

insync

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64

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MAGAZINE

— P.02 —

31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs



FEATURES

Singapore accedes to
Revised Kyoto Convention



FEATURES

Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Finance Lawrence
Wong visits Pasir Panjang
Export Inspection Station



NEWS

Sharing on Networked
Trade Platform

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 01 Singapore accedes to Revised Kyoto Convention
- 06 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong visits Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station
- 08 Case files: Enforcement Highlights
- 10 Engaging the community to tackle duty-unpaid cigarette activities

SPOTLIGHT

- 02 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs
- 04 Launch of Joint Action Plan for ASEAN AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement

DO YOU KNOW?

- 05 ASEAN initiatives to facilitate intra-ASEAN trade

NEWS

- 11 Singapore Customs' TradeNet permit application service scores well in annual business satisfaction survey
- 12 Sharing on Networked Trade Platform
- 12 News round-up for traders
- 13 President Halimah expresses appreciation to frontline airport officers

TRAINING CALENDAR

- 14 Training Calendar



EDITORS' NOTE

June was an eventful month, with Singapore Customs hosting the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General (DGs) of Customs in hybrid format from 7 to 9 June 2022. Singapore last hosted the regional meeting in 2013, and we are also the first to resume hosting the DG-level meeting in-person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. Find out more about the meeting highlights from pages 2 to 5.

In the same month, Singapore acceded to the Revised Kyoto Convention, which is the World Customs Organisation (WCO)'s flagship convention on customs procedures and trade facilitation. Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, deposited Singapore's Instrument of Accession at WCO during the 139th/140th Sessions of WCO Council in Brussels on 25 June 2022 (next page).

Finally, in this issue of inSYNC, we are happy to share that our TradeNet permit application service has scored well in an annual business satisfaction survey conducted by the Smart Nation and Digital Government Office and GovTech (page 11). We will continue to review stakeholders' feedback and address them as part of our efforts towards service improvement.

TAN XIAN LIN AND ISABEL CHIA
Editors

FEATURES

Singapore accedes to Revised Kyoto Convention

- The Revised Kyoto Convention is the World Customs Organisation (WCO)'s flagship convention on customs procedures and trade facilitation. It aims to facilitate international trade by providing standards and recommended practices for contracting parties on customs procedures and techniques.

Singapore has acceded to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention). Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, deposited Singapore's Instrument of Accession at WCO during the 139th/140th Sessions of the WCO Council in Brussels on 25 June 2022.

"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," said Mr Ho.

The Revised Kyoto Convention is one of the major international conventions on trade-related matters that sets standards on customs procedures, covering areas such as import and export formalities, duties and taxes collection, and customs warehouses schemes.

Mr Ho noted that Singapore's accession ensures that our customs procedures are consistent with international best practices, which potentially reduces compliance costs for businesses and facilitates the smooth movement of goods across the borders.

"This also provides greater certainty and confidence for foreign investments, which will facilitate and accelerate post-pandemic economic recovery," said Mr Ho.

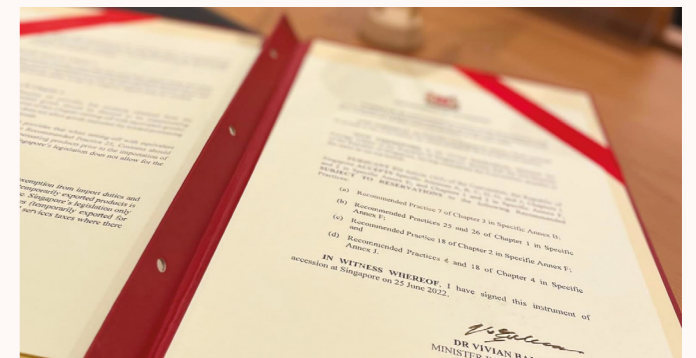
The 139th/140th Sessions of the WCO Council, which took place from 23 to 25 June 2022, was the first in-person conference in two years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the sessions, attendees endorsed the WCO Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and discussed trending customs issues such as the WCO data strategy, e-commerce, green customs, and fragile borders.



