



SINGAPORE AUTHORITIES SEIZED RECORD COMBINED HAUL OF 25.6 TONNES OF PANGOLIN SCALES

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In this issue, we spotlight the joint efforts of Singapore authorities, which resulted in a record-breaking combined haul of pangolin scales that was passing through Singapore. Singapore is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna and is committed to international efforts to curb illegal wildlife trade. The Singapore Government adopts a zero-tolerance stance on the use of Singapore as a conduit to smuggle endangered species and their parts and derivatives. The seizures disrupted the flow of the illicit goods, preventing the pangolin scales from entering the market. Find the story on page 8.

Illegal wildlife trade is just one of many areas of cooperation that Singapore Customs have with our international counterparts. We work closely with them to combat various other forms of illicit trade and contribute to international trade security. Go to page 4 to read about cases in which alerts triggered by Singapore Customs resulted in successful seizures by our international counterparts when the targeted shipments arrived at the ports of destination.

A routine Free Trade Zone (FTZ) check resulted in the arrest of three men, who were involved in the import of counterfeit phone parts (page 6). The interception of the consignment containing goods suspected to be counterfeit was the result of the efforts of Singapore Customs' roving enforcement teams, which conduct regular checks in our FTZs.

On the trade facilitation front, Singapore Customs introduced a new arrangement that allows microbreweries to pay a pro-rated licence fee in the first year, helping to lower entry barriers for small businesses and start-ups in the industry. This pro-business change was announced by Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Chee Hong Tat, at UNICON 2019. More on page 3.

Neo Wen Tong
Editor

REGIONAL CUSTOMS HEADS MEET AT WCO CONFERENCE

The heads of customs administrations discussed bilateral and regional relations at the 20th World Customs Organisation (WCO) Asia-Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference, which took place from 8 to 10 May 2019.

Singapore Customs' Director-General Mr Ho Chee Pong attended the annual RHCA conference, which was held in Cochin, India this year.

Customs delegations from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region participated in the conference, along with senior officials of the WCO and its regional bodies.

During the conference, Mr Ho took part in discussions on ways to facilitate trade, safeguard supply chains, and improve customs enforcement.

Deputy Head of International Relations Mr Peh Kay Koon also took the stage to share about Singapore's trade facilitation measures vis-à-vis the World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

The conference took stock of progress made in the programmes and initiatives of WCO to promote, facilitate, and secure cross-border trade in the region, and the capacity building required by customs administrations to achieve these goals.

In addition to the discussions on the strategic priorities of the Asia-Pacific region, the conference also deliberated on security-related issues, trade facilitation, e-commerce, trusted trader programmes, and emerging technological and logistical challenges in the fields of trade facilitation and customs administration.

On the sidelines of the conference, Mr Ho took the opportunity to meet with several regional heads for more in-depth discussions.

Mr Ho met with the Chairman of the India Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Mr Pranab Kumar Das, and discussed ways to enhance bilateral and regional cooperation.

During a meeting with the Director-General of Japan Customs, Mr Motoya Nakae, both sides exchanged views on leveraging technology to streamline trade processes.

A third meeting was held with Commissioner of the Korea Customs Service, Mr Kim Yung-Moon, where discussions regarding regional capacity building took place.



Singapore Customs' Director-General Mr Ho Chee Pong shared on Singapore's participation in enforcement operations led by the WCO.



On the sidelines of the conference, Mr Ho met with (from top to bottom) Chairman of the India Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Mr Pranab Kumar Das; Director-General of Japan Customs, Mr Motoya Nakae, and Commissioner of the Korea Customs Service, Mr Kim Yung-Moon.

