

ASEAN CUSTOMS



ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN VOLUME 4



Special Point Of Interest:-

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Customs Cases

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From the Country Coordinator's Desk



As the country coordinator, I would like to express my gratitude to all ASEAN Member States for their contribution in making this bulletin a success.

With the publication of this bulletin and as well as information received from member states enable us to learn and share experiences on the various modus operandi pertaining to the issues of smuggling. Hence our enforcement officers can anticipate common smuggling techniques and thus be able to tackle them.

However, we should be aware of smugglers will find ways to avoid being detected. The use of technology, strong intelligence and information sharing is crucial in combating smuggling activities.

I am hoping that this working group will work further to coordinate information sharing among member states in order to develop greater collaboration and networking as well as safe-guarding amongst ASEAN region.

Thank You.

Ahmaddin Haji Abdul Rahman

Acting Controller of Royal Customs and Excise
Brunei Darussalam





From the Chairman of ASEAN Customs Director General's Desk 2012-2013



Information is a powerful and indispensable tool for modern customs administrations. In ASEAN for example, timely information on smuggling techniques and trends give customs administrations an important tool in interdicting drug smuggling and other frauds against revenue. The recent seizures agri-products smuggling including rice, sugar and onion in the Philippines, for example, are a product of analysis of data and information.

For its intrinsic value alone, information is a most desired commodity and resource of customs administration. Just like any commodity, the development and generation of relevant information has costs that range from free to prohibitive. The sharing and circularization of information is an important measure that will reduce the cost of acquiring relevant and timely information. Customs administrations recognize this as a fact and are thus happy to share what it recognizes as trends and newly discovered modes of smuggling including concealment techniques.

The continuous updating of enforcement techniques, apprehensions and other activities of customs in ASEAN also puts everyone in a parity of awareness. This awareness makes enforcement systems integration uncomplicated and facilitates the reform measures because all ASEAN Member States are made sensitive to the actual workings of each enforcement department.

It is in this context that I note with satisfaction the publication of the 4th ASEAN Enforcement Bulletin.

Maraming Salamat Po!

Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon
Commissioner





From the Chairman's Desk



Welcome to our Volume 4th edition of the ASEAN Enforcement Bulletin in 2013. I am proud and delighted to present to you a contemporary bulletin with improved changes to the cover as well as contents for your reading pleasure.

With less than two years to go before the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 countdown, there is not much time left for us to act on the set vision as there are still lots to accomplish. However, with the full cooperation and collaboration from the member states, I believe we'll be able to achieve it in time.

As discussed in our 13th CECWG Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur from the 5th – 8th March 2013, we are working towards realizing the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Customs Development (SPCD), particularly SPCDs No.9 (Post Clearance Audit), No.10 (Customs Enforcement & Mutual Assistance) and No.11 (Public Security and Protection of the Society). I am happy to see the progress taking place with these plans as we have already initiated collaboration with the World Customs Organisation (WCO), Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC) and the Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC) to jointly tackle the issues of wildlife trafficking as well as to secure the free flow of goods while safeguarding customs revenues and protecting the well-being of the community.

Syndicates have become more advanced and to keep up with their various improved concealment methods have become a challenge for the Customs organisations, especially the Enforcement officers, worldwide. Although Customs officers have successfully foiled numerous smuggling activities and many syndicate rings have been busted in the past, we are still shouldering huge responsibilities in combating illegal trafficking of arms, 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 tackle these issues. Sitting on the dock and waiting for others to feed us the information will not get us far. Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday which is also the assassin of opportunity. I hope we constantly beef up our knowledge on what's going on around the world and share what we've learned with others.

The articles compiled in this Bulletin are true stories which had transpired in the respective ASEAN countries, penned down by our very own Enforcement officers. It is my aspiration for all Enforcement officers within the ASEAN Customs to contribute more feature articles to be compiled for our future publications. I also hope that readers gain a better understanding of what the Customs Enforcement is all about and our commitment to protect the well-being of our society. With the full support and encouragement of readers we hope to produce more distinct publications in future.

Thank you.

Subromaniam Tholasy
Chair, CECWG



SITTING (FROM LEFT) : WIN THANT, TECH SIEKNGORN, ROEUN SOCHEAT, SUBROMANIAM THOLASY, YBHG. DATO' HJ MATRANG SUHAILI, YBHG. DATO' SRI KHAZALI HJ AHMAD, YBHG. DATO' AB HAMID SALLEH, WAN BOON OON, NUR AMIN SHAH, LE THE CUONG, KANITTHA CHINAKUNWATTANA.

