



ASEAN CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

VOLUME VI

CECWG

CUSTOMS **ENFORCEMENT** COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUPS

PREVIOUS BULLETIN



CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUPS

ASEAN
Customs Enforcement Bulletin
Volume VI

From the Country Coordinator's Desk

Maswadi bin Haji Mohsin

Acting Controller of Royal Customs and Excise, Brunei Darussalam.



On behalf of the Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam, as the country coordinator, I am pleased to present the 6th Volume of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin. This bulletin would not be possible without key contributions by all ASEAN member states, and with that I express my thanks and gratitude.

This bulletin acts as an “informative sharing” paper that accumulates cases that violates the laws and regulations of Customs in each respective ASEAN member states, be it duties evasion or smuggling offences to name a few. Each case shared by every member state highlights the types of offence committed, the modus operandi used by these offenders, and also how technological advances, intelligence networks and experience helps to apprehend such offenders.

These cases aim to show how these offenders are coming up with ‘unique’ methods on how to circumvent against laws and regulations and evade detection by our officials. And with that, we must also try to stay ahead of these offenders with the assistance of latest technological equipment's, intelligence networks and information sharing.

With that, I hope that we can achieve even better cooperation among member states to share ideas, information and methods to safeguard our nations against such illegal activities among the ASEAN region.

Thank you.

From the Country Coordinator's Desk

Dato' Hj. Zulkifli Bin Yahya

Chairman, ASEAN Customs Enforcement And Compliance Working Group Malaysia.



**WELCOME TO THE 6TH EDITION
ASEAN ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN IN 2015.**

Malaysia is the Chair for the ASEAN for 2015 and the theme of its ASEAN Chairmanship is "Our People, Our Community, Our Vision". ASEAN Member countries are moving towards achieving the ASEAN Economic Community with the timeline set at 2015.

Customs officers have successfully foiled numerous smuggling activities and syndicate rings in the past but we are still shouldering huge responsibilities in combating illegal trafficking, drugs, endangered species, dangerous wastes, environmental goods, antiques, cultural heritages and other illicit trades that make us vulnerable. With the growing challenges of smuggling and trafficking activities taking place everywhere, we need to step up and escalate to their paces. We have reached a point of constant change and keeping up requires a lot of strategy and information sharing. Enforcement officers especially need to equip themselves with the latest technologies and expertise to combat smuggling activities. I hope we constantly beef up our knowledge on what's going on around the world and share what we've learned with others.

It is time to let our officers know we appreciate what they do. The articles compiled in this Bulletin are true stories which had transpired in the respective ASEAN countries. We are indeed grateful to the Enforcement officers who took time to pen their stories and contribute articles. I would also like to congratulate the Editor and the team for taking up this task and delivering in time successfully. I hope you will enjoy reading this bulletin and that it will prove to be useful for all of you.

Best wishes.

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BULLETIN COMMITTEE BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Advisor:

Maswadi bin Haji Mohsin
Controller of Royal Customs and Excise

Editor:

Ms. Zulina binti Zainal Abidin
Ms. Nurul Hayyadatul Amra binti Abu Bakar

Resource Person:

Mr. Haji Kamsani Bin Haji Md. Hassan
Mr. Hj Arfian bin Hj Abd Kadir
Mr. Hassan Bin Buntar

Community:

Mr. Mohammad Najib Bin Haji Ali
Ms. Dk Siti Nur'khairunisa Binti Pg Othman

Graphic:

Ms. Norliza binti Tarip



CASE 1

1,456 CARTONS OF CIGARETTES AND 4 BOTTLES LIQUOR SEIZED

Case Facts:

Based on tip-off received and intelligence analysis, RCED's officers of Preventive Unit had managed to detain a vehicle suspected to convey contraband goods. The passengers' seat and the back side of the vehicle were cramped with boxes. It was filled with various types of cigarettes.

The officers also proceeded to the detainee's residence for further inspection. The second finding was more cartons of cigarettes and bottles of liquor with no valid permit.

Modus Operandi:

The Customs Enforcement of Brunei Darussalam conducted surveillance on a suspected vehicle where there were reports to convey contraband cigarettes. After a few hours, the surveillance officers saw the vehicle that was being reported. The officers then tail-gated the vehicle. When the driver of the suspected vehicle saw he was being followed, the driver speed up and the officers tried to chase the vehicle. The officers succeeded in detaining the vehicle on a road at the vicinity of Jalan Bengkurong, Brunei Darussalam. Inspections were carried out to the said vehicle and the Customs Enforcement officers found some boxes containing various types of cigarette. The officers also went to the detainee's house for further inspection. Various types of cigarettes were found in a second vehicle belonged to the detainee and further inspection was made in the detainee's house and found 4 bottles of liquors. After a thorough investigation, 1,456 cartons of cigarettes and 4 bottles liquor were seized.



Decisions:

The defendant was charged by the court under Section 146(1)(d) for the possession of unexcisable/prohibited goods with the penalty of B\$413,500.00 in default of 42 months and 2 weeks.

Smuggling of cigarettes is a serious offence in Brunei Darussalam. It carries a fine of not less than 6 times the amount of Excise Duty or B\$40,000, whichever is the lesser amount, and of not more than 20 times the amount of Excise Duty or B\$40,000 whichever is the greater amount, and for a second or subsequent conviction, to such fine, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or both.



CASE 2

221 BOTTLES OF LIQUORS/BEERS AND CIGARETTES SEIZED

Case Facts:

RCED's officers of Preventive Unit conducted a raid at a residence in Kampong Ayer. Information was received on the illegal activities held at the residence. Bottles of liquor/ beers and cigarettes were found in various part of the place.

Modus Operandi:

Concealment in the bottom part of the stilt house.

Decisions:

Possession of unexcisable goods carries a fine of not less than 6 times the amount of Excise Duty or B\$40,000, whichever is the lesser amount, and of not more than 20 times the amount of Excise Duty or B\$40,000 whichever is greater amount, and for a second or subsequent conviction, to such fine, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or both.





Introduction

Taking the government policy, strategy and comprehensive reform as well as customs modernization and reform program, The General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE) committed and devoted herself to improve collection of revenue, to effectively facilitate international trade by using risk management program, and to consistently and effectively fighting against commercial fraud, goods smuggling and other customs related offences and crimes – illicit drug trafficking, illicit trade in wild fauna and flora, firearm smuggling, IPR infringement, and so on.