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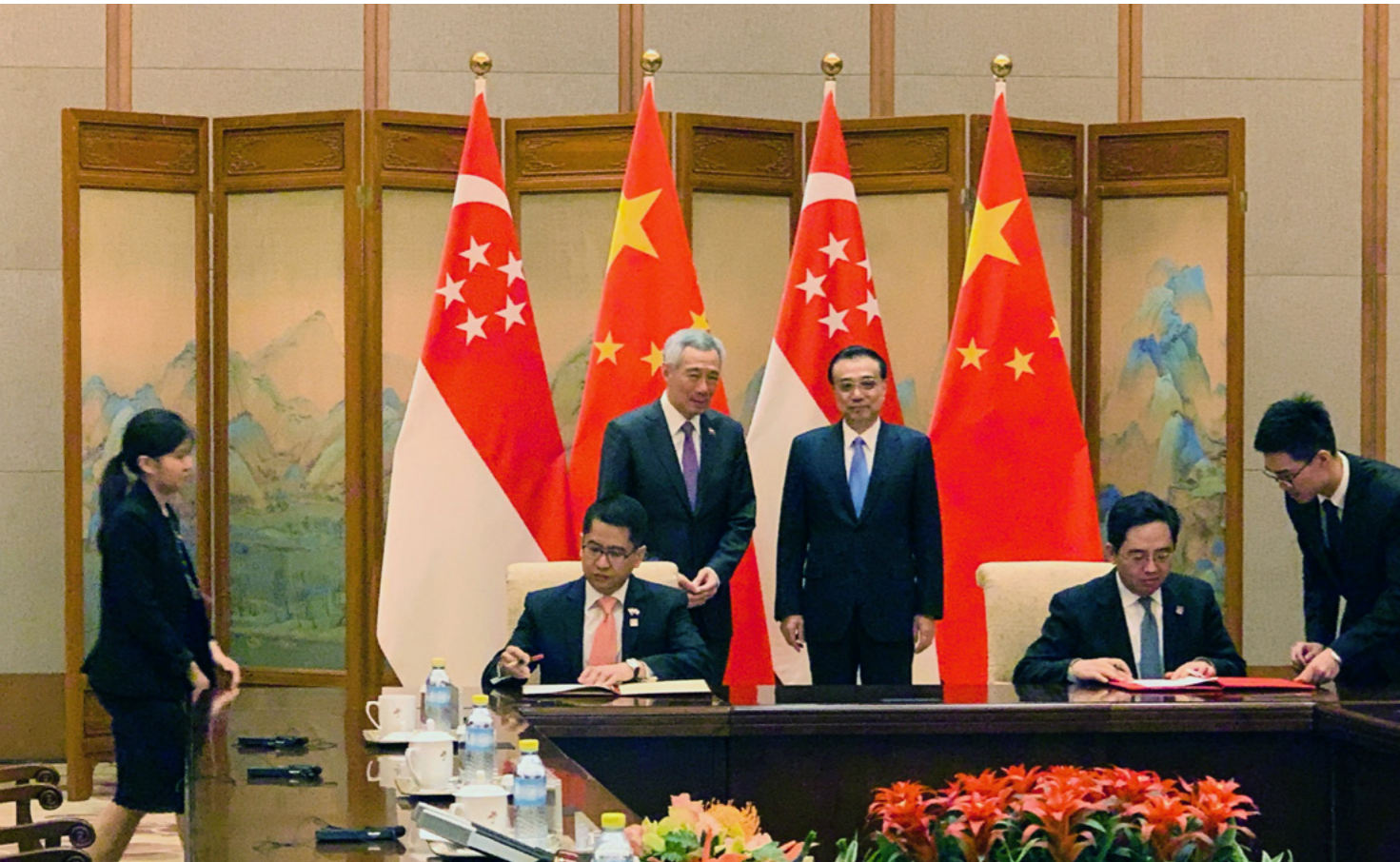


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GREATER CUSTOMS COOPERATION WITH CHINA



Singapore Customs signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) on electronic data exchange and information sharing.

To actively contribute to Singapore's status as a trusted trade hub, Singapore Customs works closely with other customs administrations to facilitate international trade and maintain the security of regional and global supply chains.

Two MOUs were signed by Singapore's Ambassador to China, Mr Stanley Loh, and China's Ambassador to Singapore, Mr Hong Xiaoyong, on 29 April 2019. The signing was witnessed by Singapore's Prime Minister (PM), Mr Lee Hsien

Loong, and Chinese Premier, Mr Li Keqiang, as part of PM Lee's visit to Beijing, China to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum.