FIRST ROW (FROM LEFT) : NOR HAZIAH ABD WAHAB, ALMIRULITA MOHD YUSOFF, WAHABI ABDULLAH, AB MANAF AB GHANI, YIN SODINA, JAYA GOBI S. NARAYANAN, KAMSANI MD HASSAN, CHANTIMA THONGTHIP, KRONGRAS TIATASIN, PIMPA SARAPAT, AZMAN SALLEH, DEEP SINGH GORPAL SINGH, ICHSAN MAULANA, NGUYEN MINH TUAN, MOHAMMAD SHARIFF ATIP, MD NAJIB ALI, ZALIHA MOHAMAD



The Thirteenth Meeting of the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (13th CECWG Meeting) was held on 5-7 March 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat also attended the Meeting.

It was officiated by the Honorable Dato' Sri Khazali Bin Hj. Ahmad, Director General of Royal Malaysian Customs. In his opening remarks, he welcomed all delegates to the beautiful city of Kuala Lumpur. He noted that ASEAN shared a common vision and road map for integration that is driven by the Working Group.

As declared by our Leader that ASEAN would establish its Community by 2015, Customs would play a very important role in facilitating the free flow of goods in the region, therefore the Working Group were mandated to work according to the priorities laid down in their respective SPCDs. He wished that the Meeting would make progress and truly uphold the spirit of the ASEAN.



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MODERN RISK MANAGEMENT PRACTICES KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA 8 - 11 MARCH 2012



SITTING (FROM LEFT): Mr. Dennis C. Pantastico, Mr. Robert L. Holler, Dato' HJ Matrang Suhaili, Mr. Subromaniam Tholasy, Mr. Roeeun Socheet, Mr. Robert Keller

FIRST ROW (FROM LEFT): Ms. Grace Ng Wei Jia, Ms. Kanitha Chinakunwatthana, Ms. Chantima Thongtip, Ms. Krongras Tiattasin, Ms. Della V. Canlas, Mr. Kamsani Hassan, Mr. Quang Thai Bui, Mr. Cuong The Le, Mr. Wilson Watis

SECOND ROW (FROM LEFT): Mr. Geoffrey K. De Vera, Mr. Ichsan Maulana, Mr. Geng Pin Chua, Mr. Almizan Yahya, Mr. Othman Kamar, Mr. Mohammad Haizam Hashim, Mr. Hamisan Kalip, Mr. Md. Najib Ali, Mr. Nguyen Minh Tuan, Mr. Masrul Amri Kamaruddin, Mr. C. Francisco Bolastig

This Workshop was held for 4 days from 08th March 2013 to 11 March 2013 with theme "Regional Workshop on Modern Risk Management" were held at Hotel Berjaya Time Square, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Level 14).

The workshop were attended by delegate from ASEAN member states, namely Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam and Laos.

The Objective Of The Workshop is:

- To assist member states understand the evolving nature and application of Risk Management and the important of a partnership approach to managing compliance.
- To assist member states build capacity to implement modern risk management and management methodology and analytical tools.
- To consider the proper application of administrative penalty practices in a compliance-oriented environment.
- To consider common missteps that tends to prevent risk management application from achieving their full potential.





Royal Customs and Excise Department Brunei Darussalam

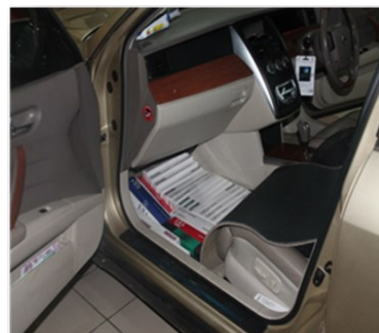
683 Cartons Of Cigarettes Seized



Brunei Customs had seized a total of 683 cartons of cigarettes which were smuggled through the land border. The cigarettes were found concealed inside the car's boot and also at the passengers' seat. The defendant was charged at the court and was sentenced to a fine of \$200,000 in default of 3 years imprisonment.

In Brunei Darussalam, cigarettes smuggling is one of the main challenge as the smuggling rate had risen significantly after the increase of cigarettes duty last November 2010.

The huge difference in the price of the cigarettes created high demand for those cheaper ones and hence creates the continuous smuggling activities.