Singapore Customs Director-General, Mr Ho Chee Pong (left), deposited Singapore's Instrument of Accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention to the WCO Secretary-General, Dr Kunio Mikuriya (right).



Singapore Customs Director-General, Mr Ho Chee Pong, making an intervention to express Singapore's support for the development of WCO's data strategy.



Singapore's Instrument of Accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention.

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31st Meeting of the ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS

The Directors-General of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) gathered in Singapore for the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs, to provide policy directions and strategic guidance on customs cooperation activities in the ASEAN region. ASEAN countries take turns to host the annual meeting, and Singapore last hosted the regional meeting in 2013.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore Customs is the first to resume hosting the meeting in-person, bringing together the heads of delegations from the customs administrations of all 10 AMS, the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN's Dialogue Partners. The meeting was held in hybrid format from 7 to 9 June 2022, and chaired by Mr Ho Chee Pong, Director-General of Singapore Customs, who took over the chairmanship from Mr Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, Commissioner of the Philippines Bureau of Customs.



Heads of delegations from customs administrations of AMS.

Launch of Joint Action Plan for AAMRA

A key outcome of the meeting was the launch of the Joint Action Plan by the Directors-General of all 10 AMS to implement the ASEAN Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AAMRA) by 2025 (see page 4).

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, who officiated at the opening ceremony of the meeting, noted in his keynote speech that ASEAN had taken another important step forward with the adoption of the Joint Action Plan on the AAMRA.

"Under this arrangement, businesses which are successfully validated by any one ASEAN country will have reduced documentary and cargo inspections across all ASEAN countries... For businesses, it will mean higher cost savings. For ASEAN countries, it will mean more efficient trade with each other, so that we can remain competitive," said Mr Wong.

Deepening customs collaboration

Mr Wong also highlighted two other areas of customs collaboration which will bring great benefit to ASEAN. He said that deepening customs collaboration with ASEAN's major trading partners like the US, China, Japan and South Korea to further lower trade-related costs for businesses and support the development of more interlinked supply chains from these countries to ASEAN.

The other area is aligning respective customs processes to common standards which would reduce administrative costs and make the region more attractive for e-commerce.

"These two areas will involve a lot of close coordination and technical study. But I am confident that we will continue to make progress, through the strong spirit of collaboration and partnership that underpins everything we do in ASEAN," said Mr Wong.



Singapore's DPM and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, delivering the keynote speech.

Meeting highlights

Over the three-day meeting, the ASEAN Directors-General took stock of the work of the various customs working groups and committees. Notable achievements included the adoption of the Joint Action Plan for the AAMRA, and the live operation of the exchange of ASEAN Customs Declaration Document in ready AMS (more on page 5).

Other key highlights of the meeting included engagements with Dialogue Partners to establish trade connectivity, and consultation sessions with the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and private sector representatives from various business councils to enhance cooperation and partnership at the international level.

Consultations with partners

A series of consultations was conducted between AMS and Dialogue Partners namely Australia, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to exchange best practices and experiences on customs-related issues such as cross-border electronic commerce. These issues are critical to support ASEAN's progress of customs simplification and modernisation.

Consultation sessions were also held with the WCO and private sector representatives from the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, the EU-ASEAN Business Council and the US-ASEAN Business Council to strengthen customs-to-business partnerships in the region.

These consultation sessions underlined the close engagement between customs and the private sector as a collective effort in deepening ASEAN economic integration, enhancing intra-ASEAN trade, and strengthening supply chain connectivity, in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

Bilateral meetings with international partners

At the sidelines of the three-day meeting, Singapore Customs' Director-General Ho Chee Pong also took the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions on various customs issues with our international partners, reaffirming our close and longstanding working ties with them.



Bilateral meeting with the Royal Customs and Excise Department, Brunei Darussalam (left).



Bilateral meeting with Indonesia's Directorate General of Customs and Excise (right).



Bilateral meeting with Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau (right).



Meeting with US-ASEAN Business Council (left).