The first MOU, on the implementation of an Electronic Origin Data Exchange System, provides a formal framework for the electronic exchange of preferential Certificates of Origin and Certificate of Non-Manipulation under preferential trade arrangements.

Singapore Customs signed two MOUs with GACC - the first on the implementation of an Electronic Origin Data Exchange System, and the second on Customs Enforcement Cooperation.

Companies will be able to enjoy savings in costs and time as the system eliminates the need for hardcopy Certificate of Origin to be despatched overseas. This will also result in a more effective and efficient transfer of information to streamline trade processes across borders.

The second MOU, on Customs Enforcement Cooperation, allows both customs administrations to share observations and findings resulting from the successful application of new customs enforcement equipment and techniques that may help improve their enforcement capabilities.

Under this MOU, both sides may exchange information and render assistance to each other in the investigation and handling of customs offences.

WHAT IS A PREFERENTIAL CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN (CO)?

A CO helps to attest the origin of goods. A preferential CO allows your buyer to pay lower or no customs duty when you export your goods under a Free Trade Agreement or Schemes of Preferences. Preferential COs are issued only by Singapore Customs.

WHAT IS A CERTIFICATE OF NON-MANIPULATION?

A Certificate of Non-Manipulation, issued in the country of transit, provides documentary evidence that goods have not been switched or modified during transit and that they retain the originating status of their country of export. When exporting goods to Free Trade Agreement-partner countries, this allows goods to remain eligible for preferential tariffs while transiting through a third country.

LOWER ENTRY BARRIER FOR MICROBREWERIES

Microbreweries can now pay a pro-rated licence fee in the first year, instead of committing to an annual fee upfront.

From 1 May 2019, new microbreweries can now pay a pro-rated fee based on the length of the licence applied (subjected to a minimum of three months) in the first year, instead of committing to an annual fee of \$8,400 upfront.

Small businesses and start-ups in the microbrewery industry will benefit from this new arrangement from Singapore Customs, as they will not need to bear the full licence cost upfront. This will allow them to experiment with new business models or new brews before deciding to expand commercially.

This change was announced by Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Chee Hong Tat, on 23 February 2019 at UNICON 2019, a student conference on technology and entrepreneurship held at the National University of Singapore.



"I would like to thank Singapore Customs for being very open-minded to new ideas and taking a pro-business approach in their licensing," said Mr Chee.

In addition, Singapore Customs will refund any "unused" licence fee on a pro-rated basis to businesses that decide to give up their licences early, so that they do not incur additional licensing costs for early exit.

Small businesses and start-ups in the microbrewery industry will benefit from the new arrangement, as they will not need to bear the full licence cost upfront. This will allow them to experiment with new business models or new brews before deciding to expand commercially. (Photo: Stock image)

CLOSE COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL COUNTERPARTS TO COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE

As a responsible member of the international customs community, Singapore Customs works closely with other customs administrations to clamp down on illicit trading activities. Each party along the supply chain plays an important role in combatting the flow of illicit trade.

Singapore Customs provides our international counterparts with timely alerts on suspicious container movements to facilitate physical checks of the containers at the port of destination. This helps to ensure that prompt, effective, and firm enforcement actions are taken to disrupt the movement of illicit goods passing through Singapore.

In 2018, alerts provided by Singapore Customs on suspicious container movements resulted in nine cases of successful seizures worldwide when the shipments arrived at the port of destination. Find out more about some of these cases below.

Case 1: With the Indonesian Directorate General of Customs and Excise – Over 86,000 bottles of contraband liquor, luxury car, and 2,014 mobile phones seized

Singapore Customs had collaborated closely with the Indonesian Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE) on suspected cases of customs and excise violations committed via Indonesia's seaports and airports.

