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This publication has not been formally edited.

Published by WCO.
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List of abbreviations

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASYCUDA</td>
<td>Automated System for Customs Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBRNE</td>
<td>Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear and Explosives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP</td>
<td>Container Control Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITES</td>
<td>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPES</td>
<td>Customs Operational Practices for Enforcement and Seizures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTS</td>
<td>Cargo Targeting System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXBS</td>
<td>Export Control and Related Border Security Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INECE</td>
<td>International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPR</td>
<td>Intellectual Property Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCU</td>
<td>Port Control Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCO</td>
<td>World Customs Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMD</td>
<td>Weapons of Mass Destruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

2015 has been a year of continued growth for the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) that has included the inauguration of Port Control Units (PCUs) in Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the first Air Cargo Control Unit at Karachi Airport in Pakistan. There has been a continued user uptake of the WCO’s ContainerCOMM system, alongside the implementation of the WCO’s Container Targeting System in a number of CCP countries. The Programme has also proactively taken forward the challenges of gender mainstreaming with the launch of the CCP Women’s Network.

The Programme is rolling out theoretical and practical training, as well as more specialized training including Customs Operational Practices for Enforcement and Seizures (COPES) that provides an introduction to investigation and evidence handling techniques. Alongside this, the Programme has continued to deliver Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) training and inaugurated workshops and training on strategic and dual use goods. The Programme also carried out a review of scanning technology that has made a number of important recommendations to improve the use of non-intrusive tools for container control.

There have also been a number of notable operational successes, including the first seizures for the PCUs at Aqaba in Jordan, Bijača in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tbilisi in Georgia, Port Klang in Malaysia and Hai Phong in Viet Nam.

The CCP is building better relationships with the private sector, particularly port operators and shipping lines. These relationships are vital for the continuing success of the Programme and ensures that legitimate trade is facilitated through customs while allowing for the targeting of the highest risk cargoes.

None of this is achievable without the continued support and funding the Programme receives from Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Programme’s training activities also benefit from in-kind contributions through the release of experts including from the following customs administrations: Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. In addition CCP has received funding from the One UN-Albania programme.
Container Control Programme
mission and objectives

Mission
To build capacity in those countries that seek to improve trade security, facilitation standards and controls at their borders.

CCP Objectives
1. Assist Governments in participating countries to establish and maintain effective container controls that will serve not only to prevent drug trafficking and other illicit activities, but also to facilitate legitimate trade and protect border revenue;
2. Establish and maintain Port Control Units (PCU) and equip and train customs and other law enforcement officers to better identify and inspect high-risk freight containers with minimum disruption to legitimate trade and business;
3. Ensure that all PCUs have regular access to expert/mentor services and are encouraged to forge partnerships and links with the trade and business community;
4. Promote closer cooperation and encourage the development of effective information sharing mechanisms between countries participating in the CCP and internationally with the wider customs and border policing community; and
5. Ensure that UNODC and WCO, in cooperation with relevant partners, enhance mechanisms for the collection, analysis and dissemination of container intelligence and risk assessment.

For the countries participating in the CCP, the Programme develops the capability to profile, target and examine containers being used for the transport of illicit goods. This includes narcotics; strategic and dual use goods; forest products and wildlife crime; and goods infringing intellectual property rights.

Container terminal in Panama; Photo courtesy of PCU Panama
### 2015 achievements

During 2015, the Programme continued to build and develop during 2015 - as shown in Annex A which highlights regional and country reports and provides a fuller picture of the Programme’s activities and achievements.

#### Expanding the Programme

The year saw the establishment of new PCUs in a number of locations including, among others:

Chittagong, Bangladesh; Tblisi, Georgia; Hai Phong, Viet Nam; Tanjung Priok, Indonesia; Laem Chabang, Thailand; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan; Aqaba, Jordan; Bijâča, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Port Klang, Malaysia; and Jalalabad, Afghanistan;

CCP activity also included the completion of 15 technical needs assessments for CCP-Sea in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam; and three assessments/pre-assessments for CCP-Air in Pakistan, Georgia and Sri Lanka. New countries to join the CCP in 2015 included Peru and the latest to join, Uganda.

#### Results

As in previous years, the results of Programme activity has been impressive. In 2015, the PCUs made drug seizures totalling 26,173 kg of cocaine, 440 kg of heroin and many seizures of other drugs, including cannabis and synthetics. The CCP has also made seizures of goods infringing intellectual property rights, cigarettes and endangered forest and wildlife species.

