



ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin



*ASEAN Customs
Enforcement Bulletin
Volume V*

From the Country Coordinator's Desk

*Ahmaddin Haji Abdul Rahman
Controller of Royal Customs and Excise
Brunei Darussalam*



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

This is the second year that Brunei Darussalam becomes the country coordinator for this bulletin and we are honored to be able to contribute to such a very important community i.e ASEAN Customs Directors General.

This bulletin is a compilation of cases and information that will allow member states 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 that smugglers will always find new ways to avoid detection. 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, networking and safe-guarding against illegal activities amongst ASEAN region.

Thank You.

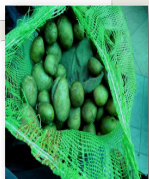




► 10 black plastic bags containing diesel fuel seized
PAGE 10

► Customs Officer of the Siem Reap International Airport found 2,490.00 grams of Cocaine

PAGE 14



► Drug Found in Potato Sacks
PAGE 19

Special Interest

ASEAN CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN, VOLUME V
CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE WORKING
GROUP



► THE 14th MEETING OF THE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP (CECWG)
2nd - 4th DECEMBER 2013
BANGKOK, THAILAND
PAGE 6



► THE 15th MEETING OF THE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP (CECWG)
18th - 20th MARCH 2014
MALACCA, MALAYSIA
PAGE 8

this issue

Brunei Darussalam P.10—13
Cambodia P.14—17
Malaysia P.18—25
Singapore P.26—33
Thailand P.34—37
Vietnam P.38—44

Bulletin Committee
Brunei Darussalam

Advisor:

Mr. Ahmaddin Bin Haji Abdul Rahman
Controller

Editor:

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

Resource Person:

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

Community:

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

Graphic:

Ms. Norliza binti Tarip

From the Chairman's of ASEAN Customs Director General

*HO Chee Pong, Director-General
Singapore Customs*



Smugglers today are becoming increasingly “creative” in their modus operandi and techniques. Customs administrations in ASEAN Member States have to keep abreast with the latest modus operandi and smuggling techniques to stay ahead of the smugglers.

The Enforcement Bulletin provides Customs administrations in ASEAN Member States with collective insights to equip our officers, through the sharing of experiences, case studies and best practices.

Already into its fifth edition, I am certain that the Enforcement Bulletin is a useful resource for all the enforcement officers of Customs administrations in ASEAN Member States. In this regard, I would like to thank the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group and the Country Coordinator, Brunei Darussalam, for the hard work and contributions to the Enforcement Bulletin. I look forward to seeing more editions of the Enforcement Bulletin in the future.

Thank you.





FROM THE INCOMING CHAIRMAN

*Dato' Hj. Zulkifli Bin Yahya, Chairman,
ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group Malaysia.*

Welcome to our 5th Edition of the ASEAN Enforcement Bulletin in 2014. There are approximately 264 days 17 hours and 36 minutes 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.

Syndicates have become more advanced and to keep up with their various improved concealment methods have become a challenge for the Customs organizations, 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, 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. I would like to thank all our officers who contributed articles to be compiled for this publications. I would like to congratulate the Editor and the team for taking up this task and delivering in time. We are also grateful to the many Enforcement officers who took time to pen their stories and contribute articles. I hope you will enjoy reading this bulletin and that it will prove to be useful for all of you.

Best wishes!



FAREWELL REMARKS OF THE PRECEDING CHAIRMAN OF CECWG

Subromaniam Tholasy, Director of Customs, Malaysia

Hello everyone!

First and foremost, my heartiest congratulations and compliments to the Customs Enforcement & Compliance Working Group (CECWG) for continuously assisting its members to improve the effectiveness of their audit and enforcement efforts as well as to achieve a balance between control and facilitation.

During my two years' tenure as the Chairman of the CECWG, I had the opportunity to meet and work with people of different walks of life, but all with the same goals – to foster mutual assistance amongst ASEAN Customs Administrations and to strengthen measures of law enforcement in their respective countries. My experience with the CECWG has been very enriching and exciting.

I am especially proud of the two country coordinators, namely Brunei and Indonesia, for coming up with more tangible Enforcement and PCA bulletins these past few editions. Their qualities were not only shown in the contents but also in their presentations and I'm certain in due time,

both these bulletins would be distinguished and benchmarked by other quarters.

As I move on to a different 'world' with different opportunities, I can only say that I will always cherish my experience with the CECWG and everything it has given me. I strongly believe this working group would be one of the most outstanding one in the near future.

In the spirit of ASEAN, we always support any initiatives in achieving the fundamental goals of this working group. Everyone deserves to be commended and given credit for making a positive contribution to what they believe in.

Last but not least, my sincere gratitude to the ASEAN Secretariat, the participants as well as all the organizing committees who have worked hard to ensure the smooth flowing of every CECWG meetings that have been held in the past.

Thank you very much.