Acting on alerts provided by Singapore Customs, DGCE conducted five enforcement operations – two targeting the illegal importation of liquor by sea, and three targeting the attempted smuggling of mobile phones by airplane passengers. From the five operations, a total of about 86,000 bottles of liquor, a luxury car, and 2,014 mobile phones were seized.



Case 2: Cigarettes seized by ABF (Photo: ABF)

Case 2: With the Australian Border Force – 10.2 million sticks of contraband cigarettes seized

On 24 August 2018, under the auspices of Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Asia Pacific's Project Crocodile, Singapore Customs alerted the Australian Border Force (ABF) to a suspicious cigarette shipment that was headed for Melbourne, Australia. The alert led to the ABF successfully seizing the shipment of 10.2 million sticks of cigarettes, which were falsely declared as instant noodles.



Case 1: Goods seized by DGCE (Photo: DGCE)

Case 3: With Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs – Biggest contraband cigarette smuggling case at the Port of Belfast in six years

A total of 800 boxes containing over eight million contraband cigarettes were seized by officers from the Border Force Northern Ireland at the Port of Belfast on 3 February 2018, after Singapore Customs alerted Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to a suspicious container bound for the port.

The container, which was falsely declared as bed linen, was found to be carrying contraband cigarettes after it was intercepted for checks by the United Kingdom's Border Force officers. The seizure was the biggest single haul of contraband cigarettes at the Port of Belfast in six years.



Case 3: Smuggled cigarettes seized at Belfast Port. (Photo: Border Force Northern Ireland)

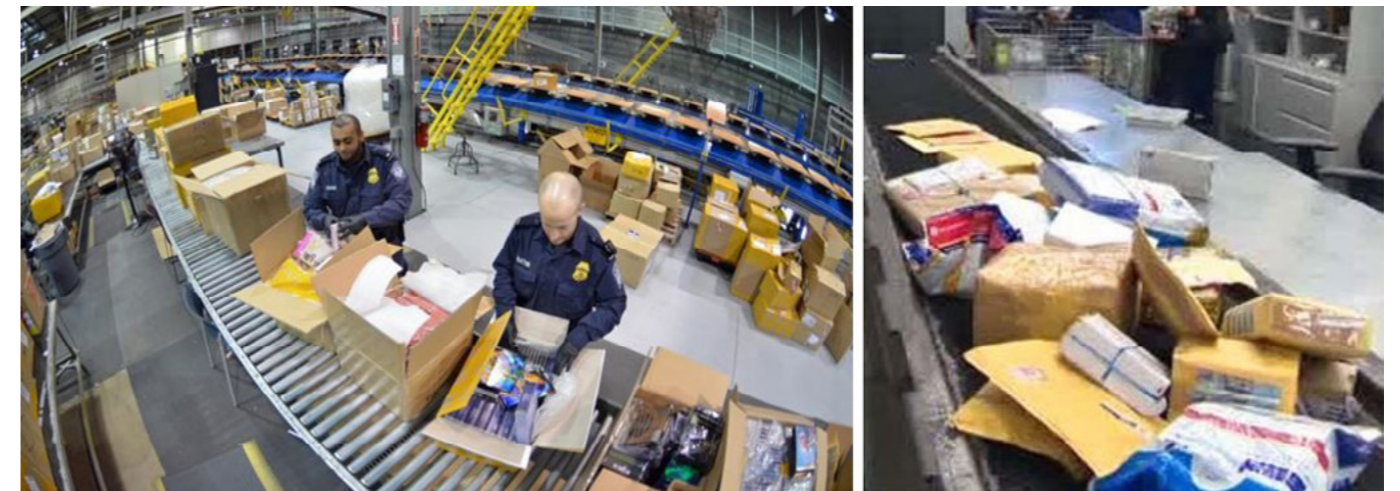
Case 4: With the United States Customs and Border Protection – Joint Intellectual Property Rights enforcement operation

Singapore Customs and the United States Customs and Border Protection (US CBP) conducted their third annual joint Intellectual Property Rights enforcement operation, which took place from 26 to 27 June 2018. The operation targeted counterfeit products related to consumer safety and public health bound for the US, which were sent via air consignments and postal parcels.

