

## **Joint Press Release**

### **The Fourth Tripartite (Japan, The People's Republic of China and The Republic of Korea) Customs Heads' Meeting**

**Tokyo, Japan: November 11, 2011**

The Customs Heads of Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea held the fourth Tripartite Customs Heads' Meeting (TCHM) in Tokyo, Japan on November 11, 2011. Mr. Atsuo Shibota, Director General of the Customs and Tariff Bureau, at the Ministry of Finance, Japan, led the Japanese delegation and chaired the meeting. Mr. Yu GuanZhou, Minister of the General Administration of Customs, the People's Republic of China, led the Chinese delegation. Mr. Yong-Sup Joo, Commissioner of the Korea Customs Service, the Republic of Korea, led the Korean delegation.

The following is highlights of the discussions held in the meeting.

Regarding the Great East Japan Earthquake, DG Shibota expressed his appreciation for the sympathy and assistance delivered by the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea to Japan. The three Customs Heads recognized that the incident reminded us of the deep bonds of friendship among three countries and the essential needs of strengthening of tripartite Customs cooperation for the development of our region.

The three Customs Heads welcomed the recent development of customs cooperation in the fields of the protection of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), Customs enforcement and intelligence, mutual recognition of AEO (Authorized Economic Operator) programs as well as human resource development.

As for IPR, the three Customs Heads, based on a report from the IPR working group, reaffirmed the necessity of the enhancement of their cooperation through the implementation of joint operations on a regular basis and the revision of the Fake Zero Project.

The Customs Enforcement and Intelligence Working Group reported their recent activities in terms of information exchange, and their possible new initiatives, including a countermeasure against commercial fraud. The three Customs Heads ordered the WG to submit a report of the

new initiatives in the next TCHM.

Regarding AEO mutual recognition, the three Customs Heads welcomed the progress in implementing the Action Plan of Tripartite Customs Cooperation such as the discussion on the respective AEO programs and work for bilateral mutual recognition. The three Customs Heads confirmed the continuation of their work in line with the revised Action Plan.

In addition, the three Customs Heads appreciated the progress in cooperation in human resource development. In particular, the conclusion of bilateral Memorandums of cooperation was highlighted. The three Customs Heads agreed to promote the exchange of experiences on human resource development among their training institutions, based on the bilateral Memorandums.

Following the Summit Declaration of Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit, the three Customs Heads emphasized the importance of trade facilitation and the improvement of customs procedures. In this context, the establishment of Customs Procedures Working Group and its Work Plan were endorsed by the three Customs Heads.

With a view to showing the direction of tripartite Customs cooperation and assuring concrete cooperative actions, the revised Action Plan of Tripartite Customs Cooperation was approved by the three Customs Heads (See Attached). They reiterated their confident expectation that the cooperation among the three Customs will be further reinforced through the steady implementation of the Action Plan.

In the TCHM, the three Customs Heads discussed matters related to the fifth TCHM. The fifth TCHM will be hosted by the General Administration of Customs, the People's Republic of China in 2012.