

CECWG

CUSTOMS **ENFORCEMENT** COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUPS



ASEAN CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

Volume VII



ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin Volume VII

PREVIOUS BULLETIN



From the Country Coordinator's Desk

Mohammad Nizam bin Haji Ismi

Acting Controller of Royal Customs and Excise, Brunei Darussalam.



In today's globalized world, customs enforcement activities continue to be vital in managing safety and security, facilitating trade and enhancing revenue sustainability.

With the strong efforts of respective ASEAN Customs Administrations, significant achievements in preventing illegal activities and intercepting smuggling of contraband including drugs and other customs-related offences have been recorded. The compilation and publication of these information in the ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin serves as one of the work plan strategies under the Customs Enforcement and Mutual Assistance of SPCD 10.

The ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin highlights various customs enforcement activities and shares information on the latest *modus operandi*, smuggling trends and concealment techniques used by offenders and organized crime syndicates. It also details how intelligence sharing, cooperation and technological advances can help ASEAN Customs officers enforce its national laws to intercept these activities.

In this regard, I am pleased to introduce the 7th Volume of the Enforcement Bulletin and commend the continuous teamwork and coordination among ASEAN Customs Administrations.

Thank you.

From the Chairman's Desk

Dato' Syed Mohri bin Syed Abu Bakar

Chairman, ASEAN Customs Enforcement And Compliance Working Group Malaysia.



INDIVIDUALLY WE ARE ONE DROP, TOGETHER WE ARE AN OCEAN.

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he ASEAN Customs Community continues to work relentlessly towards enhancing the capacity of law-enforcement and with increasing level of technology assimilation. The staffs have to balance the requirements to comply with legislation with the desire to provide an efficient and effective service.

Fostering and sustaining relationships with our ASEAN members is a pivotal priority and improves partnerships activities which will enhance our understanding related to our enforcement operations.

In today's environment, hoarding knowledge ultimately erodes your power. If you know something very important, the way to get power is by actually sharing it. Sharing will enrich everyone with more knowledge.

It is the dedications and professional attitude of ASEAN members that enables me to report on yet another successful and productive year. I would like to thank them for their work and commitment. With continuing support, we can confidently face the challenges.

"Coming together is a beginning

Keeping together is progress

Working together is success."

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The 19th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group

Held on 15-17 March 2016 in Manila, Philippines



The 18th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group

Held on 20-22 October 2015 in Yangon, Myanmar





CASE 1

596 CARTONS OF CIGARETTES SEIZED



Case Facts:

RCED Preventive Unit in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had seized a total of 596 cartons of cigarettes on 10 September 2015. Upon public tip-off, surveillance was made along the Brunei River and later on, a small boat was spotted coming in via Limbang. The RCED and NCB then approached the boat. High speed chase-up started to begin when the boatmen were aware of the presence of the RCED and NCB. The boat was stopped but the boatmen escaped at the nearby mangrove area. Cartons of cigarettes wrapped in boxes were found.



Modus Operandi:

Smuggling of contraband through the river area.

Decision:

All the cigarettes were confiscated and to be destroyed.





CASE 2

CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT SEIZED 298 CARTONS OF CIGARETTES

Case Facts:

RCED Preventive officers conducted a raid at one of the furniture factory on 18 August 2015. The source was gathered from the public tip-off on illegal sale of cigarettes in the factory. During the inspection, the RCED officers found cigarettes hidden in cabinets and some were found inside boxes. A total of 298 cartons of cigarettes were found, and it belonged to one of the workers. The cost of the goods was estimated to be B\$13,500.00.

Modus Operandi:

Concealment of contraband in a furniture factory for the purpose of illegal sale of cigarettes.



► Various contraband cigarettes found inside the cabinet and boxes

Decision:

The case was investigated under Section 146 (1) (d) of the Excise Order 2006. The case was brought to the court on 20 August 2015 at 1400 hours. The defendant was convicted to a fine of B\$108,000.00 in default of imprisonment for 20 months.



Royal Customs and Excise Department



► Various contraband cigarettes found inside the cabinet and boxes



INTRODUCTION

The traditional roles and responsibilities of Customs in the world are gradually changing from time to time due to the impacts of global economic integration. The changes have been seen in the areas of revenue collection and enforcement. In the enforcement area, Customs now focuses and targets not only on goods smuggling and commercial fraud but other transnational crimes also in order to make society secured and safe.

In this regards, the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE) has committed and devoted herself to improve collection of revenue, to effectively facilitate international trade by using risk management programs, and to consistently and effectively fight against commercial fraud, goods smuggling and other customs related offences and crimes – which includes illicit drug trafficking, illicit trade in wild fauna and flora, firearm smuggling, IPR infringement, and so on.

Applying modern techniques of risk assessment and analysis, risk based targeting, intelligence based operation, customs expertise and experience, customs think-tank and flexibility, staff's skill and devotion toward revenue collection, fair environment for business competition, social safety and security, and protection of border, GDCE has achieved some significant results in terms of suppression of goods smuggling, seizure of illicit 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 detection tools, chasing materials, and other searching equipment, GDCE is able to achieve some milestones in its suppression operation.



CASE 1

VARIOUS ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS SEIZED

Case Facts:

Customs officers at the Customs Department of Prevention and Suppression received intelligence from informants on a number of trucks transporting undeclared goods from across the border. After analysing the information and a thorough investigation, the trucks were detected at the borders and the containers stopped for a thorough check.

Finding:

After opening the container, Customs found that the 3 trucks, each carrying a container, was transporting smuggled goods. The goods were electronic products of various categories such as TVs, refrigerators, washing machines, etc. The quantities of smuggled goods were as follows:-

- TeV all types: 655 pieces
- Refrigerators: 102 pieces
- Washing machine: 8 pieces
- Others: 1301 pieces

Modus Operandi:

The case was classified as “smuggling” as the goods were concealed and loaded into proper containers and were transported by a convoy of trucks mixed with legitimate imported goods. This was to divert customs attention and also to avoid customs check of transportation which might be conducted in any particular section of national road.



► Iron product seized by Customs from the door side of container

► Electronic goods seized by Customs





Decision:

The items were seized by Customs and the case was filed to the Dispute Settlement Office. The case was settled with duty and tax payment plus penalty of 484 million riels equivalent to 121,000 US\$.

CASE 2

393 PIECES OF SMARTPHONES SEIZED

Case Facts:

Customs officers at the Customs Department of Prevention and Suppression received intelligence from informants on the possibility of a vehicle transporting undeclared smuggled goods through the border point in the western region. After analysing the information and conducting investigation, an operation was set up to intercept the vehicle. The vehicle was spotted departing from the source location on 30 August 2015 and was subsequently stopped for a detail check. Upon investigation, there was no any documents or customs import declaration for the transported cargo.

Finding:

Upon inspection, GDCE Customs officers found a total of 393 pieces of Galaxy smartphones with no indication of a manufactured source. Galaxy is a brand made by South Korea but there was lack of evidence to confirm that the smuggled items were from South Korea directly. It could be from neighboring countries.



► Smuggled smart phone seized by Customs



► Smuggled smart phone seized by Customs



Modus Operandi:

This case was classified as a “smuggling” case. The items were concealed and packed in paper cartons and the cartons were sealed with “DHL” adhesive tapes. The smuggler used the DHL adhesive tapes to affix the carton boxes to avoid customs attention. But GDCE officers noted that DHL express consignments were never in multiple boxes and were never transported by ordinary vehicles. This was the initial main suspicion that initiated further investigations.



► Customs officers inspecting the phones

Decision:

Due to the failure to prove that the items were legitimate imports, Customs decided to seize those 393 smart phones. The case was closed with the importer paying duties, taxes plus penalty of 194 million riels or US\$48,500.



CASE 3

5 UNITS OF CARS SEIZED

Case Facts:

Customs officers at the Customs Department of Prevention and Supression received intelligence from informants with regards to a company making wrongful declaration at a main sea port. After analysing the information and conducting a thorough investigation, the lorry was spotted on 6 August 2015 at the source location. Checks were conducted on the documents and was found to be ambiguous. The customs officers decided to stop the lorry for a detail check.

Finding:

Upon inspection, 5 units of cars were found of which 2 units were second hand cars and 3 units were cars with their roofs cut off and declared as spare parts. This was a violation of existing customs regulations banning import of any dismantled passenger cars.