Applying modern technique of risk assessment and management, risk based targeting, intelligence based operation, customs expertise and experience, customs think-tank and flexibility, staff's skill and devotion to revenue collection, fair environment for business competition, social safety and security, and protection of border, GDCE has achieved some significant results in term of suppression of goods smuggling, seizure of drug trafficking, seizure of illicit trade in fauna and flora and so on. Learning from one case experience, then based on intelligent think tank and the staff's clairvoyance even with limited supply of the detection tools, chasing materials, and other searching equipment, GDCE is able to achieve some milestones in its suppression operation.

CASE 1

776 PIECES OF IVORY TUSKS SEIZED AT SIHANOUKVILLE PORT

A situation arose where Cambodia may be used by syndicates as a transit destination for transshipment of illegal goods. Due to this, rhino horn and ivory tusk has been placed on the sensitive list for provincial Customs branches and Customs officers, where extra due diligence is required.

Facts:

On 09 May 2014, Customs officers at Sihanoukville Port were provided intel from Informants that there is a possibility of a large scale smuggling operation into the country. A 20 foot container of consignment was declared as bags of kidney beans. After the container of consignments was scanned, a picture of the scans produced a clear suspicion that the contents of the container was unusual and was not loaded with one type of item as declared

Finding:

After opening the container, Customs officials were able to find the ivory tusks, which were hidden in the middle of the container, covered by the bags of beans. The total quantity of ivory was bundled into 108 bunches, making a total of 776 pieces weighing in at 3008.8kg.

Modus Operandi:

The ivory tusks were covered by more than 300 bags of speckled kidney beans to hide their presence from physical view.



Bags of bean was loaded to hide the ivory, seen from the door side of container



Ivory was loaded in the middle of container



Ivory was bound for 108 bunches = 776 pieces = 3,000.80 kgs and seized



Decisions/Opinions

The importation of ivory tusks is restricted in Cambodia and the importer had no legal documents proving the licit trade of the ivory tusks, thus it was an offense and the ivory tusks were seized. The case is still under investigation and further action to be taken in court.



CASE 2

SEIZED 2,000 CARTONS OF 24 CANS OF “LEO” BEER

Facts

On 30 May 2014, Customs officers at the Customs Department of Prevention and Suppression received intelligence from informants on the possibility of a vehicle transporting undeclared smuggled liquor at the border. After analysing the information and based on previous experiences, the vehicle was stopped for a detail check.

Findings

After obtaining the declarations and other documents, there were some irregularities. After a detailed check on the vehicle, 2000 24-can cartons of undeclared “Leo” beer was discovered.

Modus Operandi

The vehicle was attempting to smuggle the cases of beer by covering them with a legitimate cargo of tires.

Decisions

Customs officers of the Department seized the smuggled “Leo” beer, in which more than US\$35,000 was collected.

CAMBODIA



Tires used to cover smuggled beer



CASE 3

SEIZED 2,513.00 GRAMS (IN NET WEIGHT) OF COCAINE

Fact

On 12 February 2014, a passenger arrived at the Phnom Penh International Airport with suspicious pictures that triggered the suspicion of the Customers Officer, thus the passenger was targeted for inspection.

Findings

There were 34 tubes hidden within picture frames and jewellery boxes that contained suspicious white powder. After opening the tubes, Customers officers at the Phnom Penh International Airport made preliminary tests on the powder and found it to be cocaine. In total, 2,513 grams of cocaine was concealed in the tubes.

Modus Operandi

Concealed within the frames of pictures and inside fake jewellery cases were 34 tubes of cocaine (refer to pictures below).

Decisions

After a further test done by the Anti-Drug Police, the powder was confirmed as cocaine. The cocaine was seized and the case was handed over to the Anti-Drug Police, and the case is pending trial in court.



Pictures with tube hanger on the baggage



Tubes in the fake jewelry cases



Tubes with drug inside



Drug taken out of tubes



CASE 1

MISUSE CONSTRUCTION STEEL

LOAS

Facts of the Case

Lao Customs officers of the Anti-Smuggling Division seized 18 tons of construction steel at a construction site in Vientiane Capital.

Findings

On 20 March 2014, the Customs officers of the Anti-Smuggling Division Customs seized 18 tons of construction steel at a construction site that was wrongly declared as duty exempted goods based on an investment incentive.

Modus Operandi

The steel was meant to be used for construction on a project that is receiving investment incentives from the government. After the consignment was cleared, Customs officers followed the transporting truck and found that the construction steel was transported to a private construction site instead of the designated project site.



Decision

Customs officers immediately detained the consignment at the site. The Customs Officers re-assessed the duty to be paid, which amounted to 29,784,500 LAK or USD 3,750. The steel was released by the Anti-Smuggling Division once the correct duty and taxes were settled.



CASE 2

SMUGGLED BENZYL OIL

Facts of the Case

Lao Customs officers of Anti-Smuggling Division seized 20,000 litres of Benzyl oil contained in a petrol tanker at a Petrol Warehouse in Vientiane Capital.

Findings

On 2 June 2014, the Customs officers of Anti-Smuggling Division seized 20,000 litres of Benzyl oil contained in a patrol tanker due to false declaration. The petrol tanker was entering a petrol warehouse after Customs Clearance at the Friendship Bridge 1 Customs Checkpoint.

Modus Operandi

The Customs officers performed inspection of the declaration and made a physical inspection of the contents in the tanker. The tanker was declared to be carrying dirty oil, but upon inspection, it was found to be clean Benzyl oil. Customs officers immediately seized the consignment along with the tanker.

Decision

After the duties and tax payable was re-assessed by the Customs Officers, the duties payable amounted to LAK 78,528,000 or USD 9,816. The seized consignment was released after the importer settled the correct duties and taxes.





CASE 1

FIREWORKS CONCEALED BEHIND HIDDEN WALL OF A CONTAINER

MALAYSIA

Case Facts:

On 12th January 2014 at around 1.45pm, based on a tip-off received, officers of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMC) followed an unmarked 40' container lorry to a premise in Bedong, Kedah. Upon identifying themselves, the officers inspected the container and found fireworks concealed in a hidden compartment within the container. The container was declared as empty to the RMC and had entered into the country via the Bukit Kayu Hitam checkpoint. Approximately 170 boxes (cartons) of fireworks were seized by the RMC. The container and driver have been detained for further investigations. Importation of fireworks / firecrackers requires permit (AP) from the Royal Malaysian Police. The case is being investigated under Section 135(1)(d) of the Customs Act 1967 for wrongful possession of uncustomed goods. This is a new modus operandi which has been noted by the Royal Malaysian Customs.



