

inSYNC

ISSUE
42

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016



01 Singapore hosts four-nation joint customs training programme

HIGHLIGHTS

06

Sharing views on
nurturing smart logistics

08

Guidebook on the
Harmonised System Classification
of Chemicals and Chemical Products

09

Helping to build a
future-ready workforce

inSIGHT

Gaining knowledge, forming connections

Middle managers from the customs administrations of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore came together for a joint training programme for four days in August. (See the cover story “Singapore hosts four-nation joint customs programme”, page 01). The programme marked the first time such a training programme was held, and participants found it an excellent platform not only to learn from each other’s expertise, but also to network and form connections. The heads of the customs administrations committed to continue the Joint Customs Middle Management Programme annually. The formal programme was topped off with a friendly play-off at the bowling alley, dubbed the Joint Customs Games.

In August, Director-General of Customs Ho Chee Pong took part in a panel discussion at the 3rd Logistics & Transportation Conference organised by the Container Depot Association (Singapore). Mr Ho shared the Government’s upcoming plans for the National Trade Platform, as well as his thoughts on how Singapore can stay competitive in the face of global challenges. Find out more about what was discussed in “Sharing views on nurturing smart logistics” (page 06).

For traders dealing with the Harmonised System Classification of Chemicals and Chemical Products, we launched a guidebook a few months ago to equip you with the knowledge to do self-classification. The guidebook illustrates a four-step approach, and includes case studies and Frequently Asked Questions that we have encountered. For more information on the guidebook, flip to page 08.

While we are consistently reaching out to the trading community, we are also working with several polytechnics to help build a future-ready workforce for the supply chain and logistics industries (“Helping to build a future-ready workforce”, page 09). The Singapore Customs Academy has been providing customised programmes for students to better equip them for when they graduate and join the workforce.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Neo Wen Tong
Editor

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 01 Singapore hosts four-nation joint customs training programme

UPDATES

- 05 Singapore Customs participates in World Customs Organisation meetings
- 06 Sharing views on nurturing smart logistics
- 07 Five things courier companies should know about air imports

- 08 Guidebook on the Harmonised System Classification of Chemicals and Chemical Products

- 09 Helping to build a future-ready workforce

- 10 Launch of CorpPass
- Singapore Customs hosts Uganda Customs
- New STP Companies on board

INSIDE CUSTOMS

- 11 Bishan Home: Customs staff support vegetable sale, bring residents for movie treat

- 12 In-house training refines officers’ skill sets

- 13 Training Calendar



To read, download or subscribe to the online edition of inSYNC, please visit www.customs.gov.sg/insync

DESIGN BY
Green House Design + Communications

Please let us know what you think of inSYNC. We welcome your ideas on what you would like to see and how we can do better. Write in to the Editor at customs_media@customs.gov.sg

InSYNC is a publication of Singapore Customs. Copyright of the materials contained in this publication belongs to Singapore Customs. Nothing in here shall be reproduced in whole or in part without prior written consent of Singapore Customs. All rights reserved. All information is correct at time of publication.

Singapore hosts four-nation joint customs training programme

Singapore Customs hosted a joint training programme for 20 middle management officers from the customs administrations of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore from 15 to 18 August 2016.

This Joint Customs Middle Management Programme (JCMMP) marks the first time Singapore Customs has brought together middle managers from the four customs administrations for joint training.

Tapping on the strengths of each customs administration, the programme featured trainers from all four customs administrations to enhance the participants' knowledge and competencies in key customs domains such as digital customs, customs procedures, trade facilitation, enforcement, and compliance.

"The programme not only enhances the inter-country relationships, it also promotes more knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices, to update the officers on key developments and challenges faced by the participating customs administrations," said Singapore Customs' Chief Human Resource Officer and Director of Singapore Customs Academy, Ms Karen Lim.

"We also included opportunities throughout the programme for the participants to interact professionally and socially, to learn from and to share with one

another," said Ms Lim.

Besides classroom learning during the four days, the programme participants visited Singapore Customs' Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Refund Counter in Changi Airport Terminal 2.

At the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station, Singapore Customs officers demonstrated to the programme participants the use of X-ray machines to scan containers and the analysis of images of goods inside the containers before they are exported.



