

# insync

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SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MAGAZINE

— P.05 —

## Smoother intra-ASEAN cross-border movement with the ASEAN Customs Transit System



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Highlights of the Year



### SPOTLIGHT

Customs' Efforts  
in ASEAN



### NEWS

First comprehensive and secure electronic  
Banker's Guarantee programme launched  
on the Networked Trade Platform

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## EDITORS' NOTE

This year has been a challenging one for all. Amidst these challenging times, our work at Singapore Customs continues, as we adjust our work processes and adapt to the new normal. Read more on pages 1 and 2, as we round up the key highlights of the year.

As businesses and trade gradually pick up as we enter Phase Three of Singapore's re-opening after the circuit breaker period, we are happy to share our efforts to facilitate trade within ASEAN, through two recently launched initiatives: the ASEAN-Wide Self-Certification Scheme (page 4), and the ASEAN Customs Transit System (pages 5 to 7).

We are also happy to share that businesses can now enjoy smoother and faster Banker's Guarantee transactions with Singapore Customs, with the launch of the first comprehensive electronic Banker's Guarantee programme on the Networked Trade Platform in November 2020 (page 10).

On the enforcement front, our officers continue to keep vigilance, COVID-19 or not, and conducted several successful operations to combat against illicit duty-unpaid cigarette and liquor activities, as well as fraudulent attempts to evade duties and Goods and Services Tax (pages 8 and 9).

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of inSYNC, and here's to a better year ahead.

TAN XIAN LIN AND ISABEL CHIA  
Editors

# Highlights of the Year

26 JANUARY 2020

Singapore Customs officers gathered to celebrate the **International Customs Day** at the new Customs Operations Command building for the first time in January 2020. Ten Singapore Customs officers were awarded the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Certificate of Merit for demonstrating commitment in their work towards fostering sustainability, which was WCO's theme for 2020.

30 JANUARY 2020

An annual joint simulation exercise was conducted with PSA Singapore at Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station, to enhance our readiness in dealing with chemical, biological, radiological, explosive or nuclear (CBREN) threats. Each iteration of the exercise would focus on a different aspect of CBREN, with this year's exercise focusing on chemical substances.

JANUARY - MARCH 2020

Between January and March 2020, our close cooperation with our counterparts from the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, led to two seizures amounting to 19.3 million cigarettes in total and the arrest of five men for smuggling contraband cigarettes into the United Kingdom. The total revenue evaded amounted to over £7m.

JAN - MAR 2020

APR - JUN 2020

More than 180 Singapore Customs officers stepped forth during Singapore's circuit breaker period to contribute to national efforts in combating the COVID-19 outbreak. Meanwhile, the rest of our officers continued to fulfil their roles and responsibilities as part of providing essential services to the public and businesses, whether they were working from home or on split team arrangement.

Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and his counterparts from Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand launched a **Joint Ministerial Statement on Action Plans to Facilitate the Flow of Goods and Services as well as the Essential Movement of People**, to maintain trade and supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Four men were arrested, with more than 17,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized in an operation conducted at an industrial building in Yishun Street 23, making it the largest haul of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized in a single operation in 2020. All four men were charged in court on 29 May 2020.

APRIL - JUNE 2020

1 MAY 2020

MAY 2020

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11 AUGUST 2020

The National Parks Board (NParks) crushed nine tonnes of ivory seized from various past shipments, marking the largest ivory crushing event globally in recent years. The ivory seizures were a result of close partnerships among local enforcement agencies (NParks, Singapore Customs and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority) and international counterparts.

18 - 19 AUGUST 2020

Singapore's Director-General of Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, attended the **29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs**, which was held via video conferencing for the very first time, signalling the importance of continuing the work of the ASEAN Customs community despite COVID-19.

20 SEPTEMBER 2020

The **ASEAN-Wide Self-Certification Scheme**, which came into effect on 20 September 2020, allows Certified Exporters to self-certify the origin status for their goods to be eligible for preferential tariff claims under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, in lieu of obtaining a Certificate of Origin from Singapore Customs. More on page 4.

