

**ADB-WCO JOINT SUB-REGIONAL TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP  
ON CUSTOMS VALUATION  
UNDER THE MULTI-YEAR ASSISTANCE FOR SASEC COUNTRIES  
(COLOMBO, SRI LANKA)**

**General**

**Date:** 3-7 February 2014

**Venue:** Cinnamon Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Facilitators:**

- Ms. Rosalind McKenzie, Regional Cooperation Specialist, SARC, South Asia Regional Development, Asian Development Bank
- Ms. Alona Mae Agustin, SARC, South Asia Regional Department, Asian Development Bank
- Mr. Ismail Nashid, Assistant Commissioner of Maldives Commissioner General's Office, Maldives Customs (WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation)
- Mr. Mohammed M. M. Rishafy, Director Industries and Services, Sri Lanka Customs, (WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation)
- Mr. Atsushi Fukui, Supervisory Valuation Specialist, Customs Government of Japan, (WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation)
- Ms. Maki Kitaura, Senior Inspector Customs Clearance Coordination Section, Customs, Government of Japan, (WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation)
- Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program Manager for South Asia, ROCB A/P, (WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation)

**Participants:** A total of 17 participants from 6 customs administrations, and 7 participants from Sri Lanka Customs (Host), participated in this workshop.

Participants recognized the contribution of:

- ADB
- Sri Lanka Customs
- Japan Customs
- Maldives Customs
- ROCB A/P

The WCO ADB Joint Subregional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation under the Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries was held on 3-7 February 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Mr. Jagath P. Wijeweera, Director General of Sri Lanka Customs, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operational Manager and Program Manager for South Asia, World Customs Organization, Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (WCO-ROCB A/P), and Ms. Rose McKenzie, Regional Cooperation Specialist Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, South Asia

Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB), welcomed the participants and opened the Workshop. Representatives from the Customs Administrations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka participated in the Workshop. Representatives of ADB, WCO-ROCB A/P, and resource persons from the Customs of Japan, the Maldives Customs Service, and Sri Lanka Customs gave presentations and facilitated the Workshop. The Agenda of the Workshop is at Attachment 1. The list of participants of the Workshop is at Attachment 2.

The Workshop is aligned with the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program and falls under the activities of the SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2014-2016. During the SASEC Trade Facilitation Week held in April 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand SASEC countries voiced strong preference for customs valuation to be a priority area for capacity building within the strategic approach of SASEC TF Framework. ADB and WCO-ROCB A/P accordingly designed a Multi-year Assistance for SASEC countries to support the countries' efforts to materialize the proper management of Customs Valuation ideally through Post Clearance Audit, PCA, which is requested to all RKC contracting parties through Chapter 6 of the General Annex, for ensuring both the trade facilitation and the proper collection of national revenue.

The Colombo Workshop aims to: (i) establish a pool of national experts for sustainable development on valuation control ideally through PCA; and (ii) discuss next steps for implementing PCA.

For this purpose, the Workshop included sessions on: (i) Review of the WTO Valuation Agreement; (ii) Case study on Valuation, (iii) Review of the effective valuation control through PCA, (iv) Case introduction of PCA, and (v) Discussion on necessary steps to take toward the implementation or enhancement of PCA.

In the Workshop, each country created a draft Action Plan to enhance its proper management of Customs Valuation. The draft will be submitted to respective Customs administrations and once authorized, will be submitted to ADB and ROCB A/P by end-February 2014 for further consultation on follow-up activities under this multi-year project.

## **Outline of the Workshop**

### **Workshop Programs:**

#### **Day 1**

#### **Opening Ceremony**

- Workshop was officially opened by Mr. Jagath P Wijeweera, Director General of Sri Lanka Customs. He welcomed all participants and facilitators of this workshop and expressed his appreciation to the ADB and ROCB A/P, and highlighted the workshop as a good opportunity for all members to deepen the knowledge on Valuation Control.
- Mr. Rosalind McKenzie, Regional Cooperation Specialist, SARC, South Asia Regional Development, Asian Development Bank, and Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program Manager for South Asia of ROCB A/P also made opening remarks and expressed their appreciation to Sri Lanka Customs for hosting the event.