Singapore Customs' Chief Human Resource Officer and Director of Singapore Customs Academy, Ms Karen Lim, welcomes the participants to the Joint Customs Middle Management Programme.



Guest speaker Mr Rick Ligthart, Customs Attaché of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, discussed customs procedures and trade facilitation in the Netherlands.



Left: Tuan Haji Ismail Bin Rahman, Senior Assistant Director of Customs I, Royal Malaysian Customs Department, spoke about the development of uCustoms, Malaysia's National Single Window. Right: Mr Gusmiadirrahman, Head of Customs Service Office of Makassar, Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, shared on Trade Facilitation Initiatives.



Singapore Customs officers at the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station demonstrate the use of X-ray machines for scanning and image analysis before the containers of goods are exported.

At the GST Refund Counter in Changi Airport Terminal 2, they were briefed on Singapore Customs' adoption of information and communication technology (ICT) in its work processes – namely, the Customs Tax Payment Kiosk and the Customs@SG mobile app – to provide travellers with a seamless and fast service experience.

Director-General of Singapore Customs Ho Chee Pong hosted the participants to a welcome dinner on the first day of the

programme. It was an enjoyable evening of mingling, set against a picturesque backdrop of the Jurong Lake District.

This year's JCMMP ended on 18 August 2016 with a fireside chat between the programme participants and the heads of the four customs administrations. During the dialogue, there was a candid exchange of views on issues close to the hearts of the participants.



Participants observed how technology helps to provide travellers with a seamless and fast service experience for tax refunds and payments at Changi Airport.



A candid exchange of views between the heads of the four customs administrations and the programme participants took place during the fireside chat on the final day of the programme.

JOINT CUSTOMS GAMES

After the programme, there was a friendly play-off at the bowling alley – known as the Joint Customs Games – to further promote friendship and cooperation among the officers.

The heads of customs administrations and programme participants from the four countries were grouped in mixed teams of four members each. The teams vied for the spots of top scorer, bowler with most number of strikes, and three top-scoring teams.

After a five-minute warm up, the Games officially began. The thuds of bowling balls on lanes were quickly followed by cheers, high-fives and consoling pats on the back as bowlers scored strikes, splits and the occasional gutter ball.

Two games later, the results emerged. The winners from each category were awarded medals by the heads of the customs administrations.

A final group photo rounded up the Joint Customs Games and there was "good bye" all around, as participants from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia prepared to head home.





Seated, from left to right: Acting Controller of the Royal Customs and Excise Department, Brunei Darussalam, Mr Mohammad Nizam Bin Haji Ismi; Director General of the Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Heru Pambudi; Director General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Dato' Sri Khazali Bin Haji Ahmad; Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong.

JOINT STATEMENT SIGNED

As a commitment to continued collaboration in capacity-building, the heads of the customs administrations of Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia signed a joint statement on 18 August 2016 committing to hold the JCMMP on an annual basis.

The joint statement was signed by Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong; Acting Controller of the Royal Customs and Excise Department,

Brunei Darussalam, Mr Mohammad Nizam Bin Haji Ismi; Director General of the Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Heru Pambudi; and the Director General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Dato' Sri Khazali Bin Haji Ahmad.

“The signing of the joint statement on the JCMMP signifies the strong ties and close cooperation among our four customs administrations,” said Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong.

“It also reaffirms our strong commitment to jointly level up the competency of our customs middle managers to address the challenges ahead.”

The four customs administrations agreed to take turns to host this annual programme. Next year’s programme will be organised and hosted by Indonesia’s Directorate General of Customs and Excise. Customs administrations from ASEAN member states and regional partners will be invited to participate in the programme as well. 



Participants cheered for each other, mingled, and gave it their all during the Joint Customs Games. After two games, the results for the top bowler, bowler with most number of strikes, and top three scoring teams were announced. A final group photo rounded up the Games.

PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS' VIEWS



The biggest takeaway from this programme is the sharing by the other customs administrations on customs procedures for trade facilitation. The JCMMP allows us to learn from our counterparts, especially those who have implemented the Authorised Economic Operator programme.

Mr Faizal Bahrin Haji Bujang, Senior Superintendent of Customs, Head of Belait Customs Control Post, Royal Customs and Excise Department, Brunei Darussalam



Other than the sharing of knowledge and experience, the networking is a very good part of this programme. Now that we know customs officers from Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei, that makes it easier for future work communication.