The 14th Meeting of the Customs Enforcement and Meeting) on 2nd - 4th December 2013 in Bangkok, T

It

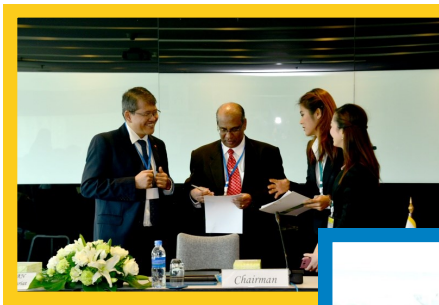
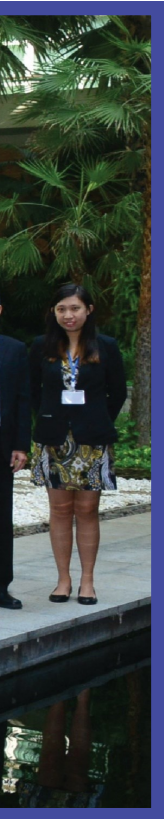
was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indones



The Meeting was officiated by Ms. Aree Chawiwannas, Acting Senior Expert in International Customs Cooperation of Thai Customs Department. In her opening remarks, she welcomed all delegates to Bangkok, the charm and modern convenience capital of Thailand. She highlighted that ASEAN was committed to establish its community by 2015, therefore customs enforcement would play a very important role in ensuring better flow of trade and security and the work of the Working Group would promote the effectiveness of ASEAN customs enforcement through the improvement of best practice and cooperation among Members and stakeholders.

ASEAN Compliance Working Group (14th CECWG) Thailand

ia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and from the ASEAN Secretariat.



The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Subromaniam Tholasy, Director of Customs (Enforcement Division), Royal Malaysian Customs Department. In his remarks, he expressed his appreciation to Thai Customs Department for hosting the meeting and he highlighted that as we were approaching to ASEAN Customs Vision of 2015, he called upon all responsible parties to double their efforts to successfully realize the vision and protect our society through the adoption and implementation of customs enforcement measures and the promotion of voluntary compliance.

The 15th Meeting of the Customs Enforcement & Compliance Working Group

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group was held in Melaka, Malaysia. It was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam



The Meeting was officiated by Dato' Hj. Zainul Abidin Bin Taib, Deputy Director General of Customs (Customs & Internal Tax). In his opening remarks, he welcomed all delegates to the 15th CECWG Meeting held in the beautiful historical city of Melaka. He noted that ASEAN Leaders had agreed to establish the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, which require Customs Administrations to oversee and facilitate the free flow of goods, which is the direct result of economic integration. The Working Group would play a very important role in discharging the priorities laid down in the agreed SPCD.

ent and Compliance Working Group (15th CECWG Meeting) 18th - 20th March 2014 in Malacca, Malaysia.

Working Group (15th CECWG Meeting) was held on 18th - 20th March 2014 in Malacca, am, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and from the ASEAN Secretariat.

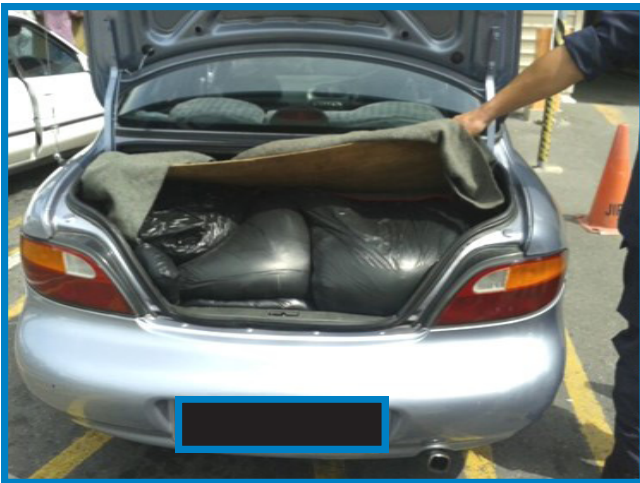


The Meeting was chaired by Dato' Hj. Zulkifli Yahya, Penang State Director of Customs, Royal Malaysian Customs Department. In his remarks, he highlighted the current challenges faced by Customs Administrations such as illegal trafficking of arms, drugs, endangered species, dangerous waste, environmental goods, antiques, cultural heritage and other illicit trade that required Member States to strengthen their cooperation in the combat of the issues and to sustain the economic growth.



Royal Customs And Excise Department

10 black plastic bags containing diesel fuel seized



A local man was fined BND10,000.00 after he pleaded guilty for possessing 10 black plastic bags containing 262 liters of diesel fuel, discovered during a routine inspection by Customs officers upon his arrival at Kuala Lurah Control Post.



Fuel is categorized as one of the controlled goods under the Customs (Prohibition & Restriction on Imports & Exports) Order - which carries a fine amounting to BND10,000.00 (minimum) and BND 500,000.00 (maximum).