Modus Operandi:

The case was classified as “Violation of Customs Regulation”. The dismantled cars and their parts were loaded and mixed with the used cars in one container. With the help of X-ray machines, Customs was able to discover the illegal operation.



► The dismantled cars seized by Customs





Decision:

Customs fined the company approximately 22 million riels or US\$5,500 although the three cars was broken down and the main body was totally destroyed. The fine was imposed to prevent any re-assembling of those 3 cars and to create road safety awareness.





CASE 1

BABY LOBSTER SIEZED

Case Facts:

Indonesian Customs officers had come across 42 boxes of fresh shellfish to be exported to Singapore in September 2015. However, 25 out of the 42 boxes were in fact containing baby lobsters rather than fresh shellfish. Exportation of baby lobsters are prohibited as local regulations.

Modus Operandi:

Upon inspection on the boxes, 25 boxes of baby lobster were concealed and mixed with boxes of fresh shellfish. Each box approximately contained 10,000 baby lobsters



Decision:

The exportation of this product is considered a violation under the regulations of Ministry of Marines and Fishery. The seized goods, documents and suspect were forwarded for further investigation by the Indonesian Customs.



CASE 2

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ON LAND, IN THE SEA, AND IN THE AIR

In 2015, led by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise, a total of 9,725 cases of enforcement operations in Customs and Excise area (import, export, facilities, and excise) with a total value of Rp3,658,662,634,537 of goods seized.

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ON LAND, IN THE SEA, AND IN THE AIR

From January to December 2015, a total of 160 successful operations were focusing against Narcotics and Psychotropic Drugs smuggling throughout Indonesia. These operations resulted in the seizure of methamphetamine, amphetamine, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoid, etc.

Chronology:

On 14 October 2015, Indonesian customs officers conducted an examination on the imported goods stored at Citra Guna Warehouse located in Bagan Besar, Dumai. The goods were transported afterwards to Dumai ferry terminal to be examined using X-ray machines. From the examination, the officers found 45 cartons containing 270 blue water filter tubes. The X-ray images showed that there were 265 tubes containing clear crystals. The examination, using a narcotics identification system, tested positive with the reagent for methamphetamine. Subsequently, the drugs were seized and the gross weight of the methamphetamine seized amounted to 269.847 kilograms.

Modus Operandi:

Smuggled methamphetamine in the imported water filter tubes.





Chronology:

On 11 August 2015, Patkor Kastima 21A/2015, a sea patrol task force, conducted an examination on Sri Mega Top, a fishing vessel in Tanjung Jering waters and found suspicious bags in which there were 1,500 pills wrapped in plastic. These pills were suspected to be ecstasy / MDMA.

Modus Operandi:

Smuggling ecstasy in bags, transported via sea in a fishing vessel.



Chronology:

On 8 August 2015, the same sea task force, Patkor Kastima 21A/2015, found 4.9 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine hidden in a bag originating from Malaysia after the examination of an unnamed vessel in the waters of Tanjung Sinaboi.

Modus Operandi:

Smuggling methamphetamine via boat (false concealment).





Indonesia Customs Department

Chronology:

On 23 October 2015, an enforcement team from Customs Office in Banda Aceh checked the baggage of an Air Asia passenger, with the initials ABI, travelling from Kuala Lumpur. After conducting an examination through x-ray, 638 kilograms of methamphetamine was found in cartons which were in his possession.

Modus Operandi:

Smuggling methamphetamine hidden in cartons carried by the passenger (false concealment).





CASE 3

ENFORCEMENT ON IMPORT

In 2015, there were a total of 7,828 cases regarding import violations, led by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise, with an estimated value of seized goods reaching Rp3,288,880,507,699.

The enforcements as mentioned above were conducted in all entry gates in Indonesia, including airports (passenger's goods), seaports (either passenger's goods or common imported goods), post offices/ couriers and land borders, as well as sea patrols. The commodities in question includes groceries, cell phones, textiles, electronic devices, motor vehicles, food and beverages, drugs, chemical substances, weapon/explosive materials, oil, and other various goods that are either prohibited or restricted goods.

Chronology:

On 14 November 2015 at 09.20 am, the Directorate General of Customs and Excise's patrol boat BC 9006 conducted an examination in Karimunjawa waters on a Malabo-flagged tanker named MT. BS9 with registration number 29941294, OMI/IMO number 9079676, that has a gross tonnage capacity of 1,018, The tanker was originating from East OPL Malaysia. The crew on the tanker could not provide any cargo manifest and shipping documents (shipping license from the port of origin, seaman's book, passports and crew's certificate, medical certificate) while carrying 133 metric tonnes of premium fuel.

Modus Operandi:

Not providing manifest documents in accordance with prevailing regulations and/or importing goods without the provision of customs documents.





Chronology:

On 14 February 2015, the Directorate General Customs and Excise patrol boat BC 8006 stopped KM Rezeki Baru, a vessel originating from Port Klang Malaysia which was heading to Tanjung Balai Asahan in Aruah Island waters, precisely at the coordinate of 03°-01'-10" N/ 100°-27'-30" E. This action resulted in the seizure of 800 bales of used-clothing that was imported without the provision of customs documents.

Modus Operandi:

Importation of used-clothing in bales are one of the prohibited and/or restricted goods that requires the provision of legal documents.



Chronology:

On 8 March 2015, KM Eza - a Port Klang, Malaysia originating vessel, loaded with garlic, was stopped by the Sea Patrol Task Force, using patrol boat BC 6003. The vessel was on its way to Tanjung Balai Asahan and was apprehended in Pulau Arwah waters (03° 18' 00".N/100° 18' 50"E). One hundred and ten tons of garlic were imported without the provision of customs document and was seized in this enforcement operation.

Modus:

Goods were smuggled into Indonesia via vessels without submitting any Customs documents or declarations.





Chronology:

The enforcement and investigation team of Tanjung Priok Customs Office conducted an examination at the Kapuk Muara warehouse on 26 November 2015, which subsequently led to the seizure of the container HJCU 2052351 of PT. N. According to the declaration documents, this container was supposed to be transporting 23 rolls of 100% Acetate Satin Lining Woven Fabric 54"1,564YDS. In fact, based on the examination, the vehicle transported 11,996 alcoholic beverages from various types and brands. The consignment was also unloaded in another warehouse, different from the stipulated destination.

Modus Operandi:

Unloading or storing imported goods which are still under customs control in a place different from the stipulated destination.





CASE 4

ENFORCEMENT ON EXPORT

In 2015, under the Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Indonesia Customs Department successfully conducted 280 enforcement operations related to export offences. The estimated value of seized goods reaches Rp174.659.096.560.

Chronology:

On Friday, 16 October 2014 at 04.40 pm, the enforcement and investigation team of Bandung Customs Office examined six suitcases that were brought by MIB, LY, and DA - three passengers of Silk Air departing for Singapore. The examination, using x-ray machine, identified that these three passengers were trying to smuggle lobsters in their suitcases. These lobsters were meant for breeding.

Modus operandi:

Goods prohibited for export were smuggled inside passengers' luggage and done via air travel.





Chronology:

Fifteen thousand lobsters for breeding brought by H, a Tiger Air passenger on route from Jakarta to Singapore, were seized by customs officers in Soekarno Hatta International Airport on Friday, 16 October 2015 after the lobsters were picked up by the x-ray machine. The lobsters were loaded in three suitcases. Based on the preliminary investigations, the lobsters originated from East Java and were pooled in Jelambar, and thereafter the lobsters were supposed to be sent to Singapore by plane.

Modus operandi:

Good prohibited for export were smuggled inside passengers' luggage and done via air travel.



Chronology:

On 18 November 2015, there was an enforcement operation conducted by Sea Patrol Task Force BC 7006 of Riau Islands Regional Customs Office in Karang Heluputan waters in the coordinate 01°-02'-12" N/ 105°-43'-06" E. This task force seized a vessel loaded with tin, which is classified as prohibited and restricted goods, on its way from Ketapang, Borneo to Kuantan, Malaysia. The vessel identified as KM Anugrah could not provide any legal documents for shipping a total of 20 tons of tin sand.

Modus Operandi:

Tin sand is classified as prohibited and restricted goods, and requires necessary legal documents.