Modus Operandi:

The interior of the container had been modified by placing a wall in the middle to make it look smaller. The front portion of the container was empty but the hidden part of the container (the back portion) was filled with boxes of fireworks. The container was declared as empty to the RMC.



THE EXTRA FITTED WALL
WITHIN THE 40' CONTAINER
(THE WALL CONCEALED
ABOUT 10 FEET OF SPACE
INSIDE THE CONTAINER)

MALAYSIA



THE WALL HAD BEEN
RETAINED INSIDE THE
CONTAINER BY SCREWING
IT TO THE REAR OF THE
CONTAINER WITH A 10 FEET
GAP

Fireworks concealed behind a hidden compartment within the container



CASE 2

DRUGS IN CANDLE FORM SEIZED BY THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

MALAYSIA

Case Facts:

On 23rd June 2014 at around 6.45pm, a team of enforcement officers from the Royal Malaysian Customs Department were deployed to the Air Cargo Centre in Subang Airport to inspect a parcel that had arrived into Malaysia from Hong Kong. Preliminary inspection showed that the parcel contained 6 pieces of large candles, 28 pieces of small candles and 2 pieces of religious posters. The candles were then tested for drugs using test-kits and the result showed it contained drug substance believed to be Methamphetamine. The candles had apparently been molded using the drug substance. Total weight of the drug is approximately 6 kilograms, valued at RM1.140 million. A Malaysian male has been remanded to facilitate in investigations of this case which is being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952. This is a new modus operandi which has been noted by the Royal Malaysian Customs.

Modus Operandi:

The drug substance has been molded to look like a candle.



Drugs molded into candles



CASE 3

DRUGS FOUND IN RICE COOKER BY THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

Case Facts:

On 17th August 2014, Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) officers selected a 25 year old Chinese female passenger at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport, Sabah, Malaysia for a routine inspection. The passenger had boarded a flight from Hong Kong to Kota Kinabalu.



Package carried by passenger



The rice cooker inside the package

Modus Operandi:

A package containing an electric rice cooker, which was carried by the passenger was X-rayed. The X-ray revealed a suspicious image. Upon further inspection the RMC officer found 5 packets of a substance suspected to be Syabu with a total weight of 1.4kg worth RM 256,240.00 hidden at the base of the rice cooker. The substance tested positive for Syabu.



The Drugs Concealed at the base of the Rice Cooker



CASE 4

DRUGS IN CANDLE FORM SEIZED BY THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

MALAYSIA

Case Facts:

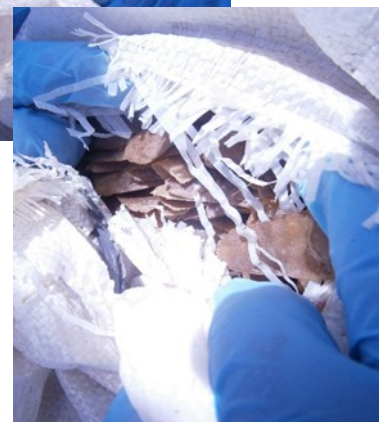
Based on a public tip off from a member of the public, Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) officers detained a container at Port Klang, Malaysia suspected to contain pangolin scales. The container which is bound for Hong Kong, had arrived from Africa.

Modus Operandi:

A full inspection was carried out on the container. A number of sacks hidden amongst wooden planks were found. Inside the sacks were pangolin scales weighing a total of 2.2 tonnes valued at RM4,672,640.00 .

Offence:

The pangolin scales were seized for investigation under Section 13(1) of the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 which carries a fine or jail sentence upon conviction.



Pangolin Scales Seized by RMC



CASE 1

SEIZED GROSSLY UNDERVALUED SHIPMENT OF 2 PKGS. CRANE SPARE PARTS, WHEEL BRAKE, AND HYDRAULIC POWER UNIT PACKAGE (440V 60)

Fact of the Case:

On June 27, 2014, Philippine Customs seized 2 Pkgs. Crane Spare Parts, wheel brake, and Hydraulic Power Unit Package (440V 60) which value had been declared by the importer as US\$ 3,185.80. Thorough examination of the import documents, however, resulted to the discovery of a false invoice submitted by the importer. Customs agents got hold of the original copy of the sale invoice which reflected the correct value of the cargo amounting to US\$ 65,630.00, a clear case of gross undervaluation violative of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

Modus Operandi:

Investigation conducted showed that the importer, in conspiracy with its customs broker, deliberately falsify and submit forged sales invoice in order to mislead customs authorities of the correct value of its shipment for the purpose of evading payment of proper and correct customs duties and taxes.





Decision

Subject shipment had been issued a Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD), and is currently undergoing seizure proceedings for its eventual forfeiture in favour of the government. Importation records had already been forwarded to the Legal Service for the filing of criminal information against the erring importer and customs broker.



CASE 2

SEIZED 34 CONTAINERS OF PLYWOOD FOR LACK OF IMPORT CLEARANCE (SUBSTANDARD)

Fact of the Case

On July 9, 2014, Philippine Customs seized 34 containers of Plywood which came from China after importer, through his customs broker, filed a spurious Import Permit. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) certified that it did not issue any import clearance to the importer for the importation of Plywood, a clear violation of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

Modus Operandi

Investigation conducted showed that the importer, in conspiracy with its customs broker, deliberately falsified and submitted forged import clearance in order to avoid quality regulation by the concerned government agency.





Bureau of Customs Philippines

PHILIPPINES



Decision

Subject shipment had been issued a Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD), and is currently undergoing seizure proceedings for its eventual forfeiture in favor of the government. Criminal cases had already been filed against the erring importer and customs broker.



CASE 1

AVA, SINGAPORE CUSTOMS STOP 45 TONNES OF RED SANDALWOOD FROM TRANSHIPMENT

Facts/Findings

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) and Singapore Customs conducted a series of operations in Oct and Nov 2013 to interdict three 40-foot containers containing 45 tonnes of red sandalwood (see ANNEX A for pictures).

A total of 1,329 logs of red sandalwood, estimated to have a value of about \$5 million, were recovered, making this the largest seizure since 2011.

Modus Operandi

The consignments were declared as “hot lime pickles” and “casting wheels”.

Decisions/Opinions

Investigations are ongoing.



The three 40-foot containers contained 45 tonnes of red sandalwood.