241 Boxes Chewing Tobacco Seized

Brunei Customs had seized 241 boxes of chewing tobacco at the Control Post Kuala Lurah. The total excise duty of undeclared chewing tobacco was estimated B\$ 7,800.00.

A bus driver was stopped by Customs Officers and upon inspection, Customs officers found 241 boxes of chewing tobacco which was declared as coffee.

Smuggling tobacco products is a serious offences in Brunei Darussalam. It carries a fine of not less than 6 times the amount of Excise Duty or B\$40,000.00 or not more than 20 times the amount of Excise Duty or B\$40,000.00 whichever is greater amount. For second or subsequent conviction, to such fine, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or both.



► 241 boxes of chewing tobacco were found

Pantai Jerudong

TWO Local men were caught along coastal area where they were suspected of smuggling 8 cartons of cigarette, 600 kilograms of chicken wing and 500 kilograms of Bishop's Nose.

They were detained during a joint operation between Customs Enforcement Section and another enforcement agencies. The cost of undeclared goods is estimated B\$7,200.00

Fresh or frozen meat is one of the controlled commodities which require permits from other government agencies before it is allowed to be imported or exported.







General Department of Customs and Excise

Introduction

Affixing to the government policy and strategy as well as customs modernization and reform program, The General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE) commits herself to fight against any commercial fraud, goods smuggling and other customs related offences and crimes for which this is one of the 3 major traditional roles of Customs Administrations in the world. Applying modern technique of risk assessment, risk based targeting, intelligence based operation, and risk management program plus her expertise and experience, her keen think-tank and flexibility, staff's skill, and her staff devotement to revenue collection, fair environment for business completion, social safety, and protection of border, GDCE has achieved many good results in term of suppression of smuggling, seizure of drug smuggling, seizure of illicit CITES traffics and so on. Learning from one case experience, supplement with intelligence analysis and the staff's clairvoyant even with limited support of the detection tools, GDCE is able to suppress many cases such as following reported.

seized 2,490.00 grams of Cocaine



On 18th July 2013, Customs officers of the Siem Reap International Airport based on risk targeting techniques and experienced had successfully seized 2,490.00 grams of Cocaine found in a radio cassette player (RCP). A foreigner was

suspiciously travelling from high risk country and intercepted for cocaine smuggling into the country. Cambodia Customs have previously noted various trends and ways of drug smuggling which are currently in use by smugglers and were suspicious of the item in question. It was than decided to confirm the weight of the radio cassette player (RCP).

The Customs officers suspicions were confirmed when the radio cassette player was weighed and its weight proved inconsistent with that of a normal cassette player. Upon opening the hard solid cover of RCP box, Customs Officers discovered several packets of substances.



► Drug was hidden in used SONY radio cassette player

Preliminary test indicated that the items were containing the illicit drug of cocaine, with a total of 2,490.00 grams (in gross weight) of Cocaine. Subsequently, Customs of the Siem Reap International Airport seized the items and set up an inter-agency commission of which Anti-Drug Police Agency (ADP) is a member, for handing over the case (illicit drug and trafficker) to ADP for further investigation and court proceedings.



Customs Officer Detected 1,485.80 Grams of Methamphetamine



On 3rd October 2013, Customs officers of the Phnom Penh International Airport based on risk targeting techniques and experienced had successfully seized 1,485.50 grams of Methamphetamine found in a laptop. The laptop was in the possession of a tourist whom was travelling from Africa and intercepted while entering the country.

Cambodia Customs have previously noted various trends and ways of drug smuggling which were

currently in use by smugglers and decided to identify the weight of a laptop identify whether it is in a normal weight or otherwise.

The Customs officers suspicions were confirmed when the laptop was weighed and its weight proved inconsistent with that of a normal laptop. Upon opening the screen part of a laptop, Customs Officers detected suspicious packets of substances, which preliminary test indicated that the item was the illicit drug methamphetamine.



► Drug was hidden in HP brand of a laptop computer

Preliminary test indicated that the item was identified as illicit drug of methamphetamine. Subsequently, Customs of Phnom Penh International Airport decided to seize the items and set up an inter-agency commission of which Anti-Drug Police Agency (ADP) is a member, for handing over the case (illicit drug and trafficker) to ADP for further investigation and court proceedings.

Customs Found 37.5 Kg's of Elephant Tusk



► The illicit elephant tusks were hidden in 2 luggages

On 25th January 2013, Customs officers of the Phnom Penh International Airport have previously noted that Africa as one country that has associated with source of illicit traffic of CITES goods. Due to this, Customs officers tend to pay more attention on key smuggling routes and certain offenders' gender and nationality thus suspected a man who was carrying two heavy luggage.

This item is restricted in Cambodia. Upon investigation, it was found that the passenger did not make any declaration of the items and no proper documents including any certificate are produced that permitting this passenger to export the items from country of origin, and/or to import in Cambodia. Thus, Customs decided to confiscate the items. This case is still under further investigation and action would be made accordingly.

The Customs officers examined the luggage and found 37.5kgs of elephant tusk of which 34kgs of carvings and 3.5kgs of 48 bracelets.



