



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2022/SOM3/CTI/028**

Agenda Item: XIV

## **Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Convenor's Report**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: SCCP Convenor



**Third Committee on Trade and Investment  
Meeting  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
26-27 August 2022**

**SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES (SCCP)  
CONVENOR'S REPORT  
2022 CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS**

**Specific to CTI**

**Was quorum reached at the most recent plenary meeting? Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting.**

- The quorum reached at the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCCP Meeting. The Meeting was attended by all 21 economies comprising of 118 delegates attended virtually using the Microsoft Teams virtual platform and physically at Shangri-la Hotel, Chiang Mai during 23-25 August 2022.

**Key outcomes from your SOM3 meeting**

- The SCCP Chair informed the Meeting on the SCCP1 outcome, held virtually on 15 -17 February 2022 from Bangkok, Thailand. The Program Director also reported the progress of the SCCP Workplan 2022 which contains a number of projects and initiatives that SCCP has carried out to support five SCCP priorities according to the SCCP Strategic Plan 2022-2025.
- Thailand updated the Meeting on Best Practice Guidelines on Customs Control for COVID-19 Related Goods, endorsed by SCCP and presented in the statement of the Chair of APEC MRT in May 2022. The guidelines was developed as a reference administrative tool that SCCP member economies could employ in fighting against illicit COVID-19 related goods and protect the global community.
- Following up on the tasking by CTI, New Zealand will advance the implementation of Best Practice Guidelines to Facilitate the Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines and Related Goods by accumulating a survey result, then SCCP will submit such report to CTI for the upcoming APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) Meeting by 7 October 2022.
- On the experience sharing on the Responses to COVID-19 Post Recovery, the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) and member economies shared their experiences where the importance of collaboration among SCCP members, WCO, global partners, and private sector in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic through the capacity building activities and information sharing was also highlighted.
- New Zealand updated the Meeting on the Self-Funded Project on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Implementation Acceleration: Priorities and Channels for Adoption of Customs Related Chapters. The findings from the questionnaire outlined the current implementation status of customs-related WTO TFA articles, identified challenges and priorities in the implementation of WTO TFA, as well as provided recommendations on capacity building projects that SCCP should focus on in order to accelerate the TFA implementation of SCCP members.

- Japan updated the Meeting of the Concept Note on APEC Workshops for Capacity Building in Self-Declaration of Origin for FTAs/RTAs proposed. The project aims to improve the Customs of APEC economies' capacity by organizing workshops to help SCCP members develop domestic institutional and regulatory arrangements for implementing self-declaration of origin for FTAs/RTAs. The project proposal will be submitted to APEC Secretariat in September 2022.
- Experiences on the implementation of WTO TFA was shared by member economies. Singapore shared her successful implementation of all the WTO TFA provisions especially towards the area of enhancing transparency and facilitating trade. Peru shared her initiative to cooperate between public and private sector on the Improvement of Sanitary Control Management for Trade Facilitation.
- Thailand updated the Meeting on the outcome of the Workshop on Tax/Duty Collection, Risk Management and Trade Facilitation for Imports of Low Value Goods under De Minimis Threshold held by Thailand in May 2022. The workshop provided practices and experiences on Tax/Duty collection for low value goods import as well as challenges and tools for cross-border e-Commerce shared by member economies and guest speakers from international organization to support SCCP members in tax/duty collection among significant growth of e-Commerce shipments. The summary report of the workshop will be circulated to SCCP for consideration by 31 October 2022.
- The Policy Support Unit (PSU) presented the Meeting on the APEC Regional trend Analysis concerning Tackling Trade Costs and Facilitating Supply Chain Networks Policy Priorities for Stronger Recovery. The presentation outlined trade cost in APEC and global economy, the importance of trade networks and supply chain, and also suggested policy priorities for APEC economies to reduce trade costs and ensure a resilient economy recovery.
- Chinese Taipei briefed the Meeting on the development of Customs-Port-Trade (CPT) Single Window. Under such project various types of information are shared among relevant stakeholders including import/export licensing agencies and port authorities in order to integrate trade-related data and simplify trade process through a single entry.
- Australia updated the Meeting on 2 projects. The first one was Self-Funded Project on "Future of Trade and Border Management – to 2030" aiming to develop a Digital Dashboard containing a number of useful and up-to-date information which required regularly updates from SCCP members. The Dashboard will be published on the APEC website in November 2022. The second project was "Measures Used to Secure Cargo Containers from Tampering" which was endorsed at the SCCP1 meeting. The final report is expected to be presented at the SCCP1 meeting in 2023.
- The Meeting took note of the experience sharing on the use of new technology and innovative solutions to secure supply chains from Malaysia and China. Malaysia presented the Meeting on the approaches, challenges, and the way forward towards Digital Transformation of Malaysian Customs, while China briefed the Meeting on the use of technology and innovation in Customs work to support the development of free trade ports & free zones by adopting the smart approaches. In addition, China also planned to develop the Self-Funded project "Strengthening Customs Smart Control and Service to Promote the Development of High-Quality Free Trade Ports

& Free Zones” which will gather best practices from the APEC member economies through the questionnaires and organized international seminars in 2023.

- New Zealand updated the Meeting on the project proposal on APEC Funded Project named “Gender Mainstreaming in Customs Administrations: A Metric-Based System”, endorsed in June 2022 and expected to commence in September 2022. The project is developed in alignment with La Serena Roadmap and APEC goals aiming to promote gender equality and ensure equal benefit for women by incorporating gender perspectives into public policies. A common set of gender-focused metrics will be created from the survey to establish foundation for future gender-related work in customs environment and among SCCP economies, by collaborating with WCO and APEC PSU. New Zealand will also hold a Policy Dialogue for SCCP in 2023 to discuss future works and inform capacity building projects. Consequently, the digital publication will be released with including survey and policy dialogue results to recommend future actions and address gender inequality.
- WCO made a VDO presentation on Customs and Sustainable Development which illustrated a number of initiatives and programmes/tools that Customs could contribute towards economic, social and environmental sustainability and also identified the challenges towards sustainable supply chains transition.
- Republic of Korea shared experience on the Official Development Aid (ODA), a tool used for capacity building in Korea Customs Service. During the pandemic, new normal measures were developed to adapt with the ODA original courses in particular the use of VR (Virtual Reality) technology in the training program which supported efficient training contents and virtual practices, subsequently contribute to better understanding of comprehensive Customs roles.
- The United States briefed the Meeting on Intellectual Property Rights Public Awareness Campaign. The project has been carried out since 2017 to raise awareness on the counterfeit goods by promoting through social media platform and collaboration with private sector.

#### **Decision points needed from CTI**

- Seek CTI’s endorsement of the key outcomes of the SCCP2 Meeting held on 23-25 August 2022.