Mr Gusmiadirrahman, Head of Customs Service Office of Makassar, Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia



This is a very good programme as we get to meet our counterparts from Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei, to share our experiences on customs-related matters. Through this, we can benchmark against the best approach. This is also a good forum for us to discuss issues with one another.

Tuan Haji Ismail Bin Rahman, Senior Assistant Director of Customs I, Royal Malaysian Customs Department



The sharing by our foreign customs counterparts was insightful and inspired us to think about how we can do things differently to deliver customs services with efficiency but without compromising trade security.

Ms Joelle Lau, Deputy Head of Trade Strategy and Security Branch, Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs participates in World Customs Organisation meetings

Singapore Customs attended the 75th Meeting of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Policy Commission and the 127th/128th Annual Sessions of the WCO's Council – the organisation's highest decision-making body – in Brussels, Belgium, from 11 to 16 July 2016.

Singapore's attendance at the meetings also concluded our two-year term as a member of the WCO Policy Commission – a steering group to review and deliberate on the WCO's strategies and work plans.

These two years saw the Policy Commission address pertinent issues such as customs administrations' roles in the fight against terrorism, e-commerce, and pushed for increased digitalisation of customs procedures through the use of information and communication technologies.

SIGNING OF STATEMENT OF INTENT WITH AUSTRALIA

On the sidelines of the Council Sessions, Singapore's Director-General of Customs Ho Chee Pong and Commissioner of the Australian Border Force Roman Quaedvlieg signed the Statement of Intent (SOI) on 15 July 2016 to commence formal negotiations for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Authorised Economic Operators Programmes.

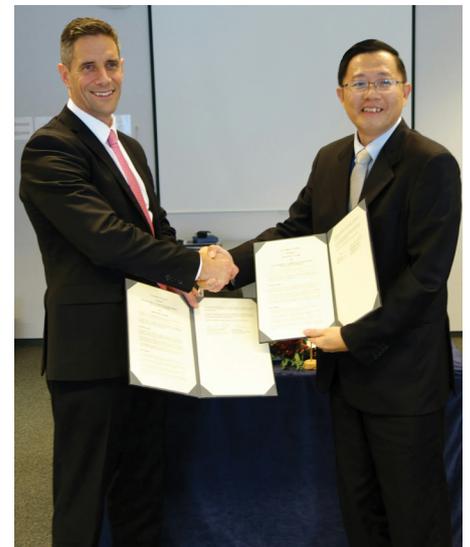
The signing of the SOI is a significant step towards the establishment of the MRA between both customs administrations.

Since 2010, Singapore Customs has signed and operationalised MRAs with Canada (2010), the Republic of Korea (2010), Japan (2011), the People's Republic of China (2012), Taiwan (2013), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (2014), and the United States (2014). [i](#)

To find out more about Singapore Customs' MRAs, visit tinyurl.com/CustomsMRA.



Singapore's Director-General of Customs Ho Chee Pong shares his insights at the 75th Meeting of the WCO Policy Commission.



Singapore's Director-General of Customs Ho Chee Pong (right) and Commissioner of the Australian Border Force Roman Quaedvlieg signed the Statement of Intent.

Sharing views on nurturing smart logistics

Director-General of Customs Ho Chee Pong participated in a panel discussion held at the Container Depot Association (Singapore)'s (CDAS) 3rd Logistics & Transportation Conference.



During the panel discussion, Director-General of Customs Ho Chee Pong (second from left) shared how the NTP can help to boost the industry's capabilities in creating a smart logistics ecosystem.



Mr Ho delivered introductory remarks prior to the panel discussion. (Photo: Container Depot Association (Singapore))

More than 180 participants from the logistics industry attended the conference, which was held over 23 and 24 August 2016.

The guest-of-honour Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) S. Iswaran said that with an uncertain global economic outlook, an ageing population, and rising competition from neighbouring economies, there is a need to “keep pushing the boundaries of innovation and productivity”.

“We can harness the latest technologies, standards and skills to work smarter – to achieve more with less,” said Mr Iswaran.