Mr Ho Chee Pong (left) with Deputy Comptroller-General of Customs of the Australian Border Force, Ms Vanessa Holben (right).



Bilateral meeting with the Thai Customs Department (left).



Bilateral meeting with the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (left).



Launch of Joint Action Plan for ASEAN AEO MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT

The ASEAN Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AAMRA) will enhance supply chain security and facilitate trade in the region, as well as provide further opportunities for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to negotiate with non-ASEAN partners as a bloc, furthering the role of the ASEAN Economic Community.

What is an MRA?

An MRA is a formal document signed between customs administrations, where the signing parties mutually recognise each other's national AEO programmes.

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, and it also encourages customs administrations to establish AEO programmes to certify companies which adopt robust supply chain security practices.

Under an MRA, Singapore Customs will recognise the AEO companies certified by our partners; our partners will, likewise, recognise our AEO companies.

ASEAN AEO MRA (AAMRA)

The AAMRA initiative was first mooted by Singapore in 2018, and AMS agreed to a feasibility study co-led by Singapore and Indonesia. Following the feasibility study, the sub-working Group on AAMRA led by Singapore Customs has been working with AMS since mid-2020 on the implementation of the AAMRA.

The AAMRA Joint Action Plan signifies the commitment undertaken by all 10 AMS to fully implement the AAMRA by 2025. Under the Joint Action Plan, at least three AAMRA-ready AMS will proceed to jointly implement the AAMRA in 2023.

Singapore's MRA partners

Singapore Customs is the first customs administration in South-East Asia to enter into mutual recognition of AEO programmes with other customs administrations. To date, Singapore has signed bilateral MRAs with 10 customs administrations: Canada, Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, United States, Australia, Thailand and New Zealand.

Benefits of MRA

MRAs allow AEO companies to enjoy the following benefits:

1. Higher level of facilitation during cargo clearance, domestically and overseas;
2. Priority treatment if the cargo has been selected for inspection;
3. Expedited customs cargo clearance in the event of trade disruption; and
4. Cost savings due to better predictability of cargo movement.

DO YOU KNOW?

ASEAN INITIATIVES TO FACILITATE INTRA-ASEAN TRADE

The 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs welcomed the live operation of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) among eight ASEAN Member States (AMS), and noted recent cargo movements using the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) among participating AMS. We recap what both initiatives are all about.



◎ LIVE OPERATION OF THE EXCHANGE OF ACDD VIA ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW

The ACDD is an electronic document to facilitate the exchange of export declaration information among the exchange-ready AMS, for the purpose of supplementing risk management by the Customs authority in the importing exchange-ready AMS.

Participating traders can expect to benefit from potential reduction in customs clearance time for consignments which are supported by the ACDD and imported into exchange-ready AMS.

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have commenced the live operation to exchange the ACDD through the ASEAN Single Window, and the remaining AMS are expected to come onboard in 2022.

For more information, please refer to the ACDD page on the Customs website at <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/international-data-exchange/acdd>.

◎ SMOOTHER INTRA-ASEAN CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT WITH ACTS

The ACTS was implemented on 2 November 2020 to facilitate the cross-border transit movement of goods via land within ASEAN. Businesses can look forward to time savings, cost reduction and better connectivity in moving goods via land across Southeast Asia.

Under the ACTS, traders can carry out a single transit journey across participating AMS via a single truck, single customs declaration and single banker's guarantee. The use of a regional computerised customs transit management system allows the customs administrations in each AMS to efficiently capture and track the status and movement of goods under the ACTS.

Participating AMS include Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

For more information, please refer to the ACTS page on the Customs website at <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/asean-customs-transit-system/overview>.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong visits Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station

••• The visit to the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station (PPEIS) on 6 May 2022 was part of a series of visits by Mr Wong to statutory boards and departments under the Ministry of Finance.

Singapore Customs checkpoints officers safeguard the integrity and security of Singapore’s trading system by ensuring that illicit items are not exported, and duty or tax-suspended goods are not diverted into local market. They do so by enforcing customs and trade regulations and carrying out essential customs functions at Singapore’s land, sea and air borders.