Royal Malaysian Customs

Drug Found in Potato Sacks



► Full Contents of the container with 280 Sacks of potatoes

Upon inspection, 9 out of the 280 sacks that were seized contained a brown packaging filled with multiple packets of crystal powder believed to be Ketamin. Total net weight of the drugs amounted to 84kg estimated to be worth RM3.36 million.

A 37-year-old Malaysian believed to be the main suspect of this case has been remanded and investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

Based on a public tip off and intelligence reports, the Royal Malaysian Customs' Narcotics Division officers detained a container at Port Klang believed to have contained drugs. The container had arrived from the Kolkata Port in India carrying 280 sacks of potatoes imported by a company in Malaysia. On 16th April 2013, the detained container was brought back to the RMC Headquarters' Narcotics office for further inspection.



► The sack used to conceal the drug

If found guilty he will be faced mandatory death sentence.



► The brown packing concealed inside the potato Sacks



► The brown packing removed from inside one of the potato sacks

Preliminary investigations from the shipping agent showed that this is the first time the company had imported the goods. The shipping agent is currently assisting the Royal Malaysian Customs Department to trace the rest of the suspects.

34 pieces of sarees which had drugs concealed



► One of the Sarees used to smuggle the drug



► The drug were stitched inside the embroidery

On 2nd July 2013, based on information received from an informer, the Royal Malaysian Customs' enforcement officers detained a parcel at the Mail & Courier Centre at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) believed to have contained drugs. The parcel had arrived from India containing sarees.

Upon further inspection, there were 34 pieces of sarees which had drugs concealed in them. The drugs, believed to be Ketamin was stitched onto the embroidery of each saree. Total net weight of the drugs amounted to 6.8kg estimated to be worth RM238,000.00. To date, no individuals have been apprehended and the case is still under investigations by the RMC.

Seizure of Fragrance Rice



► The case is still being investigated.

On 1st November 2013, the RMC made a seizure of fragrance rice at Port Klang which was believed to be smuggled into Malaysia. The 40 containers (20') were declared to have contained Sodium Bisulphite but upon inspection, it was found to be carrying 4,350,000kg of fragrance rice imported from Cambodia. Some of the sacks of rice had been printed in the Malay language to give the impression that they were legally packed in Malaysia.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the importer was a bogus company and the address stated on the Customs declaration forms was false. Upon further investigation, it was found that there were 174 previous importations done using the same importer's name. The forwarding agent who made the declaration has denied being involved and claimed that the actual importer was unknown to them as the dealings were all made through phone calls and e-mails.

Chinese National Detained For Drug Smuggling at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Malaysia

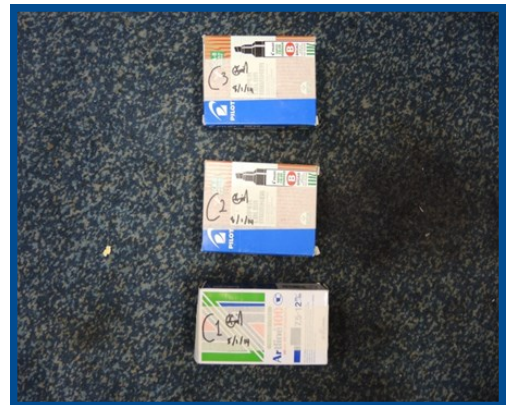


► Marker pens found inside one of the baggage compartments

On 7th January 2014 at around 11.40pm, officers of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department stationed at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport became suspicious of a female passenger who had just arrived from Guangzhou, China. Upon scanning and inspecting her luggage, the officers found 28 boxes of marker pens containing white crystal powder suspected to be Methamphetamine, weighing 2.1 kilograms and worth

RM399,000.00. The passenger was remanded and the case is being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 which carries the mandatory death penalty upon conviction.

The present MO that has been noted for Methamphetamine is using young Chinese females as mules to carry the drugs into Malaysia. However, concealment methods have begun to vary as the RMC has become more vigilant.



► Drugs concealed inside the marker pens

Smuggling of Red Sanders Wood, Detained at Port Klang, Malaysia



► Red Sanders Wood found in Container Number 1



O

n 9th January 2014 at around 2.40 pm, based on information received, enforcement officers of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department at Port Klang detained two containers that were carrying 25,190 kilograms of wooden logs suspected to be Red Sanders Wood. Upon inspection, the containers were carrying Red Sanders Wood which was worth more than RM7 million. The case is being investigated under Section 133(1)(a) of the Customs Act 1967 for mis-declaration and also for importation of prohibited goods listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora & Fauna (CITES).

The M.O. used in this case was to mis-declare the consignment as Aluminium Turning & Boring on the Customs declaration forms hoping the RMC would overlook it. Thanks to information received from a reliable source, we were able to detain the two containers upon its arrival into Malaysia.