#### CCP seizures worldwide for 2015 by category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMODITY</th>
<th>QUANTITY SEIZURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COCAINE</td>
<td>26,173 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEROIN</td>
<td>440 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPIUM</td>
<td>76 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANNABIS (CANNABIS RESIN, HASHISH, HERBAL CANNABIS)</td>
<td>3,670 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRECURSOR CHEMICALS</td>
<td>58,360 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES</td>
<td>177 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICINES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48,702 KG TRAMADOL, OVER 1,000,000 PILLS AND MORE THAN 273 KG OF SEXUAL STIMULANT PILLS, IN ADDITION TO SMALLER AMOUNTS OF OTHER MEDICINES</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIGARETTES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORE THAN 100,380,520 MILLION CIGARETTES AND MORE THAN 22,44 TONS OF TOBACCO</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS / COUNTERFEIT GOODS</td>
<td>A WIDE RANGE OF GOODS INCLUDING PERFUMES, MAKE-UP, CLOTHES, SHOES, HANDBAGS, WATCHES, TOYS, PHONES, COMPUTERS, ETC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST, WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME</td>
<td>ELEPHANT IVORY: 1,023 KG, PANGOLIN SCALES: 4,000 KG, PROTECTED WOOD: 8 CONTAINERS WILDLIFE CRIME SEIZURES, ALSO INCLUDED SEA CUCUMBERS AND OTHER MARINE SPECIES, GAS R22 AND E-WASTE, AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENTALLY DANGEROUS GOODS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEAPONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 FIREARMS, 3 RIFLES, 1 MACHINE GUN</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGIC GOODS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (MILITARY GRADE)</td>
<td>4 CONTAINERS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other seized goods include cash money, alcohol, ammunition, several stolen cars and misdeclarations.
It’s not just about making the seizure

The Port Control Units (PCU) in Panama and the Belgian Authorities carried out several successful pilot simulated controlled deliveries with the full involvement of the National Prosecution Offices from both countries. These specialized investigation techniques are the tools used by law enforcement agencies to detect and dismantle criminal organizations. Coordinated action took place between the PCUs in Panama, the Federal Prosecutor in Panama, the Belgian Federal Police, the Belgian Customs and the Belgian Prosecution Office.

The potential for controlled delivery operations is also being discussed with relevant Authorities in Ecuador. Furthermore, several European countries have expressed an interest in cooperating and coordinating similar operations with the PCUs.

Opening of the second inter-agency Joint Port Control Unit in Afghanistan and hand-over of a HazMatID 360

On 4 November 2015, the second inter-agency Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) of the CCP in Afghanistan was opened inside the premises of the Nangarhar Customs House. The inauguration also included the hand-over of a HazMatID 360 which enables the rapid identification of over 32,000 solid and liquid chemicals.

The Enforcement Director from the Customs Department Headquarters in Kabul together with the Customs Director of Nangarhar Province formally opened the office. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Afghan Border Police, Afghanistan Customs and the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, as well as by members of the JPCU Nangarhar and officials from UNODC Kabul and Jalalabad.

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Eastern Africa

Uganda became the first country in the Eastern Africa region to formally join the CCP. Over the past year, UNODC and the Government of Uganda have been working to launch the Programme in order to support Ugandan efforts to tackle illicit trafficking issues. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Uganda Revenue Authorities, the Uganda Police Force, the Uganda Wildlife Authority and UNODC, was signed on 3 December 2015.

Kenya and Tanzania are expected to sign, and thereby formally join the Programme, in 2016.

Jordan

Jordan is the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to join the CCP through the establishment of an inter-agency unit in the seaport of Aqaba. Since the unit became operational on 1 September 2015, important seizures of illicit drugs and counterfeit products have taken place. Jordan will also start implementing CCP-Air in 2016.

At the opening of the Regional Meeting, the Director-General of the Jordanian Public Security Department commended the efforts of the CCP and expressed his pride of Jordan being a pioneer country in the region.
Training

In 2015, the Programme increased its pool of trainers, including the appointment of an air cargo trainer and a specialist strategic trade trainer. This has meant the delivery of new training packages for PCU officers. The Programme also started work on establishing a practical container training centre in Panama that will equip PCU officers with the necessary targeting and examination skills in a realistic and hands on training environment. Several other countries are considering the establishment of such training facilities.

In total the Programme provided training, mentoring and study visits to over 1,600 law enforcement officials during 2015.