- Source: Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam

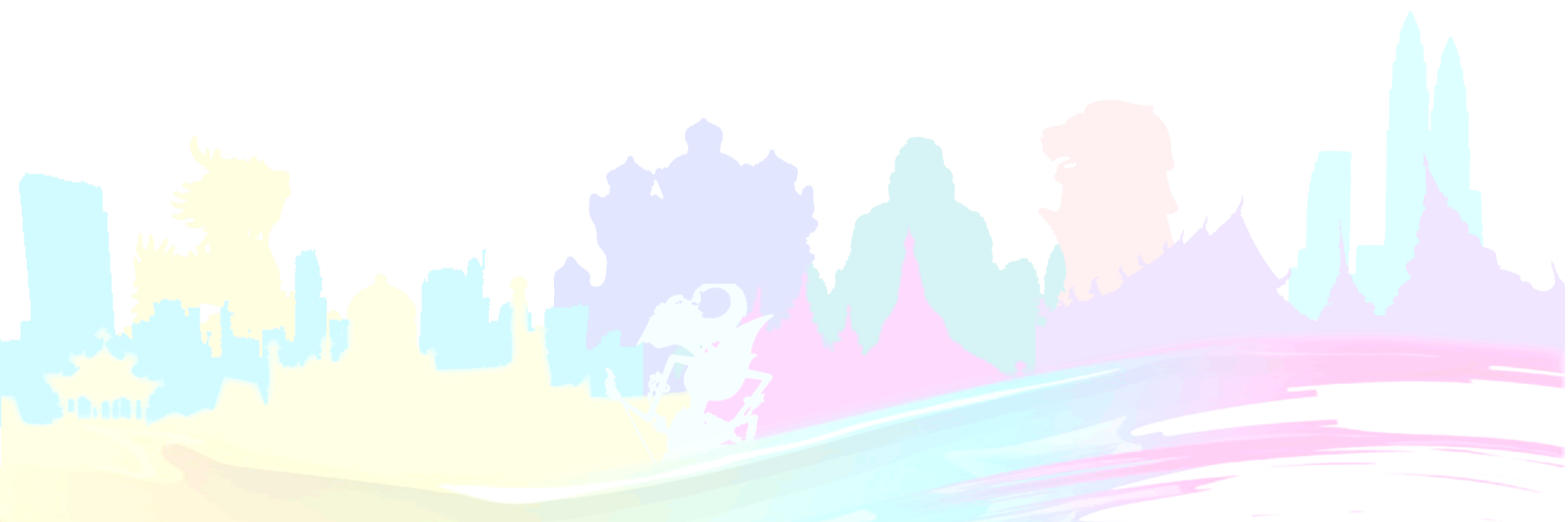
10 Jerry Can Containing Diesel Fuel



A local man was sentenced to a fine of \$10,000 after pleading guilty for the possession of 10 jerry cans containing 227 liters of diesel fuel. Fuel is categorized as one of the goods under the restricted exports of The Customs (Prohibition & Restriction on Imports & Exports) Order. Anyone found to have contravened with this order will be liable for a penalty of \$10,000 minimum to \$500,000 maximum.



- Source: Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam



301 Boxes Chewing Tobacco Seized

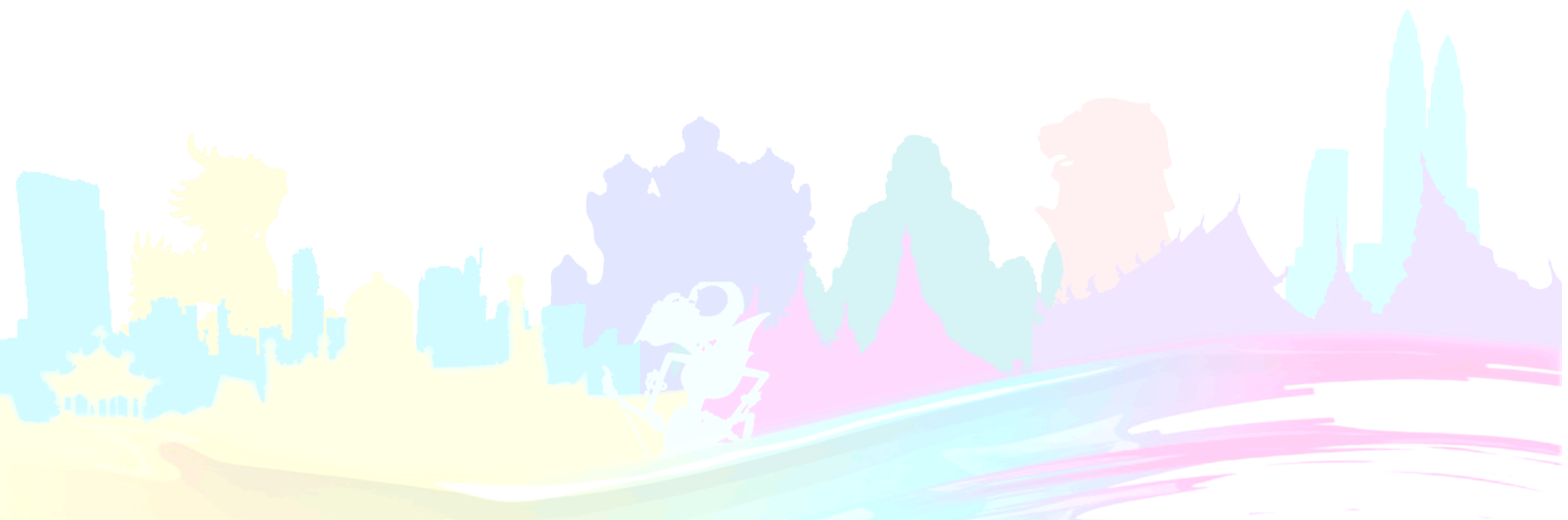
The Brunei Customs had arrested a man found to have in possession of 301 boxes of chewing tobacco. Upon investigation, the chewing tobacco was actually smuggled into Brunei through illegal entrance. The excise duty of the tobacco is amounted to \$9,753.00.