Prior to the panel discussion, Director-General of Customs Mr Ho delivered his introductory remarks. He shared the government's upcoming plans for the National Trade Platform (NTP) – an integrated national trade info-ecosystem

connecting businesses, community systems and platforms, and government systems – which are in line with the conference theme of “Smart Nation, Smart Logistics: Transforming Singapore's Economy for the Future”.

The panel was moderated by Cluster Director of GovTech, Mr Kenneth Lim, and was made up of four representatives from Singapore Customs, International Enterprise Singapore, CDAS, and ExxonMobil Chemical Asia Pacific, and the panellists discussed the topic, “Does Singapore have what it takes to nurture smart logistics?”.

Mr Ho said that reliance on hard assets is no longer feasible with global competition and rising costs.

A game-changer is needed for Singapore to stay ahead and remain competitive, and the NTP can help to boost

the industry's capabilities by creating a smart logistics ecosystem, he added. With Singapore's Smart Nation initiatives, the industry is in a good position to push for such change, Mr Ho said.

The conference saw various speakers, ranging from industry practitioners, representatives from government agencies, and academics, discuss various topics related to Singapore's position as a global logistics hub.

Other than seminars, participants also participated in breakout workshops, where they discussed ideas and explored solutions faced by businesses today.

The Electronic Container Trucking System (eCTS), a single IT platform developed by the CDAS, which aims to connect all container logistics companies, was also launched at the event. 

Five things courier companies should know about air imports

Singapore Customs conducted an outreach session for more than 25 representatives from 15 courier companies earlier this year. Various customs procedures and regulatory requirements on the importation of goods via air were shared with the attendees. Here are five compliance areas that courier companies should take note of.

	✓ DO	✗ DO NOT
1.  INCORRECT DECLARATION	<p>Ensure that proper Customs permits have been taken up.</p> <p>Add insurance, freight charges and other incidental charges to the cost of the goods to obtain Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value for calculating the GST payable.</p> <p>Use commercial invoices issued by seller (not pro-forma – provided to satisfy minimum requirements only – or consolidated invoices) for declarations to Customs.</p> <p>Declare the goods in separate line items in the TradeNet permit application if they are classified under different Harmonised System (HS) codes.</p>	<p>Split imported goods that are destined for the same importer into multiple packages to claim Goods and Services Tax (GST) relief for import via air.</p> <p>Use generic description of goods and group goods of different classifications under a single HS code in the Customs declaration.</p>
2.  UNDECLARED ITEMS	<p>Ensure that duty and GST have been correctly paid to Customs.</p> <p>Declare a Customs short payment permit to account for the over-landed goods (excess imported goods not included in the import manifest).</p>	<p>Use a Customs short payment permit for cargo clearance if the goods have been imported into Singapore. The short payment permit is for the purpose of duty and/or GST recovery only.</p>
3.  CONTROLLED & PROHIBITED GOODS	<p>Obtain the required licence from Competent Authorities (CAs) before importing controlled goods.</p>	<p>Bring prohibited goods into Singapore (e.g. chewing gum, shisha, smokeless cigars, cigarette lighters of pistol or revolver shapes, endangered species of wildlife and their by-products, and firecrackers).</p>
4.  COUNTERFEIT GOODS	<p>Look out for luxury or high-value items declared at a low value.</p>	<p>Bring in goods that infringe intellectual property rights.</p>
5.  DUTIABLE GOODS	<p>Keep an eye out for smuggling of dutiable goods (e.g. cigarettes and liquor).</p>	<p>Claim GST relief on intoxicating liquors and tobacco products. There is no GST relief on dutiable goods.</p>

Guidebook on the Harmonised System Classification of Chemicals and Chemical Products

Launched in June 2016, the Guidebook on the Harmonised System (HS) Classification of Chemicals and Chemical Products aims to help traders and declaring agents to self-classify chemicals and chemical products.