JUL - SEP 2020

OCT - DEC 2020

2 NOVEMBER 2020

The **ASEAN Customs Transit System** was implemented to facilitate the cross-border transit movement of goods via land within ASEAN. It enables goods to be transported by road under a single regime regardless of which ASEAN Member State they depart, transit and arrive at. More on pages 5 to 7.

2 NOVEMBER 2020

The first comprehensive **electronic Banker's Guarantee programme** was launched on the Networked Trade Platform, removing the need for the issuance and delivery of paper BGs by participating banks to Singapore Customs. Banks and traders can now experience a fully paperless process including BG lodgement, claims and discharge. More on page 10.

10 NOVEMBER 2020

Singapore Customs and the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed a Letter of Intent to explore Single Window Connectivity to facilitate cargo clearance and enhance supply chain security. The collaboration with US CBP is part of Singapore's efforts to enhance global digital trade connectivity. More on page 3.

# International efforts to facilitate trade

••• Singapore Customs participates actively in international and regional customs fora, and also collaborates with other Customs administrations to facilitate international trade. Despite travel restrictions due to COVID-19, meetings and discussions with our international and regional counterparts are still ongoing through various means, such as via video conferencing. Amidst COVID-19, it is all the more important to continue facilitating the international movement of goods, especially essential supplies. We take a closer look at two recent examples.

## 21<sup>ST</sup> WCO RHCA AND 30<sup>TH</sup> RCP MEETING

Singapore Customs' Director-General Ho Chee Pong attended the virtual joint session of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) 21<sup>st</sup> Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) conference and the 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Contact Points (RCP) meeting on 12 November 2020.

At the conference, Heads of Customs administrations of the Asia Pacific Region met to take stock of the progress made for programmes and initiatives under its Regional Strategic Plan, put in place to facilitate and secure cross-border trade.

Members had an open discussion on the need to safeguard supply chain continuity, facilitate the flow of goods (especially relief and medical supplies), and minimise the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economies and societies.

Members also reiterated the importance of deepening cooperation in the region; and to

prevent criminal organisations from exploiting the pandemic situation to carry out fraudulent activities, members will continue to carry out joint-agency cross-border operations.



Attendees comprising Customs delegations from the Asia-Pacific region, senior officials of the WCO and its regional bodies.

## COLLABORATION WITH US CUSTOMS TO EXPLORE SINGLE WINDOW CONNECTIVITY

On 10 November 2020, Singapore Customs and the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to explore Single Window Connectivity to facilitate cargo clearance and enhance supply chain security.

With the signing of the LOI, both parties would explore the exchange and re-use of trade data via a system link-up between both countries' trade platforms to bring about greater trade facilitation. The exchange of customs permit data would facilitate customs declarations by the business community and allow both Customs administrations to better conduct advance risk assessment.

The collaboration with US CBP is part of Singapore's efforts to enhance global digital trade connectivity.

Singapore Customs is also working on bilateral Single Window connectivity initiatives with our counterparts in Australia, China, Indonesia and the Netherlands.



The signatories for the LOI: Singapore Customs' Deputy Director-General Lim Teck Leong (left), and Executive Assistant Commissioner of US CBP, Ms Brenda Smith (on the screen).

# Customs' Efforts in ASEAN: Facilitating intra-ASEAN trade with ASEAN-Wide Self-Certification Scheme

On the regional front, Singapore Customs has contributed to efforts to facilitate trade within ASEAN, through two recently launched initiatives: the ASEAN-Wide Self-Certification (AWSC) Scheme, and the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS). Both initiatives translate to greater convenience, time and cost savings for businesses.

The AWSC, which came into effect on 20 September 2020, is a single unified self-certification scheme across all ASEAN Member States. Companies in Singapore can take part in the AWSC Scheme and benefit from the simplified procedures and gain preferential tariff under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), upon being authorised as Certified Exporters (CE).




