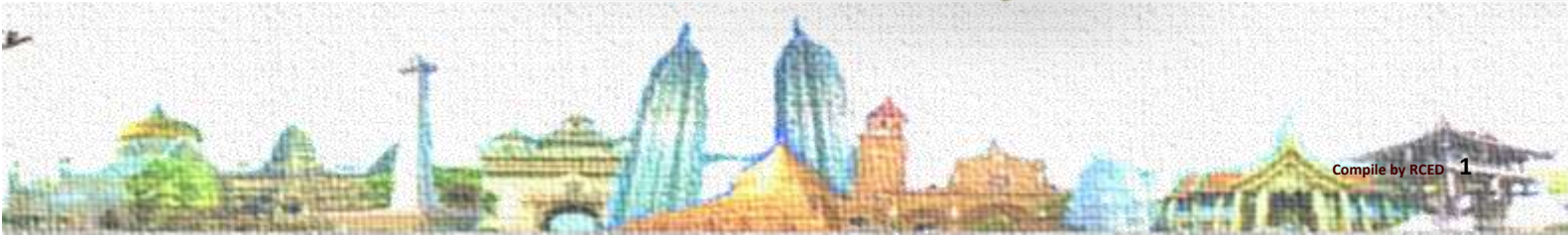
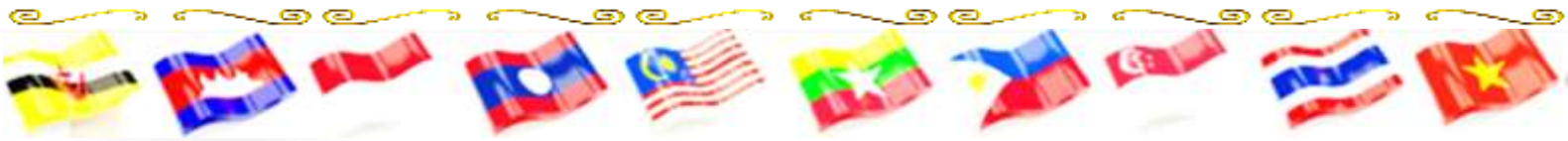


أسيان كستم

ASEAN CUSTOMS

ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN
VOLUME IX



Foreword From the *Country's Coordinator Desk*



Pengiran Hasnan Ali Hassan

**Controller of Royal Customs and Excise,
Ministry of Finance, Brunei Darussalam**

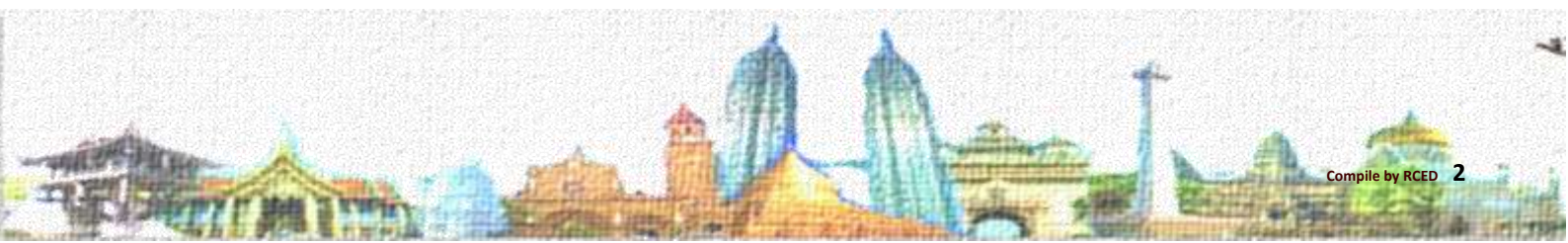


In this age of rapid technology and intense globalization, nation-states are no longer to be considered as separate entities but are becoming everly-interrelated and heavily-interdependent of one another - to such a scale that was previously unimaginable.

ASEAN as a region of brotherhood and solidarity has the same degree of potency to change the livelihood of over 600 million population. The policy of one particular nation will have an immediate or perhaps consequential impact to the other member-states.

As a pivotal departmental agency, Customs and Excise plays crucial role in shaping the socio-economic paradigm of Southeast Asian Nations – be it in terms of trade facilitation, revenue collection or the importance of enforcement. For instance, smuggling should no longer be treated as a domestic problem; but rather a collective responsibility that needs to be tackled together as a regional powerhouse.

In this regard, I would like to express my appreciation for every contribution in the issuance of the 9th ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin and encourage our ASEAN colleagues to intensify the exchange of ideas, intelligence and relevant resources. This bulletin is not just a mere manifestation of our brotherhood; but serves as a strong platform that we must and should work to combat the issues together.



Foreword From the *Chairman's of ASEAN Customs Director General*

Mr. Heru Pambudi

**Director General
Directorate General of Customs and Excise
Indonesia**



On behalf of the ASEAN Directors General of Customs, please allow me to extend my warm regards to all of Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (CECWG) Members which has always been doing hard work together, hand in hand in order to enhance and tighten Customs enforcement at the regional level with the spirit of ASEAN integration.

CECWG plays a vital role in promoting member states' participation in on-going enforcement programs in ASEAN and enhancing bilateral and multilateral level of cooperation and coordination between and amongst Customs administration. Realizing the development of international trade which is shifting gears in the term of its nature, the importance of cooperation between and amongst Customs administrations, especially in enforcement, is rising and taking a significant role.

Taking this opportunity, as the Chairman of ASEAN Directors General of Customs, I would like to thank the CECWG, Brunei Darussalam as Country Coordinator, all ASEAN Member States, for sharing and documenting these valuable experience, case studies and best practices in the field of customs enforcement.

It is my utmost believe that the Ninth Volume of Enforcement bulletin would serve as useful reference for ASEAN Member States to improve the effectiveness of customs protection for the community from dangerous goods and the industries from illicit trade.

Thank you.



Foreword From the *Chairman's Desk*

Mr Sazali Mohamad

Chairman

ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group



W

elcome to the 9th Edition of the
ASEAN Customs Enforcement

Bulletin in conjunction with the 23rd ASEAN Customs Enforcement & Compliance Working Group (CECWG) meeting.

The CECWG meeting is the best platform to promote ASEAN enforcement efforts by improving enforcement practices as well as enhancing cooperation among Members and stakeholders.

Customs enforcement focuses on cross border control, protection of society and combating trans-national organised crime which involves information sharing and intelligence exchange in order to combat drug trafficking, commercial fraud, counterfeiting, money laundering, human trafficking and smuggling of prohibited goods.

Global enforcement cooperation is important, especially among the ASEAN member countries, to combat the current challenges of illegal trafficking of arms, drugs, endangered species, dangerous wastes, environmental goods, **cultural heritages and other illicit trades**, while protecting the country's revenue and to make international trade safer.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the editorial team and to those who contributed interesting articles of Enforcement cases in making this bulletin a success. Well done!

I hope that this volume will enable all ASEAN Member States to stay abreast of the latest trends of smuggling and trafficking activities around our region and further strengthen our cooperation through this platform.

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The 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group AT Phnom Penh, Cambodia

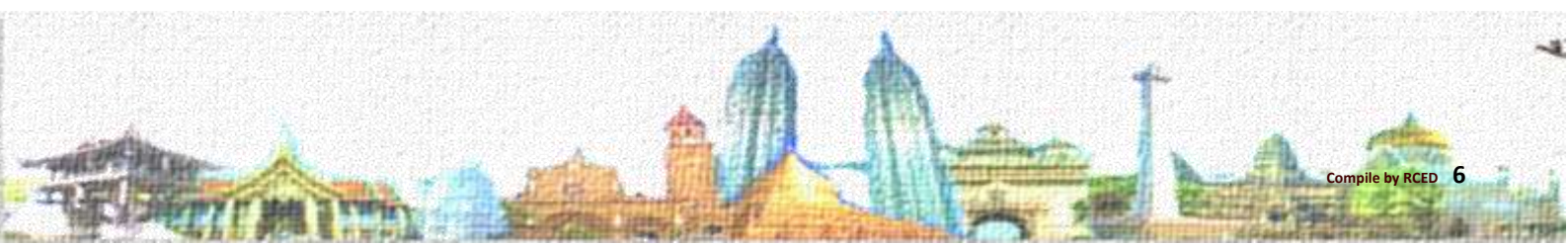
22ND - 24TH August 2017



Welcome Dinner

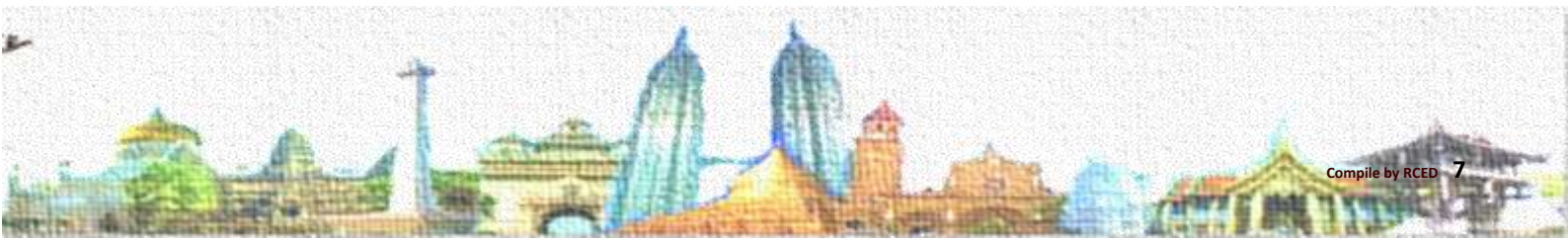
The 22ND Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance
Working Group
At Phnom Penh, Cambodia

22ND - 24TH AUGUST 2017

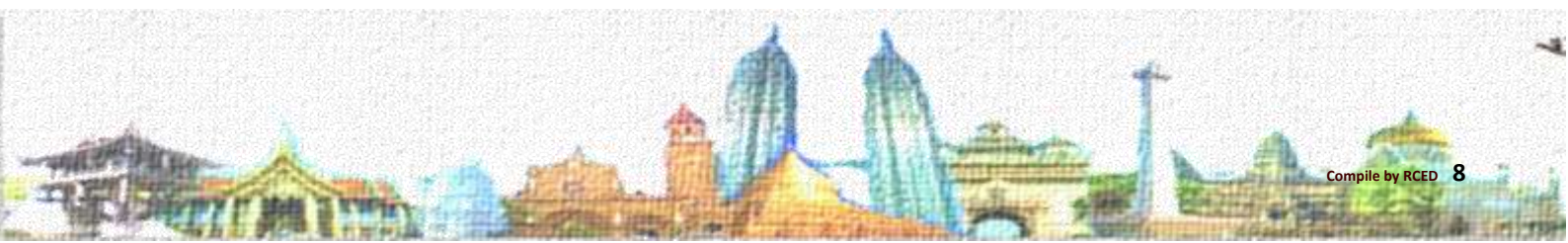


The 23RD Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group AT Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

27TH - 01ST March 2018



Welcome Dinner
The 23RD Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance
Working Group
At Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
27TH - 01ST MARCH 2017





CASE 1

SEIZURE OF 1,038 CARTONS OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES, 24 BOTTLES AND 72 CANS OF BEERS

Case Facts:

On 13th June 2017, Customs Enforcement Team had seized 1,038 cartons of contraband cigarettes and 24 bottles with 72 cans of beers along the Brunei River.

Modus Operandi:

Upon tip-off from the public, Customs Enforcement Team has conducted an operation at the Brunei River which is around area of the water border between Brunei and Limbang (Malaysian area of Sarawak). During surveillance, a small boat was spotted, a high speed chase up took place along the river which is near to the residential area of the Brunei water village. The Customs Enforcement officers later managed to stop the boat however, the boatmen managed to escape to the nearby Brunei water village. Inspection was carried out and the Customs Enforcement Team succeeded in detaining a boat conveying 1038 cartons of contraband cigarettes and 24 Bottles with 72 cans of beers.

Decision:

All the cigarettes and beer were confiscated and to be disposed of.





CASE 2

FAIL TO DECLARE CURRENCY

Case Facts:

On 21st January 2018, Customs officers stationed at the Brunei International Airport had detained three Vietnamese citizens, one man and two women, arriving from the Ho Chi Minh City for failing to declare a large amount of banknotes into Brunei Darussalam.

