

Press Release

The Third Tripartite

(The People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan)

Customs Heads' Meeting

Beijing, China, 28 September 2009

On 28 September 2009, the Customs Heads of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan (hereinafter referred to as the Three Customs Heads) held the third Tripartite Customs Heads' Meeting (TCHM) in Beijing, China. Mr. SHENG Guangzu, Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, led the Chinese delegation and chaired the meeting. Mr. Yongsuk Hur, Commissioner of the Korea Customs Service, the Republic of Korea, led the Korean delegation. Mr. Toshiyuki Ohto, Director General of the Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance, Japan, led the Japanese delegation.

The Three Customs Heads recognized that a sign of recovery from financial crisis which broke out in 2008 is beginning to be seen in some parts of the world, but stabilization is uneven and economic growth is expected to be sluggish. In this context, the Three Heads renewed their commitment to making joints effort to further enhance Customs cooperation in trade facilitation and security, and support the sustained economic recovery and growth, as well as promote trade among the three countries. The Three Customs Heads discussed the cooperation issues such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection, Customs enforcement and intelligence, the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO), human resource development, and trade facilitation and security. They also deliberated and approved the "Action Plan of the Tripartite Customs Cooperation" (the "Beijing Plan") by signing it. The Beijing Plan charts the blueprint for the future cooperation in the key fields, which will contribute not only to the secure and facilitated environment for the trade among the three countries, but also to the healthy and stabilized development of the regional economy.

The Three Customs Heads also discussed matters related to the fourth TCHM. Given

that the three Customs Heads all agreed to incorporate the TCHM into the framework of the Trilateral Summit, whose next meeting will convene in the Republic of Korea in 2010, the Three Customs Heads confirmed that, in principle, the Customs Administration of the host country of the Trilateral Summit would be the host of TCHM. Accordingly, the fourth TCHM will be held by the Korea Customs Service in the Republic of Korea in 2010.