During the operation, Singapore Customs officers identified and marked parcels leaving Singapore so that US CBP officers could take enforcement action when the consignments and parcels arrived in the US. Some of these parcels marked were suspected to contain counterfeit mobile phones and related accessories, which pose fire-safety concerns to consumers. Through this operation, a total of 60 shipments were seized.



Case 4a: Singapore Customs officers inspecting parcels at the Changi Airfreight Centre.



Case 4b: Inspection conducted at the Miami International Mail Facility. (Photo: US CBP)

EYE ON THE GROUND: ROUTINE FTZ CHECKS RESULT IN ARREST OF THREE MEN INVOLVED IN IMPORT OF COUNTERFEIT PHONE PARTS

Sharp-eyed Singapore Customs officers noticed that a consignment of mobile phone components carried the trademark of a well-known brand. The brand's rights holder later confirmed that the goods in the consignment were counterfeit.

Singapore Customs' roving enforcement teams were conducting routine checks in the Changi Airfreight Centre Free Trade Zone (FTZ) on 15 April 2019, when the officers uncovered a consignment from China containing goods suspected to be counterfeit.

More than 500 pieces of suspected counterfeit mobile phone components bearing the trademark of a well-known brand were found.

The goods were seized by Singapore Customs officers. As the goods were suspected to be imported for the local market, the case was referred to the Singapore Police Force (SPF) for further investigations.


In a subsequent 15-hour operation conducted on 26 April 2019, the SPF mounted raids in Keppel Road, Henderson Road and Boon Tiong Road, resulting in the arrests of three men for their suspected involvement in the importation and possession of counterfeit mobile phones and components.

During the operation, more than 3,400 pieces of mobile phones and components bearing falsely applied trademarks of well-known brands, with an estimated street value of about \$290,000, were also seized.

Investigations by the SPF are ongoing.

Regular checks in FTZs

The Changi Airfreight Centre is one of Singapore's 10 FTZs in five geographical areas, operated by three FTZ authorities.

The interception was the result of the efforts of Singapore Customs' roving enforcement teams, which conduct checks in the FTZs regularly to regulate the activities in the FTZ, and to take prompt actions against customs offences. 

Mobile phone components bearing the trademark of a well-known brand were found in the Changi Airfreight Centre Free Trade Zone.



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS HOSTS WCO REPRESENTATIVES FOR STUDY VISIT ON FREE TRADE ZONES

Roles of Singapore Customs and Free Trade Zone (FTZ) authorities, and Singapore's multi-pronged approach in regulating FTZs were shared with the World Customs Organisation (WCO) representatives.

Singapore Customs' Senior Assistant Director-General, Mr Lee Boon Chong, hosted Mr Kenji Omi, Technical Attaché, Research Unit; and Mr Glen Kennett, Technical Attaché, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate (Enforcement), from the WCO on 4 and 5 April 2019.

During the visit, Singapore Customs shared about Singapore's whole-of-government and multi-pronged approach in regulating Singapore's FTZs.


As part of Singapore's whole-of-government approach for enforcement checks, Singapore Customs partners with local agencies to oversee security in the FTZs and conduct joint operations to tackle illicit activities.

Additionally, Singapore's approach in regulating FTZs involves the sharing of intelligence and conducting joint operations with overseas enforcement agencies. The good working relationships Singapore has with overseas enforcement agencies have resulted in action taken on intelligence shared.

A strong government-industry partnership rounds up Singapore's FTZ regulatory regime. FTZ authorities provide Singapore Customs with monthly reports on security-related incidents and suspicious activities, and enhanced security measures are in place to prohibit entry to suspicious persons and detect illicit activities. Regular outreach sessions are also conducted with FTZ authorities to ensure companies operating in these zones comply with laws and regulations.