Under the AWSC, CE are allowed to self-certify the origin status for their goods to be eligible for ATIGA preferential tariff claims, in lieu of obtaining a Certificate of Origin (CO) from Singapore Customs. An authorised CE is able to prepare origin declarations on certain commercial documents such as the invoice, bill of lading, delivery order or packing list at their convenience.

The AWSC facilitates intra-ASEAN trade as shipments will not be held back by the administrative procedures of obtaining a CO and eliminates the need for manufacturers to submit Manufacturing Cost Statements for locally manufactured good.

Before the implementation of the scheme, Singapore Customs had conducted two virtual outreach sessions on the scheme in July 2020. About 120 participants from over 60 companies attended the two sessions and learnt more about how the scheme worked.

For more information, refer to **Circular 06/2020** or the AWSC page on the Customs website at [www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/certificates-of-origin/awsc](http://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/certificates-of-origin/awsc).

**Benefits of AWSC:**

		
<p><b>Greater facilitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate intra-ASEAN trade among all ASEAN Member States</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fast and easy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waiting time, self-certify at any time</li> <li>Simplify export procedures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lower cost</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater convenience to businesses</li> <li>Lower business cost</li> </ul>

# Customs' Efforts in ASEAN: Smoother intra-ASEAN cross-border movement with the ASEAN Customs Transit System

The ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) is a key regional initiative, where Singapore chairs the working group, to facilitate intra-ASEAN trade and promote the free flow of goods. It supports the objectives of the ASEAN Economic Community to increase integration, cohesion, innovation and connectivity across ASEAN Member States (AMS). Over the past few years, the participating AMS have been intensifying efforts to fully implement the ACTS.

The ACTS was implemented on 2 November 2020 to facilitate the cross-border transit movement of goods via land within ASEAN. Businesses can look forward to time savings, cost reduction and better connectivity in moving goods via land across Southeast Asia.

Under the ACTS, traders can carry out a single transit journey across participating AMS via a single truck, single customs declaration and single banker's guarantee. The use of a regional computerised Customs transit management system allows the Customs administrations in each AMS to efficiently capture and track the status and movement of goods under the ACTS.

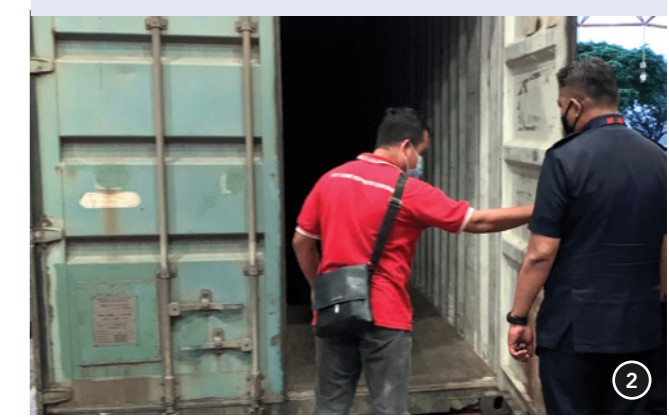
The implementation of the ACTS followed the pilot live runs which were conducted by logistics company DHL Global Forwarding Singapore (DHL) in October 2020. As part of the pilot phase, DHL successfully carried out the cross-border transit operations from Singapore to Thailand, through Malaysia, on 23 and 28 October 2020.

Here are the highlights of the pilot live run:

**Truck with cargoes to be moved under the ACTS was presented for clearance at Tuas Checkpoint.**



**The container was subjected to checks by officers from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority at the land checkpoint.**



**Truck ready to depart Tuas Checkpoint after completion of the clearance process.**



The implementation of the ACTS is provided under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit, which has been signed and ratified by all 10 AMS.



### Virtual launch of the ACTS

Following the live implementation of the ACTS on 2 November 2020, a virtual event for its official launch was organised by the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the European Union (ARISE) Plus on 30 November 2020.

The event attracted over 290 online participants from the Customs administrations and relevant authorities of the ASEAN member states, the ASEAN Secretariat, ARISE Plus and representatives from the European Union and private sector.