Singapore Customs checkpoints officers inspect export cargos at five locations — PPEIS, Brani Export Inspection Station (BEIS), Tuas Export Inspection Station (TEIS) and at the various air cargo terminals within the Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC), and the Airport Logistics Park of Singapore (ALPS).

The three sea export inspection stations come under Singapore Customs’ Sea Checkpoints Branch, while the air exportstation (AES) comes under the Air Checkpoints Branch.

The sea export inspection stations are equipped with high-tech vehicular X-ray technology and passive radiation portal monitors, making efficient and accurate non-intrusive checks of containers possible. Secondary inspections are conducted on suspicious shipments.

Major cases detected at the sea export inspection stations in recent years include the seizures of record amounts of pangolin scales and elephant ivory, in joint operations with local enforcement agencies and international counterparts (more details can be found in Issue 62 of inSYNC on the Customs website: <https://go.gov.sg/insync>).

During his visit to PPEIS, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong was given a tour of the station, and observed first-hand how our officers inspected cargo and used artificial intelligence to improve the checkpoint operations. He also took part in a virtual engagement session with about 80 Singapore Customs officers from various branches of the department.

Mr Wong acknowledged that Customs officers had played an important role to help bring in essential supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also took the occasion to announce the introduction of the Singapore Customs Medals to recognise the contributions of Customs officers.

Here are the highlights of his visit:



An officer from Singapore Customs’ Sea Checkpoints Branch sharing about the team’s operations and initiatives with DPM and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong.



DPM and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong taking a “wefie” with the duty team after witnessing a container inspection.

SEA EXPORT INSPECTION STATIONS AND AIR EXPORT OFFICE

There are currently three sea export inspection stations and one air export office in Singapore.

PPEIS, which opened in 2013, is Singapore Customs’ first inspection station to identify and target high-risk export containers for X-ray scanning and inspection.

BEIS, our second inspection station, commenced operations in 2015. It is equipped with technology that makes efficient and accurate non-intrusive checks of containers possible.

The latest addition, **TEIS**, started operations in late 2021, and features new scanning capabilities to enhance existing container scanning operations.

AES was setup in 2013 to conduct export checks on air shipments in CAC and ALPS.



About 80 Singapore Customs officers from various branches took part in a lively online dialogue with DPM and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong.



DPM and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong with Singapore Customs’ management and duty team.

Case files: Enforcement Highlights

CASE 1: SUPPLIER OF SEA STORES JAILED 18 MONTHS FOR DIVERSION OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES

On 12 May 2022, the State Courts imposed an 18-month jail term on a 63-year-old Singaporean man for offences relating to diversion of duty-unpaid cigarettes supposedly to be supplied to vessels as sea stores.

The man was the sole proprietor of a business that supplied ship spares and sea stores to vessels berthed in Singapore's waters. The sea stores included cigarettes, which were considered as exports and thus, exempted from payment of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Investigations by Singapore Customs revealed that the man had acquired from licensed warehouses more cigarettes than the actual quantity ordered by the vessels on multiple occasions. He would divert the excess duty-unpaid cigarettes inland and store them at his business premises, either for resale or personal consumption.

The man pleaded guilty to one charge of storing duty-unpaid cigarettes and nine charges of fraudulent evasion of duty involving nine export permits. The total duty evaded for the 10 proceeded charges amounted to about \$67,820.

Another similar charge of storing duty-unpaid cigarettes and 25 similar charges of fraudulent evasion of duty and GST involving 17 export permits were taken into consideration during sentencing. The total duty and GST evaded for the 26 charges amounted to about \$17,080 and \$7,110 respectively.



CASE 2: LUCRATIVE JOB OFFERS THAT ARE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE: JAIL TERM FOR MAN WHO DELIVERED DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES

A 27-year-old Singaporean man was sentenced by the State Courts on 21 April 2022 to 29 months' imprisonment for delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes.

On 26 January 2022, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation near Ubi Avenue 2, where they sighted a man opening the side compartment door of a truck. Officers moved in and found 2,804 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in brown boxes in the vehicle.