► Red Sanders Wood found in Container Number 2

A Devious Scheme to Legitimize Exports Through Customs Declarations

Money Laundering and Customs Fraud remains the priority areas of the CECWG since the endorsement of the Vientiane Action Plan in 2004. This case that revolves around these priority areas concerns a conspiracy to evade taxes in the beer and liquor trade involving a large group of players. The brains behind the operations are supplier companies and licensed importers in Malaysia who buy goods from liquor manufacturers and importers and later resell them to Exporter HL located in the free zone who exports the goods to Indonesia. The very large exports by HL implied a very successful export market in Indonesia. Customs Movement Permits and Free Zone declarations had recorded exports of a large amount of beer and liquor to Indonesia valued in excess of USD16 million from the port of loading in Butterworth in Malaysia to the port of discharge in Medan, Indonesia.

The unusually large quantity of beer and liquor for a Muslim country, matched against a highly protective domestic industry that will not easily allow the importation of beer and liquor into Indonesia, the lack of a bill of lading for the trade, and the lack of any references to bills of lading and insurance in the Goods Declarations were important Red Flags noticed in this case.

Malaysian Customs suspected a fraudulent evasion of customs duties in excess of US 21 million by faking exports through legal documentation, an offence under section 135(1)(g) of the Malaysian Customs Act 1967. Offences under section 135(1)(g) of the Malaysian Customs Act 1967 are serious offences under the Anti-Money Laundering & Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001.

MODUS OPERANDI

The goods were moved using customs movement permits from liquor manufacturers, supplier companies or licensed importers to warehouses in the Free Zones belonging to Exporter HL. No customs duties or taxes are collected when goods are moved from these locations to Free Zones using customs movement permits, or when they are subsequently exported. The Exporter HL exports these goods through Indonesian vessels to Indonesia using Goods Declaration under the Free Zone Act 1990.

In 2011, Malaysian Customs opened an investigation under the Anti-Money Laundering & Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001 and froze 13 accounts belonging

to the Exporter HL and her two directors. Monies in these accounts were subsequently seized under the same law.

Malaysian Customs investigations led to the discovery of an agent in Indonesia who acted for Exporter HL by registering the vessels belonging to Exporter HL in Indonesia. Financial investigations revealed that no payments were actually received from Indonesia for all exports made from Malaysia to Indonesia. The payments received into the account of Exporter HL were through cash cheques from local companies whose businesses had no links to the beer trade. Most of these companies were later found to be untraceable at their registered addresses.





Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs seizes 17,601 cartons of contraband cigarettes over eight days



Singapore Customs has seized 17,601 cartons of contraband cigarettes in four operations over eight days. This is Singapore Customs' third largest seizure of contraband cigarettes since 2009. The total street value of the cigarettes and the total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded exceeded S\$1.8 million and S\$1.5 million respectively.



► A container of goods declared as floor and wall tiles

On 19th May 2013, a 20-foot container was stopped for a routine check and scan at the checkpoint, and 14,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found. The consignment of goods had been falsely declared as floor and wall tiles.

Singapore Customs officers kept a close watch on the movement of the container and arrested four men after seizing the 14,400 cartons of cigarettes.



► Drug was hidden in used SONY radio cassette player

On 20th and 23rd May 2013, Singapore Customs officers inspected two targeted consignments which were suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes. The consignments contained 1,521 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes which had been falsely declared as electrical components and “consolidated cargo” at location A. Singapore Customs also seized 1,680 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes that had been declared as garments on 27th May 2013 at location B.



► The consignment declared as electrical components at location A



► Part of the 1,521 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized in the two operations at location A on 20 and 23 May 2013



► The consignment declared as garments at location B



► Was actually 1,680 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Seizes more than 12,270 cartons of contraband cigarettes from 28 modified bulk liquid containers

Singapore Customs has seized more than 12,270 cartons of contraband cigarettes after conducting checks on two 20-foot containers that arrived at the checkpoint on 31st May 2013.

The total street value of the cigarettes and the total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to more than S\$1.2 million and close to S\$1 million respectively.

This is Singapore Customs' third largest seizure of contraband cigarettes this year.



► A container of goods declared as floor and wall tiles



► Turned out to be 14,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs officers closely monitored the containers which were transported to an open-air storage yard. Six men were arrested and Singapore Customs found 12,276 cartons and nine packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden in 28 modified bulk liquid containers.

Court proceedings are ongoing for the six individuals arrested.



► Duty-unpaid cigarettes were hidden in the modified bulk liquid containers.



► The bulk liquid containers were transferred from the two containers to the yard.



► A total of 12,276 cartons and nine packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in this operations

Singapore Customs seizes second-largest haul of contraband cigarettes in 2013

Singapore Customs has seized 17,638 cartons and eight packets of contraband cigarettes worth more than S\$1.6 million in two operations on 27th Nov 2013 and 3rd Dec 2013. Five men were arrested in these operations.

This is Singapore Customs' second-largest haul of contraband cigarettes in 2013, and the largest inland. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded exceeded S\$1.3 million.