Specialist COPES training that focuses on basic evidence handling and crime scene management was also delivered. Two Strategic Trade and Export Control training events were run in partnership with the US Department of State’s Export Control and Related Border Security Program and the US Department of Energy’s Commodity Identification Training (CIT) in Baku and Vienna, respectively. The event in Baku delivered a regional overview to Central Asian states and Azerbaijan while the event in Vienna had participants from Pakistan. The training provided participants with enhanced capability to detect, deter, prevent and combat the trafficking of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) materials.

The Programme has also organized English language training and computer training where required. Furthermore, advanced wildlife training workshops were delivered to PCUs in West Africa (Benin, Ghana, Senegal and Togo), Southeast Asia (Thailand and Viet Nam) and Eastern Africa (Kenya and Uganda). Advanced training on drug precursor chemicals was provided in Bangladesh and Ghana. In mentor follow-up training in Haiphong, Viet Nam, the CCP cooperated with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) on a three-day workshop on Detection and Inspection of Illegal Waste Shipments. In addition, CCP trainers provided training to the local team under the US Container Security Initiative based in the Dominican Republic.

Mentoring continued to be delivered to PCUs in all Programme regions. This ensured that the skills provided by the training remained current and refreshed. Work Study tours continued in 2015, and included visits for officers from the PCUs in the Dominican Republic, Georgia and Sri Lanka to Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Antwerp in Belgium. PCU officers from Ghana went on study visits to Felixstowe in the UK and Senegalese officers to Le Havre, France. The PCU team of Bosnia and Herzegovina deepened its cooperation with the Slovenian authorities during a visit to Koper in Slovenia.
Mentorship training to the Joint Container Cargo Control Unit in Bosnia and Herzegovina on strengthening operational capacities

A one week mentorship training was conducted by the WCO to the Joint Container Cargo Control Unit (JCCCU) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, operating in the framework of the CCP, on 1-5 June 2015. The training took place at the border crossing/customs point of Bijača, the operational location of the JCCCU.

During the course of the Mentorship training, special attention was paid to cover all aspects of JCCCU operations and its day-to-day engagement in conducting risk analysis, profiling of high-risk containers, obtaining pre-arrival information and sharing experiences and good practices on the regional level. Contemporary work procedures applied in Customs operations, work organization and the use of information channels, and risk indicators, among other topics, were discussed which are of particular relevance to the work of the JCCCU.

This activity aimed to further strengthen the capacity of the Unit and to contribute to the overall security along the Bosnia and Herzegovina border. It is based on the successful CCP training structure and methodology which draws from the experience and best practices in the field of Customs operations, including data information exchange, risk analysis processes and systems and the organization of functioning and effective Customs/border controls.

Training events and participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Number of events</th>
<th>Number of participating countries*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Theoretical Training</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Practical Training</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Visit / Exchange Visit</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized / Advanced Training</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentorship / Follow-up Training</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Training</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector Initiatives</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,465</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*based on location of training

The Programme provided training, mentoring and study visits to over 1,600 law enforcement officials during 2015
ContainerCOMM

ContainerCOMM, the WCO’s real-time communication tool for information exchange and cooperation that facilitates container targeting between the PCUs, increased to 95 countries and three international organizations, with more than 1,200 registered users. The system also facilitates the global communication between Customs container targeting officers and risk profilers in a host of countries that are not part of the CCP.

ContainerCOMM is currently available in Arabic, Dari, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Urdu. WCO has also been working with UNODC Viet Nam and Viet Nam Customs on a Vietnamese version of WCO ContainerCOMM which will be ready soon.

Scanning technology review

During 2015, the Programme initiated a review of existing technologies and techniques operated at seaports and airports in Ecuador, Pakistan and Panama. The review provided an assessment of the operational effectiveness and scanning processes of the administrations operating the equipment.

Recommendations were made that addressed the type, lifespan and suitability of scanning equipment for a range of port environments. The report also provided advice on improvements to procedures, engagement with port and airport operators and the training provision for officers operating the equipment. These recommendations will be taken forward by the Programme in 2016.

Interview with Morten Johansen,
Executive Director, DP World
Caucedo, Dominican Republic

Have you experienced any difference since the Port Control Unit was established in the Port of Caucedo?

Yes indeed. We see a greater use of intelligence and implementation of a risk profiling system to identify counterfeit goods and drug trafficking. We also see a better coordination between agencies. It is noticeable that alongside an increase in seizures of illicit goods there are fewer examinations and better trade facilitation.