### **Session 1 - Introduction to Workshop**

- Ms. McKenzie made a presentation on the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program and explained the background and purpose of the workshop.
- Mr. Miyoshi made a presentation on the introduction of ROCB A/P and its mission. He introduced for instance organizational structure, 4 pillars of activities, and work focus 2013/2014 of ROCB A/P.
- He also made presentations on the outline of the Multi-year Assistance for SASEC countries and program of the Workshop, explaining the outline and roadmap of the project and each session of the Workshop.

### **Session 2 – Country Report on Valuation and/or PCA status and problems/challenges from representatives of participating Customs administrations**

Presentations were made by a representative from each delegation on:

- Organizational structure
- Flow of import procedures
- Valuation methods
- PCA results
- Problems/challenges on valuation control, etc.

### **Day 2**

#### **Session 3 – Review of the WTO Valuation Agreement**

Mr. Nashid, WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation, from Maldives Customs reviewed

- The principle of the WTO Valuation Agreement
- The transaction value method

Mr. Rishafy, WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation, from Sri Lanka Customs reviewed

- The alternative methods

#### **Session 4 – Basic Case study on Valuation**

Mr. Miyoshi from ROCB A/P conducted Case studies on Valuation and reviewed the Customs Valuation methods, stressing the importance of drawing detailed transaction charts. Through the Case study, participants, as candidate trainers who will conduct future national training, practiced explaining how to decide the Customs Value under the WTO Valuation Agreement.

### **Day 3**

#### **Session 5 – Review of effective Valuation Control**

Ms. Kitaura, WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation, from Japan Customs reviewed

- The concept of Valuation Control
- Instruments for enhancing PCA

Mr. Fukui, WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation, from Japan Customs reviewed

- Typical Procedure of Field Audit
- Case introduction

### **Day 4**

#### **Session 6 – Local Case study on Valuation**

The four technical experts and Mr. Miyoshi conducted Local Case studies submitted by each

delegation and reviewed the Customs Valuation method. They shared skills and experiences on how to effectively handle difficult cases regarding valuation control.

### **Session 7 – Discussion and Action Plan**

Each delegation created a draft Action Plan to enhance the proper management of Customs Valuation. The draft will be submitted to each respective Customs administration and will be submitted to the ADB and ROCB A/P by end-February 2014 for further consultation on follow-up activities under this multi-year project.

### **Day 5**

### **Session 8 – Report of Action Plan**

A representative of each delegation presented their draft national Action Plan and exchanged ideas each the other delegations.

### **Session 9 – Wrap-up**

- Workshop summary and evaluation was introduced.
- Taking into account the discussion in the last 4 days facilitator concluded summary of the Workshop as follows:

### **Closing Session**

- Certificates were presented from the ADB and ROCB A/P to all participants
- Mr. Mr. Jagath P Wijeweera, Director General of Sri Lanka Customs expressed appreciation to all facilitators and participants for their positive participation and declared the successful completion of the workshop.
- Ms. McKenzie from the ADB and Mr. Miyoshi from ROCB A/P expressed their appreciation for the gracious hosting and arrangements made by Sri Lanka Customs.

## **Recommendations and Next Steps**

With completed draft national action plans that identify prioritized measures to improve implementation of customs valuation systems through effective PCA, delegates agreed broadly on the next steps, including:

- By end-February 2014:** Presentation to national customs administrations of respective actions plans, and inclusion of any preferred adjustments to action plans, to produce a national approved action plan;
- March 2014:** Consultation with ADB and WCO-ROCB A/P on approved national action plan;
- Conducting of first round of national workshops/activities for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal;
- October 2014:** Conducting of Second Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation Control for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka;
- Conducting of second round of national workshops/activities for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal.

In addition, in order to ensure that the benefit of this multi-year train-the-trainer initiative will benefit not only participants but also a wider base of personnel in their customs administrations, it is strongly recommended that:

- Trained participants from the first regional workshop report to senior management in

their respective Customs administrations the outcomes of the Colombo Workshop.

- ii. Disseminate information and materials gained in the Workshop to relevant senior management, sections, divisions, and colleagues in the respective Customs administrations.
- iii. Report back to ROCB A/P follow-up activities conducted, which can be shared with other trained participants as good practices and lessons learnt.