Chronology:

On 19 October 2015, Sea Patrol Task Force BC 9004 from Riau Island Regional Customs Office conducted an enforcement operation against KM Raja Teluk Sejahtera at Tukong Malang Biru waters (02°-02'-15" N/ 105°-14'-30" E) which was loaded with 15 tons of tin sand. The vessel originated from Bangka Belitung and was destined for Johor, Malaysia. There was no legal customs document pertaining to the shipment of these prohibited and restricted goods.

Modus Operandi:

Shipping tin sand that is classified as prohibited and restricted goods without any legal document.



Chronology:

On 19 October 2015, Sea Patrol Task Force BC 5002 intercepted a shipment of 40 tons of tin sand transported by KM Terang Bulan II on its way from Borneo to Malaysia, specifically in Utara Berakit waters at the coordinate of 01°-52'-.30" N/ 104°-50'-24" E. As well as the other cases, the goods were not equipped with any legal documents.

Modus Operandi:

Shipping tin sand that is classified as prohibited and restricted goods without any legal document.





Chronology:

The enforcement and investigation team of Tanjung Priok Customs Office examined goods which were declared as 500 drums of Merifat CSN at Jakarta International Container Terminal, Tanjung Priok. Further investigations proved that the export declaration was untrue. The team found light and dark fine sand which were later identified as zircon sand with the total weight of 58,910 kilograms.

Modus Operandi:

Intentionally falsifying the number and/or type of goods that are subject the prohibition and/or restriction provisions in export.



Chronology:

On 10 November 2015 around 09.07 am, the Directorate General Customs and Excise patrol boat BC 9001 seized a vessel named "FBca BLJ-1" in Halmahera Sea (03°33.822N/129°13.919E). This vessel was loaded with 2800 kilograms of fish, consisting of shark, sailfish, baby tuna, and skipjack tuna originating from Halmahera Sea, North Molluca. The vessel was on its way to Philippines.

Modus Operandi:

A Philippines-flagged fishing boat "FBca BLJ-1" was fishing in Halmahera Sea without having customs documents, neither for the vessel nor the goods.





Chronology:

Seven hundred and sixteen containers of horned helmet (Cassis cornuta), tiger cowrie (Cypraea tigris), and rough pen shell belonging to PT BNP stored at Jakarta International Container Terminal were seized by the enforcement and investigation team of Tanjung Priok Customs Office on 3 July 2015.

Modus Operandi:

Not declaring and/or intentionally falsifying the information of goods that are subject to prohibition or restriction import or export.





CASE 5

ENFORCEMENT ON EXCISE

In 2015, there were a total of 1,436 excise enforcement cases with the total value of seized goods of Rp171.036.760.408. The excise enforcement cases were related to tobacco products and beverages containing ethyl alcohol.

Tobacco Products

For the year 2015, DGCE conducted 975 enforcement cases related to tobacco products with the total value of seized good of Rp94.141.597.353.

Chronology:

On 6 December 2015, in the Temporary Storage of Berlian and Temporary Storage of Mirah Depo Bimasara, Tanjung Perak Port, the Enforcement Team of DGCE conducted an examination on the containers of PT MIE with container number: DRYU2323690, TAKU2368152 and TAKU2417920. These containers were found to contain excisable goods in the form of 394,765 packages of tobacco products consisting of Coffe Stick and Storm Stick brands, and 196,000 packages of BUM Internasional. The excise stamps of the tobacco products were suspected to be falsified, and the designations were false.

Modus Operandi:

Providing or selling excisable goods which were not in accordance with the provisions, not affixed with excise stamp and/or other excise-payment measures, and using counterfeit excise stamp.





Beverage Containing Ethyl Alcohol

For the year 2015, DGCE conducted 440 enforcements related to beverages containing ethyl alcohol with the estimated total value of seized goods at more than Rp76 billion.

Chronology:

On 15 November 2015, The Enforcement Team examined a storage and three boxcars in Jl. Agung Karya No.5 Blok A No. 3 Sunter, North Jakarta. The examination found 2,016 boxes of beverages containing ethyl alcohol of various types and brands, and 106 pieces of excise stamp. The beverages containing ethyl alcohol were not affixed with excise stamp and/or other excise-payment measures, and/or used counterfeit excise stamp.

Modus Operandi:

Providing or selling excisable goods which were not in accordance with the provisions, not affixed with excise stamp and/or other excise-payment measures, and using counterfeit excise stamp.





CASE 6

ENFORCEMENT ON CUSTOMS FACILITIES

In 2015, the Directorate General of Customs & Excise had conducted 181 enforcement operations related to customs facilities throughout Indonesia with an estimated value of goods around Rp24.086.269.870 seized.

Chronology:

On 7 October 2015, enforcement team from Tanjung Priok Customs Office and Purwakarta Customs Office, in 3 locations: Tanjung Priok Port, Sunda Kelapa Port, and Rest Area of Cipali Freeway, conducted an inspection and seized 4 containers owned by PT. KYI. The containers labelled TCNU8972663, CCLU7346050, CCLU6913396 and CBHU9485917 were containing 1.873 rolls of textile 65% Cotton Fabrics 35% Polyester. The imported goods were still in customs control but were unloaded or stored in places other than the stipulated destination.

Modus:

Unloading or storing imported goods which are still in customs control in places other than the stipulated destination and/or submitting forged or falsified customs declarations and/or complementary customs documents.





CASE 7

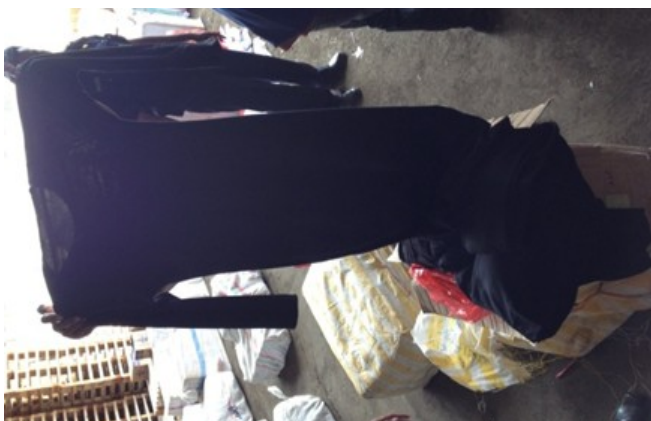
OTHER ENFORCEMENT (IN THE SEA BETWEEN TWO ISLANDS)

Chronology:

On 8 November 2015, location Tanjung Priok Port, Enforcement Team conducted an inspection and seized the vessel KM UMSINI. The vessel was departing from Kijang Port, Tanjung Pinang and headed to the passenger port of PLENI, Tanjung Priok. The vessel was transporting 298 colly which were declared as spare parts and is suspected of carrying goods of which the customs formalities had not been fulfilled.

Modus Operandi:

Carrying goods without prior declaration before departure and declaring the wrong type and/or amount of imported goods which resulted in underpayment.





CASE 1

SEIZURE OF RED SANDERS WOOD

Case Facts:

On 1 February 2015, RMC received intelligence from Regional Intelligence Liaison Office, Asia Pacific (RILO AP) about a suspected consignment of Red Sanders Wood from Chennai, India to Port Klang, Malaysia.

Modus Operandi:

When the intelligence was received, the consignment declared as 'Wire Braided Rubber Hydraulic Hose' had already been released from customs control and had left the port. However RMC officers were unwilling to give up and attempted to trace the actual place of delivery of the consignment from the transporters records and Global Positioning System (GPS) of the transportation lorry.

Thereafter on 6 February 2015, a raid was carried out at the place of delivery of the consignment which was a warehouse in Selayang, Malaysia. Red Sanders Wood totalling 36 metric tonnes worth approximately RM10,800,000.00 was seized. The seizure included past consignments that had been imported illegally and stored in the warehouse.



Decision:

Red Sanders Wood is an endangered species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which requires a permit for import, export, transshipment and transit. The case was investigated under the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008



CASE 2

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT CASE

Case Facts:

Acting on information, on 18 March 2015, Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) officers exercising ex-officio powers, detained a 20 feet container arriving from India at Port Klang, Malaysia containing chewing tobacco suspected to be infringing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

Modus Operandi:

Upon inspection of the container, 350 bags of “Sugandit Khaini” chewing tobacco totaling 11,500 kg was found. The Malaysian right holder was summoned to verify the product who confirmed that the product infringes on their trade mark.



