging a notice with us on the impending importation of IPR-infringing goods.

With 2018 being Singapore's year of ASEAN Chairmanship, our International Relations Branch has been kept extra busy. In Spotlight (page 6), we provide a glimpse into the operations of our lean 10-officer team, and how their efforts help the department strive towards greater trade facilitation with other customs administrations, and safeguard our country's interests.

In this issue's In-Conversation, Royal Malaysian Customs Department's (RMCD) Director General Dato' Sri Subromaniam Tholasy tells us how RMCD remains committed to its vision to be a world class customs administration, through reform and modernisation of the department. Read the interview on page 8.

Neo Wen Tong  
Editor

## FEATURES

# JOINT EXERCISE WITH PSA SINGAPORE TO STRENGTHEN CBREN PREPAREDNESS

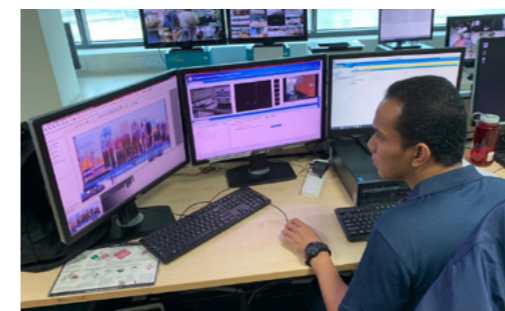
**To safeguard supply chain security, Singapore Customs takes steps to ensure preparedness in the event that chemical, biological, radiological, explosive, and nuclear (CBREN) substances are found in containers.**

To test the readiness and responsiveness of Singapore Customs' Sea Export Team and PSA Singapore's Emergency Response Team in handling explosive substances detected in export containers, Singapore Customs and PSA Singapore came together to conduct a joint simulation exercise on 9 October 2018.

**1** A container carrying the "explosive substance" arrives at the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station.



**2** A Singapore Customs Sea Export Team officer checks the scanned images of the container and notices anomalies in the images. The container is diverted for a secondary inspection.



**3** Singapore Customs officers use a handheld detector to test for traces of explosive substances and it yields a positive result. The officers immediately clear the inspection bay.



**4** PSA Singapore's Emergency Response Team is mobilised to escort the container to an isolation yard to enable further investigation by the relevant competent authority.



**5** The close collaboration of the Singapore Customs Sea Export Team and PSA Singapore's Emergency Response Team ensures that our officers are prepared in the event they encounter explosive substances during a container inspection. The exercise showcases our commitment in keeping Singapore's supply chain safe and secure.



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# NETWORKED TRADE PLATFORM LAUNCHED TO DIGITALISE AND STREAMLINE END-TO-END TRADE PROCESSES



Minister for Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat, delivers the keynote speech at the Official Launch of NTP.

**Traders, logistics service providers, carriers, and banks can now look forward to a new one-stop trade platform that will serve as the trade info ecosystem to help digitalise and streamline their trade processes.**

The Networked Trade Platform (NTP) was officially launched by Minister for Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat, on 26 September 2018. The event, which took place at Orchard Hotel Singapore, was attended by close to 700 representatives from the trade, logistics, trade finance sectors, trade associations and government agencies.

In his keynote speech at the Official Launch of NTP, Mr Heng said: "The NTP is a transformational platform, which will take us from a traditional national single window which gives traders a one-stop interface for all trade-related regulatory transactions, to a one-stop interface that will enable them to interact with all business partners, stakeholders, and regulators on trade-related transactions."

