



RCL Japan Brief



By Central Customs Laboratory, Japan

Message from the DG of the WCO A/P RCL Japan



YAMAOKA Tokio
Director General of
CCL Japan

Dear Readers,

It is my great honor to have this opportunity to greet all the readers of the RCL Japan Brief.

I'm delighted to inform you that I was appointed as Director General of the Central Customs Laboratory (CCL), Ministry of Finance, Japan, on July 1, 2024. This year is the tenth anniversary of the CCL Japan becoming the first WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) in the world. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all members in the region for your

strong cooperation since 2014. In response to changes in the environment surrounding customs, the role of the customs laboratory is becoming increasingly important. It is my great pleasure to work closely with you and to tackle the emerging challenges for the Customs laboratory.

I would like to inform you that some staff members of the international team at the RCL Japan changed at the beginning of this July due to annual personnel change. The new members continue to contribute to important roles within the RCL. I would like to ask for your continuous support and cooperation for our new international team.

In the first half of this year, the CCL Japan conducted the following RCL activities:

Concerning information sharing activities in the Customs analysis field, the RCL Japan issued the ninth volume of "Collection of Good Practices on Customs Laboratory Matters" this June. We highly appreciate that WCO members provided their good practices for the new volume.

The CCL Japan attended the 3rd RCL Heads meeting this April held in the Republic of Korea. We introduced the overview of the CCL Japan,

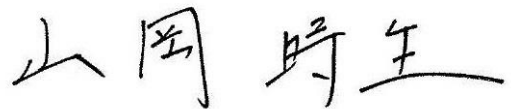
the procedures of drug analysis in Japan Customs and our experience on the WCO RCL Professionals Programme. I believe that networking and information sharing among RCLs are especially important, since Customs chemical analysis requires a high level of experience and expertise. I am sure that the RCL Heads meeting contributes to improving the analytical capabilities of regional members.

This volume includes an article contributed by a participant of our workshop for the Kenya Revenue Authority.

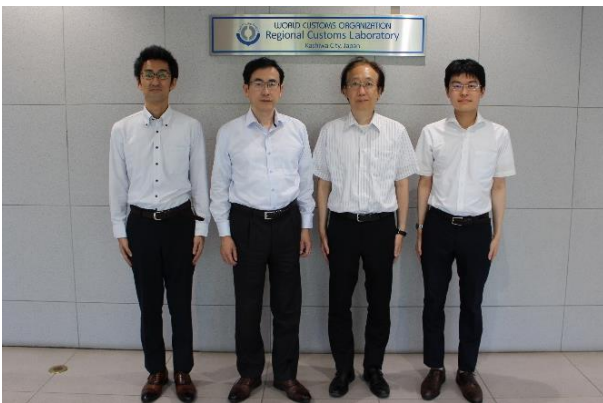
I will make continuous efforts for the CCL

Japan as the WCO RCL to maintain its cooperative relationship with all the members in the region and will contribute to further enhancing the existing networks among Customs laboratory family members. Your continued support would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,



YAMAOKA Tokio



New international team members at the RCL Japan (From the left: Mr. OSAKI Nobuaki (Head of Co-ordination of International Affairs Section), Mr. YAMAOKA Tokio (Director-General), Mr. SAWAFUJI Takuya (Deputy Director-General), Mr. EGASHIRA Kai (Officer of Co-ordination of International Affairs Section))

< From Members >

- It is my great pleasure to start my new work at the CCL Japan. I would like to enhance the relationship with Customs Laboratories in other countries. (SAWAFUJI)
- I'm greatly honored to have the opportunity to work in the International Coordination Division again. I'm looking forward to collaborating with WCO members in the field of customs analysis. (OSAKI)
- I have had a meaningful time here since July 2023. I believe such good days will continue along with WCO Members. (EGASHIRA)

3rd Meeting of Heads of WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL)

From April 23 to 25, 2024, the CCL Japan attended the 3rd Meeting of Heads of WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Customs Laboratories (RCLs) in the Republic of Korea. This was first in-person meeting since it started in 2022.

Since there are five RCLs in the A/P region, we expect to enhance cooperation among RCLs in the field of customs analysis.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. KURAMOTO Norikazu, Head of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P). About 30 participants attended from RCLs, the WCO Secretariat, and RILO A/P.

One of the main purposes of this meeting was the sharing of information. The CCL Japan introduced our RCL activities for some agendas as following:

- At first, we provided the overview of the CCL Japan, including the organizational structure, our responsibilities, etc. We also

introduced safety management material, “Collection of Past Accident Cases.” WCO and ROCB A/P showed interest in it.

- We introduced the procedures of drug analysis, including preliminary test procedure, flow of Customs analysis for enforcement and our current challenges. We highlighted that increase in requests for analysis of not yet designated drugs, such as LSD analogs and THC analogs, was one of the major challenges.
- We described our experience on the WCO RCL Professionals Programme. We shared the training schedule and comments from participants, then suggested and discussed some challenges regarding this program.

This meeting provided an excellent platform for RCLs to share good practices and enhance deeper cooperation for the future.