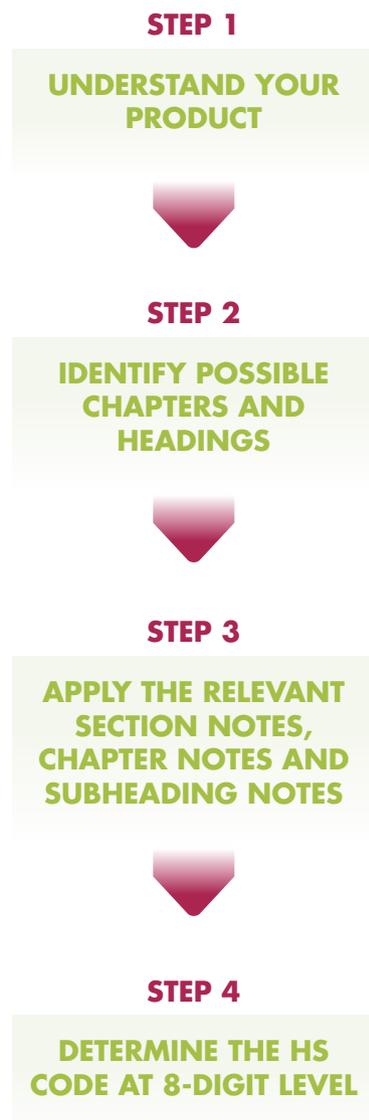
To equip traders with knowledge to self-classify chemicals and chemical products, Singapore Customs came up with a four-step approach as well as a flowchart in the guidebook to illustrate the classification process.

Traders who encounter difficulties classifying chemicals and chemical products, are often at a loss if their product is a mixture consisting of various chemicals, or are unsure of how to classify products that seem to fit two or more HS codes, will find the guidebook useful.

The guidebook also includes case studies pertaining to chemicals and chemical products to help traders have a better understanding on the classification of such products.

Traders may also find the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) useful for the classification of chemicals and chemical products. For example, part of the answer to an FAQ, "Can I determine the HS code of a chemical product using its Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry Number?" states that if a chemical has a Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number (CAS RN), traders may refer to the Alphabetical Index to STCCED or the Europa website (tinyurl.com/CASRNeuropa) to help them determine the HS code of that chemical. 

For detailed information, case studies and more, download the Guidebook from the Singapore Customs website (tinyurl.com/customsHSguide).



WHAT IS THE HARMONISED SYSTEM?

The Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System, or the Harmonised System (HS), is an international nomenclature (at 6-digit level) developed by the World Customs Organisation for the classification of goods.

WHAT IS THE HS CODE?

The HS code is based on the Harmonised System. In Singapore, the HS code of goods is an 8-digit code. It is also known as the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature code and is harmonised at the 8-digit level across all ASEAN member countries. HS codes are required in the permit declarations of goods. They are used to determine the tariffs, controls and rule of origin applicable to the goods. They are also used for the collection of trade statistics. The HS codes can be found in the Singapore Trade Classification, Customs and Excise Duties (STCCED) publication (tinyurl.com/stcced).

Helping to build a future-ready workforce

Other than offering training courses to the business community, Singapore Customs Academy (SCA) has also been working with several polytechnics to provide customised programmes for students.

One of the strategic thrusts for SCA is to build a future-ready workforce for the supply-chain industry and thus, the academy has been working with Republic Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, and Temasek Polytechnic to provide customised programmes for their students.

These customised programmes on customs matters are targeted at students who are pursuing diplomas in the fields of supply chain management, international logistics and business, and other related areas.

Each one-day course takes in 20 to 35 students on average, and includes a three-hour lecture and a study visit to a warehouse licensed by Singapore Customs.

Topics covered include customs tax regime, customs procedures, an introduction to Singapore's national single window, TradeNet, and trade facilitation through the Secure Trade Partnership programme.

Armed with relevant customs knowledge, the students will be better equipped when they graduate and join the supply chain and logistics industries.

The SCA-polytechnics collaboration was first introduced three years ago, and 12 runs have been conducted since then. The collaboration has been successful and SCA aims to continue the partnership, to provide students with the relevant knowledge to supplement their diploma courses.

Launched in 2012, SCA is Singapore's dedicated public institution providing specialised courses on customs matters primarily to the business community. 



Nanyang Polytechnic students attend a lecture as part of the customised programme conducted by Singapore Customs.



Temasek Polytechnic students visit a warehouse licensed by Singapore Customs.



Launch of CorpPass

The Singapore Government launched Singapore Corporate Access (CorpPass) on 15 September 2016. CorpPass is a new corporate digital identity for corporates and other entities (such as non-profit organisations and associations) that need to transact with Government agencies online.