Investigations revealed that the man was offered a delivery job by an unknown person via a social media platform to deliver boxes said to contain soaps, where he would be paid \$120 for every four boxes delivered.

Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in brown boxes in the truck's cargo compartment.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in brown boxes in the truck's cargo compartment.

After completing the first delivery on 23 January 2022, the man checked on one of the remaining boxes and discovered that the goods were in fact duty-unpaid cigarettes. He then verified the contents of the boxes with the unknown person. Despite the revelation, he continued to deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes and was arrested while making the second delivery.

The duty and GST evaded amounted to more than \$378,010 and \$28,310 respectively. All the duty-unpaid cigarettes found and the truck were seized.

CASE 3: WOMAN WHO SELF-MANUFACTURED RICE WINE WITHOUT A LICENCE SENTENCED TO JAIL AND FINE

A 47-year-old female PRC national was sentenced by the State Courts on 18 April 2022 to three weeks' imprisonment and a fine of \$33,000 for illegal manufacturing of rice wine. She did not pay the fine and served another one month's imprisonment in default.

On 20 March 2021, Singapore Customs officers inspected an HDB unit near Lorong Ah Soo and found 74 bottles of homemade rice wine totalling about 83 litres, a still for distilling rice wine, plastic containers containing fermented liquor contents and bottles of yeast powder.

Investigations revealed that the woman started to experiment and self-manufacture rice wine in the unit since October 2019 and succeeded in making rice wine in May 2020. She started selling the homemade rice wine to friends and other buyers.

The woman pleaded guilty to one charge of possession of a still for distilling of rice wine without a licence and one charge of manufacturing rice wine without a licence. Another similar charge of manufacturing rice wine without a licence was taken into consideration during sentencing. The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$3,340 and \$270 respectively.



74 bottles of homemade rice wine, a still, plastic containers containing fermented liquor contents and bottles of yeast powder found in a unit.

CASE 4: SINGAPOREAN MAN FINED OVER \$5.5 MILLION FOR EVADING DUTY AND GST ON IMPORTED MOTOR VEHICLES

A 39-year-old motor vehicle importer was fined over \$5.5 million by the State Courts on 9 March 2022 for fraudulent evasion of duty and GST by suppressing the declared values of 464 motor vehicles imported into Singapore between June and November 2016.

Singapore Customs launched an investigation after detecting that the motor vehicle 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.

Investigations revealed that two invoices would be prepared for each imported motor vehicle transaction,

and only the partial value of the motor vehicle in the first invoice would be declared. The balance value in the second invoice was not declared. This intentional omission resulted in the short payment of duty and GST amounting to about \$703,600 and \$295,510 respectively.

The importer pleaded guilty to one amalgamated charge under the Customs Act and one amalgamated charge under Section 11(9) of the Road Traffic Act. Another Custom-related charge was taken into consideration during sentencing.

He did not pay the fine and would serve 40 months' imprisonment in default. He was also sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment for underpaying the Additional Registration Fee during the registration of some of the vehicles.

Engaging the community to tackle duty-unpaid cigarette activities

●●● Singapore Customs adopts a three-pronged approach to tackle duty-unpaid cigarette activities in Singapore: enforcement operations to curb supply, suppressing consumers' demand and engaging various stakeholders through community outreach sessions.

Community engagement is an integral part of the work of our Community Engagement Team (CET), a unit within Singapore Customs' Suppression & Community Engagement Branch. The CET recognises the importance of working with community stakeholders to increase public awareness of the enforcement of Singapore Customs' laws.

The key objectives of the outreach are to empower community stakeholders with the knowledge on how to differentiate duty-paid cigarettes from duty-unpaid ones, and highlight the consequences of getting involved in duty-unpaid cigarette activities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CET rapidly pivoted to adopting new mode of community engagement, from physical ground outreach to virtual engagement using video conferencing software. With the stabilisation of the pandemic situation, the CET has recently resumed in-person engagements.

