Briefing on the Forum for Heads of Customs Administrations along the Belt & Road

HU Lan
Director, Multilateral Cooperation Division
International Cooperation Department, China Customs
- Trace back to more than two millennia ago
- People of Eurasia explored and opened up several routes of trade and cultural exchanges that linked the major civilizations of Asia, Europe and Africa
- Collectively called the Silk Road by later generations.
the Silk Road Spirit

- peace and cooperation
- openness and inclusiveness
- mutual learning
- mutual benefit
Facing the weak recovery of the global economy, and complex international and regional situations

It is more important for us to carry on the Silk Road Spirit

The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013
The Unique Role of Customs

- Customs administration is the indispensable link of global supply chain
- Cooperation among world Customs administrations is booming under the aegis of the WCO
- Significant contributions to the development of world trade and regional economic integration
Echo the Belt and Road Initiative and provide a stage for further coordination and cooperation

Themed as “Connectivity and Win-win Cooperation”

Held in Xi’an, China from 27-28 May, 2015
Attended by more than 400 representatives from 63 nations and regions, 8 international and regional organizations and business community.
Minister of GACC
Mr. YU Guangzhou

delivered the welcoming address, sharing his views on the effort of building the Belt and Road and proposals for future cooperation.

- mutual respect and equality
- win-win cooperation and common development
- standing together in weal or woe, peril or safety
- Inclusiveness, learning and exchange of best practices
Secretary General of the WCO
Mr. Kunio Mikuriya

Cited the significance of the Belt and Road Initiative and the role of Customs in the collective effort

- link among other regional initiatives
- inspirational for connecting endeavors of regional integration
- Customs-to-Customs cooperation, CBM and Customs-business partnerships are the pillars
- capacity building assistance from the WCO
Vice Premier of the State Council
Mr. Wang Yang

Spoke highly the role of Customs in enhancing connectivity and facilitating trade. Proposals for Customs cooperation:

- Foster common ground of opening and cooperation
- Enhance coordination of rules
- Explore new modes of Customs control
- Consolidate basis for cooperation and development
Keynote speech session

Three sub-forums with themes: connectivity-new opportunity for regional development, connectivity-new orientations of customs reforms and connectivity-new opportunity for customs-business cooperation.
Outcomes of the Forum

The Forum Initiative

Xi’an Statement
Connectivity and Win-Win Cooperation
---Initiative by the Forum for Heads of Customs Administrations along the Belt and Road

- Serve connectivity with policy communication
- Foster connectivity with clearance facilitation
- Sustain connectivity with fairness and security
- Support connectivity using technological innovations
- Guarantee connectivity with capacity building
- Promote connectivity with openness for cooperation
Xi’an Statement
on Strengthening of Connectivity by Customs Administrations along the Belt and Road Supported by World Customs Organization Instruments and Tools

- promoting the accession and implementation of the WCO instruments & tools
- advancing the implementation of the WTO TFA
- supporting the special needs of the transit process
- striking a balance between the control and facilitation of e-commerce
- strengthening information sharing and communication
- supporting the reform and modernization of the Customs Administrations
Projects initiated by China Customs

- Capacity Building
- Cooperation Arrangements
- Customs Information Sharing Platform
Focus

- Exchange of information and best practices on:
  ♦ the implementation of Conventions, frameworks, standards, and Strategic plans of WTO and WCO
  ♦ Regional Customs initiatives and cooperation outcomes
  ♦ Management experience

Projects & Plans

- Seminars, workshops, attachment trainings
- Setting up a designated training center in Shanghai Customs College
- In the next 3 years: 6 training courses for medium and high-level officials
- In 2015: 2 training courses, one on supervision and inspection, one on trade facilitation
The Belt and Road Customs Information Sharing Platform Initiated by China Customs

- Platform for data exchange and coordination of customs supervision based on the concept of GNC
- Co-designed and co-constructed by the Customs Administrations along the Belt and Road based on cloud service
- Operated and maintained by a third-party company offering free basic information support to customs of less developed countries
- Follow common data safety standards agreed by participating members
- Adopt existing data models and standards of WCO
THANK YOU!