In her opening remarks, Director-General for Trade at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ms Ng Bee Kim, said that the successful launch of the ACTS is a testament to ASEAN's commitment to strengthen supply chain connectivity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASEAN Secretariat Secretary General, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, also gave the opening remarks, followed by European Commission Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Koen Doens, and President/Chair of the ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association, Mr Yukki Nugrahawan.

During the panel discussion, Senior Assistant Director-General (Trade) of Singapore Customs and Chairman of the ASEAN Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group's Sub-Working Group on ACTS, Mr Lee Boon Chong, shared about the main challenges and learning experiences in bringing the project to fruition.

"The ACTS is a first-of-its kind, large-scale, multi-year regional initiative that requires long term

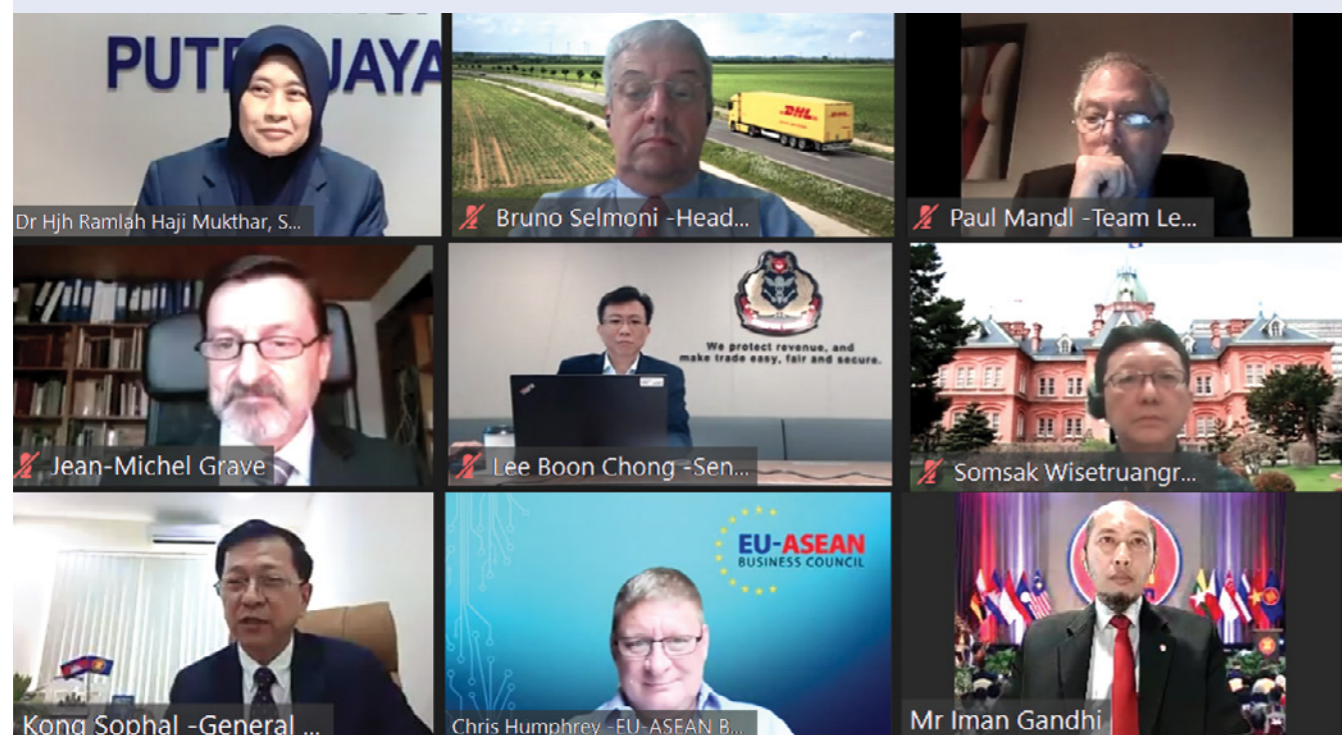
The opening remarks were delivered by (clockwise from top left) ASEAN Secretariat Secretary General, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi; European Commission Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Koen Doens; President/Chair of the ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association, Mr Yukki Nugrahawan; and Director-General for Trade at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ms Ng Bee Kim.



commitment and strong teamwork from various stakeholders," Mr Lee said. He added that not only did ASEAN Customs administrations had to work with one another, they also had to work with other government agencies and the private sector including the logistics and banking sectors to ensure the smooth implementation of the ACTS.