CASE 2

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS FOILS IMPORTER'S BID TO DISTRIBUTE TRADEMARK-INFRINGING GOODS TO SHOPS

SINGAPORE

Facts/Findings

On 21 May 2014, Singapore Customs inspected a 40-foot import container that arrived at the importer's premises. Singapore Customs found 159 cartons and nine sacks containing trademark-infringing goods such as toys, water bottles, bags and accessories featuring popular superhero and comic characters such as Batman, Captain America, Spider-Man, Superman, Transformers, Barney, Care Bears, and Hello Kitty.



The Singapore Police Force (SPF)'s Intellectual Property Rights Branch was immediately notified. The Police arrested a man and a woman for possession of goods with falsely applied trademarks for the purpose of trade under Section 49(c) of the Trade Marks Act (Cap 332), and seized the trademark-infringing goods.

Modus Operandi

None.

Decisions/Opinions

Investigations are ongoing.



Singapore Customs enforcement officers found 159 cartons and nine sacks containing an assortment of toys, water bottles, bags and accessories featuring popular superhero and comic characters such as Batman, Captain America, Barney, and Care Bears in the container.



CASE 2

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS HANDS OVER 77,850 EMPTY COUNTERFEIT VODKA BOTTLES TO BRAND OWNER FOR DESTRUCTION

SINGAPORE

Facts/Findings

Singapore Customs officers inspected eleven 20-foot containers in the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) on 6 Jun 2013 and found a total of 2,595 cartons of counterfeit bottles, 18 boxes of bottle caps and 10 boxes of labels, all bearing the name of a vodka brand.

The items, suspected to be used for illegal bottling activities and sale outside Singapore, were immediately detained. Following an order issued by the court, Singapore Customs handed over 77,850 empty counterfeit vodka bottles, 18 boxes of bottle caps and 10 boxes of labels to the legal representative of the brand owner for destruction on 26 Dec 2013.

Modus Operandi

The consignments were declared as “general cargoes”.

Decisions/Opinions

The brand owner subsequently applied successfully to the court for the detained items to be forfeited to it for destruction.



Singapore Customs officers inspected eleven 20-foot containers on 6 Jun 2013 and found trade mark infringing vodka bottles, bottle caps and labels.



A total of 77,850 counterfeit vodka bottles, 18 boxes of bottle caps and 10 boxes of labels were recovered from the eleven containers.



CASE 3

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS BUSTS CONTRABAND CIGARETTE DISTRIBUTION RING

Facts/Findings

Five men involved in distributing contraband cigarettes were arrested on 31 May 2014 in an operation by Singapore Customs. A total of 394 cartons and 35 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes worth more than S\$42,300 were seized. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded exceeded S\$33,800. A Singapore-registered private bus was also seized.

Based on a tip-off received, Singapore Customs officers kept close watch on three of the accused. One of them used his company bus to deliver the contraband cigarettes to another accused's house. The officers moved in to arrest the three men and recovered 250 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from five canvas bags, and 30 cartons and two packets from the bus. The officers also raided the house and arrested another two tenants. The two men had a total of 53 cartons and 18 unpaid packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in their rooms. Another carton and 10 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were also recovered. One of the accused's rented room in another house was raided next, and 60 cartons and give packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were recovered from his room.

Modus Operandi

Investigations established that the first man had ordered the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the second man, who recruited the third man to deliver the cigarettes using his company's bus.

Decisions/Opinions

Two of the accused were sentenced to four months' jail and a court fine of S\$5,800 (or in default 20 days' jail) respectively. Court proceedings are ongoing for the remaining three men.



The company bus that was used to transport the duty-unpaid cigarettes.



Singapore Customs

SINGAPORE



More than 280 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were recovered from the canvas bags and the bus.



CASE 1

IVORY SMUGGLING AT SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT

Fact of the case

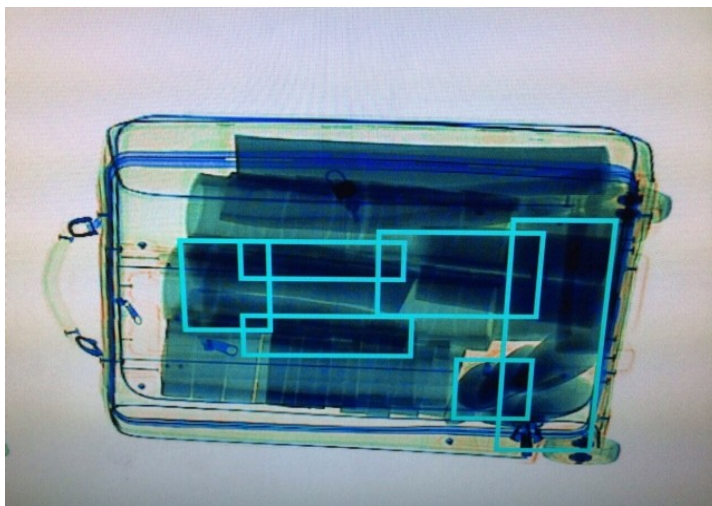
Thai Customs officers of Suvarnabhumi Passenger Control Customs Bureau seized 18 pieces of ivory tusks and 587 pieces of ivory bracelets smuggled through Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Findings

On 26th July 2014, Customs officers of Suvarnabhumi Passenger Control Customs Bureau found the suspected passengers who flew from Abidjan, Ivory Coast via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Bangkok, Thailand and destined to Siem Reap, Cambodia by Ethiopian Airlines, flight ET 916 and ET 626 respectively. They were intercepted by the Customs officers at the Bus Gate before departed to Siem Reap by Bangkok Airways, flight PG 909.

Modus Operandi

Based on intelligence analysis, Thai Customs are alerted with potential wildlife smuggling from African countries. During the scanning of baggage of passengers from the said destination, officers found some intensity on the x-ray image. After searching thoroughly, 18 pieces of ivory tusks and 587 pieces of ivory bracelets were found concealed in sachets hidden in their baggage.





