



## SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

### **SECOND APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES MEETING FOR 2009 SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED**

Singapore Customs successfully hosted the second meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) for 2009 held from 3 to 5 August at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. The meeting was chaired by Mr Loh Fook Meng (卢福明), Assistant Director-General (Compliance) of Singapore Customs.

2 Customs Administrations from nineteen APEC member economies attended the meeting. They are Australia; Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Republic of the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States and Viet Nam. The Meeting made good progress in furthering the SCCP's objectives of simplifying and harmonising regional customs procedures to ensure that goods and services move efficiently, effectively and safely through the Asia Pacific region.

3 The Meeting endorsed the Phase 2 Final Report of the APEC SCCP Single Window Working Group (SWWG), which completed major deliverables during its two-year term. These include a dossier of standards, instruments and tools related to single window systems, capacity building activities, and the APEC SCCP Single Window Implementation Guide. In view of the importance of single window to trade facilitation, member economies would continue to share experiences and discuss issues regarding their single window implementation. The focus would be for economies who have yet to implement their single windows to do so, while the SCCP would continue to play an advisory role.

4 The Meeting also discussed the work of the SCCP and the APEC Market Access Group (MAG) on simplification of procedures and documentation relating to Rules of Origin (ROO). Addressing businesses' concerns about difficulties posed by ROO when utilising free trade agreements was identified during the first APEC Senior Officials Meeting as a high priority item for 2009. The SCCP has since conducted a survey on the competence of APEC Customs Administrations in ROO matters and their customs procedures for claiming preferential tariff treatment on imported goods. Going forward, the SCCP will embark on an information-gathering exercise on APEC Customs Administrations' treatment of minor errors in certificates and declarations of origin.

5 Another focus of this year's SCCP meeting was trade security. The Meeting endorsed the terms of reference of the new Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Working Group of the SCCP. The Working Group will assist in the establishment of AEO programs in APEC economies to secure and facilitate trade, and create instruments that will assist in harmonising elements of AEO programs.

6 The SCCP will continue its work on simplification and harmonisation of regional customs procedures to contribute to the achievement of the “Bogor Goals” of free and open trade and investment in the Asia Pacific.

7 Japan will take over the Chairmanship of the SCCP in 2010.



**Delegates of the second Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) meeting for 2009 hosted by Singapore Customs.**

**ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS (新加坡关税局) (KASTAM SINGAPURA)**

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