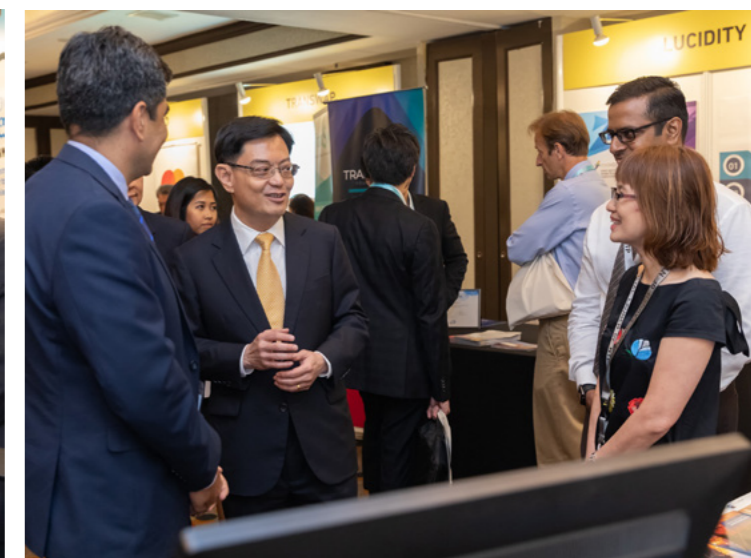
## FROM NATIONAL TRADE PLATFORM TO NETWORKED TRADE PLATFORM

Introduced as the National Trade Platform in 2016's Budget statement, the official launch unveiled the NTP's new name – the Networked Trade Platform – reflecting the importance and power of connecting ecosystems.

The NTP aims to connect and benefit traders and industry players in Singapore and beyond. "We invite you to be part of the NTP – to use it, to champion it, to help us improve and expand on it in the days to come, towards a truly global and connected trade community," Mr Heng said.

Trade is by nature cross-border, and the NTP serves as a key node for digital trade connectivity to the rest of the world.

Several initiatives are underway to strengthen trade linkages of the NTP internationally. For instance, Singapore's Permanent Secretary (Finance) Tan Ching Yee and China's Ambassador to Singapore Hong Xiaoyong signed a Framework Agreement between Singapore Customs and the General Administration of China Customs



on "Single Window" Cooperation in International Trade on 12 November 2018, to facilitate trade declarations and smoothen trade flow for businesses. Discussions are also underway with the Customs Administration of the Netherlands to explore ways to achieve greater connectivity in trade regulatory processes by leveraging on technology.

Besides collaboration on the government-to-government front, the NTP is also collaborating with MUFG Bank and NTT Data Corporation on a Proof-of-Concept, which connects NTT Data's prototype platform using blockchain technology with the NTP, to facilitate secure and efficient cross-border trade data flows.

Mr Heng said that going forward, we must work towards greater connectivity, especially with our trading partners around the world. Our vision is for this to be a truly global network, so that all parties can work together to facilitate trade.

## ACKNOWLEDGING WORKING GROUPS AND VAS PROVIDERS

During the launch event, Mr Heng also presented certificates to three NTP working groups and 34 value-added service (VAS) providers for their early support of the NTP.

The working groups, which comprise representatives from government agencies and companies, lent their expertise to the NTP in areas such as the development of the Electronic Bill of Lading, improving the process of Goods and Services Tax reconciliation, and the creation of innovative trade finance services.

Mr Heng also visited the exhibition of VAS providers set up at the launch event, where he was briefed on the services they are offering on the NTP.

## DIGITALISE, CONNECT, GROW

The NTP is a one-stop trade and logistics ecosystem, which supports digitalisation efforts and connects players across the trade value chain – in Singapore and abroad. It aims to provide the foundation for Singapore to be a leading trade, supply chain, and trade financing hub.

Besides linking "digital islands", the NTP also aims to help traders achieve greater operational efficiency through digitalisation. One such way is through the sharing of key digital documents, such as invoices and permits, to facilitate the application for trade financing and cargo insurance. By digitalising the paper trail, it helps traders save time and cost and improve data accuracy.

Traders can tap on a range of trade-related VAS such as cargo freight booking, trade financing, cargo insurance, customs declarations, and payment reconciliation. These services will allow them to arrange shipments easily, improve cash flow, and better manage trade compliance, all on one platform.

The NTP is developed by Singapore Customs and the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech), with the support of over 20 other ministries, government agencies, and working groups.