The court sentenced him to a fine of \$40,000 in default of 8 months imprisonment. Smuggling of cigarettes and other tobacco products is a serious offence in Brunei Darussalam. It carries a fine of not less than 6 times of the amount of the duty and not more than 20 times of the duty or \$40,000, whichever is the greater amount, and for a second or any subsequent conviction, to such fine, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or both.



- Source: Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam



241 Cartons Of Cigarettes and 3 Packet Of Chicken Wings

Brunei Customs and other enforcement agency had conducted surveillance and inspection at the coastal area. During the inspection, a boat was found to contain 241 cartons of cigarettes and also packets of chicken wings. The man also had no passport or any legal documents with him. All of the goods were seized for further action.



in possession of the chicken wings, entering Brunei without legal documentation and obstructing officers on duty. He was sentenced to a fine of \$68,000 in default of 6 months imprisonment for the possession of cigarettes, \$500 in default of 1 month for possession of chicken wings, 3 months of imprisonment with 3 strokes for illegal entry and 1 month of imprisonment for obstruction of officers on duty.

Fresh or frozen meat is one of the controlled commodities which require permits from the governing agencies before it is allowed for any importation or exportation.

- Source: Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam



Customs and Excise Department of Cambodia

Seized New Tires At Chamkar Mon District

On 8 February 2012, based on the informant information, evaluation and analysis, the Department of Prevention and Suppression of Offense has investigated and seized 970 pieces of new tires at a retail shop which located in Chamkar Mon district, in Phnom Penh. Tires are subject to customs stamps procedure while imported.

Deeper investigation and inspection was carried out and resulted that those tires have no stamps affixed, and no any receipt to indicate duty and tax paid. The modus operandi was those smuggles tires were concealed by mixing them with legitimate goods.

At the end, the case was filed and submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs, Public Relation, and Audit, for settlement. As result, there is a fine of more than 30 million riels.

- Source: Customs and Excise Department of Cambodia

Seized New Tires At Dangkor District In Phnom Penh



On 8 February 2012, based on the informant information based evaluation and analysis, the Department of Prevention and Suppression of Offense has investigated and seized 331 pieces of new tires at a retail shop which located in Dangkor district, in Phnom Penh. Tires are subject to customs stamps procedure while imported.

Deeper investigation and inspection was carried out and resulted that those tires have no stamps affixed, and no any receipt to indicate duty and tax paid. The concealment is that those smuggled tires were stored mixed with the legitimate goods. At the end, the case was filed and submitted to the Department of Legal Affaires, Public Relation, and Audit, for settlement. As result, there is a fine of more than 16 million riels.

- Source: Customs and Excise Department of Cambodia

Seized 8,010 Liters of GS Lubricant Oil

On 20 April 2012, based on the informant information based evaluation and analysis, the Department of Prevention and Suppression of Offense has investigated and seized 8,010 liters of GS lubricant oil at a warehouse which located in Dangkor district, in Phnom Penh. Lubricant oil is a special goods of high duty and tax imposed while imported.

Deeper investigation and inspection was carried out and resulted that those oils are smuggled goods. That is why there is no any receipt to indicate duty and tax paid.

The concealment is that those smuggled oils were stored mixed with the legitimate goods in a warehouse.

At the end, the case was filed and submitted to the Department of Legal Affaires, Public Relation, and Audit, for settlement. As result, there is a fine of more than 32 million riels.

- Source: Customs and Excise Department of Cambodia

Concealment On Smuggled SUV



Inspection New Toyota Land Cruiser being held

On 08 June 2012, based on the informant information based evaluation and analysis, the Department of Prevention and Suppression of Offense has investigated and seized one New Toyota Land Cruiser parked in a resident located in Toul Kork district, in Phnom Penh. Automobile is a special goods of high duty and tax imposed while imported.

