Measures to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic by Vietnam Customs

1- As of 1st April 2020, the procedures and public services provide by Vietnam Customs for activities of importation, exportation and transit of goods have not been suspended amid the spread of COVID-19. The customs clearance systems is in operation by 24/7.

2- Since the entries and exits by passengers at the land border gates with China and Cambodia (and from 1st April with Laos) have been suspended, Vietnam customs has coordinated with authorities of both sides to allow trucks and drivers passing the border to the limited areas very near the border for transshipment of goods and customs clearance. These activities requires efforts of all parties concerned. The time of cargos passing the borders is too long because of many procedures required to make sure that persons involved are safe from infection by the disease. With the protection clothes and close surveillance, the drivers are not required for quarantine about 14 days when returning to Vietnam after staying in the foreign land a limited time as required. This is to facilitate for movement of goods crossing borders.

3- For Customs officers, as required by the government, most of them have been now working from home since the 1st April. Vietnam Customs maintains a limited number of officers for some working shifts separately in every customs branches and offices to make sure smooth operation of the customs clearance and control. The working shifts are applied in the way that one whole shift can be replaced with a new separate shift. This is because that if one officer in a shift infected by COVID-19 in that case the whole shift will be strictly quarantined. Therefore, enough manpower is available to manage customs activities throughout the countries.

4- Particularly, customs control has been carried through the CCTVs and automation systems including the National Single Window.