Decision:

There is an infringement of trade mark under the Trade Mark Act 1976. The seized goods and documents were handed over to the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism for further investigation.



CASE 3

SEIZURE OF STRATEGIC GOODS AT PORT KLANG, MALAYSIA

Case Facts:

Acting on information received on 10 October 2015, four (4) ocean containers suspected of containing strategic goods were discharged from vessel. The containers were on its journey to Damascus, Syria from Lianoning, China via Port Klang, Malaysia.

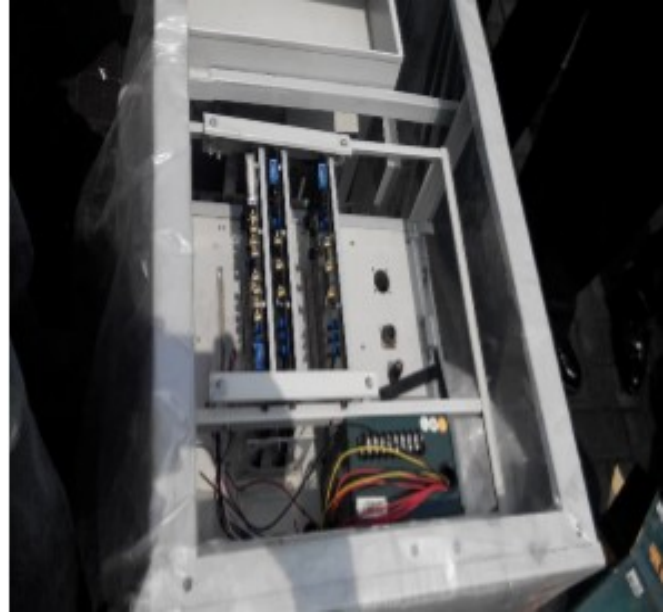
Modus Operandi:

The four containers were declared in the Bill of Lading as 72 packages of "Cabinet and Frame". However, upon inspection, "Telecommunication Centre Equipment" in Completely Knocked Down (CKD) form were discovered. Inquiries to the competent authority in Malaysia confirmed that the telecommunication equipment were of "military grade" and thus are strategic goods requiring a permit from the Malaysian Strategic Trade Secretariat for transit passage through Malaysian territory. Checks with the Malaysian Strategic Trade Secretariat revealed that no permit was issued for the said shipment.



Decision:

Investigations are still in progress. The consignor in China and the consignee in Syria, are being investigated under the Strategic Trade Act 2010 which have provisions for extra-territorial application against entities outside Malaysia. In this regard, mutual legal assistance will sought from China and Syria for prosecution process.





CASE 4

SEIZURE OF IVORY PRODUCT

Case Facts:

On November 2015, RMCD officers received information regarding two airline passengers on board flight from Luanda, Angola to Hanoi, Vietnam with transits in Ethiopia and KLIA, Malaysia that are suspected of carrying ivory products in their baggage. The RMCD officers, with the assistance of airline staff and airport officials detained the two passengers and retrieved their baggage before they boarded the connecting flight to Hanoi

Modus Operandi:

Upon inspection of the baggage in the presence of the two passengers, RMCD officers discovered 50 kilograms of ivory products, namely, beads, bangles, bracelets and necklaces from one of the passengers and 58 kilograms of similar products from the other passenger. The two male passengers were taken detained for further investigation.



Decision:

Both the passengers are being investigated under the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 for the offence of carrying products of endangered species in transit through Malaysia without a valid permit from relevant authorities. They have been charged in court and are awaiting trial.

CASE 5

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT CASE

Case Facts:

Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) received information regarding a Malaysian company suspected of importing strategic goods from various countries for subsequent export to Hong Kong without the required permits under the Strategic Trade Act 2010. The reported goods are integrated circuits (I.C.) of military grade, used primarily for navigation systems and jammers in military satellites, missiles, drones, etc. The goods reportedly fetch high prices in the black market trade and are in high demand for illegal sales to sanction countries, sanction entities and terrorist organizations. Upon receiving information, RMCD officers carried out an analysis of the company's transactions and surveillance of its premise. After the information was confirmed as credible, RMCD setup a covert operation to intercept the shipment at the export stage as violations only occur when strategic goods are exported without the required permit. The challenge was for RMCD to allow the customs documentation for the strategic goods to be approved and shipment released for export but then detained physically prior to actual exportation of the goods.

Modus Operandi:

On 4 Nov 2015 at around 10.00 p.m., after a month's monitoring, and surveillance an express parcel are send by the company for export to Hong Kong was amongst a van-load of express parcels that arrived at the entry gate of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. RMCD enforcement officers were immediately summoned to the airport entry gate. Whilst awaiting the arrival of the RMCD enforcement officers, the RMCD officers manning the entry gate had to delay the customs documentation processing under the pretext of clearing some doubts. After RMCD enforcement officers arrived and the delivery van was within their sight, the RMCD officers at the entry gate were instructed to approve the customs documentation and release the shipment. Then RMCD enforcement officers discreetly tailed the van that had entered the entry gate, stopped it and retrieved the suspected express parcel.

Upon inspection of the express parcel, 247 pieces of Integrated Circuits (I.C.) were discovered. Scrutiny of the integrated circuits' markings and cross-checking of the specifications revealed that the products are extremely high-speed memory chips used in military electronic equipment such as jammers found in military satellites and missiles. Hence they are classified as strategic goods of which requires a permit to export. Since there was no permit, the parcel was detained by RMCD enforcement officers.

Decision:

The company and its two directors have been investigated for violation of exporting strategic goods without a permit under the Strategic Trade Act 2010. Investigations have been completed and presently the investigation papers have been submitted to the Legal Division for prosecution.





CASE 1

NUMEROUS BAGS OF WHITE SUGAR SEIZED

Case Facts:

A shipment of 8x40" container vans consigned to Realtop Enterprises has been alerted by the Bureau of Customs Operatives after thorough profiling using on hand data and quantifiable patterns as basis for possible violation of the Tariff and Customs Code Philippines (TCCP).

Subject shipments declared in the Inward Foreign Manifest as to contain School bags, School supplies, toys etc. Upon Examination, discovered where numerous undeclared bags of white sugar, each weighing 50kgs a bag. Further verification revealed that the company failed to secure any import permit from Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) which is mandatory in importing sugar.

Modus Operandi:

The consignee deliberately falsified and submitted forged/fake documents in order to mislead customs authorities to the true content of the shipment for the purpose of avoiding payment of the correct duties and taxes and to avoid the presentation of any import permits.

Decision:

Subject shipment has been seized in favour of the government, and was auctioned and awarded to the winning bidder yielding an amount of Php 7,806,400.00.





CASE 2

UNDECLARED MOBILE PHONES, TABLET PHONES & RED WINES SEIZED

Case Facts:

A shipment of 1x40" container van consigned to Uranus Enterprises has been alerted by the Bureau of Customs Operatives after thorough profiling using on hand data and quantifiable patterns as basis for possible violation of the TCCP.

Subject shipment declared in the Inward Foreign Manifest as to contain Thermos , Gift boxes etc. Upon Examination, discovered were various numbers of undeclared articles such as Mobile Phones, Tablet Phones and Red Wines which has an Estimated Market Value of Php 60,000,000.00.

Further verification revealed that the company failed to secure import permit from National Telecommunications Commission which is mandatory in importing Mobile / Tablet Phones.

Modus Operandi:

The consignee deliberately falsified and submitted forged/fake documents in order to mislead customs authorities to the true content of the shipment for the purpose of avoiding payment of the correct duties and taxes and to avoid the presentation of any import permits.



Decision:

Warrant of Seizure and Detention was issued and case was filed against the consignee for smuggling before the Department of Justice.

CASE 3

FLEXITANK CONTAINERS CONTAINING GLYCERIN SEIZED

Case Facts:

On March 27, 2015, a shipment of 3x20' flexitank containers consigned to GET ADVANCE MATERIALS INC. arrive at the Philippine Port containing Glycerin 99.5% USP (United States Pharmaceutical, food, cosmetic and industrial use).