Deeper investigation and inspection was carried out and resulted that those SUV is smuggled goods. That is why there is no any receipt to indicate duty and tax paid. The concealment is that those smuggled SUV is hidden in a private resident. At the end, the case was filed and submitted to the Department of Legal Affaires, Public Relation, and Audit, for settlement. As result, there is a fine of more than 200 million riels.

- Source: Customs and Excise Department of Cambodia

Concealed Drug In The Wall Of Luggage

The 29 years old Thai woman trafficker originally took flight MI 608 from Singapore on 6 Aug 2012. Because her luggage was lost, she approached Lost and Found Counter (LFC) for claim. Customs identified that she was in suspicion.

On the 6th of August 2012, a 29 years old Thai Women arriving from Singapore on flight MI 608 approached Lost And Found Counter (LFC) because she found out that her luggage was lost.

Upon checking on her flight itinerary so Customs was suspicious of that Thai Women and requested LFC to cooperate with Customs when she comes to collect her luggage.



The boxes that wrapped by zinc sheet contains cocaine of 3,606.60 grams.

The next day, 7 August 2012 around 11:40 AM, her lost luggage arrived on flight MI 622. When she came to collect the luggage, Customs Officer asked her for a luggage check. As result, Customs found illicit drug which were packed into 6 transparent plastic boxes in rectangular shape. The boxes were wrapped over by zinc sheet and concealed in the wall of luggage. The drug is cocaine weighting 3,606.60 grams.

The route she was using was Ecuador – Chile – Brazil – Spain – Singapore – Cambodia. The case was handed over to Anti-drug police for further action.

- Source: Customs and Excise Department of Cambodia





Directorate General of Customs and Excise of Indonesia

Seized Of Frozen Armadillo And Armadillo Scale

In mid-September 2012, PT IRP exported goods in a 20-inch-container declared as mackarel fish (frozen fish) to Vietnam through Tanjung Priok port in Jakarta. After carefully examining the previous enforcement record, the intelligence analyst team of Customs Prime Office of Tanjung Priok decided to perform a more in-depth investigation toward the exportation.



After closer examination, it was found that the container was actually transporting 573 different kinds of goods, such as 10.887 kg of frozen fish, 346 ctns of frozen skinless armadillo weighing approximately 8511.6 kg, 18 ctns of armadillo scale weighing approximately 334.8 kg. The frozen armadillo and armadillo scale was worth around 9 billion rupiah.

The offender attempted to smuggle the frozen armadillo and armadillo scale to Vietnam through Tanjung Priok port in Jakarta by falsely declaring the type and amount of the exported goods. The armadillo apparently originated from Sumatra and was planned to be used as one of the substances to make methamphetamine.



Government Regulation No. 7 of 1999 on the Preservation of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna clearly states that armadillo is an endangered species, which means that capturing, killing, trading or exporting such species are forbidden. Based on Law No. 5 of 1990 on the Conservation of Biological Resources and their Ecosystems, the perpetrator shall be prosecuted with a maximum of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum of 100 million rupiah fine. The seized armadillo is handed over to natural resource conservation officers at the Ministry of Forestry.

Seized Of 113 Containers Of Steel Scrap Containing Hazardous Waste

The over-abundant import of steel scrap to Indonesia encouraged Customs Prime Office of Tanjung Priok to conduct a study in 2012 concerning the regulation and requirement of the importation of steel scrap. The objective of the study is to prevent the illicit importation of steel scrap containing hazardous waste.



The study discovered that there were 113 containers of steel scrap containing hazardous waste imported through Tanjung Priok. Through further investigation, 2071 containers of steel scrap containing hazardous waste were successfully secured.

The steel scrap was imported as a component in the making of steel product, but it actually contained hazardous waste.



Customs Prime Office of Tanjung Priok is conducting further investigation toward this matter and re-exports the goods.

- Source ; Directorate General of Customs and Excise of Indonesia





Royal Malaysian Customs

A Seized Of 2 Container Load Of Elephant Tusk

Malaysian Customs officers who received a Bill of Lading reference number proceeded to target the movement of the identified containers using the internet-based Container Tracking System at the West Port, Port Klang. The tracking of the containers revealed the following facts. The containers were first loaded onto the ocean vessel Marivia at the Port of Lome, Togo.



The containers were then discharged for transshipment at the Port of Algeiras in Spain. In Spain, they were loaded onto the ocean vessel CMA CGM Titus and routed to Port Klang in Malaysia.