Thai Customs Department

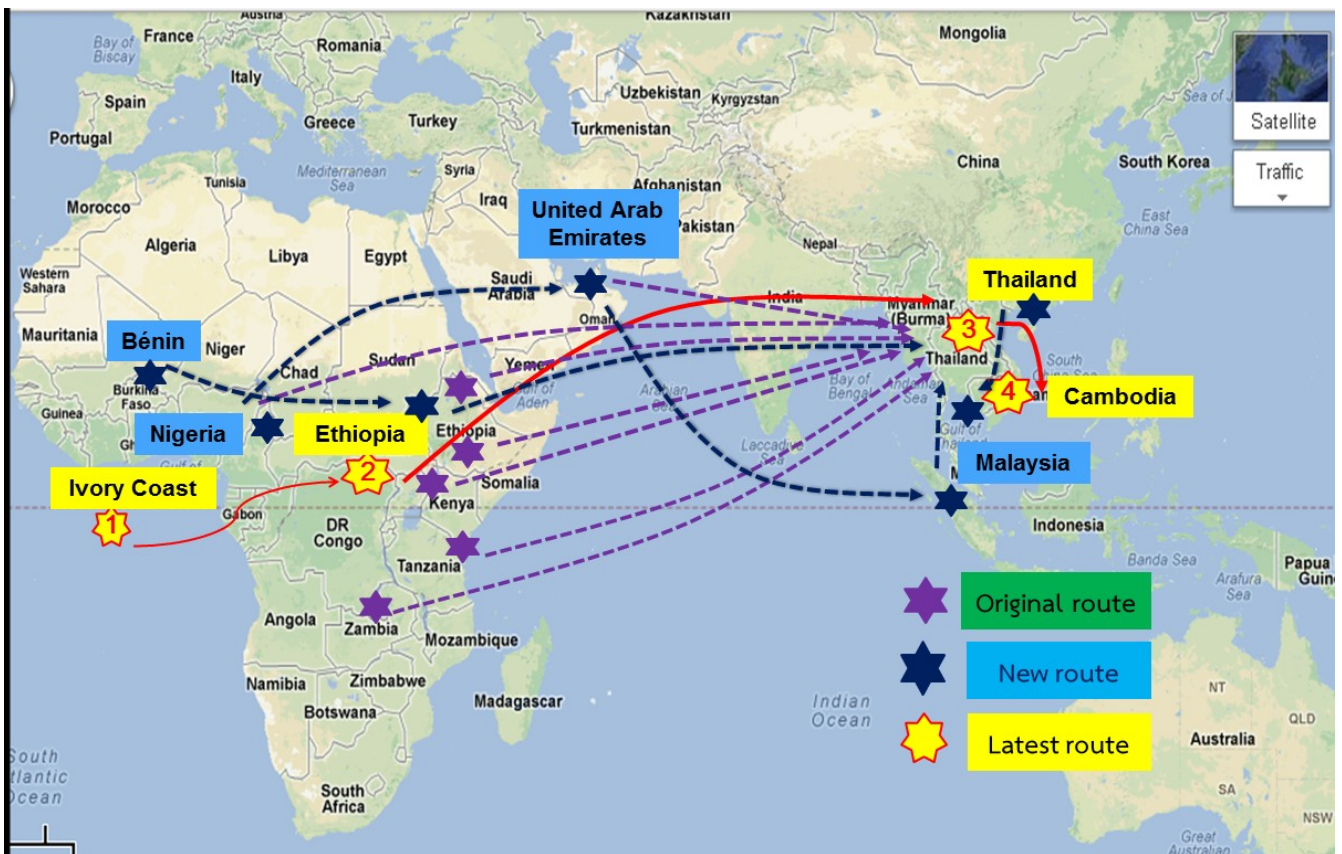
THAILAND



18 pieces of ivory tusks and 587 pieces of ivory bracelets concealed in baggage

Decision

The offenders smuggled ivory into the Kingdom of Thailand by concealing in the baggage. Offenders were handed over to the Police and were charged with smuggle prohibited goods through the country under the Wildlife Animal Reservation and Protection Acts B.E. 2535 (1992) and Animal Epidemic Acts B.E 2499 (1956).



Ivory Smuggling Route



CASE 2

TURTLE SMUGGLING AT SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT

Fact of the case

Thai Customs officers of Suvarnabhumi Passenger Control Customs Bureau seized 220 of Black Pond Turtle and 54 of Softshell Turtle smuggled through Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Findings

On 12th March 2014, Customs officers of Suvarnabhumi Passenger Control Customs Bureau found the suspected passengers who flew from Gaya, India via Bangkok, Thailand and destined to Macau, PRC by Thai Airways, flight TG 328. They were intercepted by the Customs officers before departed to Macau, PRC.

Modus Operandi

The turtles were found in sachets concealed in the baggage. Officers were suspicious on the heavy baggage and screened them for initial findings. They found some intensity on the x-ray image and continue on to do manual inspection to the baggage. A total of 220 of Black Pond Turtle and 54 of Softshell Turtle were found.