Acknowledging the need to create awareness and drive adoption of the ACTS, Mr Lee encouraged businesses with truck movement within ASEAN to come onboard the ACTS, and welcomed feedback and suggestions to further improve the system.

### Mr Lee (centre) joining in the panel discussion, together with other members of the panel.



## DO YOU KNOW?

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTS

The ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) enables goods to be transported by road under a single regime regardless of which ASEAN Member State they depart, transit and arrive at. Requiring only one Customs formality, it facilitates trade by allowing traders to transport goods freely through the participating ASEAN Member States\*.

A truck can travel from its point of loading to its destination in a different ASEAN country with no need for a different Customs declaration at each border, and no need to transfer the goods to a different truck\*\* in each country. The duties and taxes are covered by a single guarantee for all the countries involved in the transit operation.

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

All traders, which include importers, exporters, transporters, freight forwarders and Customs agents, are eligible to use the ACTS to transport goods across borders. Traders must be registered as ACTS traders (ATT or non-ATT) with the participating ASEAN Member States\*.

Traders who are qualified to be Authorised Transit Traders (ATT) will be given certain privileges that include permission to start transit movements from their own premises at departure, and to deliver to their own premises at destination.

#### HOW TO APPLY?

##### STEP 1: REGISTER AS ACTS TRADER

You are required to be registered as an ACTS trader with Singapore Customs and be provided with a user account in ACTS before you can submit a declaration in the ACTS.

##### STEP 2: OBTAIN A GUARANTEE

Before the commencement of a transit journey, ACTS traders are required to lodge a single journey or multiple journey guarantee in the country of departure where the goods are loaded.

##### STEP 3: APPLY FOR CUSTOMS PERMIT

Existing domestic customs procedures continue to apply to the movement of goods into and out of Singapore under the ACTS. You are therefore required to apply for a customs permit via TradeNet to account for the importation, exportation and transshipment of goods in addition to submitting a declaration through ACTS.

##### STEP 4: MAKE AN ACTS DECLARATION THROUGH ACTS

Registered traders must submit a declaration in the ACTS to initiate a transit movement. Upon the approval of your ACTS declaration, you will be issued with the Transit Accompanying Document (TAD), which is a single transit barcoded document.

##### STEP 5: PREPARE DOCUMENTS FOR CARGO CLEARANCE

All incoming and outgoing ACTS trucks are to be physically present at the land checkpoints for clearance. The truck driver will need to present the physical copy of TAD, corresponding customs permit and supporting documents for cargo clearance. Existing domestic clearance procedures would still apply.

\*Participating Member States include Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

\*\*The transfer of goods from one truck to the other would depend on existing border measures imposed by respective countries during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, refer to Circular 11/2020 on the Customs website.

# Case files: Enforcement Highlights

## CASE 1: SINGAPOREAN MAN FINED \$418,000 FOR FRAUDULENTLY EVADING DUTIES AND GST AND FAILING TO RETAIN DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

On 1 October 2020, a man was sentenced by the State Courts to a fine of \$418,000 in default 48 weeks' imprisonment for engaging in a conspiracy with three other motor vehicle traders to fraudulently evade excise duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) relating to motor vehicles imported into Singapore. He had also failed to retain documents and records relating to the vehicles imported.

Investigations revealed that the man was engaged by another party (who has since been convicted and sentenced in court) to apply for duty payment permits with suppressed values for 56 motor vehicles between March and May 2015. In return, he was paid up to \$2,000 for each permit. The man was also found to have declared to Singapore Customs suppressed values for an additional 37 motor vehicles between March and July 2015, meant for another car retail business.

The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$117,060 and \$49,160 respectively. The man voluntarily surrendered \$34,000 to the State, which were profits gained from his criminal conduct.