The Customs authorities proceeded to examine the voyage details of the ocean vessel CMA CGM where it was noticed that the vessel had a voyage that continues from Port Klang in Malaysia to the Pasir Panjang Terminal in Singapore and then to the Mawan Container Terminal in Chiwan, China and finally to the port in Xiamen, China.



On 11th December 2012, Malaysian Customs in Selangor boarded the vessel CMA CGM and detained both containers for inspection. These actions were taken because of the strong suspicion that the containers will be discharged at the Port Klang Free Zone, and its contents quickly removed into new containers before continuing its route out of Malaysia in a different vessel.



Due to the secrecy of the operations, the shippers were contacted after the containers were detained. The draft Bill of Lading supplied by the shippers to Customs officers confirmed the suspicions of Malaysian Customs that syndicates will manipulate the vessels carrying the load of ivory as the name of the vessel carrying the two containers in the draft bill of lading that was to arrive in Malaysia was not the same as the vessel that actually arrived in Malaysia.



Compartment Containing
Elephant Tusk

The draft bill of lading indicated a total consignment of 2644 pieces of Wooden Floor Tiles Acajou (Mahogany) in two containers that had its ocean vessel listed as Marivia, its port of loading in Lome, Togo, Africa and its port of discharge in the Malaysian port of Port Klang and its consignee and party to be notified as a Malaysian company based in the Port Klang Free Zone.

Both containers was rummaged by Malaysian Customs and was found to each contain 10 bundles of solid and partly solid wood tied using steel straps. Five of the 10 bundles in each container had a compartment containing elephant tusks. The compartment was concealed using nails. A total of 2,341 pieces of elephant tusks weighing 6,034 kg valued at RM 15 million was removed from both containers. Elephant tusks are listed under Appendix 1 in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 prohibits the import and transit of the said item.



The assistance of officers from the Malaysian Timber and Industrial Board, the Wildlife Department and TRAFFIC SEA is being enlisted to verify the species in relation to both the wood and the tusks.

This case is currently being investigated under the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 which penalizes offenders for the import and transit of the product of this CITES listed species and the Customs Act 1967 for the importation of prohibited goods.

Investigations revealed that the consignee reflected in the draft bill of lading had been dormant for some time and cannot be traced to its location. There was a very strong belief by international monitors that they would lose track of the movement of the load of ivory. This belief was based on a previous experience where the trail was lost in China. The facts derived from the voyages taken by the containers, shipping documents that are prepared to the best of the knowledge of shippers, consignees and parties that do not exist, and routes that are not determined are the reasons why the actions by Malaysian Customs appeared to be the best course available to trap the goods in its journey and prevent syndicates profiteering.

If convicted under section 133(1)(a), Customs Act 1967, the parties involved can be fined not more than RM500,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both.

Using Controlled Delivery as a technique of investigating wild life crime is a way forward to identify persons connected with criminal activities and to gather evidence against them. From the difficulties realized from a previous tracking, it may be really necessary to develop a network of contacts and a highly committed support group in each country to track and trail suspected containers to their true owners.



Bureau of Customs of the Philippines

Rice Seizures

Sometime April 2013, profilers of the Risk Management Office discovered imported rice was being passed off as stone slabs, granite slabs, cooling insulators and cellulose fiber. The combined volumes totalled 1,179 containers with an estimated street price of some P1.2 billion. It is much bigger in volume and value than the haul seized at the Subic Freeport Zone in Olongapo City earlier this year.



Upon their arrival at the Cebu International Port on separate occasions from March 22 to April 3, they were ordered seized for misdeclaration. Initial examination revealed that the sacks of rice had the brands Bochokoy premium white sinandomeng rice, Unicorn premium white rice, Doña Conchita gold fancy rice, Ruby Extra premium sinandomeng rice and Valentino premium grade sinandomeng rice.

The eight consignees of the rice shipment have been as identified as JJM Global Trading, Rm 212 Crown Building, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City; JM-ARS Trading, 308 3/F, Crown Building, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City; Neon Gateway Trading, Sta. Rosa, Poblacion, Alegria, Cebu; Custans Enterprises, 3H Gemini Building, M.J. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City; Melma Enterprises, Rm 201, GK Chua Building, M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City; NMW Enterprises, Marigondon, Lapu-Lapu City; Ocean Park Enterprises and MMSM Trading.



The Bureau of Customs is now preparing the criminal cases against the persons and companies responsible for the foiled smuggling.