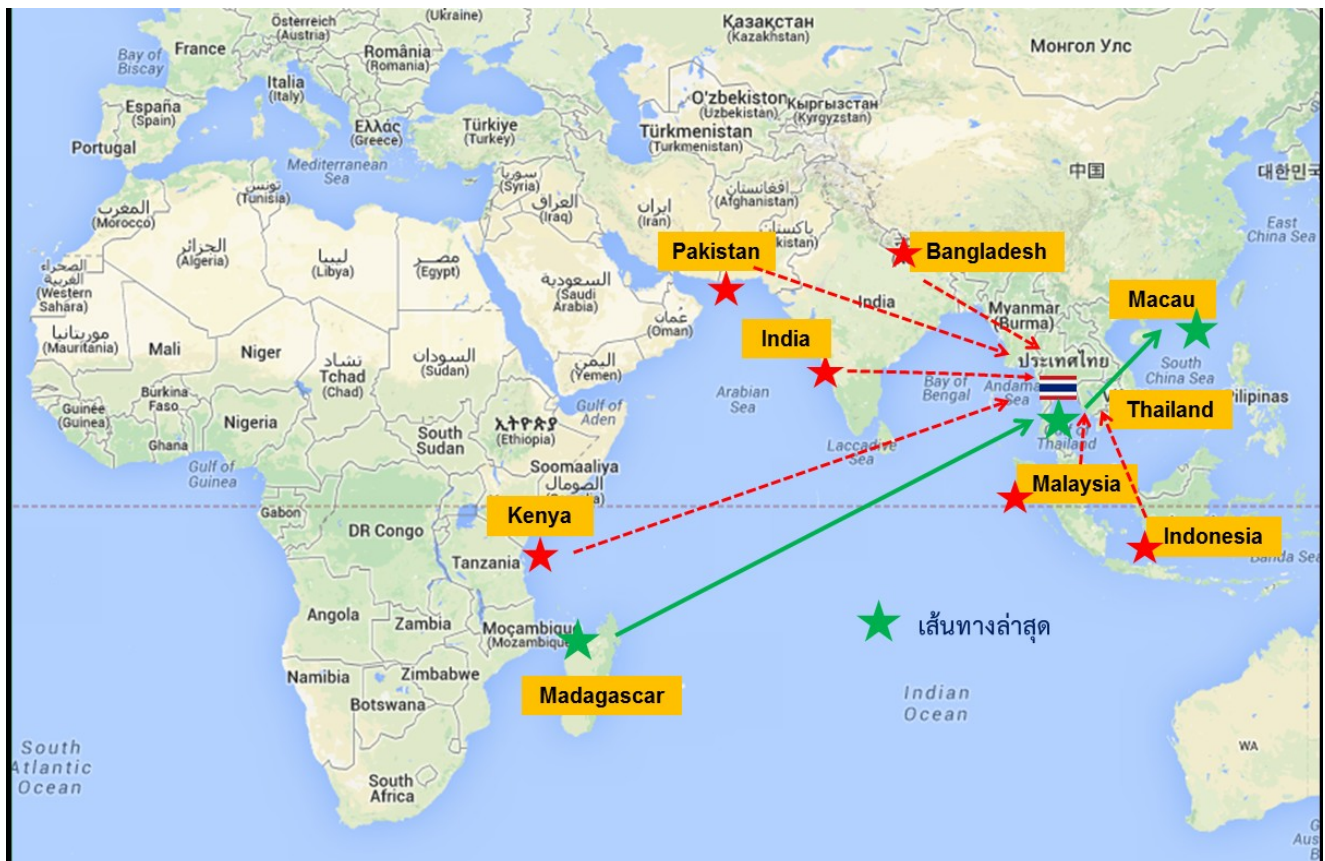




220 of Black Pond Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) and 54 of Softshell Turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*) concealed in baggage

Decision

The offenders smuggled turtles into the Kingdom of Thailand by concealing in the baggage. Offenders were handed over to the Police and sent to the Court under the Wildlife Animal Reservation and Protection Acts B.E. 2535 (1992) and Animal Epidemic Acts B.E 2499 (1956).



Tortoise Smuggling Route



CASE 3

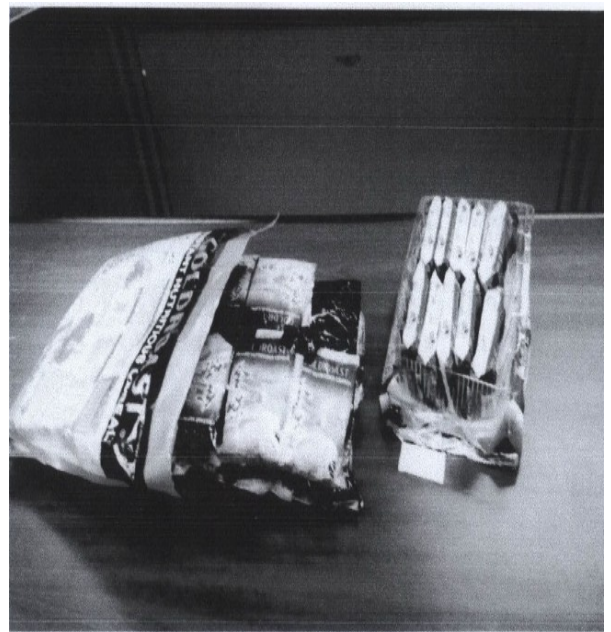
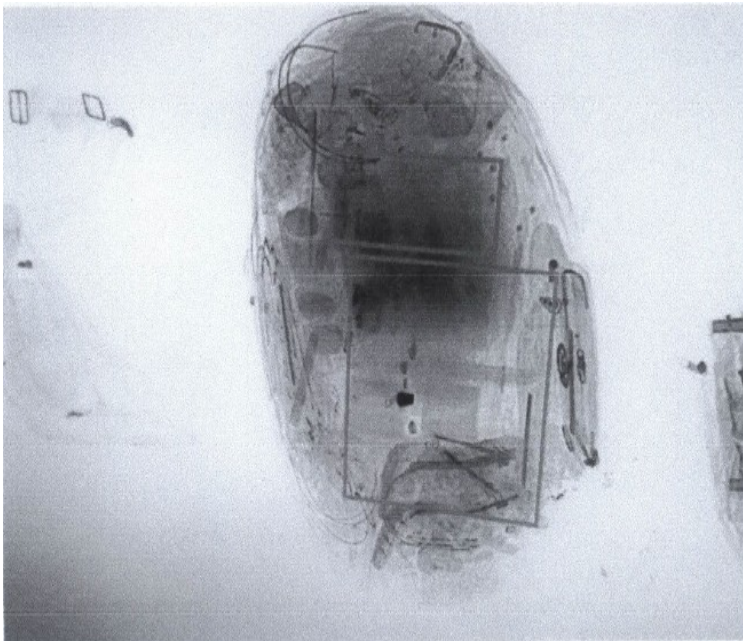
ICE SMUGGLING AT PHUKET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Fact of the case

Thai Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized approximately 2,500 grams of ICE smuggled through Phuket International Airport, Phuket province, Thailand

Findings

On 6th April 2014, Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau found out that the suspect passenger took a bus from Guangzhou, PRC to Hong Kong before departing from Hong Kong to Phuket, Thailand by Dragon Airlines, flight KA 264. She was intercepted by the Customs officers at the Arrival Hall.



Modus Operandi

The methamphetamine (Ice) was concealed in packs of instant food and hidden in black clothed bag.

Officers scanned the baggage of the suspect and found some intensity on the x-ray image. Officer searched throughout the baggage and found many packs of instant foods. A total of 2,500 grams of ICE were found.