To find out more about the NTP and sign up for an account, go to [www.ntp.gov.sg](http://www.ntp.gov.sg).

Mr Heng (in yellow tie) visits the NTP booth (left) and the exhibition of VAS providers set up at the launch event.

# MORE CUSTOMS E-SERVICES ADDED TO THE NETWORKED TRADE PLATFORM ECOSYSTEM


Three more Customs eServices have been released on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) with effect from 1 November 2018, in addition to four existing eServices.

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS	WITH EFFECT FROM
Cargo Agent's Import Authorisation (CAIA)	1 November 2018
Vessel Registration (VR)	
Kimberley Process Licence (KPL)	
Certificate of Non-Manipulation (CNM)	Existing
Certificate of Free Sales (CFS)	
Import Certificate and Delivery Verification (ICDV)	
Landing Certificate (LC)	

Traders are now required to submit applications for Vessel Registration, Cargo Agent's Import Authorisation and Kimberley Process Licence via the NTP.

Using the secured digital data repository on the NTP will facilitate traders in sharing documents with their business partners or government agencies for trade-related transactions on the platform. This will save businesses time and manpower, improving data accuracy, and building trust across the trade ecosystem.

In the subsequent roll-out, Singapore Customs will enable the submission of other applications such as the Voluntary Disclosure Programme and the submission of supporting documents via the NTP. More details will be announced when available.

Before submitting any applications for Customs eServices via the NTP, traders must register for a CorpPass Account and sign up for an NTP Account. Declaring Agents are also encouraged to sign up for an NTP Account now to facilitate the various submissions. 

For assistance in setting up an NTP Account or technical support in using the NTP, email [NTPhelpdesk@accenture.com](mailto:NTPhelpdesk@accenture.com) or call 6263 1061.

For enquiries on the revised application or submission procedures for Customs eServices, email [Customs\\_Documentation@customs.gov.sg](mailto:Customs_Documentation@customs.gov.sg) or call 6355 2000.

## NEW VALUE-ADDED SERVICES ON BOARD

Value-Added Services (VAS) created by VAS developers and VAS providers form an online marketplace that showcases innovative services. These services are built on an open development platform on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) to meet varied business needs, including business services that cut across adjacent sectors such as the provision of trade financing and payments. Between July and October 2018, seven new VAS were published on the NTP, bringing the total number to 25.

### AFON Technologies (SAP Business One)

AFON offers SAP Business One, an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system that is designed for small and medium-sized enterprises. It streamlines operations from start to finish, giving instant access to complete information for growth, productivity, and understanding the complete business process.

### AXA Insurance (Marine Cargo Insurance)

AXA provides marine cargo insurance to protect against financial losses during the seaward transportation process.

### GeTS (TradeWeb LIVE!)

TradeWeb LIVE! allows its users to connect to TradeNet by using a server-to-server connection. It is hosted on cloud and can be accessed via a Web browser. The application is suitable for companies with a low to moderate volume of declarations and a good and reliable internet bandwidth.

### InstaReM

InstaReM offers cost-efficient cross-border payments and remittance services to more than 60 countries worldwide, direct to beneficiaries' bank accounts. NTP users can enjoy a seamless workflow supporting auto-extraction of remittance advice data.


### KEYfields (iLOGON)

KEYfields' iLOGON offers access to their iWMS and iTMS solutions. iWMS is a warehouse management solution that automates, streamlines, and verifies warehouse operations. iTMS – a transport management system – allows companies to acquire first-hand information on the performance of operations, such as visibility of job statuses, information on fleets, and resource utilisation.

### Mastercard (Mastercard Track)

Mastercard offers Mastercard Track, a global B2B solution, which can simplify and enhance how companies on the NTP do business with each other by enabling commercial payments between buyers and suppliers. It enhances the trade experience with improved transparency, reduced risk and cost, and greater confidence in managing financial obligations.

### TranSwap

TranSwap allows NTP users to send and collect money overseas at the best forex rates with no fee. NTP users can choose to transact easily through an online platform, or integrate through APIs for full automation and seamless payments. 