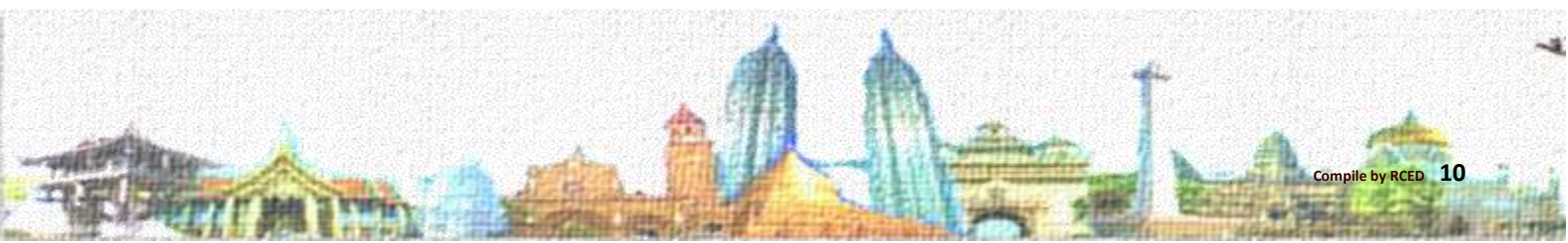
Modus Operandi:

As soon as they were about to enter the red and green channel, officers in charge managed to notice their suspicious behavior and immediately stopped the three Vietnamese citizens. They were asked if they had any items in possession that requires Customs declaration. However, the three of them did not respond accordingly and thus were directed for 100% inspection on their luggages.

Upon inspection, Customs officers successfully discovered large amount of undeclared currencies hidden underneath their clothes. The amount of various currencies that were recovered by Customs officers from the three Vietnamese citizens in total are:- i) RM 350,778; ii) Vietnamese Dong 28,575,000; iii) SGD 154; and iv) THB 500.

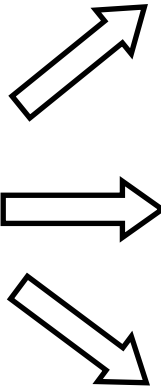
Decision:

The case was brought to Court and all three defendants were pleaded guilty under Section 37(2) of CARO Order 2012 and each defendant was fined to BND \$5,000.00 or 5 months imprisonment and all the banknotes to be returned back to the owners.



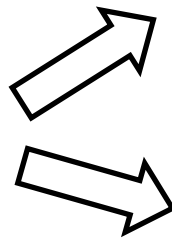


Royal Customs And Excise Department



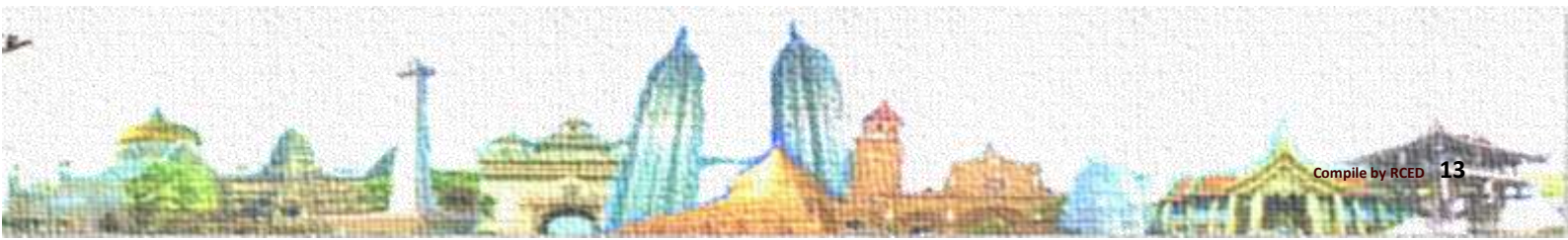
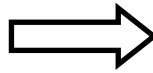
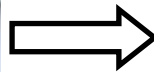


Royal Customs And Excise Department



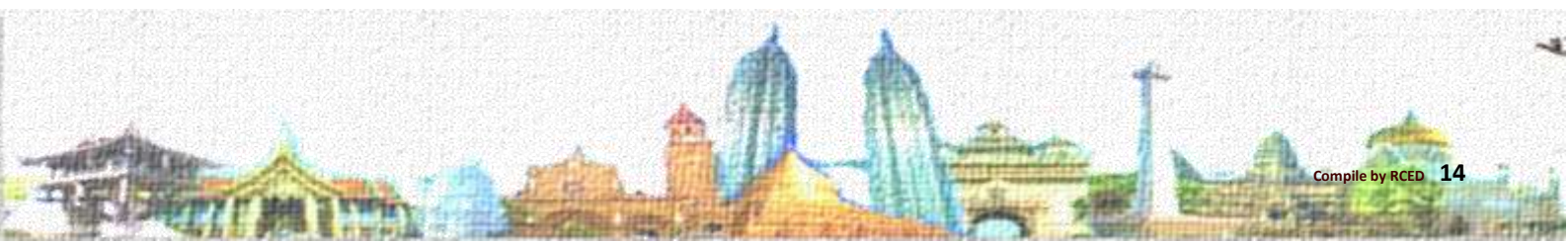


Royal Customs And Excise Department





Royal Customs And Excise Department





CASE 3

SEIZURE OF CIGARETTES AND VAPE PRODUCTS

Case Facts:

On 14th January 2018, 425 bottles of vape-juices , 25 pieces of vape-batteries, 33 pieces of vape-cottons, 39 pieces of vape-modes, 55 pieces of vape-coils and 2 cartons of cigarettes were seized by customs officers at the Sungai Tujoh Control Post, adjacent to Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Modus Operandi:

As a part of routine inspection, Customs officers based in Sungai Tujoh Control Post made a thorough inspection and found cigarettes inside a bag pack and vape-products concealed under the spare-tyre compartment inside the boot of the car.

Decision:

The case has been brought to Court and charged under Section 146 (1)(d), Excise Order 2006, in which the defendant was sentenced to a legal penalty of BND \$40, 500 or 17 months imprisonment.





CASE 1

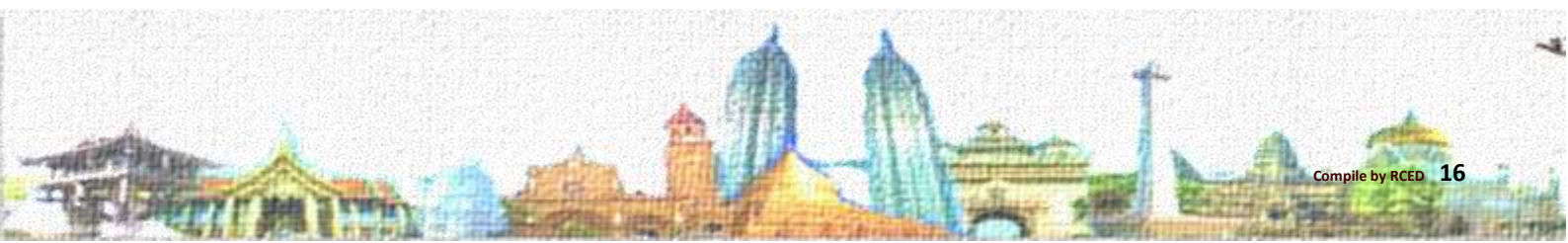
IVORY SMUGGLING AT DRY PORT, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Case Facts:

On 21st December 2016, customs officers at the Customs Dry Port in Phnom Penh had found prohibited items of ivory tusk of 640 pieces (1,361.90 kgs), scales of wild animals (preliminarily assumed pangolin) of 137.60 kgs, bone of wild animal (preliminarily assumed tiger) of 82.30 kgs, and tail of elephant of 4.90 kgs. Cambodia is used as a transit point to market the items from Africa to other countries. Importation of wood or logs into Cambodia is a risk indicator as it is unusual activity since Cambodia has enough wood resources.

Modus Operandi:

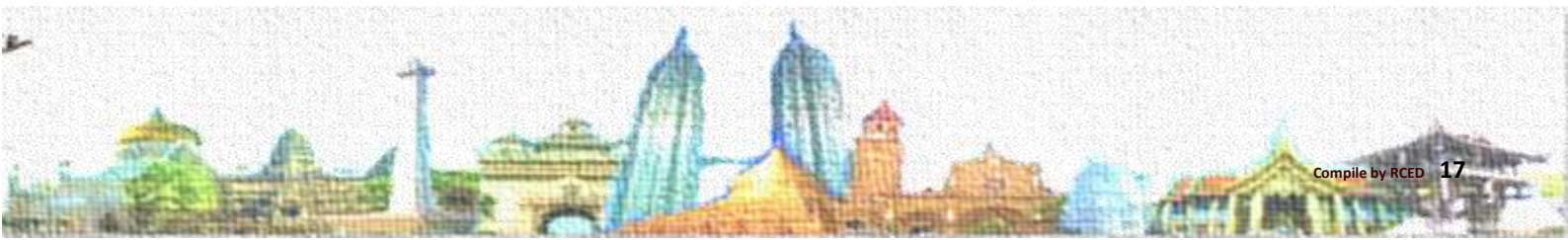
Based from a reliable source of information, three containers loaded with wood/logs from an African country to the dry port via the Sihanoukville seaport were targeted. The containers were scanned by using x-ray machine and inspected physically. During physical inspection, the customs officers found out that there were 116 pieces of cut logs loaded in those three containers. Among those pieces, there were three of them which looked suspicious because of its unusual shape. The three of the logs were drilled to make big holes and inside the logs, there were found all of the ivory tusks, scales, bones and tail parts which were stuffed inside. Liquid wax was used to make the holes sturdy and when those items were extracted from the holes, hot water was used to melt the solid wax.





Decision:

The items were seized by Customs and the case was filed to court for further investigation. Information was also sent to the customs counterpart where illegal items were brought from and to other Government agencies of Cambodia of the case for any further actions.





CASE 2

ILLICIT DRUG HIDDEN IN THE SOLES OF SHOES WAS CONFISCATED

Case Facts:

On 7th June 2017, 184.27 grams of methamphetamine was seized at the Phnom Penh Post Center.

Modus Operandi:

All parcels are subjected to x-ray screening for security purposes. When an x-ray image was analysed on a parcel sent by a Cambodian woman to a man in Australia that contain shoes, Customs Officers at the Post Center had suspected something hidden in the shoes. With a cooperation with court prosecutor and anti-drug police as well as officers at the Post Office, the parcel was opened. It was found that transparent white substances were hidden in the soles of the shoes and when tested with the Marquis Test Kit, the substances were proven to be methamphetamine. The illicit drug was actually intended to be transported to Australia. The route from Cambodia and Australia is actually a high risk route for drug trafficking and that is why the route is always targeted by the relevant agencies.



Decisions:

Drug trafficking is a criminal offense under the drug control in Cambodia. Thus, the illicit drug was seized and the case was handed over to the Anti-Drug Police for further investigation and the case was also filed to the competent court.





CASE 3

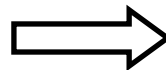
A WAREHOUSE SEARCH FOR ILLICIT GOODS

Case Facts:

On 24th January 2017, undeclared imported 5,200 cartons, 24 cans of 250 ml per carton of 'XL' energy drinks were found stored in a warehouse. The drinks were found not duty paid as there was no customs stamp affixed on the cartons.

Modus Operandi:

Based from a reliable source of information on smuggling of goods and careful surveillance at the targeted warehouse, customs officers from the Department of Prevention searched for such smuggled goods. Commercial fraud of under quantity declaration is the modus operandi for this case. The quantity was suspected to be accumulated from a number of multiple declarations of goods and it was suspected that the transportation of such goods into the warehouse was carried out by multiple times.



Decisions:

The case was solved and a 100 percent penalty of total duties and taxes were charged for the offense which is equivalent to over 198 million Cambodian Riels (USD 49,000). This includes the total import duties, excise, value added taxes and penalty for this case. As the importation of the energy drink is not under the restricted and prohibited list, customs law specifies that the penalty is one to three times (100% to 300%) amount of the total duty and taxes.





CASE 4

AIR GUNS SEIZED

Case Facts:

On 25th March 2016, the Cambodian Customs found 22 pieces of short and long air guns as well as 78 plastic bullets found in a consignment package at the Poipet Checkpoint, Bateay Meanchey Province.

Modus Operandi:

Customs officers had suspected a consignment imported by two Vietnamese nationals. The two nationals did not carry the three boxes but instead they hired a worker to bring those boxes into Cambodia in the form of small consignment by using a cart as the transportation mean. This is a high risk indicator because in normal circumstances, the consignment should not be imported by foreign nationals in a small consignment with such transportation mean. In addition, the package is also not a usual consignment compared to previous importation by using the same transport mean. With these reasons, Customs Officers had decided the consignments to be selected for detailed inspection. After opening all the three boxes, those air guns and bullets were found hidden in the boxes.



Decisions:

Even though air gun is normally and generally used for hunting, pest control, and for recreational shooting purposes, it is illegal to import it into Cambodia without any valid permission issued by the relevant government agencies. Thus, this importation was also violating both customs laws and its regulations as well as other relevant laws and regulations. Therefore, customs decided to seize those air guns, and plastic bullets. Currently, the case was handed over to the Gendarmerie for further investigation and to file to competent court.