2,500 grams of ICE contained in packs of instant foods

Decision

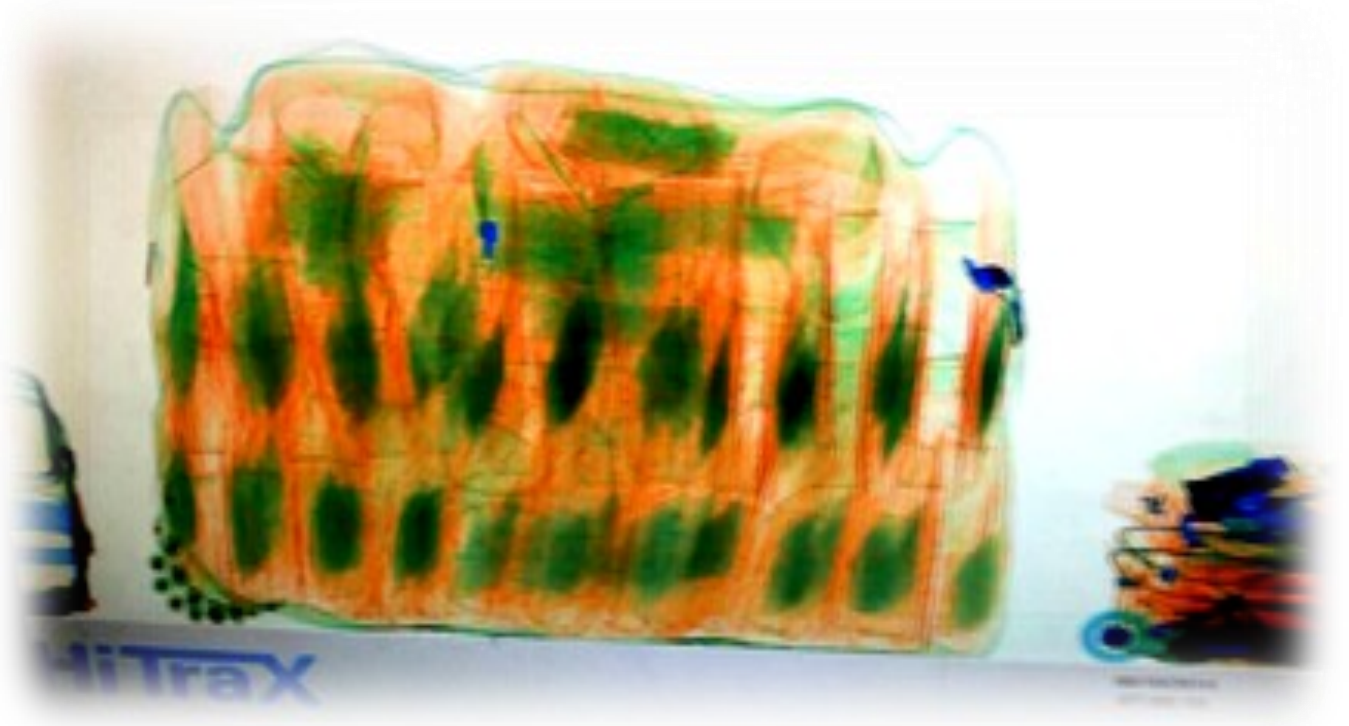
The offender smuggled methamphetamine (Ice) into the Kingdom of Thailand by concealing in packs of instant foods and hidden in baggage. Offender was handed over to the Police and sent to the Court under the Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979).

CASE 4

KETAMINE SMUGGLING AT SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT

In the evening of February 24, 2013, customs officers at the airport checked the baggage on consignment from Ho Chi Minh City to Sydney, Australia on the flight No. VN773. They discovered ivory-white powder filled in plastics bags and wrapped with yellow tape, coffee coated outside, pressed thinly and tucked between two layers of cartons containing personal clothing.

Initial tests showed that the powder was ketamine (heroin). The customs officers at Tan Son Nhat Airport handed over the person and exhibits to the police for further investigation.



Modus Operandi

The ketamine was filled in plastic bags wrapped with yellow tape, coffee coated outside, pressed thinly and tucked between layers of cartons containing personal clothing.

A total of 5,000 grams of ketamine were discovered. Every 100 grams of the ketamine filled in plastic bag was covered up with a pack of men's shirts. There were 50 packs altogether hidden in the baggage.



5,000 grams of Ketamine contained in packs of men's shirts

Decision

The offender smuggled Ketamine into the Kingdom of Thailand by concealing in packs of men's shirts and hidden in baggage. Offender was handed over to the Police and sent to the Court under the Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979).



CASE 5

METHAMPHETAMINE EXPORT AT DON MUANG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

A female was arrested by Thai customs officials at Don Muang International Airport, Bangkok, for attempting to export 416 grams of methamphetamine (ICE) to Indonesia.

On November 9th, 2014, customs officials from the Investigation and Suppression bureau identified a suspicious passenger, traveling with the Thai Lion Air flight SL8002 bound for Jakarta, Indonesia. The suspect was found and detained at the boarding gate only minutes before departure.

THAILAND



Modus Operandi:

The methamphetamine (Ice) was ingested by the carrier and was removed by bowel movement. The methamphetamine was encapsulated in clear plastic film, with a total of 37 pieces of capsules.

In the last couple of years, the Royal Thai Customs has profoundly began devoting tremendous resources to monitor clandestine groups operating in Thailand as the number of the group is allegedly on the rise. On the day of the arrest, the female who is in the watch list was reported checking-in for a flight bound for Jakarta, Indonesia, at Don Muang International Airport. The suspect was brought for an interview and a thorough search, including the body x-ray examination by the customs officials. An x-ray image showed a certain amount of alienating items in her abdomen. After consecutive bowel movements, the customs officials found a total amount of 416 grams of methamphetamine (ICE) in capsule form.



the total amount of 416 grams of methamphetamine (ICE), firmly wrapped by clear plastic film in 37 pieces of a capsule form

Decision

The customs officials has charged the suspect with attempting to export category 1 narcotic drugs (methamphetamine). The case has been referred to an inquiry officer of the Narcotics Suppression Bureau for legal prosecution.



CASE 1

BAGS CONTAIN IVORY-WHITE POWDER WITH A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 3.1672 KG

In the evening of February 24, 2013, Customs forces at the Tan Son Nhat Airport suspected, and subsequently inspected, the consigned baggage of Mr. Tran Minh Dat, a 42 year old Vietnamese travelling from Ho Chi Minh City to Sydney, Australia on flight no. VN773. Upon inspection, 12 plastic bags, wrapped with yellow tape, were discovered tucked between layers of personal clothing in 2 cartons. The thinly pressed bags were coated with coffee and contained ivory-white powder that weighed a total of 3.1672 kg. After tests were made, the powder was determined to be heroin. The Customs forces subsequently handed over the person and the confiscated exhibits to the police for further investigation.



CASE 2

SEIZED 03 OFFENDERS TRAFFICKING 60 PACKAGES OF HEROIN ESTIMATED 20.7KG

On 29 March, 2014, at 1800 hours, officials from both Quang Ninh province Customs Department and Anti-Smuggling and Investigation Department cooperated with the Police Department to detect and apprehend 3 offenders who were trafficking 60 packages of heroin estimated at 20.7kg in total weight. The offenders, who were caught in Ha Long, northern Quang Ninh province, consisted of 2 Vietnamese nationals and 1 Laotian national.