Singapore Customs also shared about the seizure of a 12.9-tonne shipment of pangolin scales, which happened on 3 April 2019. The shipment,

which was on its way to Vietnam from Nigeria, was jointly inspected by the National Parks Board (NParks) and Singapore Customs at the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station (PPEIS). The Singapore Government adopts a zero-tolerance stance on the use of Singapore as a conduit to smuggle endangered species and their parts and derivatives.

Mr Omi had visited the PPEIS to learn more about the scanning and inspection processes for export containers. A representative from NParks was also present during the visit to share about the enforcement measures which Singapore takes to combat illegal wildlife trade. 

1. Singapore Customs hosted representatives from the WCO during a study visit on Singapore FTZs on 4 and 5 April 2019.

2. WCO's Mr Kenji Omi (fourth from left) visited the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station to learn more about the scanning and inspection processes for export containers.



1



2

SINGAPORE AUTHORITIES SEIZED RECORD COMBINED HAUL OF 25.6 TONNES OF PANGOLIN SCALES



1



2



3

The joint efforts of Singapore authorities resulted in successful seizures of pangolin scales and elephant ivory in two separate shipments within five days. Worth over \$100 million in total, the shipments had originated from Nigeria and were bound for Vietnam.

On 3 April 2019, the National Parks Board (NParks) and Singapore Customs inspected a 40-footer container at the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station. The shipment was declared to contain "frozen beef" and was en route from Nigeria to Vietnam.

Upon inspection, the authorities uncovered 12.9 tonnes of pangolin scales packed in 230 bags, which were worth about US\$38.7 million (approximately S\$52.3 million). The scales came from four species of pangolins, and it would have taken some 17,000 pangolins to make up the shipment of scales.

This is the largest shipment of pangolin scales seized in a single haul globally in recent years.

The shipment also included 177kg of cut up and carved elephant ivory estimated to be worth US\$88,500 (approximately S\$120,000).

Just five days later, on 8 April 2019, NParks, Singapore Customs, and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) inspected a 40-footer container that was on its way to Vietnam from Nigeria. The container was declared to contain "Cassia Seeds".

Upon inspection, 12.7 tonnes of pangolin scales, packed in 474 bags, worth about US\$38.1 million (approximately S\$51.6 million) were uncovered. The pangolin scales that were seized came from two species and are equivalent to around 21,000 pangolins.

1. 3 April 2019 haul: Gunny sacks of pangolin scales were hidden among packs of frozen meat. (Photo: NParks)

2. The two shipments were made up of an estimated total of 38,000 pangolins.

3. Scales from four species of pangolins - Giant Ground Pangolin, Ground Pangolin, Black Bellied Tree Pangolin, and White Bellied Tree Pangolin - were in the 3 April 2019 shipment, while the 8 April 2019 shipment had scales from the Ground Pangolin and Black Bellied Tree Pangolin.

This second seizure of pangolin scales brought the total combined amount of pangolin scales seized on 3 April 2019 and 8 April 2019 to a record 25.6 tonnes. Previously in 2015 and 2016, Singapore made two pangolin scales seizures amounting to 440kg.

Zero-tolerance on use of Singapore as conduit

The Singapore authorities have in place a risk assessment framework, where risk profiles and risk indicators are used to target shipment with illegal wildlife trade. The Singapore authorities also engage in active cooperation with their international counterparts which includes sharing of information.

Singapore is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and is committed to international effort to curb illegal wildlife trade. Elephants and pangolins are protected species under CITES. International trade in elephant ivory and pangolin is prohibited.

Under the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act, the maximum penalty for illegal import, export and re-export of wildlife is a fine of up to \$500,000 and/or 2 years' imprisonment. The same penalties apply to transit or transshipment of illegal wildlife species, including their parts and derivatives.

The Singapore Government adopts a zero-tolerance stance on the use of Singapore as a conduit to smuggle endangered species and their parts and derivatives. Our agencies will continue to collaborate and maintain vigilance to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.