CASE 1

63.8 TONS OF AMMONIUM NITRATE SEIZED

Case Facts:

On 11th May 2017, Directorate General of Customs Excise (DGCE) Patrol Team conducted Jaring Wallacea Operation and seized a wooden boat carrying 63.8 tons of ammonium nitrate. The boat, known as KM Hamdan V, was sailing from Tanjung Belakor, Malaysia to South East Maluku. When DGCE patrol team examined the boat, the captain (JDN) nor the crew could not show the manifest.

Findings:

Ammonium nitrate is chemical substance which is classified as prohibited/restricted goods. The importation shall meet requirements under Regulation of Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia Number 230/MPP/KEP/7/1997 of 1997. The importation also shall be equipped with manifest. The captain and the crew allegedly violated Article 102 (a) of Customs Law Number 17 year 2006.

Modus Operandi:

The explosive substances were wrapped in 2,552 sacks - each containing 25 kilograms of ammonium nitrate. The boat was also transporting ammonium nitrate without any legal documents such as manifest and related permit from relevant agencies.

Decision:

DGCE in collaboration with the Indonesia Police conducted multi-doors investigation and DGCE is responsible to investigate customs offences.





CASE 2

95 TONS OF RATTAN SEIZED

Case Facts:

On 6th June 2017, DGCE patrol team from Western Kalimantan Customs office seized a boat, KM Anugerah Maulana II, transporting rattan in Tanjung Bunga waters, West Kalimantan. The boat departed from Kumai, Central Kalimantan heading to Sibu, Malaysia. The captain and the crew could not produce the manifest documents.

Finding:

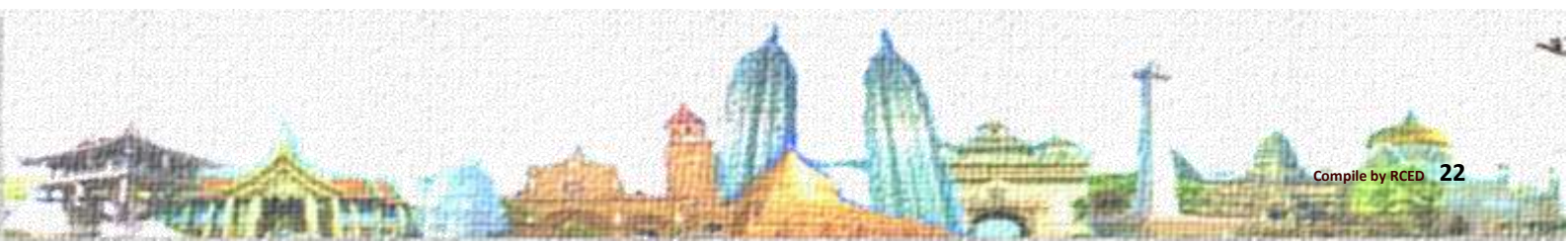
The officers found 2,800 bundles of rattan on board weighting 95 tons. Based on the Regulation of Minister of Trade, the exportation of rattan is prohibited and manifest is a requirement.

Modus Operandi:

The boat was seized based on the unavailability of the required documents, such as manifest and related permit from relevant agencies.

Decision:

The captain and the crew allegedly violated Article 102 (a) of Customs Law Number 17 year 2006.





CASE 3

CAST-OFF CLOTHES (BALLPRESS)

Case Facts:

On 13 May 2017, Joint Patrol Team of Riau Island Regional Customs Office and North Sumatera Regional Customs Office seized a boat with no identification carrying cast-off clothes (ballpress) **in Tanjung Jumpul waters, North Sumatera. The boat was from Malaysia and on it's way to** Kuala Tanjung, North Sumatera.

Finding:

There were 1,000 sacks of ballpress on the boat which were not equipped with manifest or any legal documents. As stipulated in the Regulation of Minister of Trade Number 51/M-DAG/PER-7/2015, cast-off clothes (ballpress) is prohibited for exportation/importation, unless it is equipped with manifest. The captain and the crew allegedly violated Article 102 (a) of Customs Law Number 17 year 2006.

Modus Operandi:

The boat was seized for transporting cast-off clothes (ballpress) without legal documents, such as manifest.





CASE 4

281.6 KG OF METHAMPHETAMINE SMUGGLED

INSIDE POLISHING MACHINES

Case Facts:

On 18th July 2017, Sub-Directorate of Narcotics of Directorate of Enforcement and Investigation of DGCE successfully conducted an operation and seized a total of 281.6 kilograms of methamphetamine smuggled by sea from China to Jakarta.

Findings:

The suspects allegedly violated Article 114 point 2 j.o. Article 132 point 1 and Article 112 point 2 j.o. Article 132 point 1 of Law Number 35 year 2009 regarding Narcotics.

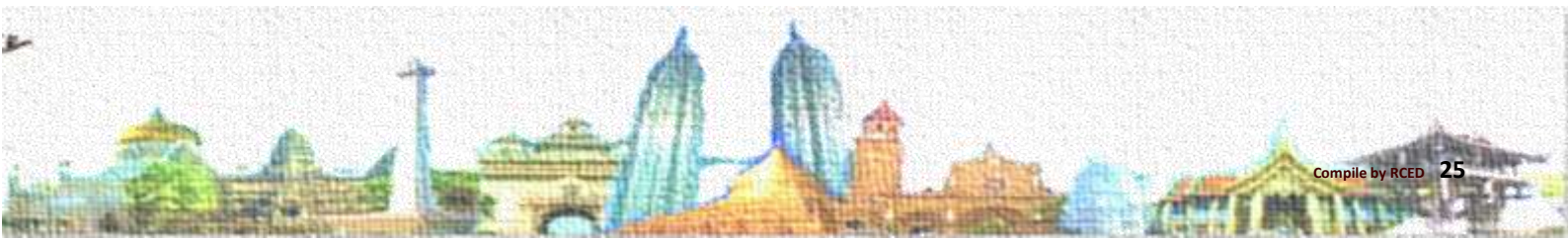
Modus Operandi:

The narcotics were found hidden in a total of 8 (eight) machines declared as polishing machine. A Taiwanese (HHK) and an Indonesian (AD) were arrested.

Decision:

The two suspects and the 281.6 kilograms of methamphetamine were handed over to National Narcotics Agency (BNN) for further investigation.







CASE 5

SMARTPHONES AND GADGETS SMUGGLING VIA HIGH SPEED CRAFTS

Case Facts:

On 19 August 2017, DGCE detained +5,000 units smartphones and gadgets in Batam water carried by high speed craft allegedly smuggled to Riau Province (Inland Riau) and on 29 August 2017, DGCE enforcement team detained +22,000 units smartphones and gadgets in Batam – Bintan water transported via high speed craft, allegedly to be smuggled to Pekanbaru, Riau Province.

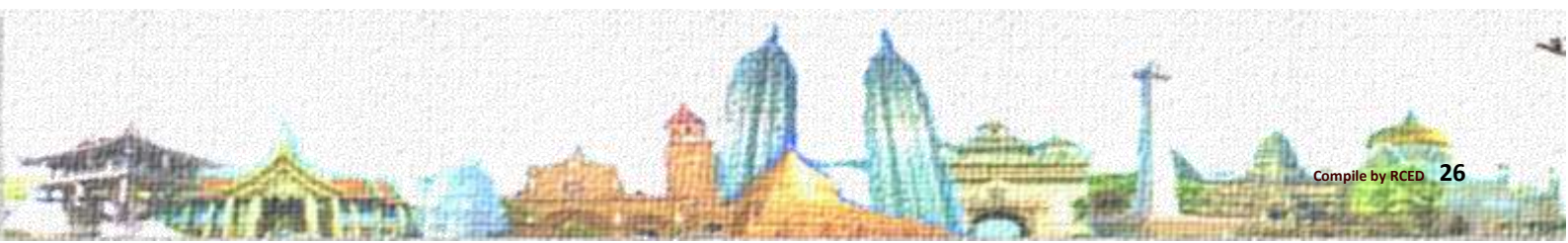
Findings:

From late 2017 until recently, DGCE has found that an old fashioned trend of smuggling using high speed crafts has been frequent. These high speed crafts are powered by at least 4 motors capable of reaching to 60 knots. The goods smuggled are ranging from smartphones, gadgets, cosmetics, alcohols, rags (worn clothes) and narcotics.

DGCE has managed to identify some potential high speed crafts smuggling routes which indicates Batam and several locations along the east coast of Sumatera as high-risk zones.



Potential High Speed Crafts Smuggling Routes





Indonesian Customs And Excises

Modus Operandi:

The high speed crafts were detained for the smuggling of smartphones and gadgets.

Decision:

The cases were followed up by DGCE investigation with allegation of violating Customs Law (crime of carrying imported goods without manifest).





CASE 6

CONTAINERS OF IMPORTED ALCOHOL SMUGGLED VIA LOCAL CARGO

Case Facts:

Date	: August 2017
Locus	: Tanjung Priok, Jakarta (shipment from Tanjung Pinang, Riau Island)
Evidence	: 5 containers = \pm 53.800 bottle of imported alcoholic beverages found without excise stamps
Potential Tax Loss	: USD 4.2 million (IDR 58 billion)
Modus Operandi	: False declaration in shipping, exploiting FTZ advantage
Operation Scheme	: Joint Operation (National Police and DGCE)
Follow Up	: Investigation (Excise Law)

Findings:

In August 2017, DGCE in collaboration with the National Police seized 5 containers = \pm 53,800 bottles of imported alcoholic beverages found without excise stamps in Port of Tanjung Priok. The imported bottles were falsely declared and cunningly shipped as local shipment from Bintan.

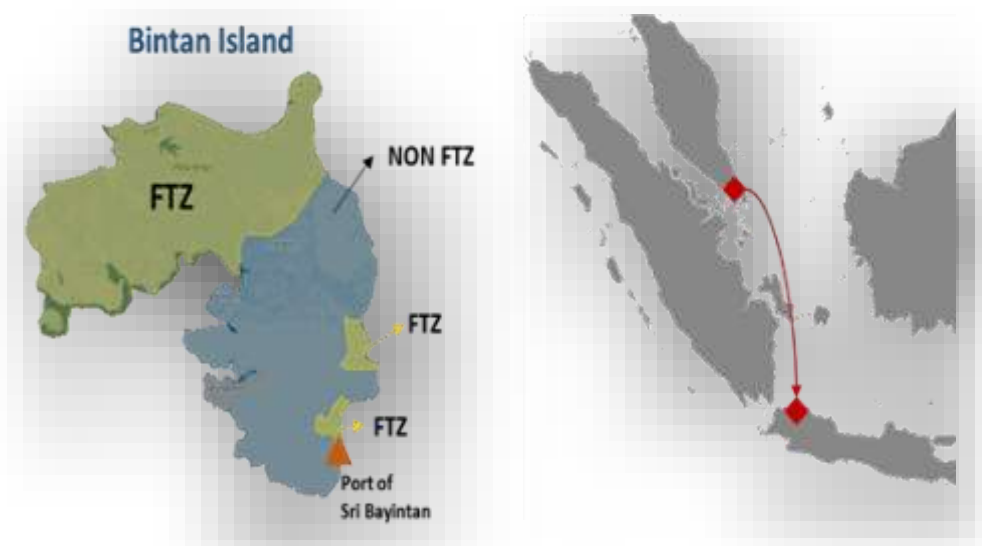
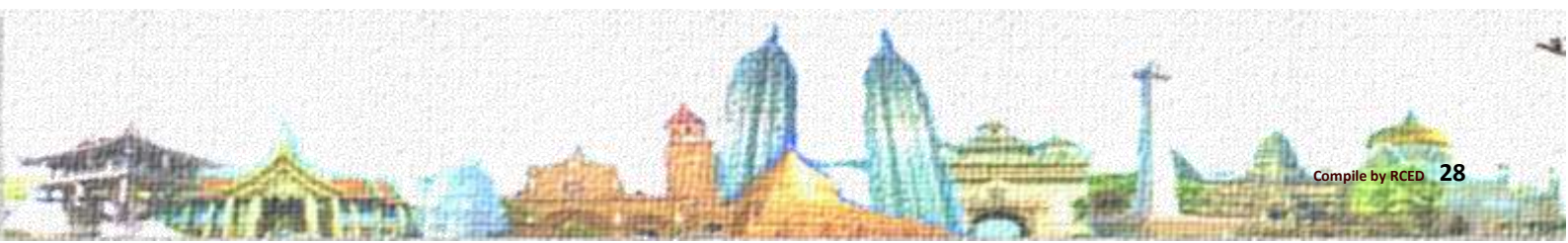


Illustration of Bintan Island and Shipment Route





Indonesian Customs And Excises

Modus Operandi:

The alcohols were imported through Bintan FTZ and then transported to Bintan Non-FTZ without paying any customs and excise duties. It was then loaded at Port of Sri Bayintan and falsely declared as "Product of Plastic" and shipped to Tanjung Priok. Investigation showed that the imported alcohols were smuggled by a local cargo by exploiting the FTZ's privilege.