### Other VAS available

- BluJay Solutions (Transmission of Trade Documents)
- Capital Match (Invoice and Purchase Order Financing)
- Deskera (ERP)
- Frost & Sullivan (Trade News)
- GeTS Asia (CALISTA)
- GeTS Asia (eCO Preparation)
- GeTS Asia (Permit Reconciliation Report)
- GeTS Asia (Trade Permit Preparation)
- GeTS Asia (xBS)
- HAKOVO (Quick Quote, Best Bid)
- Innosys (FreightMaster)
- InvoiceInterchange (Invoice Finance, Supply Chain Finance)
- Nufin Data (NEMO)
- SCFG (Freight Payment & Audit)
- SCFG (RMS+)
- TNETS (Customs Declaring Agent)
- VCC (E-freight Suite v2.0)
- VersaFleet (Transport Management System)

For more information, visit [www.ntp.gov.sg/public/browse-vas-catalogue](http://www.ntp.gov.sg/public/browse-vas-catalogue).

# BRIDGING COLLABORATIONS, STRENGTHENING TIES



1



2

1. Head of IRB Angie Teo (right) engaging in talks with our foreign counterpart on the sidelines of a meeting. Such engagements help build relationship and goodwill with our foreign counterparts.

2. Assistant Head of IRB, Chan May Er, getting ready for a foreign visit.

**Given the cross-border nature of customs' work, working with foreign counterparts is an essential component of Singapore Customs' role in strengthening Singapore's position as a global trade hub. Singapore Customs International Relations Branch takes the lead in implementing international engagement strategies to strive towards greater international trade facilitation and security.**

On any given day, the International Relations Branch (IRB) receives hundreds of emails of different natures.

The 10-officer team handles a host of functions, including negotiating customs-related chapters in free trade agreements (FTAs), representing Singapore Customs at international meetings, collaborating with local ministries and agencies on foreign issues, hosting foreign visits, and coordinating requests for information from foreign agencies.

All these are done towards the goal of facilitating and securing international trade.

To achieve this goal is no easy task. IRB officers have to be quick on their feet, possess strong cultural and emotional intelligence, and have immeasurable amounts of patience.

For example, an FTA can take years to conclude as countries in the negotiation may be at varying stages of development and have different interests when negotiating an FTA. IRB officers need to understand the dynamics of the countries they are negotiating with and build rapport with their counterparts to achieve the best outcome for all negotiating countries.

"We often find that counterparts tend to be more open and frank in sharing their constraints in a negotiation when we display sincerity and willingness to work together with them towards common interests," said IRB Assistant Head Chan May Er.

One such example is the negotiation of the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Chapter in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). IRB officers led the negotiations of the Chapter. With the rapport established their counterparts over the years, the Chapter was one of the first to be closed. Singapore Customs participated in seven such FTAs negotiations in the last 12 months, including the China-Singapore FTA Upgrade and the Sri Lanka-Singapore FTA, and played our part in creating a more pro-business trading environment for businesses.

Singapore Customs also attends numerous international meetings every year, like the World Customs Organisation Council Sessions, the Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs, and the Asia-Europe Meeting. These meetings provide a platform for Singapore Customs to discuss collaboration plans with our international partners to advance international trade facilitation and security goals.

For example, Singapore Customs discussed our participation in several international and bilateral operations with foreign customs administrations during these meetings, such as Project Crocodile – an ongoing project started in 2004 that combats cigarette smuggling in the region – and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Intellectual Property Rights operation in 2018. During these operations, IRB officers serve as the main coordinator to bridge our foreign counterparts with the various local government agencies and private entities operating on the ground.

Discussions at these high-level international meetings involve a multitude of delegates. This may sometimes present IRB officers, who were presenters, panellists or participants, with unexpected questions. In times like this, the officers must remain composed and share credible answers, views and solutions to the best of their abilities.

