

Joint Press Release

The Second Tripartite (the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and Japan) Customs Heads' Meeting

Republic of Korea , November 11, 2008

Three Customs Heads of the Republic of Korea(ROK), the People's Republic of China(PRC) and Japan participated in the 2nd Tripartite Customs Heads' Meeting in ROK on November 11, 2008. Mr. Yongsuk Hur, Commissioner, Korea Customs Service, ROK, led the Korean delegation and chaired the meeting. Mr. Sheng Guangzu, Minister, General Administration of Customs, PRC, led the Chinese delegation. Mr. Hiroshi Fujioka, Director General, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan, led the Japanese delegation (hereinafter they are referred to as "the Customs Heads").

The followings are highlights of the 2nd Tripartite discussion.

- Building on the outcome of the 1st Tripartite Meeting, the Customs Heads discussed the implementation status of the WCO Framework of standards with their focus on trade facilitation and security.
- The Customs Heads exchanged their views on the Mechanism of Tripartite Customs Heads' Meeting.
- The Customs Heads agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in the field of trade statistics.
- The Customs Heads deliberated on how to enhance trilateral cooperation in a more concrete way to play a leading role in multilateral organizations such as the WCO, APEC, ASEM and ASEAN+3.

- The Customs Heads shared their experiences and know-how on capacity building programs of their own and discussed how to jointly operate a training program in this area.
- The Customs Heads agreed to establish a working-group to discuss how to expand AEO system between the three nations.
- The Customs Heads exchanged their views on three-party joint work to protect the environment within their competence.
- The Customs Heads were briefed on the progress made by the IPR Working-Group Meeting established at the 1st Tripartite Meeting and consented to reinforce information exchange and public awareness activities related to IPR enforcement. In this regard, they recognized that the three Customs should work closely to hold an IPR seminar in cooperation with the WCO.
- The Customs Heads reaffirmed the importance of information exchange for effective enforcement against illicit trafficking. In this regard, they welcomed the work of Customs Intelligence Experts Meeting.
- China and Japan Customs Heads welcomed Korea Customs' intention to host RILO A/P for the next term and promised to provide their know-how of operating RILO A/P.
- The Customs Heads decided to constitute a medium and long term action plan to further promote the pragmatic cooperation among the three parties.
- The 3rd Tripartite Customs Heads Meeting will be held in China to continuously advance close ties of the Customs Authorities. A date and agendas of the meeting will be set through consultations later.