Decision:

The case was followed up by investigation by DGCE with alleged violation of Excise Law (crime of distributing alcohols without excise seal).





CASE 7

CONTAINERS OF RAGS (WORN CLOTHES)

Case Facts:

Date	: December 2017
Locus	: New Priok Center Terminal 1, Tanjung Priok
Evidence	: 12 containers = \pm 2.319 bales of used garment, shipment from Malaysia
Estimated Value	: USD 340,000 (IDR 4.6 billion)
Modus Operandi	: Exploiting green channel, false declaration
Operation Scheme	: DGCE's enforcement operation
Follow Up	: Investigation (Customs Law)

Finding:

In December 2017, DGCE seized 12 containers = \pm 2,319 bales of rags shipped from Malaysia worth approximately USD 340,000 by exploiting green channel advantage. According to the Regulation of Minister of Trade, rags which is also known as "ballpress" is classified as prohibited goods for import.

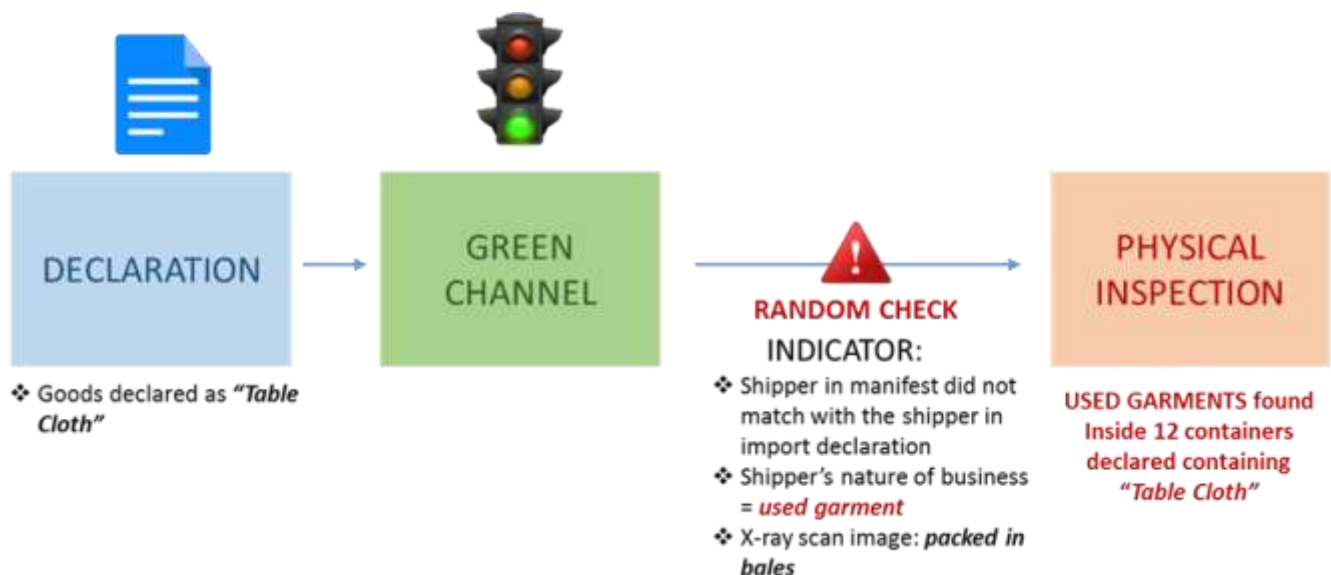
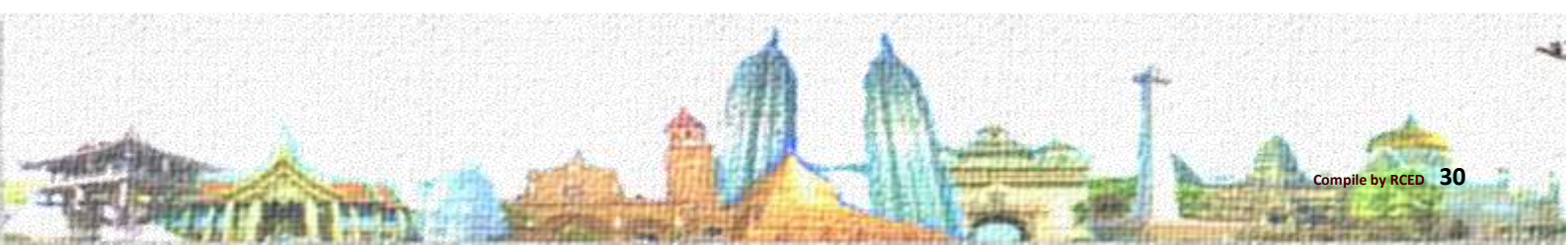


Illustration of Rags Detection





Modus Operandi:

DGCE conducted an analysis on the green channel importation and had some suspicion. A random check was carried out and it turned out that there was an unmatched information **provided in the shipper's manifest and import declaration. The containers were scanned and the goods found were packed in compress bales, a common method to pack rags. Physical inspection was required and rags were found in 12 containers under false declaration as 'Table Clothes'.**

Decisions:





CASE 8

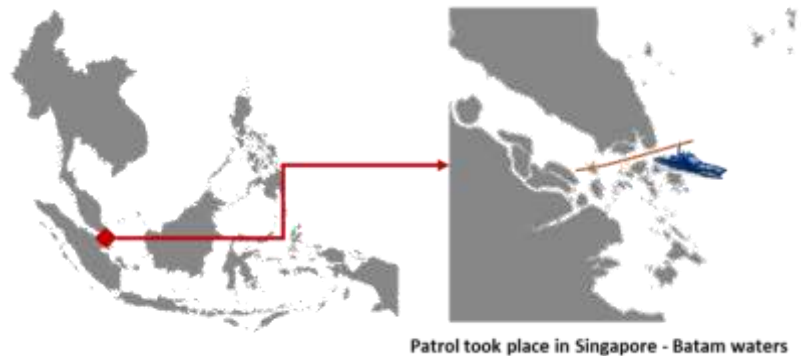
1.3 TON OF METHAMPHETAMINE ON A FISHING BOAT

Case Facts:

Date	: 7 February 2018
Locus	: Singapore - Batam Waters
Suspect	: MV "Sunrise Glory", 4 Suspects of Taiwan Nationality
Evidence	: 41 sacks = \pm 1300 kg of Methamphetamine
Modus Operandi	: False Flag, Forged Sailing Documents
Operation Scheme	: Joint Operation (Navy, National Narcotics Agency, National Police and DGCE)
Follow Up	: Investigation (Narcotics Law)

Findings:

On 7 February 2018, Four (4) Taiwanese were detained at Singapore – Batam water with 41 sacks = \pm 1300 kg of Methamphetamine.



Patrol took place in Singapore - Batam waters



Illustration of Methamphetamine Seizure





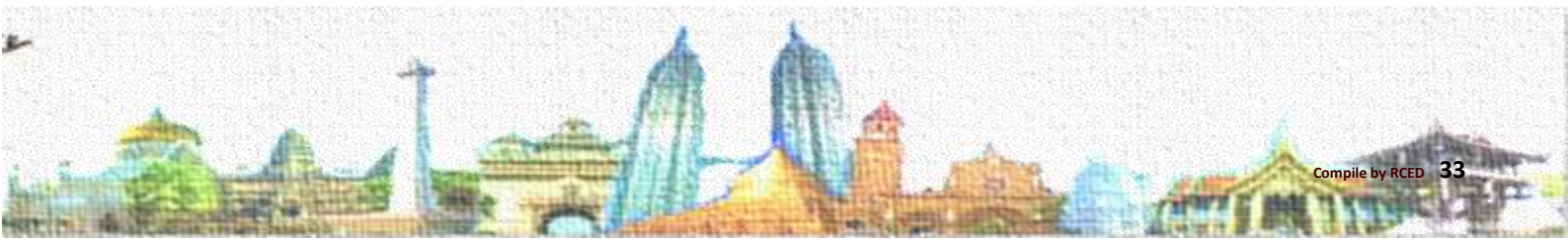
Indonesian Customs And Excises

Modus Operandi:

It was a joint operation between the Navy, National Narcotics Agency (BNN), National Police and DGCE. BNN has been tracking the Sunrise Glory since December. The boat was halted along the Singapore Strait and the crew could only provide a secondhand copy of their registration documents. There were a trace of different names being used for the boat and several flags with different nationalities (Singapore and Taiwan Flags) were found. Thus, the crew were detained to be investigated further for operating the boat using false flags for illegal fishing activities or **drug smuggling**. Further examination was also carried out by DGCE's K-9 Unit at Batu Ampar Port in Batam and drugs were found on board in between their rice and food sacks.

Decisions:

The case was handed over for further investigation to BNN with alleged violation of Narcotics Law (crime of carrying prohibited item).





CASE 9

1.6 TON OF METHAMPHETAMINE

Case Facts:

Date	: 20 February 2018
Locus	: Singapore - Batam Waters
Suspect	: MV "MIN LIAN YU YUN 61870", 4 Suspects
Evidence	: 81 sacks = \pm 1600 kg of Methamphetamine
Modus Operandi	: Alleged False Flag, Forged Sailing Documents
Operation Scheme	: Joint Operation (DGCE, National Narcotics Agency, National Police and Navy)
Follow Up	: Investigation (Narcotics Law)

Findings:

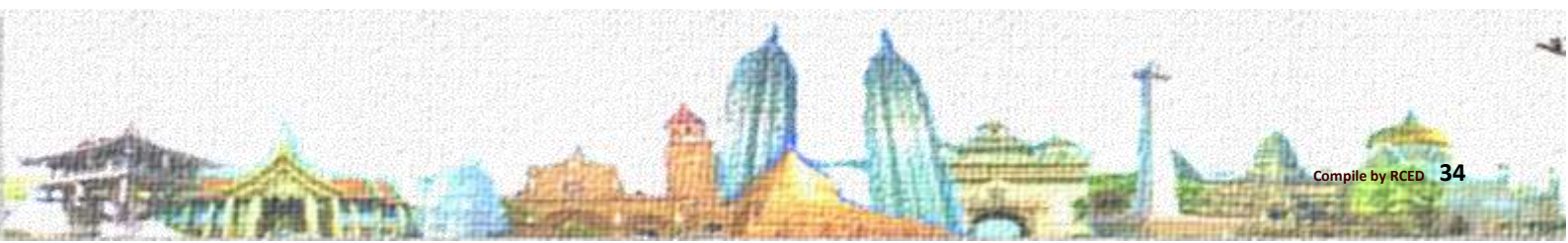
On 20 February, less than two weeks from MV Sunrise Glory Case, another joint operation took place in Singapore – Batam water and they successfully detained 81 sacks = \pm 1600 kg of Methamphetamine with 4 people as suspects.



Patrol took place in Singapore - Batam waters



Illustration of Methamphetamine Seizure





Indonesian Customs And Excises

Modus Operandi:

DGCE and BNN was tipped on suspected shipment of illegal drugs smuggling activity through Singapore-Batam water. A fishing boat known as "MIN LIAN YU YUN 61870", was halted by DGCE BC 7005 patrol boat as it entered Indonesian waters along the Singapore Strait. DGCE Patrol conducted inspection and found that there was no sign of fishing activities on the boat. Required documents such as registrations or passports produced were found unconvincing. The boat was detained and escorted to DGCE's Batam Marine Base for further examination. Further investigation was made by DGCE's K-9 unit and there were drugs found stored inside the front hatch of the boat, hidden under the sacks of their fishing supplies.

Decisions:

The case was handed over for further investigation by National Narcotics Agency with alleged violation of Narcotics Law (crime of carrying prohibited item).





CASE 1

FIVE RHINO HORNS SEIZED

Case Facts:

On 23rd October 2017, customs officers arrested two offenders attempting to illegally bring five pieces of rhino horns (11.5Kg) into Lao PDR via the Wattay International Airport. Luang Prabang was the intended destination.