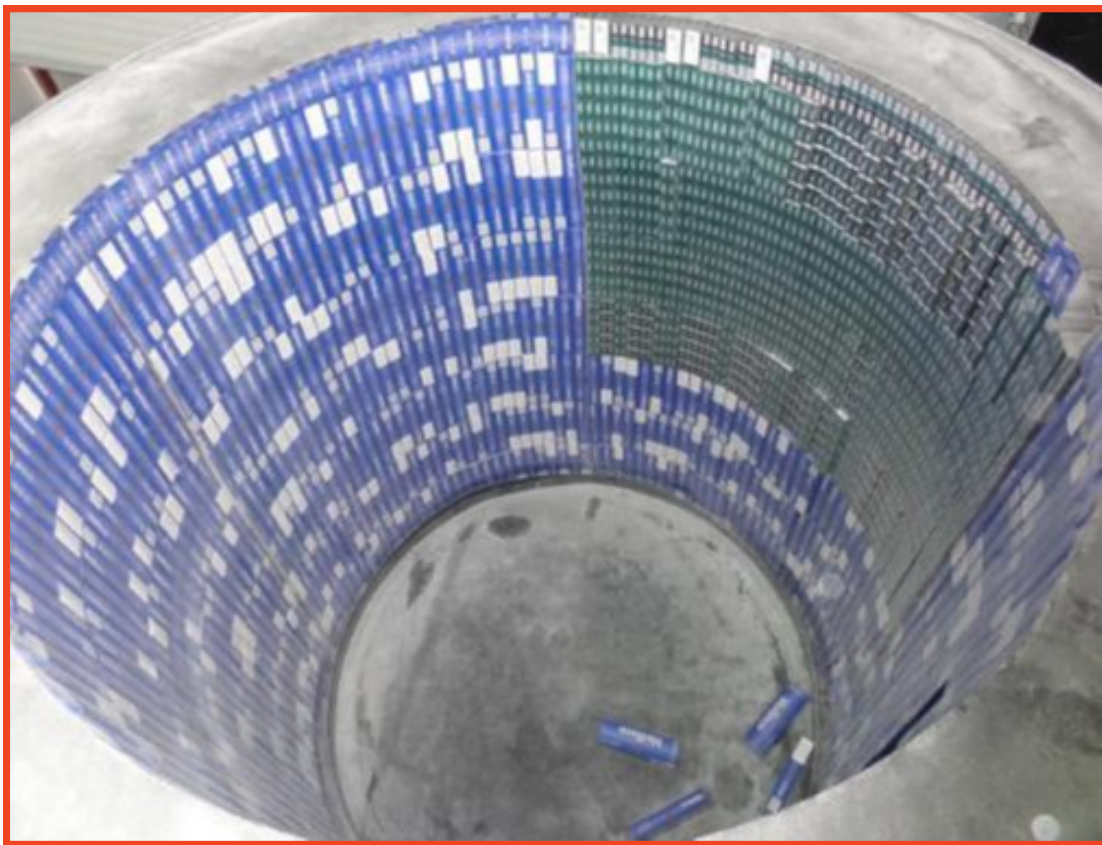
On 27th Nov 2013, Customs officers raided a warehouse and arrested a 54-year-old driver, who at the point of arrest, was retrieving cartons of duty unpaid cigarettes from a car. A total of 245 cartons of contraband cigarettes were retrieved from the car.



► A container of goods declared as floor and wall tiles



► Turned out to be 14,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes



► Duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden in the specially constructed fibre tanks.

On 3rd Dec 2013, four men were arrested as they were retrieving cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden in a fibre tank and packing into bags. Subsequently, Customs officers raided another warehouse along the same street, where more duty-unpaid cigarettes were found.

A total of 17,393 cartons and eight packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in this operation.

Decisions the five men arrested, three were sentenced to 22 months imprisonment on 12th Dec 2013. Court proceedings are ongoing for the remaining two.

► The four men who were retrieving contraband cigarettes from the four fibre tanks and packing them into bags on 3rd December 2013 were arrested by Singapore Customs officers. A total of 17,393 cartons and eight packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were retrieved and seized in this operation



Singapore authorities seize one tonne of illegal ivory worth S\$2m

Acting on a tip-off, officers from Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) and Singapore Customs worked together to intercept and detain a shipment of illegal ivory, estimated to be worth S\$2m, in Mar 2014. This is the third largest seizure of illegal ivory by the Singapore authorities since 2002.

The shipment, which was declared as coffee berries, was transiting through Singapore from Africa in a 20-foot container and destined for another Asian country. AVA and Singapore Customs officers detected irregularities in the consignment of goods when the container was scanned on 25th Mar 2014.

A total of 106 pieces of illegal raw ivory tusks, weighing about one tonne, were recovered from 15 wooden crates. AVA is currently investigating the case.



► AVA and Singapore Customs officers recovered 106 pieces of ivory from 15 wooden crates in the container.