"In preparing for a meeting, we are expected to be aware of all the relevant developments pertaining to any particular issue that may be discussed," said Senior IRB Officer, Ng Peng Siang. "While we can never prepare for all situations, we always make a Plan B and, if possible, a Plan C."

Besides attending overseas negotiations and meetings, hosting foreign visits and meetings is another indispensable part of an IRB officer's job. Singapore Customs took turns with other customs administrations to host international meetings such as the 24th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG) and the 24th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group.

Being the Chair of the CPTFWG and the Sub-Working Group for the ASEAN Customs Transit System also provided Singapore Customs with an opportunity to contribute to enhancing trade facilitation in the ASEAN region. As one of the ASEAN member states, Singapore Customs works closely with our ASEAN counterparts to implement the measures under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, which aims to create a more competitive, innovative, and highly integrated ASEAN.

Singapore Customs also frequently receives requests from foreign government agencies to visit and exchange views on various issues, such as digital customs and trade facilitation. Hosting such visits allows Singapore Customs to exchange insights and experiences with our foreign counterparts, and in turn, promote capability building internationally.

To ensure a smooth and pleasant visit for their counterparts, IRB officers take effort to customise the details of each visit – from catering the content shared at each meeting to the needs of the



respective counterparts, to arranging the suitable restaurant for a conducive meal reception.

After the formal part of their work ends, the informal part begins – socials. To IRB officers, socials are no less important than the main events as they present opportunities to engage and understand their counterparts better. Through the social events, the officers build relationships with their counterparts from other foreign customs administrations whom they work closely with.

The day of an IRB officer does not end after the social events. Timely updates have to be communicated back to the headquarters. While being an IRB officer can mean that a day of work stretches on long after formal talks in a meeting room end, the fulfilment that IRB officers get out of the job is equally immense.

"Singapore Customs is known in the region and internationally as the voice of reason and thought leader in many areas. However, this reputation was not built overnight but carefully crafted and painstakingly built by IRB officers past and present," said Head of IRB, Angie Teo.

"Every meeting we attend, every visitor we host, and every negotiation we front, serves to uphold that reputation. It is a heavy responsibility, but we bear it with pride. This sense of pride keeps us going every single day."

IRB Senior Officer Ng Peng Siang (left) was the Assistant to the Chairperson at the 18th Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group's Sub-Working Group Meeting on the ASEAN Customs Transit System, chaired by Senior Assistant Director-General (Policy & Planning) Lee Boon Chong in July 2018.

## Singapore Customs' International Relations by the numbers\*

International meetings attended	22
FTA negotiation rounds attended	16
Visits hosted	8

\* In the first 10 months of 2018

# ENHANCING CAPABILITIES TO STAY AHEAD

**Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) Director General Dato' Sri Subromaniam Tholasy shares insights on how RMCD remains committed in its vision to be a world-class customs administration, through reform and modernisation of the department.**



Photo credit:  
Royal Malaysian  
Customs Department

**Dato' Sri Subromaniam Tholasy, with the rapidly changing customs operating environment, how does RMCD stay ahead?**

As a result of the dynamic and rapidly changing environment in which RMCD operates, it is necessary for us to identify and understand some of the strategic drivers that are impacting customs administrations, such as growing international trade volumes, new trade rules, new trade agreements, new logistics and supply chain models, and the emergence of transnational crimes.

Based on this understanding, to stay ahead, RMCD focuses on six strategic thrusts, namely, strengthening human capital and instilling good values; effective and efficient revenue collection management; improving trade facilitation; enhancing compliance and enforcement, practising good governance, and enhancing organisational image; and also the development and enhancement of integrated infocomm technology.

On top of that, RMCD works closely with other government agencies to secure our borders.

**What are some of the best practices that RMCD has adopted in balancing trade facilitation and trade compliance?**

As we know, trade facilitation and compliance are two sides of the same coin. RMCD strives to achieve the balance between facilitation and compliance with statutory requirements. The adoption of technologies such as non-intrusive inspection equipment, risk management principles, and partnerships with the private sector are important in achieving these dual objectives. Based on risk management principles,

companies demonstrating high compliance can enjoy due benefits under the Authorised Economic Operator scheme.