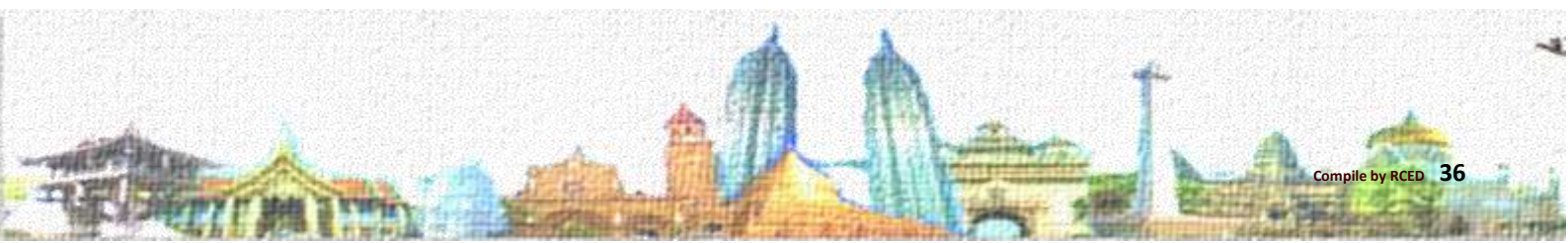
Modus Operandi:

After being tipped on the 2 travellers travelling from Africa to Laos with high suspicious level of smuggling wildlife, customs officers were in full alert and contacted the Airlines to prepare for an inspection.

Upon arrival at Wattay Airport from Changi International Airport, customs officers interviewed the suspects and found them suspicious. A full baggage and physical inspection were conducted and a total number of 5 pieces of rhino horns (11.5Kg) found concealed with foils and carbon papers.

Decision:

Customs officers seized the goods and handed the suspects over to the police. It is an offence under Lao law and CITES Convention to possess and import rhino horns as it is classified under the prohibited items.





CASE 1

SEIZURE OF PANGOLINS SKIN IN KOTA KINABALU

Case Facts:

Some 8,000kg of pangolin scales, worth a whopping RM100mil in illicit trade, were seized by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) at Sepanggar Bay Container Port, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. As much as 266 gunny sacks loaded with pangolin scales, owned by a private company and were to be exported on the 29th July 2017.

It was estimated that the scales came from 16,000 pangolins (endangered species). Pangolin scales can be used for food, medicinal purposes, and has a high demand for its unproven aphrodisiac value.

Modus Operandi:

The seizure was made during a raid by enforcement officers, approximately 9.20am, at Sepanggar Bay Container Port. The pangolin scales were stored in two 40-foot shipping containers; that were initially declared as sea shells and to be exported to China.

Upon closer examination, Customs officers discovered that the pangolin scales were hid beneath the gunny sacks and concealed under various types of marine shells. The RMCD have arrested the owner of the company; aged 43 years old from Kota Kinabalu for further investigation.

Decision:

The case was investigated under Section 135 (1) (a) of the Customs Act 1967 for exporting prohibited goods; which carries a fine of between 10 to 20 times the value of the goods, or up to three years imprisonment or both. It is worth noting that any trade involving the endangered pangolin is unlawful and banned under Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).





CASE 2

LARGE SEIZURE OF THREATENED MALAGASY TORTOISES

Case Facts:

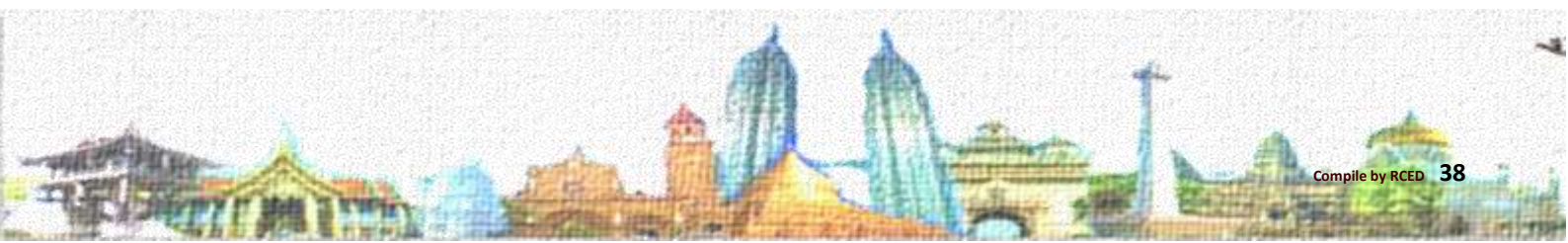
The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) has confiscated five boxes; concealed inside the luggages were 330 Critically Endangered tortoises; five (5) Ploughshare Tortoises *Astrochelys yniphora* and 325 Radiated Tortoises *Astrochelys radiata*. The endangered tortoises were smuggled from Madagascar on an Etihad Airways flight via Abu Dhabi.

Modus Operandi:

The consignment was falsely -abelled as stones and the accompanying documents carried a fake address to the stated recipient. However, no arrests were made.

Decision:

The case was investigated under Section 135 (1) (a) of the Customs Act 1967 for exporting prohibited goods, which carries a fine of between 10 and 20 times more than the value of the goods, or up to three years imprisonment or both. The endangered species are fully protected in Madagascar and listed in Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), that prohibits any commercial involvement.





CASE 3

CUSTOMS SEIZES 4 CONTAINERS OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES AT PORT KLANG, SELANGOR

Case Facts:

Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) managed to seize four containers of contraband cigarettes at Port Klang, with a total value and unpaid taxes equivalent to USD 7.48 million. The department of Trade Fraud Investigation Unit inspected four 40-footer containers that were declared as various products. The inspection showed that the containers were carrying smuggled B brand cigarettes which were from a C country.

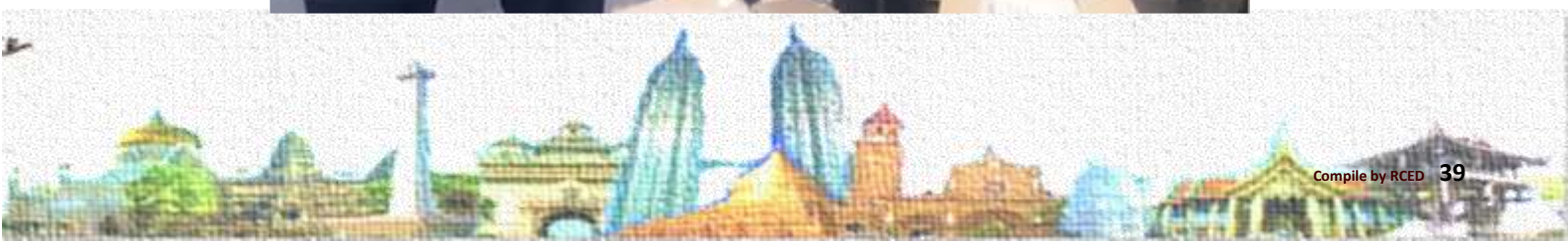
Modus Operandi:

The first container was carrying 980 master cases of over 9 million cigarettes sticks, with estimated value and taxes of USD 1.86 million. It was initially declared as 1,040 cartons of T-shirts, racket, cloth, scarf and women undergarments.

The second container was declared as containing 1,040 cartons of pan, artificial flower, plastic bag, bath towel and curtain. Upon inspection, the officers found 980 master cases of over 9 million sticks of cigarettes, with value and unpaid taxes totaling up to USD 1.86 million.

While, the third container contained 1,010 master cases of over 10 million sticks of cigarettes; but was falsely-declared as 650 cartons of ladies robes and children suits. The total value and tax of the cigarettes were estimated up to USD 1.91 million.

The fourth one was initially declared as 802 boxes of 'confectionary products mentos fruit bag', yet it contained 980 master cases of over 9 million cigarettes with value and tax of about USD 1.86 million.



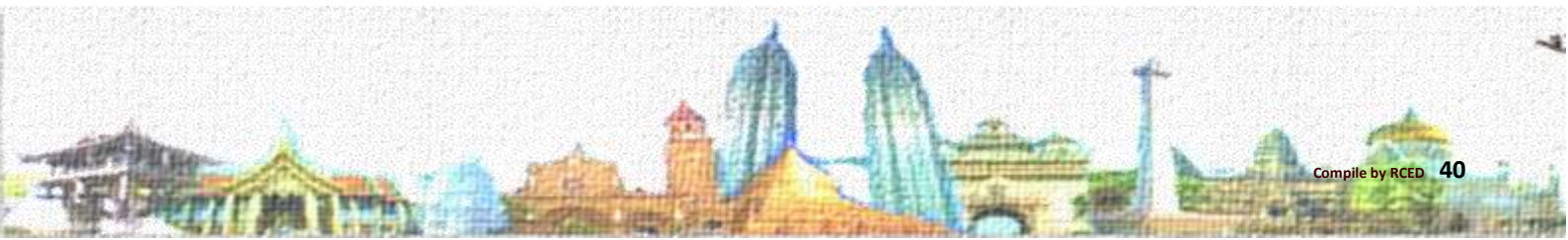


Decision:

Preliminary investigation showed that the consignee's address did not exist. Investigation has been carried out on the shipping agent and freight forwarder under Section 135 (1) (a) of Customs Act 1967 for importing prohibited goods without valid permit.

If convicted, for first offence, they are liable to a fine of not less than 10 times and not more than 20 times of the Customs duty or imprisonment of up to three years imprisonment or both. For second and subsequent offence, they are liable to a fine of not less than 20 times and not more than 40 times of the Customs duty or sentence to five years in jail or both.

The case is also being investigated under Section 133(1)(b) Customs Act 1967 for making false declaration on the import manifest. If found guilty, the offender can be fined to a maximum of RM500,000 or maximum imprisonment of five years or both.





CASE 1

SEIZURE CASES FOR MYANMAR JADE

Case Facts:

On 18th March 2017, Customs Examination Team has managed to seize (2) jade stones at Ye' Pu Customs check point located in Lashio Township, Southern Shan State.

Modus Operandi:

The examination team at Ye' Pu checkpoint received an info that there was a suspicious abandoned vehicle near to pole number, 145 miles from Mandalay to Muse Union Road.

Upon further investigation, the examination team found a Mitsubishi Fuso, a twelve-wheeled vehicle, also abandoned in the forest about 2 miles away from the west of the pole. No one was seen or found within the proximity of the area. After the vehicle was being inspected thoroughly, two jade stones weighing 7000 kg, with estimated value of USD 260,000, were found under piles of watermelon.

Decision:

The seized items were eventually confirmed to be the precious Myanmar jade stones by the experts from the Ministry of Mining. As a matter of fact, the seized items were handed accordingly to the respective Ministry.







CASE 2

SEIZURE CASES FOR MYANMAR JADE

Case Facts:

On 23rd June 2017, Customs Examination team has seized jade stones at Ye' Pu Customs checkpoint located in Lashio Township, Southern Shan State.

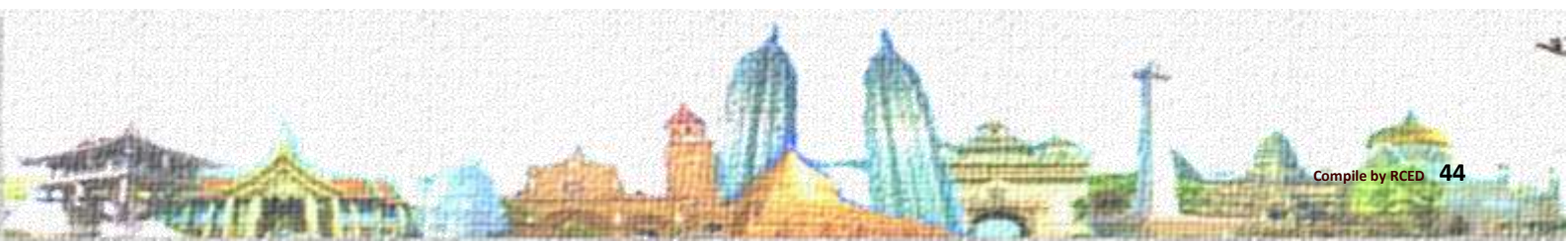
Modus Operandi:

The examination team at Ye' Pu checkpoint received an information regarding two suspected vehicles, Ford Ranger and Mazda, which were on their way from Mandalay to Muse. Upon inspection, the team found suspicious stones that were cut into pieces, weighing 1754 kg, with estimated value of USD 98,000 — eventually seized by the examination team.

Decision:

Upon further investigation by the experts from the Ministry of Mining, the seized items were confirmed to be the precious Myanmar and thus handed over accordingly.







CASE 3

SEIZURE CASES FOR DRUGS

Case Facts:

On 15th June 2017, Customs team has stopped and inspected Express Bus, driving from Lashio to Yangon, at 16 Miles Kyauk Chaw Customs Checkpoint — in which several amount of drugs were found and seized accordingly.

Modus Operandi:

One of the passengers was found to be carrying 3,990 stimulants inside 19 plastic bags and carbon papers, weighing 399g, labelled as "WY".

Upon further inspection, 16,000 more stimulants; 80 packs of tablets labelled as "88" and "I" on each side weighing 1.6kg; and heroin weighing 121g wrapped in 11 soap cases. The total value was estimated up to USD 82,000.

Decision:

After confirming that the seized items were narcotic drugs, the case was handed over to the Special Police Task Force of Narcotic Drugs. The task force is currently pursuing to take legal action against the passenger.