Modus Operandi:

Although the shipment was declared as Glycerin, further verification of the documents revealed that Glycerin is a regulated chemical that can be used as explosive that requires permit from the Philippine National Police-Firearms and Explosive Office. To evade the clearance needed the broker/consignee processed the document as if it is a regular shipment without classifying the composition of the shipment as water-based.



Decision:

An alert order was recommended against the subject shipment for violation of the Philippine Customs and Tariff Code Under Section 101(K) (Prohibited Importation) in relation to Section 25 (f) (articles to be seized).

After the examination was finish, the shipment was found to contain in glycerine in waterbased from and not as glycerine as declared. Henceforth, warrant of seizure was recommended and subsequently issued by the District Collector of Customs declaring the subject shipment be Seized in favour of the government.

CASE 4

BAGS OF REFINE WHITE SUGAR SEIZED

Case Facts:

8 x 40' containers vans and 2 x 40 container vans consigned to REAL TOP ENTERPRISES and STRONG WINGS ENTERPRISES respectively, at the Philippine ports from Hong kong on board vessel "ANNETTE-S" declared as kitchen wares. Based on intelligence report subject shipments contained sugar and not as kitchen wares. Hence Alert Orders was issued against subject shipments for possible violations of the Philippine Tariff Customs Code of the Philippines (misdeclaration) as amended.

Modus Operandi:

During the examination/inspection, the alerted container vans were found to contain three (3) layers of boxes containing plastic water jags in front section as decoy to conceal the true and real contents of the shipments and the rest are all bags of REFINED WHITE SUGAR, with marking of Thai Roong Ruang Sugar, Product of Thailand, net weight 50kgs./bags

Decision:

Warrant of Seizure and Detention was recommended against the Ten (10) container vans. On August 27,2015, the District Collector of Customs issued an order declaring the subject shipments be seized and are now deemed property of the government.





CASE 5

LINKING ENTERPRISES

Case Facts:

On 20 January 2015, the Port of Manila District Office through the Enforcement Group of the Philippines Customs alerted a shipment of 6x40' container containing Tiles and Sanitary Wares coming from China. The said shipment was consigned to Linking Enterprises.

Modus Operandi:

The consignee, in conspiracy with its customs broker, deliberately falsified and submitted 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. Its customs broker also misdeclared the weight of the said shipment.



Decision:

After thorough investigation, it was established that the consignee and its customs broker undervalued the shipment. Subject shipment was seized in favor of the government for having violated Section 2503 in relation to 2530 of the TCCP as amended.



CASE 6

MCM ROYAL TRADING

Case Facts:

On 8 June 2015, a shipment containing air conditioners and spare parts from Hong Kong and was consigned to MCM Royal Trading was alerted by Port of Manila District Office through the Enforcement Group of the Philippine Customs.

Modus Operandi:

The consignee through its customs broker, did not submit import permit or clearance coming from the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). A clearance from BPS is an essential requirement in the importation of electrical products, common household goods, etc., in order to determine if such products are in compliance with the standards for quality set by the Department of Trade and Industry.



Decision:

After conducting an investigation, said shipment was seized in favor of the government through a seizure proceeding conducted for its violation of not procuring the required clearance.



CASE 7

RICHNEIL MARKETING

Case Facts:

On 20 January 2015, a shipment of 1x20' container consigned to Richneil Marketing containing POLYURETHANE coming from Korea was alerted by Port of Manila District Office through the Enforcement Group for undervaluation of value.

Modus Operandi:

The consignee, in conspiracy with its customs broker, deliberately falsified and submitted forged sales invoice in order to mislead customs authorities of correct value of its shipment for the purpose of evading payment of proper and correct customs duties and taxes.



Decision:

Subject shipment is in violation of Section 2503 in relation to Section 2530 of the TCCP as amended, for having value discrepancy of 62.79% and had been seized in favor of the government.



CASE 1

JADE SEIZURE

Case Facts:

On 13 January 2016, during the usual examinations at 16 Miles Kyauk Chaw Customs Check point in Mandalay, that was led by Mr. Myo Thura Win, Staff Officer of Myanmar Customs Department, a passenger express bus named Arr Thit was driving from Mandalay to Muse, Myanmar China border area. Customs Team had to stop and checked the bus at Export Check Gate, however, bus driver and his assistance fled away.

Modus Operandi:

The vehicle was a Mitsubishi express bus numbered 9B-6320. The experienced customs officer glanced at the whole place of the bus and noticed a suspicious place covered by carpet sheet at the furthest part of the passenger seats. Therefore, customs officers started to examine that place and found the deformed deck. After opening the deck, the officials have found the stones with several sizes of jade stones weighed 3961 kg. The total estimated value was 118.83 million Kyats.

Decision:

After confirming that those are jade by specialists from Ministry of Mining, the customs team handed those items seized to respective Ministry. The express car assumed as the carrier of illegal items was taken into action according to the existing customs laws, rules and regulation.









CASE 2

JADE SEIZURE

Case Facts:

On 14 January 2016, during the usual examinations at 16 Miles Kyauk Chaw Customs Check point in Mandalay, a truck carrying rice bags was found that driving to avoid the Check point by a supply check task force from Myanmar Customs at an illegal route near the check point. When the Task force forced the truck to stop, the driver stopped at once and fled away.

Modus Operandi:

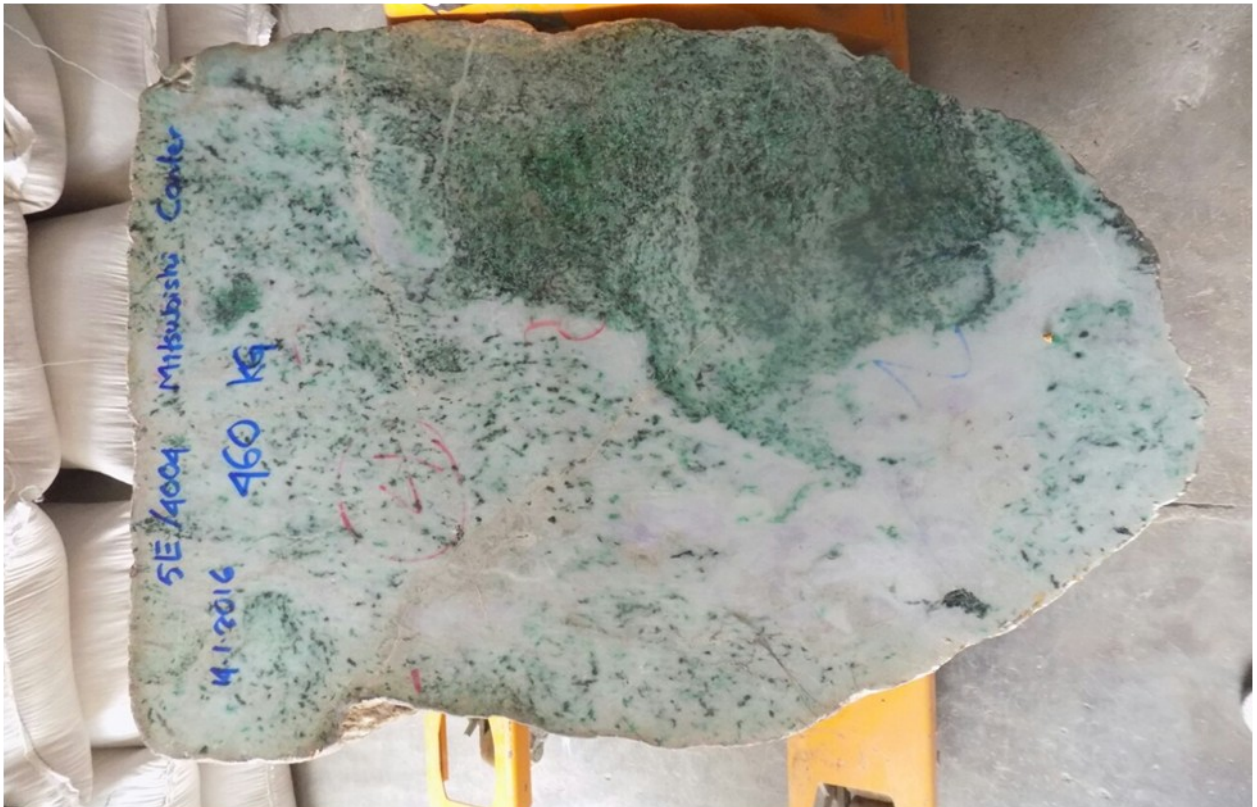
The vehicle was a Mitsubishi Canter numbered 5E-4004 and it was driven from Mandalay to Muse, Myanmar China border area. The customs officers checked the truck and found supposedly jade stones weighing 460kg, under the rice bags. The total estimated value was 13.8 million Kyats.