Here is a glimpse of some of the outreach sessions that the CET had been involved in over

the past few months. At these sessions, the CET engaged the community stakeholders and educated them on the consequences of possessing and dealing with illegal cigarettes.

VIDEO ON TACKLING DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES ACTIVITIES

Complementing our community engagement efforts, Singapore Customs takes action against both smugglers and peddlers, as well as buyers, to disrupt the supply and demand of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Check out our in-house video at <https://go.gov.sg/anti-duc-video> to see how our enforcement officers detect illicit activities involving duty-unpaid cigarettes, and take these offenders to task.



The CET conducted joint virtual sessions with the Singapore Police Force to reach out to dormitory residents in February and March 2022.

Singapore Customs' TradeNet permit application service scores well in annual business satisfaction survey

●●● Singapore Customs' TradeNet permit application service has been ranked second among the 25 government digital services surveyed, in the annual Survey on Satisfaction with Government Digital Services (Businesses), conducted by the Smart Nation and Digital Government Office and GovTech.

More than 1,100 company respondents participated in the survey, which took place from November 2021 to December 2021. Overall, 76 percent of the respondents indicated that they were either very or extremely satisfied with government digital services for businesses.

Launched in 1989, TradeNet is the world's first nationwide electronic data interchange system for paperless clearance of trade documentation. TradeNet, as Singapore's trade national single window, allows a single electronic application to be used for application of permits from relevant government agencies for the import, export, transshipment or transit of goods through Singapore. It reduces the cost and time to prepare, submit and process trade documents, expedites the clearance of cargo and allows fees and taxes to be deducted electronically.

"TradeNet has changed the way traders conduct their business. A permit application that used to require traders to make multiple trips to submit the physical forms to various agencies for approval and up to one week to be approved, now only takes minutes. Such quick turnaround is especially important in today's dynamic trading environment and augments Singapore's position as an international key trading hub," said Mr Teh Thiam Siong, Director of TradeNet Office, Singapore Customs.

Singapore Customs thanks all the respondents for their feedback on TradeNet. The department will continue to review stakeholders' feedback and address them as part of our efforts towards service improvement.



The CET conducted joint virtual sessions with the Singapore Police Force to reach out to dormitory residents in February and March 2022.



The CET took part in outreach events to migrant workers at Pasir Panjang Residence and Sungei Tengah Lodge on 2 June 2022 (top) and 1 May 2022 (bottom) respectively.

Sharing on Networked Trade Platform

Digitalisation of Banker's Guarantees through NTP assures data authenticity and lowers risk of fraud

Singapore Customs shared how the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) addressed the issue of authenticity of trade documents at the 23rd World Customs Organisation Asia-Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Meeting, which was held in Bali in May 2022 to set the region's direction for the years to come.

An example shared was Singapore Customs' Electronic Banker's Guarantee (BG) Programme, which digitalises, streamlines the BG handling process, and mitigates the risk of fraudulent BG by enabling banks to transmit the BG data directly to Singapore Customs through NTP. The use of Corpass on NTP ensures that only authorised personnel are permitted to perform corporate transactions, resulting in a secured channel that affirms BG's authenticity.

NTP acts as an important conduit for cross-border paperless trade

In May 2022, Singapore Customs also took part in a workshop on "Facilitating Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Region", held in Vietnam. Deputy Director of NTP Office, Ms Patricia Poh, shared how NTP supported domestic and cross-border trade

digitalisation across the trade value chain.

As an open platform operated by Singapore Customs, NTP digitally connects businesses with their trade partners and also enables companies to digitally transact with Singapore Customs and other overseas customs administrations' platforms that have established connection with NTP.

The workshop was organised by the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on E-Commerce for stakeholders to share their insights on digital models and platforms, and to discuss possible solutions to overcome current challenges. Other speakers at the workshop included commercial and government representatives from Japan, Korea and Vietnam.



Deputy Director of NTPO, Ms Patricia Poh (centre), speaking at the workshop in Vietnam on 9 May 2022.

