

APEC Customs Directors-General/Commissioners Meeting

Tokyo, Japan
14 September 2010

Statement of the Chair

We, the Directors-General/Commissioners of the Customs administrations in the APEC region, met in Tokyo, Japan on 14 September 2010.

The Year 2010 is a milestone for APEC, as the target year for the industrialized economies to achieve the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment. The APEC Customs administrations have been working actively on trade facilitation in the region toward the achievement of the Bogor Goals through the activities of the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) established in 1995. Taking this opportunity, we have comprehensively evaluated the past 15 years of progress by the APEC Customs administrations and discussed the future direction of the activities of the Customs in the region from a higher level, bearing in mind the rapidly changing environment surrounding Customs.

In addition to the traditional objectives of protecting society and ensuring fair revenue collection through proper border control, we reaffirmed the importance of promoting trade security and trade facilitation, the utilization of modern technologies including information and communication technologies, the enhancement of border enforcement on IPR, and the necessity of capacity building to implement these actions in order to address changing environment surrounding Customs appropriately. With this in mind, we agreed on the following 8 priorities.

The 8 priorities to be promoted among the APEC Customs administrations:

1. Support of the development of AEO programmes/promotion of mutual recognition arrangements and trade recovery efforts
 - Recognizing the importance of realizing trade facilitation and trade security at a high level, we support the establishment of an AEO programme in each economy, as advocated by the World Customs Organization (WCO), and will promote mutual recognition arrangements(MRA) of the AEO programmes between interested economies, about which the business sector has strong expectations.
 - Commending the completion of the AEO Compendium developed by the SCCP based on the AEO Action Plan, we will pursue the steady implementation of the AEO Action Plan including the development of the AEO Best Practice with a view to promoting the establishment of an AEO programme in each APEC economy.
 - Recognizing the importance of APEC Trade Recovery Program to facilitate trade while ensuring trade security, we ask SCCP members to continue developing communication networks to facilitate the resumption of trade in the event of a major disruption to the global supply chain.
2. Support of the development of Single Window systems and the utilization of modern technologies
 - Noting the strong demand from business for the promotion of trade facilitation through the development of Single Window systems and the utilization of modern technologies, we aim to develop a Single Window system in each economy by 2020 and promote international interoperability between the Single Window systems of interested economies in the region while considering the application of the WCO Data Model and other international standards, which will enable economies to exchange trade-related data and documents electronically.
 - We will promote information and experience sharing and studies on the application of modern technologies such as IC tags into customs procedures, and provide necessary capacity building to APEC Customs administrations.
3. Enhancement of border enforcement on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
 - Based on the recognition that the SCCP should actively discuss proper border enforcement as well as trade facilitation, we will enhance cooperation between Customs and right holders, and also among Customs administrations for the progressive and steady implementation of the "APEC Model Guidelines to Reduce Trade in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods" endorsed by the APEC Ministers in 2005.

4. Coordination with other border-related agencies and cooperation among Customs administrations
 - To ensure proper border control while promoting trade facilitation, it is important to strengthen coordination between Customs and other government agencies at borders, and cooperation among Customs administrations through the promotion of information exchange. In this regard, we ask the SCCP to explore ways to facilitate and enhance information exchange between the APEC Customs administrations by utilizing frameworks such as Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA).
5. Steady implementation of the APEC Collective Action Plan (CAP)
 - The SCCP conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation level of the 16 CAP items in the past 15 years. At this point, the objectives of 10 items out of 16 had been achieved, while further efforts are necessary to conclude the remaining 6 items. In this respect, we will achieve the objectives of these 6 CAP items in all the economies by 2020, the final target year of the Bogor Goals, through the provision of necessary capacity building. We will also consider appropriate measures, including the creation of new CAP items, toward the further trade facilitation and trade security.
6. Enhancement of cooperation with the WCO
 - Keeping in mind that discussions concerning "Customs in the 21st century" have taken place and will be continued at the WCO, we will contribute to the discussions while sharing progress of the WCO discussions at the SCCP.
 - Recognizing that standards and tools developed by the WCO are important for the efficient and effective modernization of Customs, we will further enhance cooperation between the SCCP and the WCO.
7. Enhancement of collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)
 - We commended capacity building activities which have been conducted by the MDBs operating in the APEC region, namely the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Recognizing that enhancement of collaboration among the MDBs, WCO, and APEC Customs Administrations is required to further promote the efficient and effective customs modernization, we ask the SCCP to seek ways to strengthen partnerships with the MDBs.
8. Contribution to the negotiations on trade facilitation at the World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - Keeping in mind that the negotiations on trade facilitation are ongoing at the WTO, we, as Customs administrations, will continue to contribute to the negotiations.

Recognizing that the implementation of the above 8 priorities will contribute to further trade facilitation in the APEC region while ensuring proper border measures such as securing trade, we, the Directors-General/Commissioners of the Customs administrations in the APEC region, agreed to make every effort to achieve the 8 priorities through the SCCP activities.