RMCD also engages regularly with the private sector and industries through the Customs-Private Sector Consultative Panel Meetings held at the states and headquarters levels. These meetings create a platform for interactive discussions, which help the private sector better understand customs requirements. It also provides opportunities for the private sector to bring up and discuss issues that concern them.

**What is your vision for RMCD?**

In line with RMCD's vision to be a world-class customs administration, I am committed to the continued reform and modernisation of the department. International commitments and practices under the World Customs Organisation (WCO), World Trade Organisation (WTO), and other international bodies have to be adhered to. This will include, among others, the commitments under the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

It is very important for RMCD to maintain excellent service delivery and for employees to be customer-centric, professional, and efficient. Our slogan is "serving for the people's well-being", hence the need to intensify our efforts in carrying out our duties and responsibilities.

Whilst securing and facilitating legitimate trade is among our top priorities, revenue collection continues to be an area of concern for RMCD. To optimise revenue collection and minimise revenue leakages, RMCD focuses on five areas: strengthening integrity, enhancing border control,

minimising smuggling and other fraudulent activities, combining the function of Audit Section and Compliance Division, and adopting new and more progressive approaches in the Sales and Service Tax administration.

**What do you envision the emerging trends and challenges faced by customs administrations worldwide to be in the next three to five years?**

Among the emerging trends and challenges faced by customs administrations worldwide is the growing pace of cross border e-commerce. The integration of cross border e-commerce with technologies such as the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, blockchain, big data, and cloud computing would further add to the challenges faced by customs administrations.

There is a necessity to strengthen cooperation among the international customs community, and also with other international organisations and the relevant e-commerce stakeholders involved in the trade supply chain. All stakeholders should be encouraged to enhance policy dialogues, experience sharing, and coordination of procedures to ensure smooth flow of information and goods.

**With the entry into force of the WTO 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?**

One of the strategic directions set by ASEAN customs administrations to strengthen trade growth in the region is promoting trade facilitation by streamlining and simplifying border procedures, as well as promoting WTO FTA implementation.

ASEAN customs administrations could collaborate through active participation in working group meetings held regularly, such as the Customs


Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group, and the Customs Capacity Working Group. These working groups serve as platforms to share ideas and best practices, and also to formulate strategies and actions to support the trade facilitation agenda. The ASEAN Agreement on Customs signed in 2012 provides the legal framework that enables ASEAN customs administrations to implement specific measures for free movement of goods and transportation, as well as the harmonisation of customs procedures in the region. This, in turn, could strengthen trade growth in the region.

**How can ASEAN customs administration leverage on rapid advancements in technology to promote trade facilitation and bring about greater economic progress in the region?**

Technology is an essential tool for border and supply chain security, and also for promoting trade facilitation.

ASEAN customs administrations are well-positioned to capture the benefits of rapid advancement in technology for trade facilitation and economic progress in the region. E-commerce is one of the main challenges for customs administrations as the growth in transactions is unprecedented. For example, Malaysia is a very attractive market for e-commerce, and the government has launched a Digital Free Trade Zone to cater to this industry.

Customs administrations have to reform and be equipped with new business models. Capabilities can be built in terms of strengthening human resources to leverage on technology. Facilitation also has to be provided while balancing the risks in trade.

In short, ASEAN customs administrations need to adapt to new technologies and learn from others within and outside the ASEAN region. 



**"Among the emerging trends and challenges faced by customs administrations worldwide is the growing pace of cross border e-commerce. The integration of cross border e-commerce with technologies such as the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, blockchain, big data, and cloud computing would further add to the challenges faced by customs administrations."**

## ASEAN-WIDE AEO MRA FEASIBILITY STUDY GROUP HOLDS FIRST MEETING




As the ASEAN Chair this year, Singapore is pursuing several economic deliverables, one of which is the Feasibility Study on an ASEAN-wide Authorised Economic Operators Mutual Recognition Agreement (AEO MRA).