## CASE 2: DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES CONCEALED IN WOODEN SHELVES

On 15 September 2020, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at a warehouse unit in Serangoon North. During the operation, officers found dismantled wooden shelves and boxes packed with duty-unpaid cigarettes. Two men were arrested.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in wooden shelves.



1,997 cartons and 30 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.

Investigations revealed that one of the men had rented the unit, where they would retrieve the duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in the wooden shelves and repack them for subsequent delivery. A total of 1,997 cartons and 30 packets of cigarettes were seized.

The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$170,800 and \$13,820 respectively.

The two men were sentenced by the State Courts on 22 October 2020 to between 23 and 30 months' imprisonment for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes. One of the men was also fined \$5,670,000 as he was a repeat offender and hence liable to enhanced punishment under the Customs Act. He did not pay the court fine and would be serving an additional 567 days of default sentence.

## CASE 3: USING BONDED TRUCK FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES

In an operation mounted along Boon Lay Avenue on 22 July 2020, Singapore Customs officers checked a Singapore-registered bonded truck in a carpark and found 4,931 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Three men were arrested. Investigations revealed that one of the men had driven the loaded truck to the carpark, intending to hand it over to another man for subsequent delivery, while a third man acted as a scout to look out for any law enforcement officers in the vicinity. The cigarettes, truck and cash amounting to \$150 were seized.

The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$434,010 and \$34,950 respectively.

Court proceedings against the three men are ongoing.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes loaded in the bonded truck.



4,931 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.

## CASE 4: METAL DRUMS USED AS COVERLOADS TO CONCEAL DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES

On 22 October 2020, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority officers inspected a container at Pasir Panjang Scanning Station and detected duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed within metal drums filled with putty powder. Singapore Customs officers mounted a follow-up operation in Geylang. During the operation, officers observed one man receiving the consignment, while another man was sighted in a unit in Geylang where the drums were stored. The two men were arrested, and a total of 1,954 cartons and eight packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$166,930 and \$13,510 respectively.

Court proceedings are ongoing against one of the men, while investigations are ongoing for the other.



Pallets of metal drums in the vicinity of Geylang.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed within metal drums containing putty powder.

## CASE 5: IMPORTING DUTY-UNPAID BEER DECLARED AS SOFT DRINKS

In an operation conducted between 2 and 4 November 2020, Singapore Customs officers arrested two men for their involvement in importing duty-unpaid beer. Investigations revealed that one of the men had engaged the other man to set up a front company to import a container of beer which was falsely declared as soft drinks. A total of 1,800 cartons of duty-unpaid beer were seized.

The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$82,080 and \$9,310 respectively.

Another two men were also arrested after further investigations established that they had similarly imported beer declared as soft drinks using another front company. Court proceedings are ongoing against one of the men, while investigations are ongoing for the other three men.



1,800 cartons of beer were seized.



## First comprehensive and secure electronic Banker's Guarantee programme launched on the Networked Trade Platform

**B**usinesses can enjoy smoother and faster Banker's Guarantee transactions with Singapore Customs with the launch of the first comprehensive electronic Banker's Guarantee (eBG) programme on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) since 2 November 2020.

The eBG programme removes the need for the issuance and delivery of paper BGs by participating banks to Singapore Customs. Banks and traders can now experience a fully paperless process including BG lodgement, claims and discharge. Currently, the participating banks are BNP Paribas, DBS Bank, OCBC Bank, SMBC and UOB.

These banks can now send structured data digitally via the NTP to Singapore Customs on behalf of their clients when traders are required to lodge or wish to extend their eBGs. This reduces the transit time to almost zero. Banks and traders also enjoy a faster processing lead time of one day, down from about 10 working days. At the same time, Singapore Customs is assured of the authenticity of the BG by leveraging

the secured and verified digital identity when the eBG is sent via the NTP. This has removed the need for checks and verification. The eBG programme has improved the efficiency of the BG lodgement process for all parties in the ecosystem.

