



**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT  
OF THE  
22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE  
ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS  
Singapore, 4-6 June 2013**

1. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs was held from 4 to 6 June 2013 in Singapore. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Fong Yong Kian, Director-General, Singapore Customs. All 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting.

2. Mr Peter Ong, Head of Civil Service and Permanent Secretary (Finance), Singapore, opened the Meeting on 4 June 2013. In his opening address, Mr Ong emphasised the important role of Customs in facilitating intra-ASEAN as well as international trade. He highlighted the important role played by ASEAN Customs administrations to support the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

3. The ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting reviewed the work of the ASEAN customs working groups. These include the Coordinating Committee on Customs, chaired by the Philippines; the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group, chaired by Singapore; the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group, chaired by Malaysia; the Customs Capacity Building Working Group, chaired by Brunei Darussalam; and the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee, chaired by the Philippines.

4. Key achievements during the past year include the implementation of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2012/1 by all 10 ASEAN Member States, completion of the ASEAN Single Window Pilot Project Component 2 (Scaled Down)<sup>1</sup>, and the commencement of the ASEAN Customs Transit System component under the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU Programme. The customs working groups also developed best-practice documents to support customs modernisation and reform in ASEAN, namely the *Best Practice Guide for ASEAN on Advance Rulings on Tariff Classification*, the *ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin Volume IV*, the *ASEAN Customs Post Clearance Audit Bulletin Volume IV*, and the *Compendium of Best Practices in Strategic Management*.

5. The Meeting discussed the advancement of customs integration and harmonisation in ASEAN. These include the need to expedite the ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Customs, and the finalisation and signature of Protocol 2

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<sup>1</sup> The ASEAN Single Window Pilot Project Component 2 (Full Fledged) will be carried subsequently.

(Designation of Frontier Posts) and Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit. The Meeting also noted that issues pertaining to the long-term sustainability of the ASEAN Single Window project need to be further explored. The Meeting appointed Thailand as the Chair of the AHTN Task Force for 2013-2015.

6. The Meeting held a series of consultation sessions with the Customs administrations of China, Japan and Korea, and the World Customs Organisation to strengthen Customs-to-Customs partnerships in the region. At the ASEAN Customs-World Customs Organisation (WCO) Consultation, the WCO presented its Strategic Plan and Vision for Customs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Key elements of this Vision include trade facilitation and security, fair and efficient revenue collection, protection of society, and institutional and human resource development.

7. During the ASEAN-China Customs Consultation, China invited the ASEAN Member States to participate in an international operation to target illegal maritime shipments of hazardous and other wastes, and updated on China's single window development.

8. During the ASEAN-Japan Customs Consultation, Japan updated on the progress of bilateral technical assistance projects for the ASEAN Member States, and the results of the Time Release Study conducted in several ASEAN Customs administrations.

9. During the ASEAN-Korea Customs Consultation, Korea proposed further collaboration with the ASEAN Customs administrations on the exchange of experiences and best practices on authorised economic operator (AEO) programmes, and to establish mutual recognition arrangement of AEO programmes with the ASEAN Customs administrations.

10. The Meeting held a joint consultation with the US-ASEAN Business Council, the Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers, and the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations, to strengthen Customs-to-Business partnerships in the region. These business associations shared with the Meeting insightful presentations on best practices in trade facilitation, combating counterfeiting and piracy in ASEAN, and secure trade in express deliveries.

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**Issued on 6 June 2013**

**At the end of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Customs,  
Singapore**