CorpPass replaces SingPass and agency-issued login identities for local entities with a Unique Entity Number (UEN) and foreign entities. CorpPass will be progressively rolled out for different Government e-Services from September 2016 to December 2017.

With the implementation of CorpPass, local entities with UENs can use CorpPass to transact with Singapore Customs. All entities that transact with Singapore Customs are strongly encouraged to register for CorpPass as soon as possible to avoid inconvenience in the future when the current mode of login is no longer available.

Singapore Customs implemented CorpPass with 2-Factor Authentication (2FA) for the following e-services on 15 September 2016:

- Customs Account / Declaring Agent Account / Authorisation of Declaring Agent
- Government TradeNet Application and Services
- Inventory Control System and Petroleum Refund
- Web Manifest Reconciliation Statement



Singapore Customs hosts Uganda Customs

Singapore Customs' Assistant Director-General (Checkpoints) Sung Pik Wan hosted a delegation from the Republic of Uganda on 26 July 2016.

The delegation, led by the Uganda Revenue Authority Project Manager Tirwomwe Paulinus, and supported by Ambassador (Special Duties) Najuna-Njuneki, were keen to learn more about Singapore's National Single Window, TradeNet.

Singapore Customs shared with the delegation our experience in implementing TradeNet. During the meeting, there was also an active exchange of views on business processes.

New STP Companies on board

Two companies joined the Secure Trade Partnership (STP) scheme in the second quarter of 2016. The STP is a voluntary certification programme that encourages companies to adopt robust security measures and contribute to improving the security of the global supply chain.

STP-Plus status

TIC Traffic International Consortium (S) Pte Ltd

TIC Traffic International Consortium (S) Pte Ltd is founded by a team of professionals experienced in air and ocean freight forwarding services. The company's history dates back to 1994, when it specialised in the garment and apparels industry.

To keep abreast of market demands and economic developments, TIC has re-focused on serving companies in the high tech semi-conductors, oil and gas, as well as aviation and aerospace industries.

The company possesses the capability to handle sensitive laboratory equipment, personal effects, dangerous goods, and valuable cargo.

"We pride ourselves in offering a one-stop service station for customers' freight and shipping needs, offering port-to-port or door-to-door services across our ever-expanding network of agencies, spanning major international gateways and continents," said Mr James Teo, Director.

"We benefit extensively with the STP-Plus certification from Singapore Customs. The reduced export lead-time from Singapore helps us to better support our business and our customers globally."

Bishan Home: Customs staff support vegetable sale, bring residents for movie treat

Residents from the Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled – Singapore Customs' partner home since 2001 – visited Singapore Customs in July to raise funds through the sale of hydroponic vegetables. These vegetables are grown and harvested by the residents, as part of Bishan Home's initiative to equip its residents with life skills.

"As the Chinese spinach is grown without soil and pesticides, it is clean and fresh," said Assistant Head, Procedures & Systems Branch, Sim Siew Tze, who bought some of the vegetables. "With our support, hopefully Bishan Home can buy more seedlings to reap a bigger harvest next year!"

In August, a group of 18 Singapore Customs staff got up early on a Saturday morning to bring residents from Bishan Home out for a movie treat. Our volunteers met the residents at the home before heading out together to the cinema.

"The fun and joy of going for a movie treat brought big smiles to the residents," said Higher Customs Officer Tang Teen Seng, one of our volunteers. "It was a heartening and enjoyable experience for me too."



STP status

Worldgate Express Lines Pte Ltd

Worldgate Express Lines was incorporated in 1990 and offers comprehensive one-stop global transport solutions under three divisions, namely Ship Agency, International Freight Forwarding and Logistic Management, with offices in Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Worldgate Express Lines provides worldwide on-demand multi-transport operations across land, air and sea.

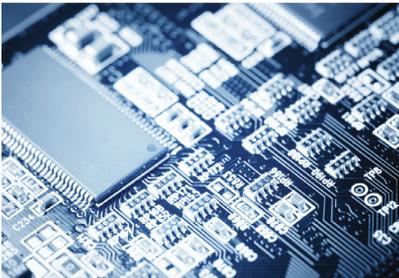
In May 2014, Worldgate was awarded a two-year STP certificate under the

Intermediate banding. Over the past two years, Worldgate has worked on areas identified by Singapore Customs for further improvement to enhance the security of the company's operations and supply chain. The efforts put in had borne fruit in May this year; Worldgate was awarded the STP status again under the Enhanced banding this time.