CASE 4

SEIZURE CASE FOR DRUG

Case Facts:

On 1st April 2017, Customs Examination team has managed to seize prohibited drugs at Ye' Pu Customs checkpoint located in Lashio Township, Southern Shan State.

Modus Operandi:

A Mitsubishi Pajero, driving to Lashio from Muse, was stopped by the Customs Examination team at the Ye' Pu Customs Checkpoint . Upon inspection, it was discovered that the vehicle was carrying 888g of heroin powder that were wrapped in 74 soap cases and concealed beneath the spare tyre. It was estimated that the value for the seized items totaled up to 26.872 million Kyats.

Decision:

After confirming that those were narcotic drugs, the case was handed over to the Special Police Task Force of Narcotic Drugs.





CASE 5

SEIZURE OF ILLEGAL WOOD LOGS

Case Facts:

On 23rd September 2017, Customs Examination team has seized illegal wood logs at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa Port (MITT) located in Yangon, Myanmar.

Modus Operandi:

The Customs Examination team had inspected imported goods that were initially declared as **"Yellow Maize"**. Upon inspection, they discovered that the goods comprised of 200 tons of illegal wood logs inside 16 x 20 inch containers that were meant to be exported — as per report by the Risk Management Team. The value of the confiscated goods was estimated up to MMK 470 million Kyats.

Decision:

Myanmar Customs decided to escalate the case to Myanmar Timber Enterprise for further actions - considering the expertise and degree of authority.





CASE 1

SEIZURE OF UNDECLARED MEDICAL OXYGEN GENERATOR (PSA) SYSTEM

Case Facts:

On 7th March 2017, a shipment consisting of a 1 x 20 container Van arrived at the Philippine Port from Taiwan on board the Vessel "WAN HAI267. The Shipment was consigned to Power Link AKSA Phillipines and declared "Air Compressors and Parts". The issuance of an Alert Order was then recommended by the Enforcement Group for Possible violation of misdeclaration, misclassification and Undervaluation in Goods Declaration, Modernization and Tariff Act. During inspection it was found that the shipment in fact contained one set of Medical Oxygen Generator (PSA) System.

Modus Operandi:

The consignee deliberately misdeclared the content of the shipment because it failed to secure the license needed to import the Medical Grade Oxygen Generators. Such medical grade equipment are required to be licensed with the Food and Drug Administration before it could be shipped into the country. The consignee failed to secure such license. Hence, such act violates the Foods and Drug Administration Act of 2009, and Republic Act 2370 also known as Food, Drug and Comestic Act, as amended.

Decision:

Finding probable cause to seize the alerted shipment of one Medical Oxygen Generator System, the District Collector of Customs issued a Warrant of Seizure and Detention against the shipment for violation of Customs Laws under the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to FDA Rules and Regulations.





CASE 2

SEIZURE OF ILLICIT DRUGS

Case Facts:

On 31st July 2017, a 50 years old female Bolivian national arrived in Manila via Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 628 from Addis Ababa with a stopover in Thailand. Based on derogatory information, said passenger was tagged as a possible drug carrier, who at present carries and transports an undertermined amount of illegal drugs. She was then intercepted and apprehended by Customs Enforcement Operatives at the Customs Arrival Area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The Passenger was identified as Maria Hinojosa Bazan through her passport.

A thorough examination of Ms. Bazan's baggage resulted in the discovery of 6.02 kilograms of high grade liquid cocaine sealed in a plastic vacuum that was neatly stitched into the lining of four winter jackets mixed among her personal belongings.

Modus Operandi:

This case presents a new method of concealment being applied by drug syndicates to smuggle drugs into the country. It is a more different from the usual concealment of drug packets in the lining and false bottom compartments of suitcases.

Decision:

Ms. Bazan and the seized liquid cocaine were later turned over to the PDEA for proper disposition and for proper filing of a criminal case under Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.





CASE 3

SEIZURE OF MARIJUANA SEEDS

Case Facts:

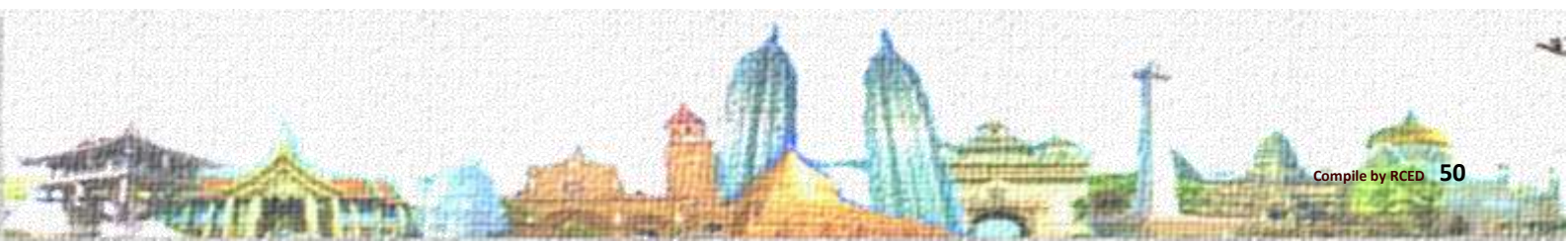
On 23rd June 2017, Mr. Tyrone M. Lopez, Filipino, and consignee of an inbound parcel was arrested by Bureau of Customs (BOC) authorities at the Central Mail Exchange Center (XMEC). The Seized parcel was sent by a certain Minerva Thomas of Colton, California, USA; and was declared as personal effects. It yielded 1.3 kilos of fried marijuana leaves sealed in five plastic bags and three grams of marijuana seeds. The drugs were concealed among two backpacks, a cooler, fishing strings and shoes.

Modus Operandi:

To avoid detection from x-ray and physical examination, the sender of the parcel deliberately concealed the five plastic bags of dried marijuana leaves and three grams of marijuana seeds among the other described articles inside the parcel.

Decision:

The suspect will be charged with violation of RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, in relation to the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.





CASE 1

SYNDICATE BUSTED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SALES OF COUNTERFEIT MOBILE PHONES

Case Facts:

In a 10-hour operation mounted on 11 April 2017, officers from the Singapore Customs and the Singapore Police Force Criminal Investigation Department (CID) conducted simultaneous raids in three locations, Harbourfront, Tanah Merah and Kaki Bukit, and arrested eight men, aged between 28 and 40, for their suspected involvement in the sale of counterfeit mobile phones and component parts.

A total of about 10,660 pieces of trademark infringing goods comprising mobile phones and component parts, with an estimated street value of about \$1,478,479 were also seized during the operation.

Modus Operandi:

Based on prior investigation by CID, a particular local retailer was suspected to be buying back used mobile phones and replacing them with counterfeit parts, before selling and exporting them as if they were new genuine products.

Subsequently, a joint operation was mounted by Customs and CID on 11 April 2017 to target the export permit taken up by this retailer to cover the export of some of these mobile phones to Indonesia, through the Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal (TMFT) located at Harbourfront.

In the operation at TMFT, one male offender was arrested for exporting 95 counterfeit mobile phones with the targeted export permit and an additional 23 counterfeit mobile phones without a valid export permit. The rights holders were also onsite to verify the authenticity of the mobile phones. They had confirmed that the phones were counterfeit and the phones were seized for further investigation.

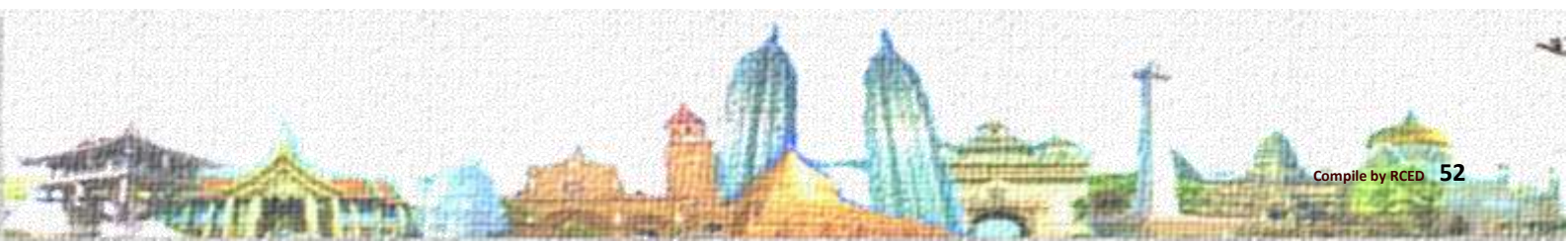
Once the source of the phones was confirmed, CID officers proceeded to raid the retail outlets and seized the remaining counterfeit mobile phones and component parts.

Decision:

Investigation into the case is ongoing.

This operation highlights the close cooperation between the Singapore Customs and the Singapore Police Force, and the joint effort to crack down on counterfeit items.







CASE 2

VIETNAMESE MAN STOPPED WITH 8 PIECES OF RHINO HORNS AT CHANGI AIRPORT

Case Facts:

On 31 Aug 2017, acting on a tip-off received from Thailand, officers from Singapore Customs, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) stopped an attempt to smuggle illegal wildlife products through Singapore. Officers stopped a Vietnamese passenger who was transiting Singapore from Dubai to Laos for checks at Changi Airport. **8 cut pieces of illegal rhino horns concealed as gifts were found in the passenger's luggage.**

Singapore adopts a zero tolerance stance on the use of Singapore as a conduit to smuggle endangered species as well as their parts and derivatives. It is an offence in Singapore to illegally deal with illegal wildlife species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna or Flora (CITES).

Decision:

DNA analysis subsequently confirmed that the seized horns and shavings were derived from the rhinoceros, a critically endangered species protected under CITES.

For attempting to smuggle illegal rhino horns and horn shavings through Singapore's Changi Airport, the offender was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

This operation highlights the close domestic cooperation between Singapore Customs, AVA and ICA and regional cooperation in the ASEAN Customs fraternity to clamp down on the smuggling of illegal wildlife species.



CASE 1

IVORY TUSKS SMUGGLING FROM LUANDA, ANGOLA

Case Facts:

Thai Customs officers of Narcotic Enforcement Unit (Investigation and Suppression Bureau) arrested two Vietnamese who tried to smuggle ivory tusks (*Loxodonta africana* and *Loxodonta cyclotis*) through Suvarnabhumi Airport to Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. The tusks are originated from Luanda, Angola.

Finding:

On 22 July 2017, Customs officers found two suspicious Vietnamese passengers flew from Luanda, Angola via Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Bangkok, Thailand to get to Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. After the passengers were frisked, 74.8 kilograms of cut and worked ivory were found. The ivory tusks were hidden inside four pieces of baggage with foam (or similar substance) and aluminum foil to cover all the illicit goods.

Modus Operandi:

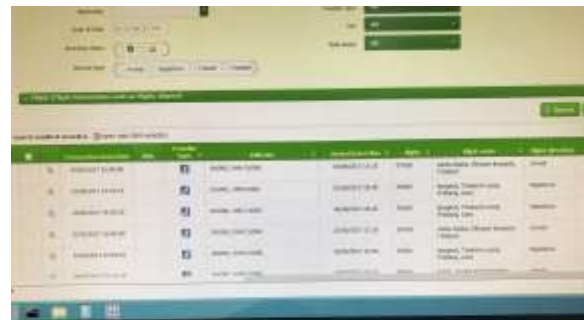
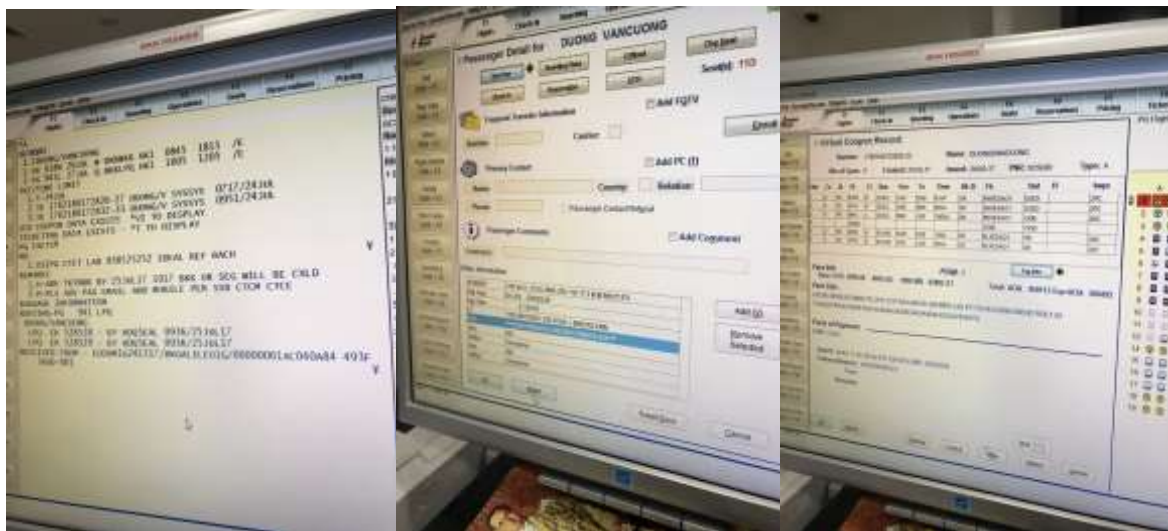
Thai Customs has been applying the Passenger Name Record or PNR system and Passenger Manifest as the methodology to tackle the smuggling by air. According to the risk assessment, Vietnamese passenger is the vulnerable group for wildlife smuggling.