When you talk about the Port of Caucedo and about your company DP World, do you also mention the existence of a Container Control Unit in the port?

Yes. DP World values the more effective border and security controls that the Container Control Unit has brought to the port. The Unit is also included in our DP World Caucedo presentations to our stakeholders and clients. This shows very clearly the importance of the Unit to DP World Caucedo as well as the additional value provides to the company.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to add that in our view the use of intelligence is the best tool to fight counterfeit and the illicit trafficking of drugs.
CCP-Air

2015 saw the launch of CCP-Air with the first training for the Air Port Control Unit -(A)PCU- at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, Pakistan. As with their counterparts at sea container ports, this unit as well as future ones will be staffed and equipped to undertake systematic profiling and inspection of air freight. The Port Needs Assessment for the (A)PCU at Jinnah International airport was carried out in February 2015 and identified a number of areas where the Programme could work with the Government of Pakistan to build on existing achievements and further strengthen air cargo controls at Karachi. It was therefore agreed that Karachi should have the first of the Programme’s (A)PCU’s. The members of the (A)PCU have been drawn from the Federal Bureau of Revenue (customs) and the Anti-Narcotics Force. Similarly, future units will have officers drawn from a range of customs, law enforcement and other security agencies. The initial theoretical training was delivered in November with the follow-up practical training and mentoring scheduled for early 2016.

Cooperation with the private sector

A good understanding and respect for the roles and functions of the different stakeholders in the cargo supply chain is a vital border control element. Workshops with the private sector and local organizations in the Programme’s partner countries are ensuring that stronger and closer links continue to be built that not only make the PCUs more effective but also facilitate private sector activity.

In 2015, for example, the Programme in Albania continued to have private sector representation on its Steering Committee to discuss and advise on new legislation and other trade-related issues. This relationship helped to develop a recognition that the private sector PCU relationship is fundamental in ensuring the Programme’s success.

The Programme will continue to build and strengthen these relationships with key private sector stakeholders, particularly terminal operators and shipping lines. Better access to data and information on port operations that improves the PCU’s ability to target the highest risk cargoes, coupled with better coordinated and quicker cargo examinations enhances trade facilitation. In addition, the workshops facilitate dialogue that focuses on common interests and challenges, and discusses improvements to processes.

“Canada’s Strategy for Engagement in the Americas envisions a more prosperous, secure and democratic hemisphere. It is our priority to support countries in the Americas in their fight against transnational organized crime and deter criminals from transforming the States in the region as countries of origin or transit for illicit trafficking of goods and illicit drugs.

Canada and the UNODC-WCO, via the Container Control Programme (CCP), are assisting national authorities in the Americas to protect and prevent the activities of their citizens, businesses and supply chains from being compromised by illicit business, illicit trafficking, and corruption. Under the CPP, training and tools are provided to security officials and law enforcement and customs agencies to improve their ability to share critical data and adopt uniform processes in container control operations.

The Canadian Embassy in Panama considers the CPP in Panama as essential for the safeguard of legitimate maritime trade globally.“

Ambassador of Canada to Panama
CCP Women’s Network

August 2015 saw the inauguration of the new “Women’s Network” initiative in Vienna. Within a culturally sensitive framework, the CCP Women’s Network aims to promote professionalism and leadership to increase female participation in the Programme.

At present, women account for approximately 12 percent of the Programme’s PCU officers. However, participation by women varies widely across the regions: in some countries there are no female PCU officials, while in West Africa 22 percent of PCU members are women. Traditionally, law enforcement is a male dominated profession and therefore the Network aims to address gender stereotypes that limit women and deprive programmes such as the CCP of valuable talent.

Among the actions to be undertaken, the CCP Women’s Network will:

1. Encourage the Programme’s PCUs to include female law enforcement officers by introducing a number of measures including gender-sensitized recruitment criteria and flexible working hours;
2. Establish a support network to build the capacity of women PCU members, including specific mentoring initiatives and the development of information/resource sharing initiatives;
3. Introduce a gender sensitization module to the standard CCP training package for men and women PCU members; and
4. Define gender indicators to assess the impact of interventions.

Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, United Nations Member States adopted a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to continue and to complement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Unlike the MDGs, the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes measures that will build rule of law, security and justice capability and it explicitly acknowledges the link between peace, security and development.

By strengthening recipient countries’ border control capacities to more effectively and efficiently profile and inspect cargo containers, the Programme not only helps to counter transnational organized crime and terrorism, but also facilitates legitimate trade, thus fostering sustainable economic development.

