



**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT
OF THE
23rd MEETING OF THE
ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS
Da Lat, Viet Nam, 3-5 June 2014**

1. The 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs was held from 3 – 5 June 2014 in Da Lat, Viet Nam. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Tuc, Director-General, Viet Nam Customs. All 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting.
2. H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN, opened the Meeting on 3rd June 2014. In his opening address, H.E. Le Luong Minh emphasised the increasing importance of Customs in trade facilitation and integration for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). He noted that there are challenges that Customs Administrations of ASEAN must deal with and need to stay focused on the customs agenda under AEC despite the challenges.
3. The ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting reviewed the works of the ASEAN customs committees/working groups. Also, the chairmanship of the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group, Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working group and Customs Capacity Building Working Group has already expired at the 23rd Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Customs. The Meeting endorsed the following recommendations from the Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC): (a) Singapore to continue her chairmanship of the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group for 2014-2016; (b) Malaysia to continue her chairmanship of the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group for 2014-2016; and (c) Indonesia to chair the Customs Capacity Building Working Group for 2014-2016.
4. Key achievements during the past year include the following:
 - a. After the new ASEAN Agreement on Customs was signed on 30 March 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, eight, up from five, Member States have since notified or deposited instruments of ratification with the Secretary General of ASEAN upon the completion of their internal procedures;
 - b. the development of the *ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin Volume V* and the *ASEAN Customs Post Clearance Audit Bulletin Volume V*;
 - c. 13 (up from 11 since the last Directors-General Meeting) of the AEC Scorecard deliverables for Customs Integration have been fully implemented by all Member States.

d. The Meeting discussed the progress on Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit where nine Member States had signed the Protocol and the remaining Member States would sign the Protocol as soon as possible. The Meeting also noted that on ASEAN Agreement on Customs, eight Member States had notified the ASEAN Secretariat on the completion of their internal procedures.

e. The Meeting held consultation sessions with the Customs Administrations of China, Japan and Korea, and the World Customs Organisation to strengthen Customs-to-Customs partnerships in the region.

f. The Meeting held consultation sessions with the US-ASEAN Business Council (USABC) and the Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC), to strengthen Customs-to-Business partnerships in the region.

###

Issued on 5 June 2014

**At the end of the 23rd Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Customs,
Da Lat, Viet Nam**