The eBG programme also caters for early discharge of the eBG via electronic means, which means that traders will not need to collect the physical BG and letter of discharge from Singapore Customs and return it to the issuing banks, saving effort and cost at all stages of the BG lifecycle.

The implementation of a fully digitalised eBG is a result of a joint government-industry collaboration between Singapore Customs and financial institutions, accelerated by the new normal brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is part of the NTP's efforts to connect various parts of the trade and logistics ecosystem to enable stakeholders, in Singapore and abroad, to reap the benefits of digitalisation, connectivity and interoperability, which will provide the foundation for Singapore to be a leading trade, supply chain and trade financing hub.

For more information, refer to **Circular 10/2020** on the Customs website.

## NTP: New Value-Added Services on Board

**V**alue-Added Services (VAS) on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP) meet varied business needs. These include business services that cut across related sectors like trade finance. Today, NTP has a total of 51 VASes. Here are some of the VASes available on the NTP:

### Portnet.com (PORTNET)

PORTNET is the world's first nation-wide business-to-business (B2B) port community solution, connecting all maritime and logistics stakeholders. The collaborative workflow-based platform facilitates proactive decision making and the synchronisation of complex business processes.

### Singapore E-Business Pte Ltd (EzyPayment)

EzyPayment offers hassle-free credit to improve business cash flow. Companies can extend up to 60

days of interest-free credit terms, enjoy early payment discounts and receive payments within two to five days of invoice.

### KT Tech Pte Ltd (Customs Declaration Services)

KT Tech Pte Ltd, founded in 2018, is a TradeNet Front-End Solution provider. Designed as a cloud-based solution, KT Tech provides Customs Declaration Services, and acts as the declaring agent to perform permit preparation and submission on behalf of their customers.

The full VAS list is available at [www.ntp.gov.sg/public/browse-vas-catalogue](http://www.ntp.gov.sg/public/browse-vas-catalogue).

To find out more about the NTP and sign up for an account, go to [www.ntp.gov.sg](http://www.ntp.gov.sg).

## Combating money laundering from illegal wildlife trade

**T**he Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, released its report on Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade on 25 June 2020. The report includes a list of risk indicators to assist the trade sector in identifying potential suspicious transactions and behaviour patterns indicative of money laundering linked to illegal wildlife trade.

Besides the FATF report, the Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office, which is Singapore's financial intelligence unit, also published red flag indicators relating to illegal wildlife trade on its Suspicious Transaction Report reporting platform in June 2020.

Traders and declaring agents are encouraged to incorporate these risk indicators and red flag indicators into their customer due diligence checks to identify and report suspicious transactions. They are also reminded of their legal obligation to report suspicious transactions.

Illegal wildlife trade is a major transnational organised crime which generates billions of

dollars of criminal gains each year. Wildlife traffickers use services provided by financial institutions, as well as non-financial institutions such as traders and declaring agents, to move and hide their illicit proceeds.

The trade sector has a crucial role to play in combatting financial flows from the illegal wildlife trade. By understanding their financial risks and exposure to the illegal wildlife trade, the trade sector can take measures to stop wildlife traffickers from misusing their services.

For more information, refer to **Circular 09/2020** on the Customs website.

Also read more about how Singapore Customs counters different forms of illicit trade to achieve a secure supply chain here: <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/trade-security-in-singapore/>.



Pangolin scales (left) and elephant ivory (right) seized by local authorities in 2019 (Photos: NParks).

## Industry sharing on strategic trade management

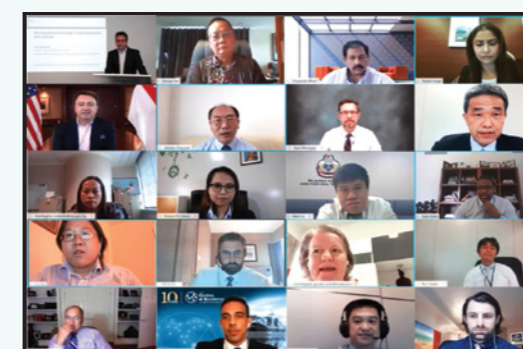
**M**ore than 600 attendees from various industries attended a virtual Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management, which was held from 29 September to 1 October 2020, to learn

about updates on strategic trade control regimes in seven countries namely, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore and the United States.