In this case, the travel route and length is unusual. The passengers booked an air ticket to Luang Prabang, stayed only for one day in Vietnam and immediately booked a return flight to Luanda which looked suspicious after such a long travel from Africa.

During interrogation, they claimed that they came back to Vietnam to visit their family. The syndicate in Luanda sponsored them and provided a valid passport with work visa as construction workers; they were only told to travel to Vietnam with the baggage loaded by the syndicate. However, according to their visas and immigration stamps, it was not their first time smuggling.

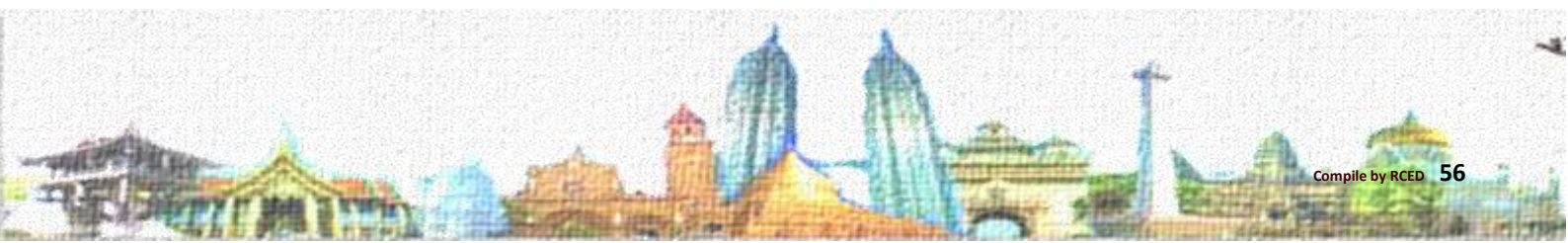






Decision:

The Vietnamese offenders were charged with the Customs Act B.E.2469 (1926) and Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E.2535 (1992) for bringing the prohibited goods through the Kingdom of Thailand which they shall be liable of imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years. The offenders were handed over to the police for in-depth investigation and prosecution.



CASE 2

Rhino Horn smuggling from Luanda, Angola

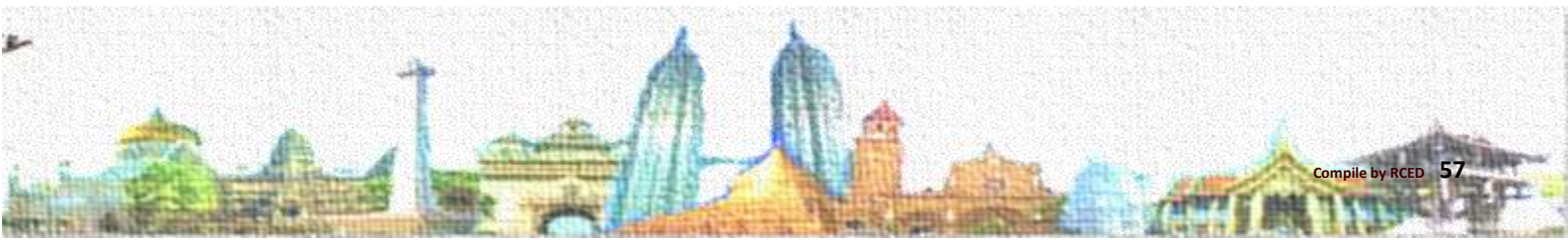
Case Facts:

On 8 August 2017, Thai Customs officers of Narcotic Enforcement Unit (Investigation and Suppression Bureau) arrested a Vietnamese passenger who attempted to smuggle rhino horns through Suvarnabhumi Airport to Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. The horns are originated from Luanda, Angola.



Finding:

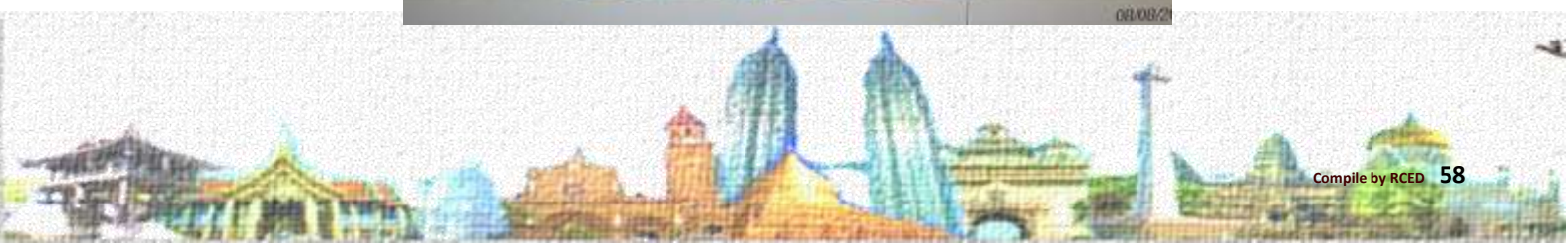
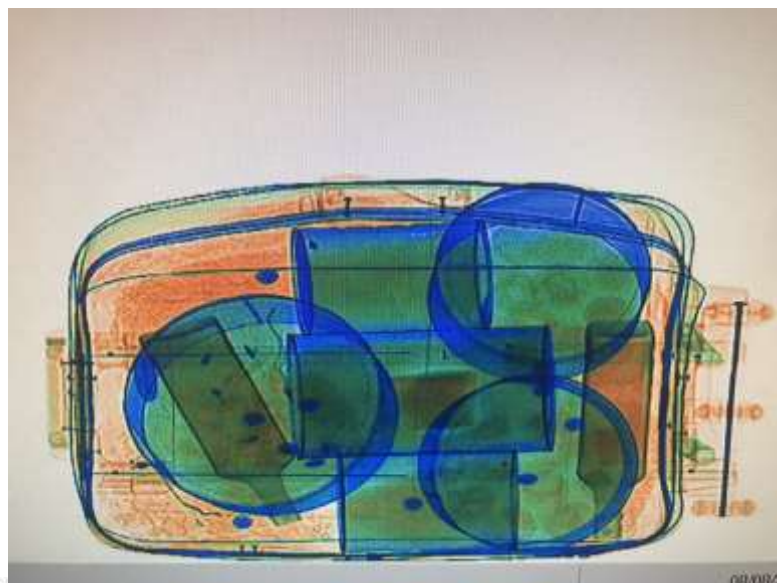
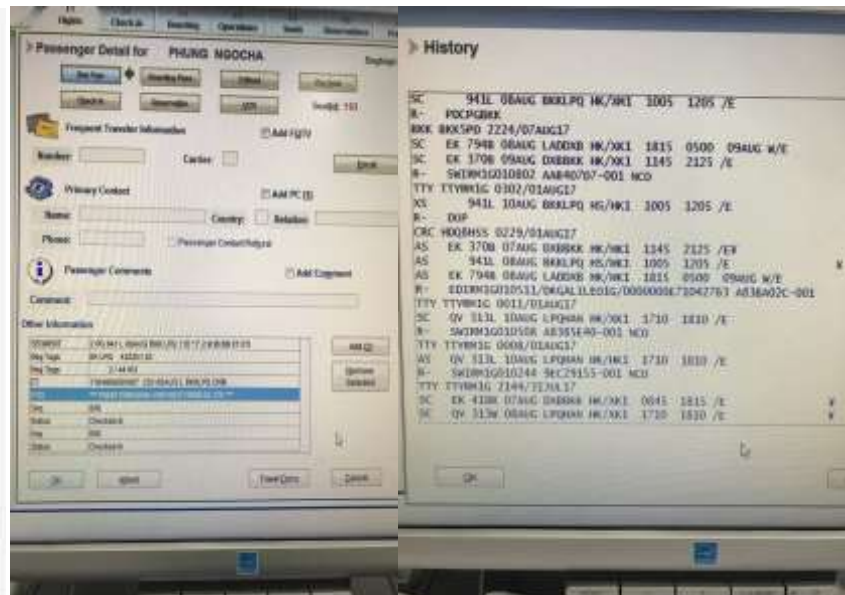
Customs officers found a suspicious Vietnamese passenger flew from Luanda via Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Bangkok, Thailand to reach Luang Prabang. Upon inspection, rhino horns were found inside baby milk powder cans and boxes of cookies.



Modus Operandi:

According to the intelligence, using milk powder tin to hide rhino horn is one of the recent smuggling method. Thai Customs has also been keeping an eye on Vietnamese passengers who travel with an unusual route and period.

In this case, the travel route and length was abnormal. The passenger booked an air ticket to Luang Prabang, stayed only for a day in Vietnam and immediately booked a return flight to Luanda, which looked suspicious after such a long travel from Africa.





Decision:

The Vietnamese offender was charged with the Customs Act B.E.2469 (1926) and Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E.2535 (**1992**) for bringing the prohibited goods through the Kingdom of Thailand which he shall be liable of imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years. The offender was handed over to the police for in-depth investigation and prosecution.

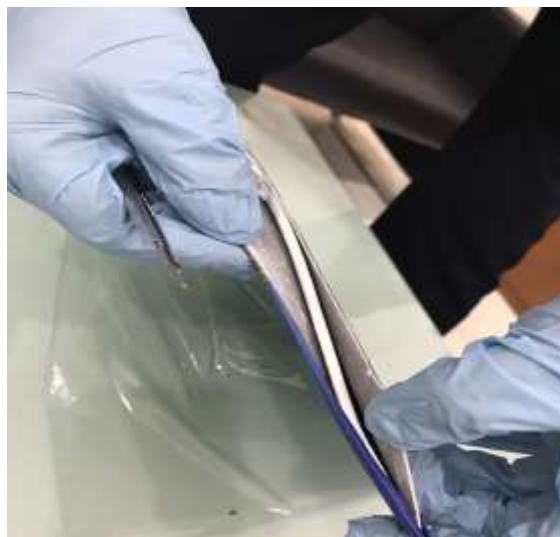


CASE 3

1,685 GRAMS OF COCAINE FOUND CONCEALED INSIDE BOOKS

Case Facts:

On 23 July 2017, a Thai Customs officer identified a suspicious Kenyan female that have boarded Kenya Airways flight KQ886 from Nairobi, Kenya. On arrival, the Thai Customs confirmed that the passenger matched their risk profile and conducted close inspection of her baggage. As a result, three packages of cocaine weighed 1,685 grams were found inside three Spanish books.





Modus Operandi:

There was a similar pattern of drug trafficking in which the syndicate used African and South American female to smuggle drug to Asian region. Therefore, any route from Africa or South America is considered as a high risk indicator.

In this case, the books found had a strong odor similar to that of wet glue, with its covers that were too thick and heavier than usual. Upon interrogation, she claimed that she was reading the books, which were written in Spanish and Portuguese and were published in Argentina and Brazil; the origin country of the cocaine's found. However, she could not speak both of the languages.



Decision:

The offender was charged for the possession and import of Category 2 of narcotic drugs into the Kingdom of Thailand. The case has been referred to the Narcotics Suppression Police for legal prosecution.

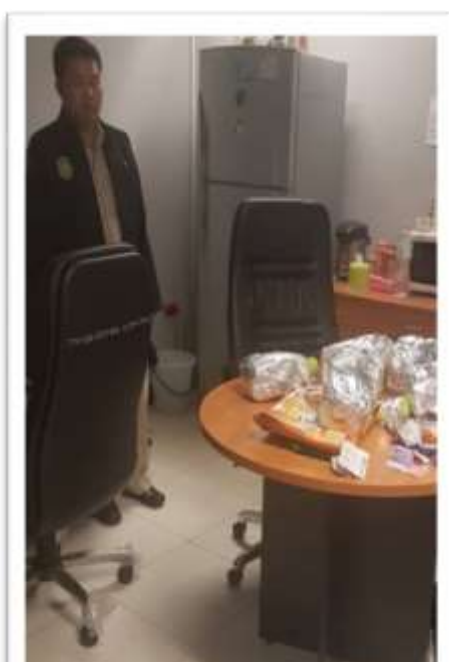


CASE 4

THE FALLEN OF RHINO HORN SMUGGLING SYNDICATE

Case Facts:

On 11 December 2017, Thai Customs officers of Narcotic Enforcement Unit (Investigation and Suppression Bureau) arrested a Chinese man who attempted to smuggle 14 pieces of rhino horns weighed 11.16 kilograms through Suvarnabhumi Airport, and a Thai Quarantine officer who was the transporter of the Bach Brother Syndicate. The horns are originated from Johannesburg, South Africa.