- The estimated value of the illegal ivory seized is S\$2 million.





Thai Customs Department

ICE Smuggling in Spools of Thread at Suvarnabhumi Airport



On 28th June 2013, the Customs Officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized approximately 3,150 grams of ICE (methamphetamine) concealed in 69 pieces of thread spools. The Thai female offender flew directly from Delhi, India to Bangkok, Thailand as a transit point by Thai Airways International, flight TG 324. She was intercepted at the departure hall while waiting to board flight TG 574 to travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR as her destination point.

Thai Customs officers have previously noted that India is one of the main drug smuggling routes currently in use by the smugglers. Also, during 2013, a large number of offenders were mostly found to be Thai females smuggling drugs via air. Due to this, officers tend to pay more attention on key smuggling routes and certain offenders' gender and nationality.

In this case, officers made an x-ray check in a black rucksack branded 'PUMA' and found some intensity on the x-ray image. After conducting a thorough search, the baggage was found to contain numerous

thread spools. After closer inspection, the spools actually contained ICE, where the drugs was concealed by a layer of thread, making it appear as normal thread spools.



► Thai Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized 3,150 grams of ICE concealed in 69 pieces of thread spools at Suvarnabhumi Airport.



The offender imported ICE into the Kingdom of Thailand by concealing ICE in thread spools in the baggage, hoping to avoid the inspection of the Customs officers. The offender was handed over to the Police and sent to the Court under the Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979)



Ketamine Smuggling in baggage at Suvarnabhumi Airport



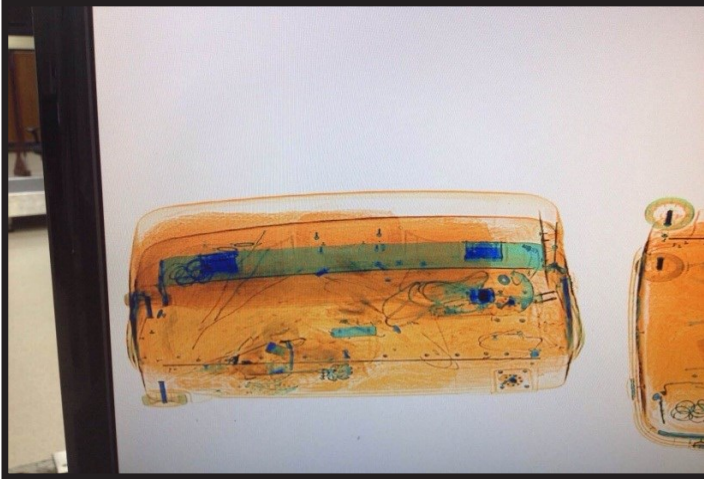
► Thai Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized 4,790 grams of Ketamine concealed in baggage at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

On 1st September 2013, the Customs Officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized approximately 4,790 grams of Ketamine concealed in the baggage brand 'ANTLER'. Bhutanese female offender flew directly from Paro, Bhutan to BKK, Thailand by DRUKAIR, flight KB140 and intercepted for drug smuggling in to the country.

The smuggling was made through routine check. The lady looked nervous while walking through green line, and after the X-ray check, officers found drug hidden in the 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).

Methamphetamine (ICE) seized at Suvarnabhumi Airport



► Thai Customs officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau seized 5,800 grams of methamphetamine (Ice) at Suvarnabhumi Airport.



On 1st March 2014, at 2.30 p.m., the Customs Officers of Investigation and Suppression Bureau found the suspected passengers who flew from Singapore to Phuket Airport by Silk Air, flight MI 754 / 25.02.14. They are a Thai female and a Nigerian male, they were intercepted by the customs officers while waiting their baggage. Drug smugglers always move one step ahead from us with the new smuggling method.

In this case, drug smuggler also uses the new method to smuggle drug into Thailand. After checking through Airline Manifest, Customs Officers selected the Nigerian male and the Thai female passengers who travel route Nigeria – Singapore – Phuket Airport (Thailand) as the suspect. Due to the intelligence data, most of ice smugglers came from Africa and always change the flight before come to Thailand and for this reason, the passengers were selected.

After checking through the baggage, they found ice 5,800 grams. They made the special gap in the baggage for hiding drug as can see in the pictures. The offender imported methamphetamine (ICE) into the Kingdom of Thailand by hiding in the baggage avoiding 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).



General Department of Vietnam Customs

Customs seizes 6 tons of pangolins smuggled from Indonesia



► customs officers in Vietnam's northern Ha Tinh Province seizing a truck illegally carrying more than 100 live pangolins on 26th December 2012

On 26th December 2012, Customs officers in northern Hai Phong City have detected and seized 6.2 tons of live pangolins, which are an endangered species, hidden in a 40'' container shipped from Indonesia.

The importer of the container is Long Thanh Trading, Investment and Development Co Ltd, which is headquartered in northern Quang Ninh province's Mong Cai town.