4



5

4. Authorities seized 230 bags of pangolin scales on 3 April 2019 (left), and another 474 bags on 8 April 2019. (Right photo: NParks)

5. The 3 April 2019 shipment also included 177kg of cut up and carved elephant ivory.

IN NUMBERS

3 APRIL 2019	8 APRIL 2019
12.9 tonnes of pangolin scales From 4 species	12.7 tonnes of pangolin scales From 2 species
Around 17,000 pangolins	Around 21,000 pangolins
Worth about S\$52.3 million	Worth about S\$51.6 million
177kg of elephant ivory	
Worth about S\$120,000	


DRIVING CHANGE WITH THE NETWORKED TRADE PLATFORM

Director of the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) Office, Ms Serene Ho, was invited to speak at Oracle OpenWorld Asia on how the NTP plays a role in driving change for the trading community.

The conference, which took place in Singapore for the first time on 26 and 27 March 2019, saw business and technology professionals come together to discuss the topic of "Driving Change", learn about latest solutions, and share insights on successful business strategies.

Ms Ho spoke about the challenges present in international trade processes, which are still very manual and paper based with many digital silos. She presented an overview of how the NTP is leading the digitalisation of trade by connecting businesses, community systems and platforms, and government systems. By offering a blend of business-to-business and business-to-government services on one integrated platform, the NTP enables traders to reuse digitalised data, improve their operational efficiency, and develop innovative services.

Ms Ho also shared about blockchain initiatives that the NTP has embarked on to strengthen cross-border connectivity with our trading partners around the world.

Find out more about the NTP's engagement sessions and outreach activities at <https://bit.ly/2vcos7f>. 



SINGAPORE AND NEW ZEALAND CONCLUDES JOINT VALIDATION




Representatives from the New Zealand Customs Service visited Singapore Customs from 25 to 29 March 2019 to continue negotiations for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Singapore's and New Zealand's Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes.

During the visit, the New Zealand officials visited three companies to observe how Singapore Customs conducts validation of companies applying for or renewing their AEO status. Both customs administrations also exchanged ideas and views on supply chain security, and discussed various aspects of the MRA implementation.

Singapore Customs representatives had conducted a similar on-site joint validation of New Zealand's AEO programme in September 2018.

The completion of the joint validations marks another milestone towards the establishment of an AEO MRA between Singapore Customs and the New Zealand Customs Service. In the coming months, traders can look forward to the signing of the Singapore-New Zealand MRA, which will boost bilateral trade by facilitating legitimate trade undertaken by AEOs in both countries, while maintaining the security of the global supply chain.

To date, Singapore Customs has signed MRAs with nine other customs administrations: Thailand, Australia, Canada, Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States. 

NTP: NEW VALUE-ADDED SERVICES ON BOARD

Value-Added Services (VAS), built on an open development platform on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP), meet varied business needs. These include business services that cut across related sectors like trade finance. Between February and April 2019, five new VAS were published on the NTP, bringing the total number of VAS to 34.

Culum Capital (Invoice Financing)

Culum Capital offers trade finance and supply chain finance solutions that help companies achieve optimal working capital. Invoice financing allows companies to turn their unpaid invoices into cash, while supply chain financing allows companies to have more control over their cash flow and credit terms.

Tradeteq (Credit Scoring)

Tradeteq provides companies with Artificial Intelligence-powered predictive credit analytics and credit scoring, at both company and transaction levels. Multiple sources of data – including socio-economic, geographical, and industry-level information – are combined, to enable users to better assess and risk-manage opportunities in trade finance.


FACT Software (FACT ERP.ING)

FACT Software offers Enterprise Resource Planning and Customer Relationship Management software solutions to small and medium-sized enterprises. FACT ERP.ING is a comprehensive solution with integrated modules for Financial Accounting, Warehousing and Inventory Management, Manufacturing, Fixed Assets Management, and Report Writing.

DP Technology (Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central)

DP Technology's Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central allows users to connect different parts of their business. The business management solution's capabilities include financial and sales management, supply chain and inventory management, project management, as well as human resources and operations management.

Funding Societies (Invoice Financing)

Funding Societies provides short-term invoice financing, supply-chain financing, and unsecured loans to small and medium-sized enterprises. Their service is available online, and is highly customisable. 