Singapore Customs proposed the Feasibility Study, which was endorsed at the 24th Meeting of the Customs Procedures Trade Facilitation Working Group in March 2018 and the 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs in May 2018.

On 29 August 2018, the Feasibility Study Group held its first meeting via video conferencing. On 28 September 2018, the group met for its second meeting on the sidelines of the Regional Capacity Building Workshop on AEO in Bangkok, Thailand. Co-led by Singapore and Indonesia, the group representatives from the customs administrations of Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam attended the meeting.

The Feasibility Study will allow ASEAN member states to analyse the feasibility of establishing an ASEAN MRA on AEO, which will reduce compliance costs for traders in ASEAN. It will also facilitate and simplify mutual recognition negotiation and programme administration by ASEAN customs administrations.

The ASEAN MRA on AEO is aligned with the objective of promoting greater trade flows to further strengthen economic development within ASEAN, as envisioned under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025. 


## STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL WORKSHOP BRINGS OFFICIALS' KNOWLEDGE UP TO DATE

Singapore Customs hosted a Workshop on Strategic Goods Control on 26 and 27 September 2018 for government officials from the United States and Singapore. This event, held in Singapore, was jointly organised with the United States' Homeland Security Investigations, Department of Homeland Security.

On the first day of the workshop, participants shared about their respective countries' legal frameworks and strategic goods control regimes. The next day was dedicated to carrying out a scenario-based exercise on how each country would handle different scenarios related to potential violations under their strategic goods control regimes, enabling participants to learn how to better cooperate on counter-proliferation efforts moving forward.

The exercise involved participants from over 10 government agencies from Singapore and the United States.




Singapore takes our international non-proliferation commitments seriously and cooperates closely with the international community to combat the diversion of illicit shipments in order to achieve trade security. This exercise reinforced the close cooperation between Singapore and the United States in this regard. 

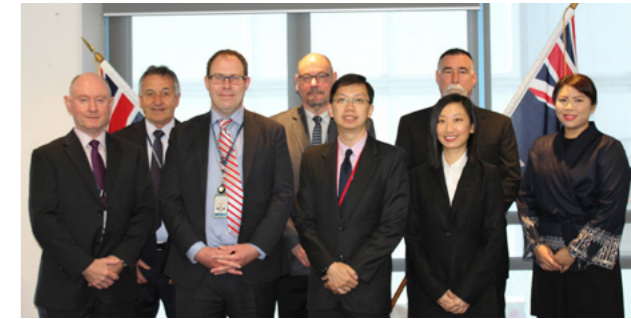
## JOINT VALIDATION WITH NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS SERVICE MARKS MRA ESTABLISHMENT MILESTONE

As part of the joint validation of the compatibility of Singapore's and New Zealand's Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes, representatives from Singapore Customs visited New Zealand Customs Service from 11 to 14 September 2018. This is part of the negotiation for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of both countries' AEO programmes.

While in New Zealand, Singapore Customs representatives joined New Zealand Customs Service officers for site assessments at three companies and observed how validation of companies applying for their AEO statuses was carried out.

Both sides also exchanged ideas and views on supply chain security, and achieved consensus on the various aspects of the MRA implementation.

The visit marks another milestone towards the establishment of an MRA between Singapore Customs and the New Zealand Customs Service. 




## SHARPENING EXPERTISE IN IDENTIFYING IPR-INFRINGING GOODS



Singapore Customs collaborated with React – a not-for-profit organisation fighting trade in counterfeits – to organise a product training session on 24 October 2018.

The session provided a platform for interaction between enforcement agencies and right holders. More than 25 officers from Singapore Customs and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority attended this session, where 11 rights holders representing goods such as branded bags, hard disks, and toys, shared about their latest products anti-counterfeiting features.

Singapore Customs' Assistant Head of Operations, Mr Edward Yue, also shared about Singapore's multi-agency approach in IPR enforcement with the right holders.