The Philippines Bureau of Customs has been unrelenting in its drive against rice and other commodities smuggling. In January this year, the administration filed smuggling cases against 31 officers of four (4) Central Luzon based Multi-Purpose cooperatives at the Department of

Justice (DOJ) for their involvement, as consignees, in the attempt to smuggle into the country 78,000 bags of rice from Vietnam worth PhP93.6 million through the Port of Legazpi City in the Bicol Region. Still, some 5,000 bags of rice illegally imported from Vietnam allegedly by a farmer's cooperative were declared abandoned with finality and forfeited in favour of the government last February 13, 2013 in Cagayan de Oro City.

Drug Smuggling



For the past year or so, the Philippines Bureau of Customs has made inroads in the fight against drug smuggling – the currency equivalent of these seizures run into millions. Most recently, customs has filed a case for drug smuggling against a Nigerian national who tried to sneak in methamphetamine hydro-chloride or shabu worth P24million pesos. The passenger going by the name of Mr Michael

P. Owoborode was caught with three plastic sealed carbon paper packages wrapped with brown duct tape inside his luggage.

The 2012 drug seizures include 53.48 kilograms of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride "Shabu", 8.737 kilograms of high-grade Cocaine, 33.9 kilograms of Marijuana, 19 tables of Methylenedioxy Methamphetamine (MDMA), 19 pcs. of Alprazolam and six kilograms of Piperonal – all worth Php 465, 897,591.59 at NAIA.

- Source: Bureau of Customs of the Philippines



53.48 kilograms of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride "Shabu", 8.737 kilograms of high-grade Cocaine, 33.9 kilograms of Marijuana, 19 tables of Methylenedioxy Methamphetamine (MDMA), 19 pcs. of Alprazolam and six kilograms of Piperonal



Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs Foil Importer's Attempt To Smuggle Soil Into Singapore

Singapore Customs worked with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority to interdict a 20-foot container from China as it was about to be imported through the checkpoint on 22 Aug 2012.

A total of 823 bags of soil commonly used for growing plants were found in the container imported by a company manufacturing uniforms, and with goods description as "textile material and umbrellas".



The entire consignment of soil was seized by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) as the import of soil was not covered by a valid import permit issued by the AVA nor phytosanitary certificate from the exporting country, certifying the soil free from any plant parasitic nematodes and plant pests.

- Source: Singapore Customs



A total of 823 26-litre bags of soil were found in the 20-foot container



A total of 823 bags of soil were recovered from the container and seized by AVA



Singapore Customs Seizes 21,227 Cartons Of Contraband Cigarettes In Three Days

A series of island-wide operations mounted by Singapore Customs between 23 and 25 January 2013 resulted in the seizure of 21,227 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes.



The 18,000 cartons of duty-unpaid were seized

The total value of the cigarettes and the total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded exceeded S\$2 million and S\$1.8 million respectively. Three distribution networks were disrupted, and five men and one woman were arrested in these operations.

Based on information received by Singapore Customs, officers from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority conducted a check on a prime-mover that was suspected to be transporting duty-unpaid cigarettes out of the port on 23 January 2013. The consignment had been declared as pottery. However, the officers uncovered 18,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from the wooden crates in the trailer.

This was Singapore Customs' largest haul of contraband cigarettes since 2009. Three men were arrested and investigations are ongoing.

- Source: Singapore Customs





Thai Customs Department

Smuggle ICE At Suvarnabhumi Airport

Thai Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized approximately 3,980 grams of ICE smuggled by Iranian male passenger at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

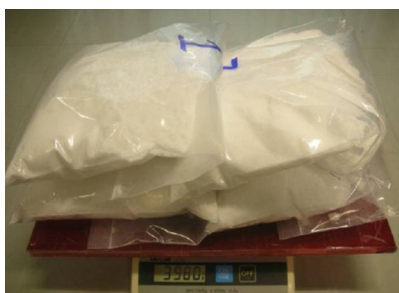
On 11st July 2012, Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau found the suspected passenger who flew from Tehran, Iran via Dubai, UAE and destined to Bangkok, Thailand by Emirates Airlines, flight EK 976 and EK 418 respectively. He was intercepted by the Customs Officers at the Arrival Hall.



3,980 grams of ICE concealed in baggage



As Iran is one of the major hub that Thai Customs Officers have found many cases of drug smuggling, so in this case we also keep the watchful eyes on.



Officers made the x-ray check on the baggage brand 'ADIDAS' of the suspect and found some intensity on the x-ray image. After searched throughout, we found 4 packs of ICE of totally 3,980 grams contained in plastic sachets hidden in soft red plastic files which totally concealed in his baggage. The offender imported ICE into the Kingdom of Thailand by concealing in the baggage to avoid the inspection of the Customs officers. Offender was handed over to the Police and sent to the Court under the Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979).