Issuance of the ninth volume of “Collection of Good Practices on Customs Laboratory Matters”

In this June, the ninth volume of the “Collection of Good Practices on Customs Laboratory Matters” was issued on the WCO Member-only Website at <https://www.wcoomd.org/en.aspx>, and WCO Asia/Pacific Member-only Website at <https://www.wcoasiapacific.org/>. The articles were provided by WCO members on a voluntary basis and disseminated by the RCL Japan as part of its information-sharing activities. This volume covers the analysis methods of woods,

inorganic materials and foodstuffs. In addition, the scope of this volume expanded to laboratory management to address the demands identified through our capacity-building activities. We hope Members will find these references useful when establishing or maintaining customs laboratories.

In order for the next volume to grow into a more effective edition, we would greatly appreciate if you could share your good practices and/or new topics for the next volume to us (cclmaile@mof.go.jp) at any time.

Collection of Good Practices on Customs Laboratory Matters Vol. 9

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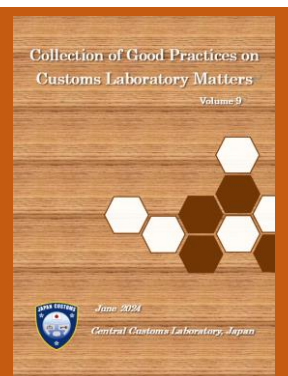
I. Introduction

- Message from WCO A/P Vice-Chair, WCO and CCL Japan

II. Good Practices on Customs Chemical Analysis in the field of “Woods, Base metals and Minerals, and Foodstuff”

- From China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Peru, and US.

III. Information for supporting establishment of Customs Laboratory



A message from a Participant of the workshop on Customs Laboratory

FROM **MR. PAUL ATONIA IKMAT**
INSPECTION AND TESTING CENTRE –
KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY, NAIROBI - KENYA



Mr. Paul: Second person from the left in the back row

The Workshop on Customs Laboratory and HS classification for Kenya Revenue Authority hosted by Japanese Central Customs Laboratory (CCL) in Kashiwa was conducted between April 15 to 19, 2024 under the Japan Customs Technical Co-operation Programme. The Kenyan Customs Laboratory, also referred to as Inspection and Testing Center, was represented by a delegation of five chemists who presented the skill gaps and pain areas in laboratory analysis necessary for correct classification of tradable goods, controlled

and prohibited products, as well as interpretation of the HS nomenclature.

The host Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) organized four practical trainings within the premises, with main focuses on textile/fiber analysis, narcotic and psychotropic substances, identification and quantification of monomers in polymers, and characterization of edible oils as well as beverages and fruit juices. The training also focused on new technologies and innovative techniques, as well as the use of novel analytical equipment.

The delegation also had a chance to visit Nagoya Customs and became acquainted with the modalities of collaboration between analysis section and other relevant sections that contribute toward classification, more specifically the analysis section, classification section and clearance section. The most notable modalities learnt were chemical analysis, risk analysis and information sharing collaborations on CIS and NACCS platforms.





The one-week training experience gained by the Kenyan delegation of laboratory chemists at CCL Kashiwanoha, Tokyo Customs and Nagoya Regional Customs Laboratory was intensive and mind opening. The Kenya Revenue Authority, Inspection and Testing Centre currently supports other sister Customs laboratories, mainly in the greater East and Central Africa region, partnering in areas of training laboratory chemists in challenging testing procedures, capacity building and inviting them for benchmark visits to

Kenya. This has gone a great way in our goal to be a Regional Customs Laboratory, with the support of World Customs Organization.

Other activities ~first half of 2024~

The WCO Career Development Programme

On May 21, the Central Customs Laboratory (CCL) received 10 participants* as part of the WCO (World Customs Organization) Career Development Programme, under its customs technical cooperation activities. The CCL presented an overview on its activities as the WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) to support the WCO members in the region. In addition, the CCL provided demonstrations of analytical instruments and inspection equipment.



* Cape Verde, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Kosovo, Malaysia, Rwanda, Samoa, Turkmenistan, Ukraine

Workshop on Customs Laboratory Management for Malaysian Customs



From May 28 to 29, the Central Customs Laboratory (CCL) received 10 participants from Malaysian Customs as part of the JICA project on Customs analysis, under its customs technical cooperation activities. The CCL explained the infrastructure of Customs analysis, such as the legal framework, organizational structure, safety management, and human resource management of Japan Customs analysis to support the

establishment of Malaysian Customs Laboratory.

Workshop on Customs Laboratory Management for Bangladesh Customs

From June 5 to 7, the Central Customs Laboratory (CCL) received 20 participants from Bangladesh Customs for the workshop on Customs analysis, under its customs technical cooperation activities. The CCL explained the infrastructure of Customs analysis, such as the legal framework, organizational structure, safety management, and human resource management of Japan Customs analysis to support the establishment of the CCL of Bangladesh Customs.



Future Activities

- From October 21 to November 28, 2024, Attachment training at RCL Japan, RCL Korea and RCL India under the WCO Regional Customs Laboratory Professionals Programme 2024/25.
- Contact point information will be updated on the website of the WCO Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair Secretariat.

RCL Brief welcomes readers' contributions which describe articles on Customs analysis-related matters, such as new analytical (or inspection device) technologies, latest news or topics on your Customs laboratory work, introduction to your Customs laboratory, challenges in drug enforcement, etc.

Please use the e-mail address "cclmaile@mof.go.jp" for submission.

Please send your comments or questions to cclmaile@mof.go.jp, if any. You can find further information about CCL, Japan on our website: http://www.customs.go.jp/ccl/e_index.htm

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