Partnership between enforcement agencies and the industry plays an important role in Singapore's efforts to protect intellectual property rights (IPR). Through such sessions, officers are kept up to date with the latest information on the IPR of various products and are able to learn more about the ways to identify counterfeit products of different brands. 


## NEW STP COMPANY ON BOARD

The Secure Trade Partnership (STP) is a Singapore Customs voluntary 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 (SAFE Framework). The following company was STP-certified in the third quarter of 2018.

### COMPANY WITH STP-PLUS STATUS

#### Agilent Technologies Singapore Pte Ltd

Agilent Technologies is a global leader in life sciences, diagnostics, and applied chemical markets, with over 50 years of innovation and insights. Analytical scientists and clinical researchers rely on Agilent to help fulfil complex laboratory demands. The company's Manufacturing Centre of Excellence in Singapore produces instruments for laboratories worldwide and delivers services, consumables, applications, and expertise, enabling customers to gain the insights they seek.

"The STP-Plus certification is an endorsement of our commitment towards high standards of trade compliance, security, and corporate due diligence practices. The certification extends benefits to Agilent customers such as faster customs clearance and fewer inspections, leading to shorter and more predictable replenishment lead time," said Mr Chow Woai Sheng, Country General Manager. 

# IPR BORDER ENFORCEMENT: WORKING TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS OWNERS AND LICENSEES

Copyright and trademark owners and licensees may give the Director-General of Customs a written notice stating that there is an objection to the impending importation of infringing copies of copyright material or trademark-infringing goods. This is known as a lodgement of notice. Here is a quick guide on what to take note of when lodging a notice with Singapore Customs.



The copyright and trademark owners and licensees, otherwise known as the objector, has to provide sufficient information to identify the infringing copies or goods, to enable the Director-General to ascertain the time and place where the infringing copies or goods are expected to be imported, and to satisfy the Director-General that the copies or goods are infringing in nature.




The objector is required to furnish a security that is sufficient to reimburse the Government for any liability or expense it is likely to incur as a result of seizing the infringing copies or goods, and to pay such compensation as ordered by the court for loss suffered by the defendant if the infringement action is dismissed or discontinued. A fee of \$200 shall also accompany the notice.



A notice given to the Director-General is valid for 60 days. Within this period, Singapore Customs will seize the infringing copies or goods if they are being imported into Singapore. The objector and the importer or consignee will be informed of the seizure.



The objector has to institute an action for copyright or trademark infringement and notify the Director-General accordingly within 10 working days after issue of the notice of seizure by the Director-General. The time limit for initiating infringement action may be extended by a further 10 working days upon request of the objector. 

For clarification, please email [customs\\_operations\\_management@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_operations_management@customs.gov.sg)

## SINGAPORE'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) REGIME

Singapore has a multi-agency approach to its IPR regime.

Laws, policies, and practices are formulated, reviewed, and administered by the Ministry of Law.

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore develops programmes for the public and industry to raise awareness of IPR. They also look after the IPR registry.

Enforcement measures against distribution and retailing of IPR-infringing products within Singapore are undertaken by the Singapore Police Force.

The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority performs checkpoint clearance functions and assists Singapore Customs to interdict IPR-infringing goods at the borders.

As for border enforcement, Singapore Customs administers lodgements of notice by right holders, conducts ex-officio action, and interdicts IPR-infringing goods at the borders.

## TRAINING CALENDAR

Please note that dates are subject to change. For full programme and registration details, please refer to [www.customsacademy.gov.sg](http://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 JAN  
2019

### 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.

17 JAN  
2019

### 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 morning or afternoon 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 e-learning at Singapore Customs Academy's Customs Virtual Academy, and by visiting the Customs website.

18 JAN  
2019  
28 JAN  
2019

(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 procedure for certificates of origin, and the compliance requirements.

For enquiries, please email [customs\\_roo@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_roo@customs.gov.sg)



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Nominate a Business Administrator to manage and delegate roles for day-to-day activities on NTP.

[www.ntp.gov.sg](http://www.ntp.gov.sg)



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