Decision:

After confirming that the stones are jade by specialists from Ministry of Mining, the customs team handed those items seized to respective Ministry. The truck assumed as the carrier of illegal items was taken into action according to the existing customs laws, rules and regulation.









CASE 3

DRUG SEIZURE

Case Facts:

On 7 October, 2015 the combined inspection team consisting of the personnel from Myanmar Customs Department, Special Police Task Force of Narcotic Drugs and Mobile Team was posted at Lweltaw Khan check-point in eastern Shan State near Myanmar Thai border area. On receiving the information given by the Customs informer, the combined inspection team has stopped a vehicle.

Modus Operandi:

The Customs officers have asked the driver some questions and noticed the suspicious behaviors shown by the driver who was a young man at the age of 29. The vehicle was a Toyota pick-up car imported from Thailand recently. Customs officers noticed that there was deformed deck and it was modified double deck. Therefore Customs officers started to open the upper deck. On opening the upper deck, the officials have found the small packages wrapped in plastic. The respective personnel checked the packages and found that those are methamphetamine tablets totaling 448000 in number. The estimated value was 1120 million kyats.

Decision:

After confirming that those are psychotropic tablets, the combined team handed the case over to the Special Police Task Force of Narcotic Drugs. The task force, in accordance with existing laws, is now preparing to take legal action against the driver and investigating the case to know the source of ownership.









CASE 1

SINGAPORE AUTHORITIES SEIZED ILLEGAL IVORY, RHINOCEROS HORNS AND BIG CATS' TEETH

Case Facts:

Acting on a tip-off, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), with the support of Singapore Customs and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, has seized a shipment of about 3.7 tonnes of illegal ivory in May 2015.

The shipment, which was declared as tea leaves, was shipped in two 20-footer containers from Kenya and was transiting through Singapore for Vietnam. Upon inspecting the two containers, AVA uncovered 1,783 pieces of raw ivory tusks (whole/cut) concealed among bags of tea dust. AVA also found four pieces of rhinoceros horns and 22 pieces of canine teeth believed to be from African big cats. The haul, estimated at SGD\$8 million, has been seized by AVA for further investigation.

Modus Operandi:

The ivory tusks were declared as tea leaves and were concealed among bags of tea dust.

Decision:

Investigations are still on-going.





CASE 2

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS DETAINS TRADEMARK- INFRINGING GOODS

Case Facts:

Singapore Customs detained more than 2,300 trademark-infringing goods on 8 April 2015. These counterfeit goods were imported from China via several air shipments. During an inspection at the importer's warehouse, Singapore Customs enforcement officers found an assortment of mobile phone accessories, watches, sunglasses, bags, wallets suspected to be counterfeit goods of popular brands.

Singapore Customs then notified the brand owners about the detention, and several have since taken legal action against the importer of these trademark infringing goods. Follow-up raids to the consignees were conducted by the officers from the Intellectual Property Rights Branch of Singapore Police Force, and more seizures of counterfeit goods were made.

Modus Operandi:

The trademark infringing goods were imported via separate air shipments.

Decision:

Several of the brand owners have since taken legal actions against the consignees of these counterfeit goods.



► 50 Set of counterfeit earphones



Singapore Customs



► 600 Set of counterfeit earphone



► 180 Units of counterfeit power banks



► 20 Counterfeit bags



CASE 3

TRIO NABBED FOR SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN IMPORTATION OF TRADEMARK-INFRINGING GOODS

Case Facts:

Three men, aged between 27 and 40, were arrested in December 2015 for their suspected involvement in the importation of trademark-infringing products.

In December 2015, Singapore Customs detained a consignment suspected to contain trademark-infringing hard disk drives and anti-virus software product keys. The consignment were declared as “400 units of Used Telephones” and detained under Section 93A(1)(a) of the Trade Marks Act, after brand owners confirmed that they were counterfeit.

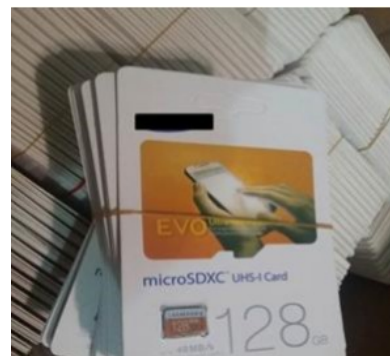
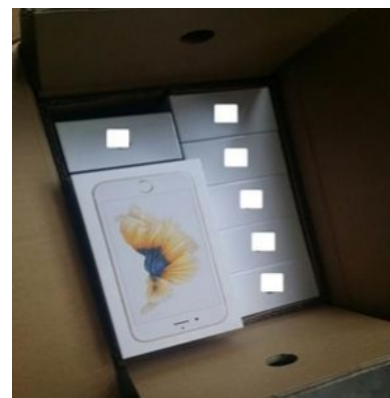
Following up on this information, Singapore Customs and the Singapore Police Force conducted a raid at the importer’s storage premises and arrested the three men. During the raid, more than 243,000 trademark-infringing goods such as hard disk drives, mobile phones and accessories, memory cards and computer software product keys, with an estimated street value of about S\$11 million, were also seized by the Police. Investigations into the case are on-going.

Modus Operandi:

The consignment was declared as “400 units of Used Telephones”.

Decision:

Investigations into the case are on-going.



► 50 Set of counterfeit earphones



CASE 1

COCAINE SMUGGLING VIA KRABI INT'L AIRPORT

Case Facts:

With shared information from Singapore, Thai Customs Officers and Thailand AITF (Airport Interdiction Task Force) arrested a Thai female and a Ugandan male at a hotel near Suvarnabhumi International Airport, for smuggling 2,800 grams of Cocaine into the Kingdom of Thailand. The AITF also arrested 2 offenders (Sierra Leonean and Nigerian) who were also the drug dealer in this syndicate.

On 24 May 2015, Customs officials from the Investigation and Suppression bureau together with Thailand AITF were able to identify a suspicious passenger, traveling with Tiger Air, flight TR2182/23.05.15 from Singapore to Krabi airport. Both offenders were intercepted by the Customs officials and found 2,800 grams of Cocaine hidden in baggage, while trying to deliver the drug at the mark point.

Modus Operandi:

Early this year, the Thai Customs Department with related agencies such as Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau and Office of the Narcotics Control Board were in midst of setting up an Airport Interdiction Task Force with an objective to enhance the cooperation between intra and inter agencies.

Recently, the drug syndicates have changed their smuggling methods and tend to avoid destinations with enhanced scanning equipment, such as the Suvarnabhumi International Airport.