- Source: Thai Customs Department

Smuggle Cocaine At Samui International Airport



Image of luggage being e-ray

Thai Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized approximately 3,100 grams of Cocaine smuggled by Thai female passenger at Samui International Airport, Surathani province, Thailand.

On 4th February 2013, Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau found the suspected passenger who flew from Sao Paulo, Brazil via Singapore and destined to Samui, Thailand by Singapore Airline and Silk Air, flight SQ 067 and MI 772 respectively. She was intercepted by the Customs Officers at the Arrival Hall.



As Sao Paulo, Brazil is one of the major route that Thai Customs Officers have found many cases of drug smuggling, so in this case we also keep the watchful eyes on. Officers made the x-ray check on the baggage brand 'ROMAR POLO' of the suspect and found some intensity on the x-ray image. Officer searched throughout the baggage and found many pieces of cosmetic stuffs and accessories. We found totally 3,100 grams of Cocaine hidden in the handles of brush on, inside resin bracelets and square-shaped bracelets.



Cocaine hidden in the handle of brush

The offender imported Cocaine into the Kingdom of Thailand by concealing in the cosmetic stuffs and accessories and hidden in baggage to avoid the inspection of the Customs officers. Offender was handed over to the Police and sent to the Court under the Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979).



3,100 grams of cocaine concealed in cosmetic stuff & accessories

- Source: Thai Customs Department



General Department of Vietnam Customs

Seized 4.0 Kilogram Drug At Cau Treo Checkpoint



On 17 June 2012, Customs Officers at Cau Treo Checkpoint Ha Tinh Customs Department (A Central Customs Department Of Vietnam) in cooperation with Cau Treo Police Units intercepted 4.0 Kg Drugs at Cau Treo Checkpoint, Ha Tinh province, Vietnam. The 4.0 Kilogram drugs were wrapped in packet and concealed inside 12 Laos Beer Cans.

At the end, it involve Vietnamese man as a carrier. The case was under further investigation.

- Source: General Department of Vietnam Customs

Seized 5.9 Kilogram Pseudoephedrine At Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



On 31 March 2012, Tan Son Nhat International Airport Customs sub-department, Ho Chi Minh Customs Department successfully intercepted 5.9 kg Pseudoephedrine at Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

It was hidden in the side of the a suitcase and inside the candles (shown in the picture). The case still under further investigation.



- Source: General Department of Vietnam Customs

Smuggle Heroin Weight 3.1267 Kilograms

On 25 February 2012, Customs Officers intercepted a male Vietnamese passenger travelling from Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) to Sydney (Australia) on the flight VN773 for Customs clearance. Upon examination, 12 slabs wrapped by yellow sticking-plaster of heroin weighing 3.1267 kg and hidden in the frame of the carton. The case is still under further investigation.



The 12 Slabs wrapped by yellow sticking-plaster of heroin weighing 3.1267 Kg

- Source: General Department of Vietnam Customs

Seized 7.28 Kilograms Of Rhino Horns

On 04 May 2013, Ho Chi Minh City Customs officials have seized 7.28 kg of Rhino Horns being illegally smuggled into Vietnam, the horns was found wrapped in layers of silver paper in the suitcase of a 34 year-old Vietnamese passenger.



The importation of rhino horns is prohibited because the animals are listed as an endangered species, following the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Rhino Horn was handed over to Economic Police for further investigation.

- Source: General Department of Vietnam Customs

Illegal transport of wild animals detected at Cau Treo International Border-Gate

On 20 October 2012, after receiving people's reflections on a 7 seat car DAEWOO labeled, white colored without vehicle registration plate carrying a large number of wild animals on the National Road No.8A, about 8 kilometers far from Cau Treo International Border Gate, Cau Treo International Border-Gate Customs sub-department jointly cooperated with Economic Police Station, Public Security Department of Ha Tinh province and Cau Treo International Border-Gate Guard Station on initiating ambushing forces.



At 20:00 pm the same day, the working group detected a vehicle with suspicious signs adhering to the announcement then gave signals to stop it but the driver didn't. On arrival to village 9, Son Kim commune, the driver left the car and ran into the forest. The working group kept on chasing, nevertheless the target fled due to the darkness and rough terrain.

When investigating the vehicle, at the back of the driver's seat a large number of wild animals including varan and pangolin weighing 194 and 213.5 kilograms respectively were detected.

The working group then made reports and temporarily arrested the vehicle as well as the mentioned shipment, subsequently handed over to Economic Police Department, Public Security Department of Ha Tinh province for implementing procedures as regulated.

- Source: General Department of Vietnam Customs