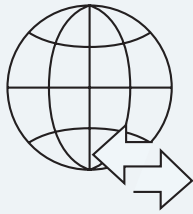
Now into its ninth year, the annual seminar provided an opportunity for attendees to hear from government regulators and private sector practitioners, and to enhance their understanding of recent developments on strategic trade management.

Other than government regulators from the seven countries, private sector and academia representatives from NetApp, Deloitte & Touche and Hokkaido University also shared their internal compliance programmes during the sharing session on industry best practices.

The seminar was jointly organised by Singapore Customs, in collaboration with the US Bureau of Industry and Security, the US Export Control and Related Border Security, the US Department of Energy, and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.



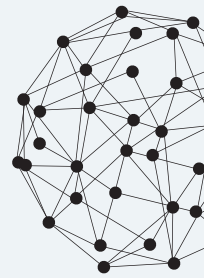
Attendees of the three-day Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management, which was held online for the first-time ever this year.



# TRAINING CALENDAR

With the appointment of Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) and Republic Polytechnic (RP) to conduct the existing suite of business courses from January 2020, the business courses conducted by Singapore Customs Academy has ceased from January 2020.

To sign up for the business courses conducted by NYP or RP, please visit the respective polytechnic's website. All courses will be conducted virtually, except for SC111.



## SC111

**NYP:**  
8 JAN 2021, 5 FEB 2021,  
12 MAR 2021

**RP:**  
21 JAN 2021, 25 FEB 2021,  
25 MAR 2021

### HANDS-ON TRADENET DECLARATION

This one-day workshop provides new declarants with basic information on TradeNet and its various message and declaration types.

The guided practical session uses simulated scenarios to prepare and submit a declaration using the Government Frontend Solution.

## SC100

**NYP:**  
4 TO 5 JAN 2021,  
1 TO 2 FEB 2021,  
8 TO 9 MAR 2021  
SC 101

6 JAN 2021, 3 FEB 2021,  
10 MAR 2021  
Same dates for SC102 & SC103

### BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT

This course provides an overview of customs procedures pertaining to the import and export of goods, the basic requirements for preparing TradeNet declarations, classification of goods, and the rules of origin:

- SC101 Customs Procedures (2 days)
- SC102 Classification and the Harmonised System (half-day)
- SC103 Rules of Origin / Free Trade Agreements (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.

**RP:**  
11 TO 12 JAN 2021,  
22 TO 23 FEB 2021,  
22 TO 23 MAR 2021  
SC 101

14 JAN 2021, 18 FEB 2021,  
24 MAR 2021  
Same dates for SC102 & SC103

### BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT

This course provides an overview of customs procedures pertaining to the import and export of goods, the basic requirements for preparing TradeNet declarations, classification of goods, and the rules of origin:

- SC101 Customs Procedures (2 days)
- SC102 Classification and the Harmonised System (half-day)
- SC103 Rules of Origin / Free Trade Agreements (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.

## SC200

**NYP:**  
7 JAN 2021, 4 FEB 2021,  
11 MAR 2021  
Same dates for SC201 & SC202

**RP:**  
19 JAN 2021, 26 MAR 2021  
Same dates for SC201 & SC202

### STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL PROGRAMME

This one-day seminar provides an overview of Singapore's strategic goods control system and its regulations, registration procedures and permit requirements for strategic goods transactions, as well as the essentials of an internal (export control) compliance programme.

The seminar comprises two modules:

- SC201 Basics of Strategic Goods Control (half-day)
- SC202 Essentials of Internal (Export Control) Compliance Programme (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.



### (WEBINAR) OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS (8 JAN 2021)

This programme is designed to equip newly-registered manufacturers with a better understanding of the rules of origin under Singapore's Free Trade Agreements, the application procedure for certificates of origin, and the compliance requirements.

For enquiries, please email [customs\\_roo@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_roo@customs.gov.sg).