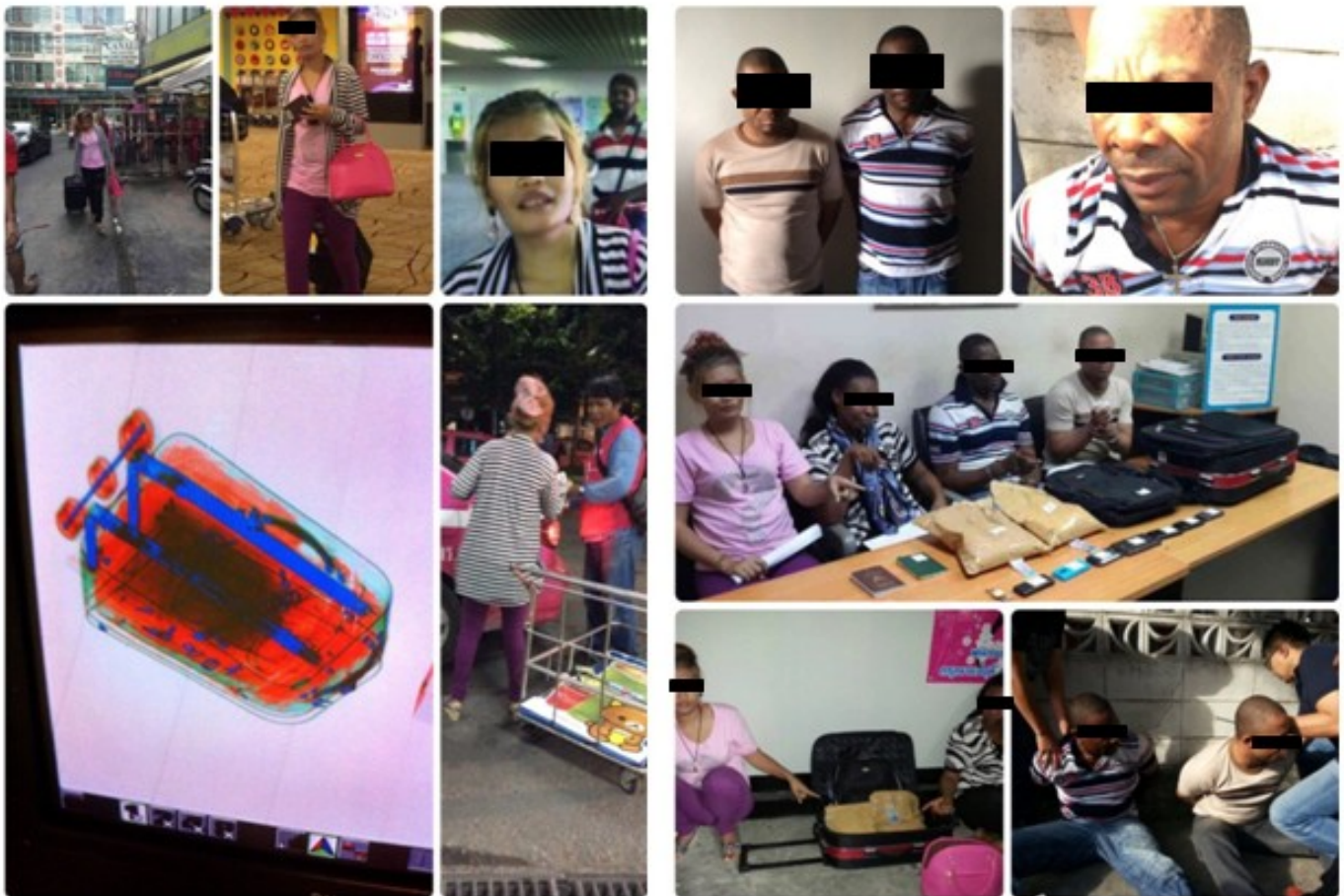
The Thai female offender, who is on the watch list, first travelled from Bangkok to Singapore. Therefore, Customs officer then contacted CNB (Central Narcotics Bureau) Singapore to trail the offender. Upon her return, she switched the flight to Krabi Airport to avoid Suvarnabhumi Airport and subsequently travelled by bus back to Bangkok. With shared intelligence from CNB Singapore, Customs officer and Thailand AITF successfully intercepted the Thai offender while she was trying to deliver the drug to the Ugandan middle man. They were brought for an interrogation which led to the subsequent arrest of the Sierra Leonean and Nigerian offenders who are the dealers in this syndicate.

Decision:

The Customs officials have charged these 4 offenders with the possession and import of category 2 of narcotic drugs (Cocaine) into the Kingdom of Thailand. The case has been referred to the inquiry officer of the Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau for legal prosecution.



≈ Cocaine smuggling via Krabi Int'l airport ≈





CASE 2

COCAINE SMUGGLING AT PHUKET INT'L AIRPORT

Case Facts:

With valuable information from transit airport in Singapore, Thai Customs Officers and Thailand AITF (Airport Interdiction Task Force) arrested a Thai female and South African male at Phuket International Airport, for smuggling 3,800 grams of Cocaine into the Kingdom of Thailand. The AITF also arrested 2 Nigerian males who were also the drug dealer in this syndicate.

On 18 to 19 April 2015, Customs officials from the Investigation and Suppression bureau together with Thailand AITF were able to identify a suspicious passengers, traveling with Singapore Airline, flight MI750/18.04.15, to Phuket International Airport. The Thai female offender was found with 3,800 grams of Cocaine by hidden in a false compartment of a baggage. Customs officer and Thailand AITF also intercepted South African male offender who travelled with the same baggage from Brazil to Singapore.

Modus Operandi:

The Thai Customs Department with related agencies such as Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau and Office of the Narcotics Control Board were in midst of setting up an Airport Interdiction Task Force with an objective to enhance the cooperation between intra and inter agencies. At Present, the criminals groups change their pattern of smuggling by switching to another smuggler at the transit countries.

Based on intelligence analysis, Thai Customs are alerted with potential cocaine smugglers came from South America.

The South African male offender, who is on the watch list, travelled with the baggage from Brazil to Singapore. Therefore, Customs officer has contacted CNB (Central Narcotics Bureau) Singapore to surveillance the offender. Meanwhile, Customs Officer found another suspect, a Thai female who is also on the watch list, travelled with the same flight from Singapore to Phuket. CNB Singapore found a connection between this 2 suspects while waiting for boarding at Changi International Airport. With the crucial information from CNB Singapore, Customs Officer and Thailand AITF had intercepted the Thai female offender who carried the baggage containing 3,800 grams of Cocaine and South African male offender who firstly denied the connection with the scheme. Later on, they were brought for an interview and led to the arrest of 2 most wanted African syndicates who had committed several crimes related to drug.

Decision:

The Customs official has charged the 4 offenders with the possession and import of category 2 of narcotic drugs (Cocaine) into the Kingdom of Thailand. The case has been referred to the inquiry officer of the Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau for legal prosecution.



☞ Cocaine smuggling at Phuket Int'l airport ☞

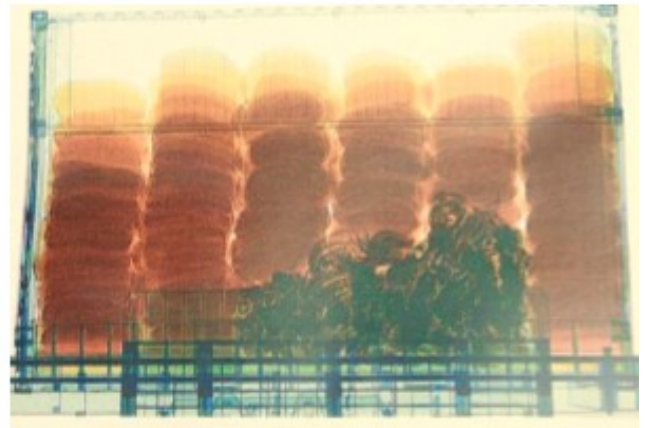
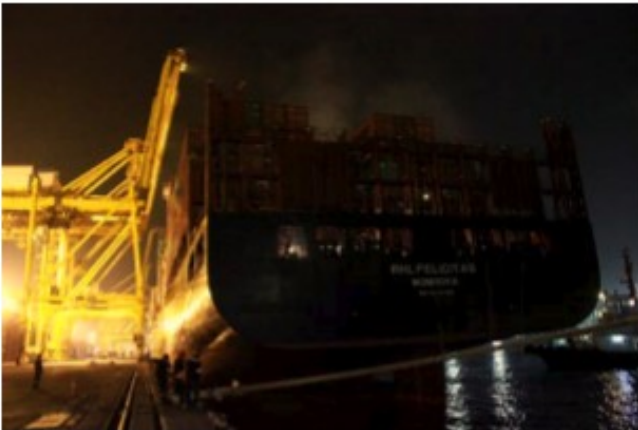




CASE 3

IVORY SMUGGLING FROM KENYA BY SEA CARGO

❧Ivory Smuggling from Kenya by Sea cargo❧





Case Facts:

Thai Customs officers of Marine Control Unit (Investigation and Suppression Bureau) and Leam Chabang port seized 510 pieces of ivory tusks weight 3,230 kilograms smuggled by Sea cargo from Kenya through Thailand and destination at Lao PDR.

On 25 April 2015, Customs officers found a suspicious shipment from Mombasa, Kenya via Leam Chabang port to Lao PDR. The shipment was declared as “tea leaves” however Customs officers found 510 pieces of ivory tusks weight 3,230 kilograms.