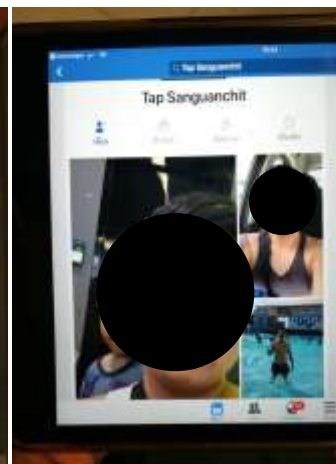
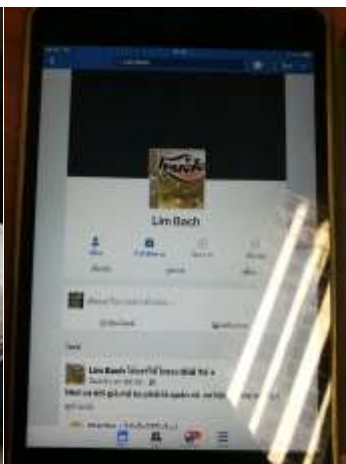
Modus Operandi:

In the recent years, the trend of wildlife smuggling is dramatically increasing both in the number of cases and quantity of seized items. Most of the contraband are from Africa; however, it is still difficult to identify **the goods' origin accurately due to the criminals tactic whereby they will try to avoid the exportation of goods from the source city, and instead operate from the nearby city which is more convenient.**

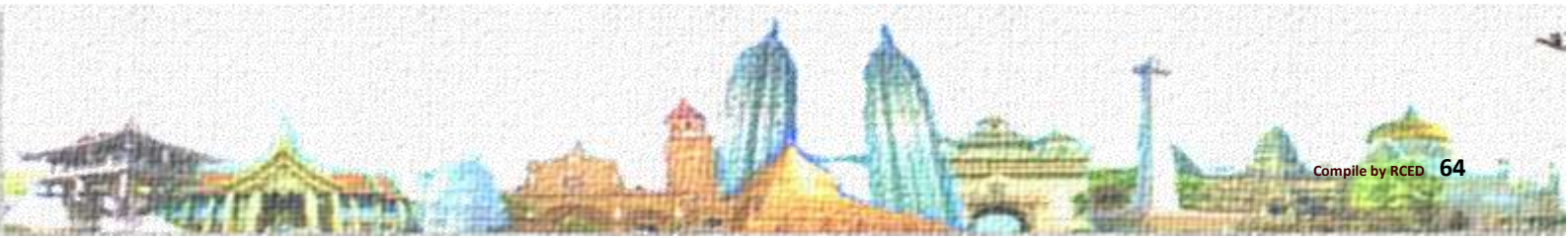
In this case, the Customs officers identified a suspicious Chinese passenger who lives in Fujian Province, flew from Johannesburg, South Africa by Emirates Airline flight EK 762 via Dubai, United Arab Emirates and by Emirates Airline flight EK384 to Bangkok, Thailand. The abnormal flight route is one of the risk indicators of air passenger risk profiling. Hence, based on that information, Thai Customs had included him in the watch list of wildlife smuggling.

On his appearance at Suvarnabhumi Airport, the Customs officers scrutinized him all the way from the arrival gate to the arrival hall. After he had collected his baggage, he did not walk out of the hall but instead entered the Quarantine office with the baggage and went out of the office without it. Based on that observation, the officer irrupted and searched the office to look for the missing baggage while another officer detained the Chinese courier. The office was only occupied by a Quarantine officer who looked anxious as the Customs officer asked for the missing baggage. It turned out that the horns were hidden inside a drawer. The Quarantine officer confessed that it was his second time in helping to smuggle the rhino horns. However according to the Cellebrite, a cellphone forensic program, he had many accounts and phone numbers of high level rhino horns and ivory smuggling syndicate. It was also found out later **that the Quarantine officer was the middleman which had been mentioned in a witness' testimony in Chumlong Lemongthai case as one of Chumlong's hunting friends in South Africa.**





The Quarantine officer agreed to cooperate with Thai Customs and Royal Thai Police to apply the Controlled Delivery Technique in return of punishment reduction for any related charges. As a result, one of the most wanted Bach brothers' syndicate, Bach Van Limh was caught red-handed by the enforcement officers when he came to pick up the contraband the next day. With close cooperation between the Customs and the Police, another Bach brother's syndicate, Boonchai Bach the kingpin was also arrested two weeks later.





Decision:

The courier, the middleman and the kingpin were charged with the Customs Act B.E.2560 (2017) and Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E.2535 (1992) in relation to the trafficking of prohibited goods through the Kingdom of Thailand which they shall be liable of imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years.





CASE 1

THE SEIZURE OF 199 PARCELS WITH 2.5 TONS OF KHAT WHICH WAS TRANSPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL POST

Case Facts:

In early July 2016, Hanoi Customs Department has collaborated with the Anti-Smuggling and Investigation Department of the General Department of Vietnam Customs, C47 - Ministry of Public Security, in which the collaboration managed to destroy a shipping ring comprising of illegal narcotics.

As much as 199 parcels, weighing about 2.5 tons dried herbs (khat leaves) were found and supposedly to be exported via international post.

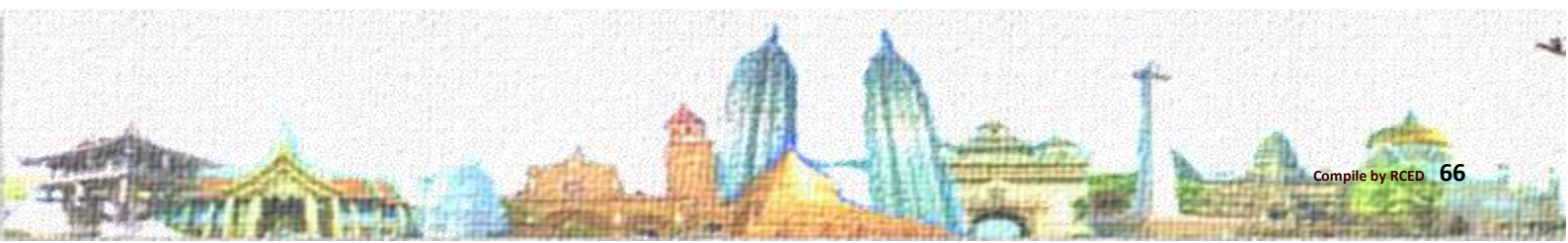
Modus Operandi:

A group was suspected for illegally transporting dry herbs (narcotic substances) to well-organized nationwide syndicates. The suspected group took advantage of Vietnam, as a tea exporting country and falsely-declared the items as dried herbs, dried moringas and dried tea.

The masterminds of the operation were found to be foreigners that hired Vietnamese senders and recipients in delivering the narcotics in Vietnam. They imported dried herbs from African countries like Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa; and gathered all of them in Vietnam. The "dried herbs" were then transported via air and postal services to countries such as Australia, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

Decision:

The investigation committee are continuously coordinating and verifying the information of senders and the recipients with other relevant authorities - in regards to the export-import consignments.





CASE 2

SEIZED 2,632.8 KG OF KHAT LEAVES TO HAIPHONG BY SEA

Case Facts:

On 21st March 2017, Hai Phong Customs Department in collaboration with the Northern Anti-Smuggling Unit (Team 1 - Anti-Smuggling and Investigation Department, General Department of Customs) and Hai Phong Police has managed to find a container containing violated goods at the Tan Vu port (Hai Phong). As a result, 353 packages of khat leaves weighing 2,632.8kg were discovered and seized accordingly.

Modus Operandi:

On August 2016, the Customs Enforcement forces (Hai Phong Customs Department) had identified suspected shipments based on the Bill of Lading. It showed that the generic name "The Vert" (can be translated as shrubs) came from an African country.

The recipient written in the waybill was identified as a Vietnamese company specializing in import and re-export business. However, the company named in the Bill of Lading has sent an official letter of refusal in accepting the goods.

As a consequence, the Hai Phong Customs Enforcement Team, Team 1 (Anti-Smuggling and Investigation Department), Police of Drug Investigation Division (PC47 - Hai Phong Police) decided to set a plan in closely monitoring the suspicious shipments.

Decision:

The authorities will complete the profile and proceed to prosecute the person(s) involved in transporting the prohibited 2,632.8kg of khat leaves.





CASE 3

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON SEIZURES OF DRUGS

Case Facts:

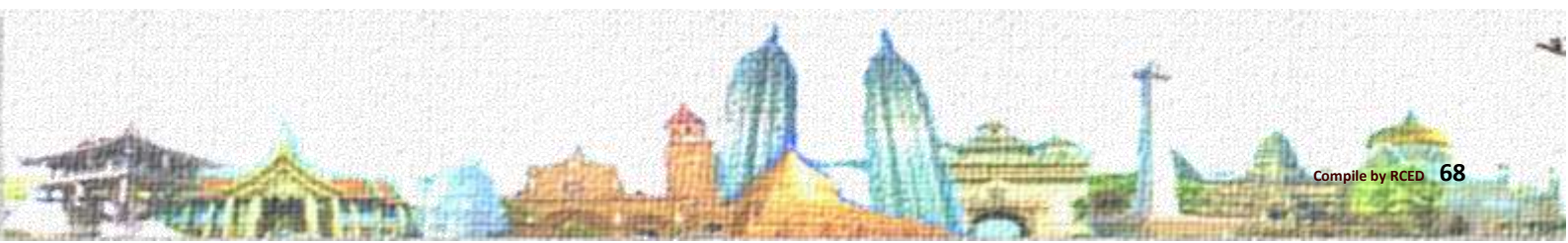
In the evening of 23 July, Hai Phong Customs Enforcement Unit in collaboration with PC47 – Hai Phong City Police has managed to capture a long-time target known as Ngo Trac Hiep, (52 years old, lives in Le Chan District, Hai Phong province). The target has 5 previous convictions for burglary-related cases and eventually caught in possession of 10kg heroin and 8kg of meth.

Modus Operandi:

The offender had intentionally modified the structure of his car to create multiple hidden compartments for storing and concealing contraband goods. Nonetheless, he was caught red-handed transporting large quantity of heroin from Vietnam-Laos border to Hai Phong on the route of Hanoi – Hai Phong highway. Upon inspection, the team managed to seize 10kg of heroin and 8kg of meth.

Decision:

PC 47 - Hai Phong City Police has detained the defendant; retained the exhibits and the vehicle used for transporting the prohibited narcotics.





CASE 4

TAIWANESE MAN SEIZED AT TAN SON NHAT AIRPORT ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE MILITARY ARSENAL

Case Facts:

On 20th August 2017, Customs officers in Ho Chi Minh City has detained a Taiwanese man for illegally transporting military equipments.

Modus Operandi:

A suspicious-looking 31-year-old man was arrested by Customs and airport officers while attempting to check-in for a flight from Tan Son Nhat International Airport to Kaohsiung in Taiwan.

A luggage-check procedure has led to the discovery of 79 new handguns, two military transmitters, a gas mask, used NATO military uniforms, and several rounds of AR15 ammunition and M79 grenades.

Decision:

It is illegal to import or export military equipments in or out of Vietnam. The investigation authorities are still investigating the case.





CASE 5

DETECTING A CASE OF AIRGUNS TRANSPORTATION VIA NOI BAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Case Facts:

On 20th February 2017, around 11 am, the Entry Luggage Customs Procedure Team of Noi Bai International Airport Customs Branch has detected suspicious signs inside the luggage of Nguyen Van Hung; a local Vietnamese born in 1991 who has just landed from flight SU 290 Aeroflot from Russia to Noi Bai, Hanoi, at approximately 8 am on 20th February 2017.

Modus Operandi:

The collaboration between the Customs Enforcement Team (Hanoi Customs Department), Team 1 (Anti-Smuggling and Investigation Department-General Department of Customs and the Department of Crime Prevention of Smuggling (C74) conducted physical inspection on Nguyen Van Hung's luggage.

As a result, they discovered 4 Airguns; including 2 Edgun Leshi type, 1 gun Ataman AP16, and 1 Colibbry No.1209. In addition, some components including spare parts of the airguns, made in Czech Republic, and 91 boxes of bullets were also found. During the inspection, Nguyen Van Hung did not possess any legal documents for carrying the weapons and ammunitions.

Decision:

The airguns can be considered as highly dangerous weaponry that performs like modern automatic colt rifles and can cause serious damage - if shot within 50m range. As a consequence, the entire prohibited weapons and ammunitions were seized accordingly.



For any comments or suggestions, kindly contact us:



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