The full VAS list is available at www.ntp.gov.sg/public/browse-vas-catalogue.

To find out more about the NTP and sign up for an account, go to www.ntp.gov.sg.

NEW STP COMPANIES 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 first quarter of 2019.

AB Vista Asia Pte Ltd

AB Vista is an animal nutrition technology company offering products and technical services to the global animal feed industry.

"We are honoured and proud to be STP-certified by Singapore Customs. Securing STP status demonstrates AB Vista's commitment to strive for operational excellence for our customers and partners, and to play our part in enhancing the security of the international supply chain," said Mr Ari Kiviniemi, Director, Business Development and Asia-Pacific Sales.

AWOT Global Logistics Singapore Pte Ltd

AWOT Global Logistics Singapore offers logistics service solutions to customers and their supply chain partners locally and globally.

"The STP certification reflects our commitment to improving global supply chain security. We will continue to strive for efficiency in our supply chain management," said Mr Andy Goh Kok Fu, Business Development Manager.


Freight Links Express Pte Ltd

Freight Links Express provides integrated logistics solutions such as international freight forwarding, trucking, and warehousing.

"Obtaining the STP certification is an important step in assuring our customers that we are committed to achieving cargo and supply chain security. We are therefore immensely pleased to have been certified under this programme," said Mr Lawrence Lim, Vice President.

Nutek Private Limited

Nutek designs and manufactures automated production systems to customer specifications.

"Being STP-certified is affirmation that we have robust measures that contribute to improving the security of the global supply chain. Our customers can rest assured that we will continue to strive to deliver our products in a safe and timely manner," said Ms Amelia Tan, Finance Manager. 

ADOPTING A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Singapore Customs strives to practise good corporate citizenship, protect the interest of our multiple stakeholders, and fulfil our responsibility to the community and environment. To do this, we take a three-pronged approach in our corporate social responsibility (CSR) philosophy. We are committed to contributing to the local and international communities, and being environmentally responsible. Find out more about the CSR work we do in each of these three areas, and a few highlights from our recent activities.

SECURE TRADE PARTNERSHIP

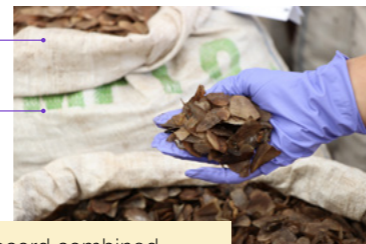
Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme is an important part of promoting supply chain security for the trading community. Another four companies came on board the STP in the first quarter of 2019. Read about them on page 11.



Singapore Customs staff and their friends volunteered at The Food Bank Singapore – a charity organisation that aims to reduce food wastage and collect food donations for beneficiaries – on 9 March 2019, doing their part to both care for the community and reduce food waste.



Close cooperation with foreign customs administrations resulted in several seizures of illicit goods by our international counterparts. Case details on page 4.



Record combined haul of 25.6 tonnes of pangolin scales seized. Full story on page 8.

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.

9-11 JULY 2019

13-14 AUG 2019

(ONLY SC101)

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 JULY 2019

SC200 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.

30 AUG 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, the Customs Virtual Academy, and by visiting the Customs website.

26 JULY 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



EXPERIENCE A WHOLE NEW WAY OF DOING TRADE

Networked Trade Platform. A one-stop trade info-ecosystem.

Today's trade and logistics landscape is manual, silo-ed and complex. The NTP aims to change that by helping businesses digitalise, connect, and grow – all on a single platform.

Besides providing the foundation for businesses to go digital, the NTP is the key gateway for the digitised data to be shared and reused, as it allows businesses to connect with their business partners, trade service providers and the government – both locally and globally. Saving businesses time and money.

Acting as a trade ecosystem, the NTP enables businesses to improve performance and the flexibility to choose from a wide range of trade related service providers without worrying about additional efforts and costs of maintaining multiple digital connections to various partners.



Find out more at www.ntp.gov.sg or email us at Enquiry_NTP@customs.gov.sg