Modus Operandi:

As African countries are the origin of African elephant and its product which is on CITES appendix I. Thailand is also the hub of ivory smuggling and Customs officer has arrested many cases of wildlife smuggling from Africa. For this reason, a shipment come from Africa is mostly consider as high risk shipment. In this case, the shipper declare this shipment as “tea leaves”. By using tracking system and intelligence, Customs officer found suspicious figure of the shipment. Therefore, X-ray machine is used to identify the illicit goods. Ivory figure was hidden among tea leave to cover the ivory smell.

Decision:



CASE 4

HEROIN CONCEALED IN A TOYS FOR GIFT

Case Facts:

Thai Customs officers at Express Consignment Cargo and Narcotic Enforcement Division seized 10.71 kilograms of Heroin which hidden in an outbound express parcel to Canada and Australia.

On 24 to 25 November 2015, Customs officers found suspicious express parcels, declared as toys for gift, outbound to Canada and Australia. According to attached invoices and airway bills, the sender was the same person from Udon Thani province. The officers found 10.71 kilograms of Heroin, it was hidden in the bottom false compartment of the parcels.



Modus Operandi:

In recent years, the smaller package - larger volume concept become a major trend of drug and other contraband smuggling. Thai Customs take this as a serious matter and keeping eyes on a parcel with any inconsistency. The shipper declared to Customs as toys for gift however the weight of the parcels did not match with the declared goods. Therefore, the officers used the x-ray scanning and found a false compartment at the bottom of the package. The contraband was wrapped with black plastic bag and covered with Santa Claus doll. We traced back to Express Company and found the sender of the parcels.





Thai Customs Department

Decision:

The offender was charged for possessing and exporting the category 1 of narcotic drugs. The case has been referred to the Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau for legal prosecution.





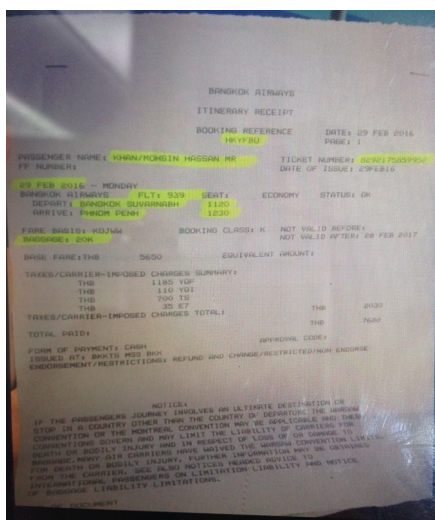
CASE 5

BLACK POND TURTLES SMUGGLING FROM KOLKATA, INDIA

Case Facts:

Thai Customs officers of Airport Control Unit (Investigation and Suppression Bureau) seized 304 Black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) at Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The turtles were originated from India.

On 29 February 2016, Customs officers found a suspicious baggage with a name tag of Mr. A, an Indian, from Kolkata, India. According to the Airline Database and our tracking system, Mr. A bought a ticket from India via Suvarnabhumi airport and en route to Phuket. Thus, the officers set 2 teams for tracking the baggage to Transfer Baggage Terminal and other team to observe at Departure Hall (Gate A 6). Even through the baggage was intercepted, but Mr. A did not board to Phuket.



The officers found that Mr. A brought a new plane ticket to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The teams waited for him to board and then detained him for interrogation. The officers showed the baggage with his name tag and opened it and found 304 turtles was hidden in the baggage and covered with personal belonging.



Thai Customs Department

Modus Operandi:

Based on risk management, South Asia countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the origin countries of Black pond turtle, Spotted pond turtle which are listed on CITES Appendix I. In recent years, Customs officer has seized many similar cases. The criminal group has used the pattern by exploiting Indian, Bangladeshi or Pakistani as a smuggler. For this reason, flights and travellers from South Asia are mostly considered as high risk for the contraband smuggling.

In this case, the baggage has passed through the Transfer Baggage Terminal to Phuket, however Mr. A did not go with the baggage and change the designated route to avoid being arrested. However in many cases, when the baggage was left, his syndicate who work in the Transfer Baggage Terminal area will change the baggage route in the computer system to Bangkok, pick it up and deliver it to a middle man in the local market. Thus, officers know the trick and found that Mr. A trying to board to another route.

The case was brought to Royal Thai Police for further investigation and the middle man in this scheme was also arrested.



Decision:

The smuggler and the middle man were charged with the Customs Act B.E.2469 (1926), Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E.2535 (1992) and Fisheries Act B.E.2558 (2015) for bring the prohibition or restriction goods (CITES appendix I) through the Kingdom of Thailand which they shall be fined of four times the amount of price of the goods including duty or imprisonment for the term not exceeding 10 years or both.



CASE 1

IVORY AND RHINO HORNS FROM ETHIOPIA VIA KOREA TO VIETNAM

Case Facts:

Based on the intelligence information, on 12th August 2015 at 1200 hours, Anti-smuggling and Investigation Department of Vietnam Customs had suspected four packages that were sent from Africa through South Korea before arriving in Vietnam to contain some alleged animal parts.

Modus Operandi:

Customs officers detected 4 suspicious baggages of two Vietnamese passengers departed from Ethiopia via Korea to Vietnam. Upon the examination, Customs officers seized 49 pieces of ivory weighing 95.54 kg and 1 piece of rhino horn weighing 4.74 kg.

Decision:

The case is under investigation.





CASE 2

IVORY AND RHINO HORNS FROM ETHIOPIA VIA KOREA TO VIETNAM

Case Facts:

Customs officers at Tan Son Nhat Airport in Ho Chi Minh City discovered cocaine in the luggage of a Russian student who had traveled through some other countries without being detected before arriving in Vietnam on Sunday, 15 November 2015.

The foreign student, 25, came to the international airport on flight no. EK392 from Dubai (UAE) to Tan son Nhat (Vietnam) in the evening, bringing along with him a backpack and a handbag. Finding signs of suspicion in his baggage, customs officers asked him to bring it to a separate room for manual inspection.

Modus Operandi:

Upon examination, Vietnam customs had found the linings of the handbag, a blanket and three overcoats seemingly soaked with drugs. Tests made on the lining samples showed that they contained cocaine. Customs Officers then seized linings weighing 6.42kg in total.

The arrestee said he received the objects containing cocaine in Chile and then traveled with them in a complicated itinerary of Russia- Dubai-Paulo (Brazil)-Santiago (Chile)-Dubai-Ho Chi Minh City.

Decision:

The Ho Chi Minh City customs department has handed over the student and the linings containing cocaine to anti-drug police for investigation.





Vietnam Customs



► The tortuous routes used by carrier





CASE 3

ELEPHANT IVORY AND RHINO HORN SEIZED

Case Facts:

On Thursday afternoon, August 13, 2015, Vietnam customs officers examined a container and detected a big amount of elephant ivory and rhino horn was loaded in container number as IPXU 3225588 from Mozambique to Vietnam on vessel KING BRIAN. According to the customs declaration form made for the goods, these containers contained raw natural marble and the importer was Da Nang-based Van An Co. Ltd

Modus Operandi:

During the inspection, customs officers discovered some suspicious signs in many blocks of marble in the container, so they decided to shatter some of them and they have found a total of 593kg of tusks and 142kg of rhino inside blocks of fake marble.

Decision:

Elephant Ivory and Rhino horn are protected under both the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Vietnamese law. Customs officers have made a report about the serious smuggling and are coordinating with other relevant agencies to investigate the case.





CASE 4

TWO METRIC TONS OF ELEPHANT TUSKS SEIZED

Case Facts:

On 21 August 2015, Vietnam customs officers examined 3 containers on board the Marine Bia ship from Nigeria to the Tien Sa port Da Nang – Vietnam.

Modus Operandi:

Police and Vietnam Customs officers in Da Nang seized more than two metric tons of elephant tusks inside a timber container from Nigeria.

Officers said the tusks were hidden in many bags buried deep under more than a thousand wood logs. The shipment arrived at Tien Sa Port in the central city on August 11.

The tusks were found during the check of imported timber cargo containers at Tien Sa Port. The containers were brought into Vietnam by Van An Ltd. Co, with the ivory found in 63 bags among the containers.

Decision:

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