The company had submitted a customs declaration stating that the container was

brought into the port for temporarily import and re-export. As shown in the customs declaration for the container, the goods inside were declared as fish, fish bones and fish stomach, but after an inspection, customs officers from Hai Phong Port detected the fraud.

Customs officers have since reported their findings and seized all of the pangolins.

Trading pangolins is banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement to which Vietnam is a party.

Previous cases

Besides this incident, Hai Phong customs officers have previously seized a total of 1.2 tons of pangolin scales and 10.6 tons of pangolin meat illegally transported through Hai Phong Port.

In one incident on December 2012, a joint inspection team in Ha Tinh Province caught a truck illegally carrying more than 100 live pangolins weighing nearly 500 kg. The animals were valued at over VND2 billion (US\$96,000). These animals had been bought along the

Vietnam-Laos border and were being transported to northern provinces, where they are to be sold to restaurants, said the provincial Sub-department of Forest Protection.

In another incident on April 30, French customs at Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport announced the seizure of some 50 kg (110 pounds) of pangolin scales from Cameroon headed for Vietnam, where they are prized as aphrodisiacs. The value of the scales was estimated at nearly 75,000 Euros (\$100,000).

2.23kg of Methamphetamine seized at Tan Son Nhat airport

Li Chunying, 26 years old, of Chinese nationality, was arrested on October 20 for transporting 2.23 kg of methamphetamine into Vietnam by air, having just completed a flight from Hong Kong to Ho Chi Minh city.

The drug trafficker and methamphetamine have been transferred to the Drug-Related Crime Investigation Police Unit (PC47) of the Ho Chi Minh city Police.

Previous cases

From the beginning of this year to present, the Tan Son Nhat Border Gate Customs Department has detected and made a total arrest of 9 cases of drug transport



through the airlines, with a total of roughly 20kg of drugs.

Due to this, the customs force and border gate police has conducted stricter controls to prevent drug transport through Tan Son Nhat international airport border gate.

Vietnam Customs officials seize 24,000 methamphetamine pills

Customs officials and border guards in the northern mountainous province of Son La confronted two drug smugglers in Yen Chau District's Phiang Khoai Commune, seizing 24,000 methamphetamine pills – the largest haul ever uncovered in the province.

According to the Son La Customs Department, two suspects were detected while driving between villages. They

were subsequently stopped and searched by officials.

The smugglers were able to seize a moment of opportunity and escape, fleeing under the cover of nightfall. They left behind a sports bag containing the pills, a motorbike and two bike license plates. As of now, the suspects have yet to be apprehended. The case is still under investigation.



► seizing 24,000 methamphetamine pills

2.23kg of Methamphetamine seized at Tan Son Nhat airport

► No one was present to receive 4 suitcases, the authorities opened the four suitcases on 16th December 2013.



Authorities were able to uncover an illegal consignment of nearly 167 kilograms of ivory, which was seized from a flight arriving in Hà Nội from Singapore on 9th December 2013.

The consignment comprised mainly tusks and various products made from ivory. The illegal goods were hidden

inside four suitcases and was shipped from Mozambique via Singapore to Vietnam on the flight SQ176. This case is currently still under investigation.



► The consignment, comprising of tusks and many products made from ivory.



Vietnam customs seized 10,000 packs of illicit cigarettes under frozen fish boxes in a truck



The illegal trafficking and transportation of cigarettes have begun to develop complicated trends and modus of operandi. These trafficking occurred primarily in the road border provinces such as Quang Ninh, Quang Tri, Long An, Dong Thap and An Giang

On 8th February 2014, Vietnam Customs seized 10,000 packs of illicit cigarettes hidden under frozen fish boxes in a truck.



Heroin disguised in 'Icy Hot Oil' to be sent to Australia



► According to the result of testing, 40 out of 140 tubes labeled as 'icy hot oil' contained liquid heroin, with a weight of 4.22kg, worth about VND15 billion (US\$707,000).

On 11th February 2014 , the Express Delivery Customs Unit under the Ho Chi Minh City Customs Department had seized 4.22kg of heroin found in a package, which was to have been sent

by air to Australia. In the course of inspection, the unit discovered a package of 'Icy Hot' ointments with many irregularities. Immediately, the package was sent for appraisal.



► The authorities said that the tubes of icy hot had the bottoms cut out and were refilled with the heroin and packaged as previously. It is difficult to detect the difference with the naked eye. The case is currently under further investigation.

Drug precursors found in gift consignment headed for Australia



Ho Chi Minh City Customs seized a total of 4.8kg of drug precursors following an inspection on 26th December 2013.

The precursors, estimated at VND5 billion, were being sent to Australia via DHL Services in an 11kg package with coffee, dried prawns, and shower gel.

Officials discovered the concealed substances after two bottles of shower gel tested positive for ephedrine – a stimulant used to make drugs.

The names of the sender and recipient of the consignment were not revealed. The Customs Department submitted all evidence to the Police Department for Drug-Related Crime Investigations to conduct further inquiries.