News round-up for traders

Here is a round-up of recent circulars from Singapore Customs for the trading community:

Singapore Trade Classification, Customs and Excise Duties 2022

With effect from 19 June 2022, the Singapore Trade Classification Customs and Excise Duties (STCCED) 2022 has replaced the current 2018 version. The STCCED 2022 adopts the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature 2022 (AHTN 2022).

The AHTN 2022 is jointly developed by the ASEAN Member States (AMS). It is based on the 6-digit Harmonised

Commodity Description and Coding System Nomenclature (HS) developed by the World Customs Organisation and includes all the 351 sets of 2022 amendments to the HS Nomenclature.

The HS codes in AHTN 2022 are harmonised at the 8-digit level for use by all AMS. The AHTN 2022 facilitates trade among AMS through consistent and uniform interpretation in the classification of goods. It also signifies an important milestone in ASEAN regional economic co-operation.

With the implementation of AHTN 2022, new permit applications must be submitted using AHTN 2022 HS codes. For more information, please refer to **Circular 05/2022** on the Customs website.

Implementation of Amended Operational Certification Procedure under ATIGA

The amended ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Operational Certification Procedure has entered into force on 1 May 2022. There were three key changes to the operational procedures. Businesses would stand to benefit from the simplified and standardised declaration procedures, which aimed to facilitate trade among AMS. The three key changes are:

a) Ticking of the "Issued Retroactively" box when the Certificate of Origin (Form D) is issued one day after the declared shipment date, instead of three days after the declared shipment date;

b) Providing for consolidated export shipments using multiple Proofs of Origin, where the validity period of the back-to-back Form D will be based on the earliest expiry date of the original Proofs of Origin; and

c) Amendment of "exporting country" to "exporting Member State" under the List of Data Requirements for back-to-back Origin Declaration.

For more information, please refer to **Circular 04/2022** on the Customs website.

President Halimah expresses appreciation to frontline airport officers

On 22 April 2022, President Halimah Yacob, together with Senior Minister of State (SMS) for Transport Dr Amy Khor, visited Changi Airport Terminal 3 to pay tribute to various groups of frontline workers, and interacted with Singapore Customs officers at the Goods and Services Tax Refund Counter.

President Halimah expressed her appreciation to our frontline officers for their service during this challenging period, and acknowledged their versatility and resilience in stepping up to support various national

efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years.

From ensuring compliance with safe distancing measures as Safe Distancing Enforcement Officers, to helping man the helpline for Jobs Support Scheme, our officers had played a part in the nation's fight against COVID-19.

As the pandemic situation stabilises and air traffic resumes, our air checkpoints officers will continue to uphold service excellence and support the recovery of Singapore's aviation hub status.



Singapore Customs officers interacting with President Halimah (first from right) and SMS Dr Amy Khor (second from right).

TRAINING CALENDAR

With the appointment of Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) and Republic Polytechnic (RP) to conduct the existing suite of business courses from 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:

15 TO 16 AUG 2022,
12 TO 13 SEP 2022,
3 TO 4 OCT 2022

SC101

17 AUG 2022, 14 SEP 2022,
5 OCT 2022

Same dates for SC102 & SC103

RP:

22 TO 23 AUG 2022,
19 TO 20 SEP 2022,
17 TO 18 OCT 2022

SC101

24 AUG 2022, 21 SEP 2022,
19 OCT 2022

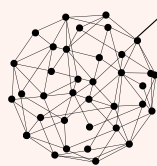
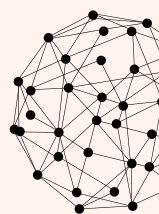
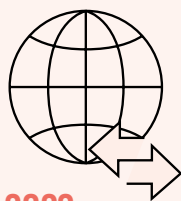
Same dates for SC102 & SC103

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.



SC111

NYP:

19 AUG 2022, 16 SEP 2022,
7 OCT 2022

RP:

25 AUG 2022, 22 SEP 2022,
20 OCT 2022

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:

18 AUG 2022, 15 SEP 2022,
6 OCT 2022

Same dates for SC201 & SC202

RP:

26 AUG 2022, 23 SEP 2022,
21 OCT 2022

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.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS [26 JUL 2022]

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.