"We will not rest on our laurels and will continue improving those areas highlighted by Singapore Customs during the recent certification, as well as to affirm our commitment in keeping the supply chain secure," said Ms Rajes Murugain, Deputy General Manager.

In-house training refines officers' skill sets

Knowledge development and learning are integral parts of how Singapore Customs nurtures its officers. Recently, two new in-house programmes were introduced – one for officers who perform sea export inspections, and the other for Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) officers.



The training programme covered areas such as Singapore Customs' strategic goods control systems, general radiation training, handling of chemicals, and permit and cargo clearance. (Photos: stock images)

SEA EXPORT TRAINING PROGRAMME

To equip officers with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform sea export inspection effectively, 18 officers from the Checkpoints Division participated in the Sea Export Training Programme at the Brani Export Inspection Station from 20 to 24 June 2016.

The five-day programme was designed for officers posted to the Sea Export Section, and covered areas such as Singapore Customs' strategic goods control systems, basic image analysis, general radiation training, handling of chemicals, explosives and radiological threats, permit and cargo clearance.

In addition, the participants were also trained on the identification of strategic commodities. The training culminated in realistic table-top exercises where officers had to make decisions based on what they learnt from the programme. This was well-received by the participants, and plans are in place to run this training programme once a year.

E-LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR ETRS OFFICERS

To train newly-recruited eTRS officers, the Air Checkpoints Branch developed an in-house e-learning programme.

On their second day with the branch, officers will go through this 30-minute programme. Consisting of four modules and a 15-question quiz, the programme aims to quickly equip officers with the basic skills and knowledge required for their first week on the job. The e-learning programme complements the structured training programme that the branch has in place.

Since its launch on 1 August 2016, 20 officers have taken part in the e-learning as the first part of the TRS learning framework. This will be followed by three months of on-the-job training. 



Newly-recruited Electronic Tourist Refund Scheme officers go through an e-learning programme within their first week to quickly equip them to perform their job.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Please note that dates are subject to change. For the full programme and registration details, please refer to www.customsacademy.gov.sg

PROGRAMME	
<p>SC100 BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT</p> <p>This three-day 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.</p> <p>The course comprises three modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC101 Customs Procedures (2 days) • SC102 Classification and the Harmonised System (half-day) • SC103 Rules of Origin / Free Trade Agreements (half-day) <p>Participants may register for individual modules.</p>	<p>1-3 November 2016 6-8 December 2016</p>
<p>SC111 HANDS-ON TRADENET DECLARATION</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The guided practical session uses simulated scenarios to help new declarants prepare and submit a declaration using the Government Frontend Solution.</p>	<p>11 November 2016</p>
<p>SC200 STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL PROGRAMME</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The seminar comprises two modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC201 Basics of Strategic Goods Control (half-day) • SC202 Essentials of Internal (Export Control) Compliance Programme (half-day) <p>Participants may register for individual modules.</p>	<p>12 December 2016</p>
<p>SC400 CUSTOMS COMPETENCY TEST FOR DECLARANTS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 AM or PM session.</p> <p>Individuals who wish to sit for the test are advised to familiarise themselves with above-listed subject areas. They can do so through courses or eLearning at Singapore Customs Academy, the Customs Virtual Academy and by visiting the Singapore Customs website.</p>	<p>10 November 2016 24 November 2016</p> <p>(morning and afternoon sessions available)</p>
<p>OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS</p> <p>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 procedures for certificates of origin, and the compliance requirements.</p> <p>For enquiries, please email customs_roo@customs.gov.sg</p>	
<p>TRADERS CLINICS</p> <p>These one-to-one consultation sessions are an avenue for traders to seek general advice on general customs procedures and services. If you are interested, write in to customs_documentation@customs.gov.sg for an appointment. Sessions are subject to availability.</p>	



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

We Make Trade Easy, Fair & Secure

55 Newton Road #10-01 Revenue House Singapore 307987
www.customs.gov.sg