CASE 2

SEIZED 1,167 PIECES OF ELEPHANT TUSKS, 146.5 KILOGRAMS SEA TURTLE SCALES & 2.3 KG OF DRIED SEA MOLLUSKS

VIETNAM

On 2 October, 2013, Hai Phong city Customs Department seized a total of 1,167 pieces of elephant tusks weighing 2.1 tonnes, 146.5 kilograms of sea turtle scales and 2.3 kilograms of dried sea mollusks. The smuggled products, were hidden in a 40 foot container that was originating from Malaysia. The products were falsely declared as 20 tonnes of sea oysters that was for temporary importation meant to be re-exported. Elephant tusks and sea turtles scales have been named on CITES banned list.



CASE 3

SEIZED RHINO HORNS, WEIGHING A TOTAL OF 13KG

On 10 March, 2014, the Tan Son Nhat Border Gate Customs Department, under the Ho Chi Minh City Customs Department, seized a total of 13kg of rhino horns with an estimated value of VND 15 billion. The rhino horns was smuggled into the country from Africa by air by Mr V.C.L., a Vietnamese national. Customs authorities discovered 5 rhino horns and fragmented pieces of rhino horns in the luggage of the offender.





CASE 4

SEIZED TUSKS WERE CONCEALED IN A 40-FOOT CONTAINER

On 24 May, 2014, the Hai Phong city Customs Department detected an seized 1.5 tonnes of elephant tusks which were hidden in a 40-foot container that was declared as charcoal. The receiver of the shipment is a joint stock company that is based in the city of Mong Cai in Quang Ninh Province. After the shipment was transferred to the Hai Phong Port, the company made a declaration for a container containing 15 tons of charcoal. The Customs officials, detected some abnormalities with the container, and upon inspection, detected elephant tusks. The tusks were cut into many pieces and hidden among the charcoal in the sacks. The shipment was smuggled into Vietnam from Hong Kong for temporary importation before it was meant to be re-exported to China.



CASE 6

SEIZED TUSKS WERE CONCEALED IN A 40-FOOT CONTAINER

In November and December 2013, the Haiphong Customs Department detected and seized 08 containers of Pterocarpus Macrocarpus and South Africa Teak. These are listed under Annex II of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.





On 07 January 2014, Haiphong Customs Department inspected a consignment declared as kraft paper from India. Inspection found that it was 13.752 kg of *Pterocarpus Santalinus* (Red Sandalwood).

Decisions/Opinions

The customs forces handed over the person and exhibits to the police for handling.



CASE 7

SEIZED 1.4 TONS OF PANGOLIN SCALES HIDDEN UNDER A THIN LAYER OF DRIED SARDINES

Facts/Findings

Customs officers had monitored a smuggling ring and from that inspected a consignment from Freetow, Sierra Leone which was carried by the container ship Medpearl, docked at Hai Phong Port on July 23, 2014.

Modus Operandi

The good was declared as dried sardines. However, after opening the container, Vietnam customs found 1.4 tons of pangolin scales hidden under a thin layer of dried sardines. Customs officers estimated that up to 10,000 African pangolins could have been killed for that much of scales.

Decisions/Opinions

Pangolins are protected under both the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Vietnamese law. The case is under investigation.





CASE 8

METHAMPHETAMINE FROM HONGKONG TO VIETNAM

VIETNAM

Facts/Findings

On 10 August 2014, Customs officials at Noi Bai International Airport detected suspicious images on X-ray scanning. Customs officials then proceeded with manual inspection.

Modus Operandi

After opening the consignment, Vietnam customs had detected over 6.5 kg of drug hidden in a luggage. The luggage was found during a routine check for flight VN593 from Hong Kong to Hanoi. The authorities found 12 boxes containing yellow powder tucked in the passenger's suitcases.

Initial test indicated that 1.984kg of the powder was positive for methamphetamine (AST) and 4.572kg for cocaine.

Decisions/Opinions

Pangolins are protected under both the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Vietnamese law. The case is under investigation.





CASE 9

SEIZED 2.1KG PACKAGE CONTAINED 4 ROUND PACKETS OF A GREY SOLID

Facts/Findings

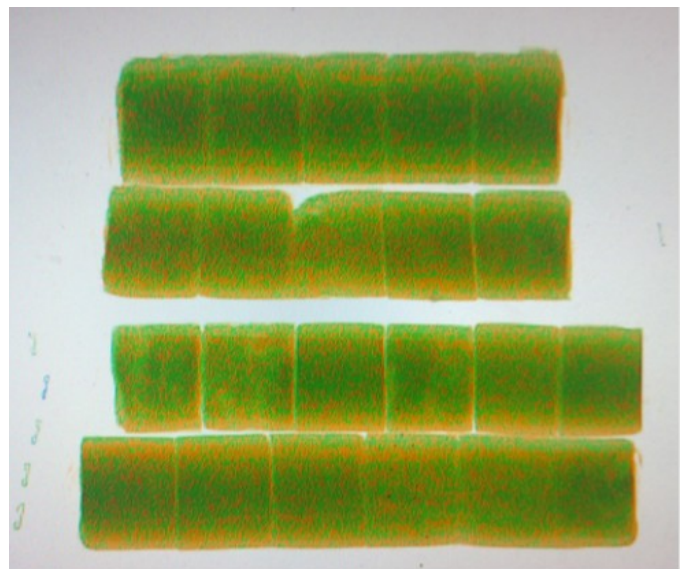
About 10.30am on 11 August 2014, Customs officers at Da Nang International Airport found a suspicious package which had been declared as jiggery.

Modus Operandi

The 2.1kg package contained 4 round packets of a grey solid, and it was being sent from Da Nang to a receiver in Australia.

Decisions/Opinions

Customs officers decided to temporarily seize the package and sent samples for testing. The test results later showed that the samples are ephedrine, a drug precursor. The case is under investigation.





CASE 10

VIETNAM CUSTOMS SEIZE 9.85 KG OF DRUG PRECURSOR DISGUISED AS SHRIMP PASTE

VIETNAM

Facts/Findings

On 28 May 2014, customs officials of The Express Delivery Customs Sub-department of Ho Chi Minh City detected 9,85 kg pseudoephedrine in a parcel. The parcel contained two plastic jars, filled with the drug precursor which was mixed with shrimp paste. The contain of the parcel was declared as shrimp paste. The parcel would have been sent by air to Australia as gifts.

Modus Operandi

Customs officers then decided to temporarily seize the jars and sent two samples of the reddish brown paste to the HCMC Police Criminal Technique Department for testing.

The test results later showed the samples are Pseudoephedrine. The case is under investigation.