Furthermore, the SDGs underline the importance of ensuring women and girls equal access to education and work and that men need to be engaged in these undertakings. Through the establishment of its Women’s Network, the CCP is scaling up efforts to work with host countries to recruit more women to the Port Control Units and to ensure their influence and role in the Programme.

“For the Customs Authority of Panama, the implementation of the Container Control Programme represents a great opportunity for all authorities involved to work together in the interest of our national security. The remarkable increase of drug seizures in the main ports of the country, as well as the control measures on merchandise susceptible to criminal activity (such as intellectual property rights violations, crimes against protected natural resources and dual-use materials, among others), are the results of the continuous training the team has received from UNODC.”

Director-General, Panama Customs
“As a high volume of the kingdom’s trade is currently transported by sea containers, the creation of the port control unit in Aqaba comes as a solution to the highly complicated political situation in the region which is exploited by many traffickers and smugglers to maliciously achieve their objectives. The systematic training and equipment of selected customs personnel alongside with the relevant law enforcement agencies to operate the PCU using risk management techniques is again the adequate methodology for maintaining balance between facilitating licit trade while controlling the illicit.

This WCO/UNODC joint initiative is one that embodies cooperation and coordination between international organizations and world customs administrations in enhancing legitimate trade around the world and protecting nations and societies from illegal trade and criminal activities.”

Director-General, Jordan Customs
Focus: Southeast Asia

Detect, deter, prevent and combat. Four simple words yet when grouped together in Operative Paragraph 3(c) of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 they describe a mandatory requirement on border control officers to prevent the trafficking of arguably the most dangerous of all illicit commodities – Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in the form of Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) materials.

While the resolution itself is a powerful one, there is no elaboration of what constitutes effective implementation. Additionally, despite significant advances in despite awareness and reporting of UNSCR 1540 at the strategic level, little progress had been made in front-line operational areas. The time the CCP was founded in 2004, the world had already witnessed the devastation and loss of life caused by terrorists using planes (New York, September 2001), trains (Tokyo, March 1995) and automobiles (Bali, 2002). There was, however, one mode of transport missing from this list, – one so vital to international commerce that hundreds of millions of them traverse the globe every year: the sea container.

Upon recognising the huge capacity gap existing in Members States’ ability to seize illicit goods in the containerised supply chain, UNODC and WCO went on to launch the Container Control Programme. For over a decade the Programme has worked with these same border control officers to achieve remarkable results and seizures beyond anticipation. With initial support from the Export Control and Related Border Security Programme of the US Department of State, and more recently with a significant contribution from the Global Partnership Program of Global

A Donor’s View

Since it was established in 2002, Canada’s Global Partnership Program (GPP) has invested over CAD$1 billion on concrete projects geared to reduce the threat to global security posed by weapons and materials of mass destruction (WMD). A key component of the GPP’s mandate involves efforts to enhance implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540. Canada is a strong supporter of the UNODC’s efforts to foster global implementation of UNSCR 1540, in particular by providing technical assistance to help States implement effective domestic controls to prevent the illicit trafficking and brokering of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials.

To date, the GPP has committed more than CAD$7 million towards the Global Container Control Programme (CCP) for UNSCR 1540 related activities. Canada’s contributions through the GPP have supported the CCP’s work in Southeast Asia and Peru. Through these initiatives, Canada and UNODC are working together to prevent dual-use items – specifically chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials – from contributing to proliferation through illicit transit in sea containers. The CCP’s training activities enhance national law enforcement capacities to detect, identify and prevent illicit trafficking of CBRN materials and to counter the transnational organized crime and terrorist actors that pursue such activities. In so doing, the CCP equally helps to reinforce and promote licit and legitimate trade activities.

Canada’s GGP values its ongoing and constructive partnership with UNODC, and the important contribution that the CCP is making to global efforts to prevent the illicit trafficking of weapons and materials of mass destruction.
Affairs Canada, the Programme is able to contribute more directly to Member States’ mandatory requirement to detect, deter, prevent and combat the trafficking of WMD and CBRN materials in Southeast Asia.

Canada earmarked its contribution to eight of the ten countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Southeast Asia component of CCP was launched through a ‘kick-off’ meeting in August 2014.

Following a period of intensive implementation, Viet Nam was the first country to formally open their CCP Port Control Unit:

“There remains a clear risk of weapons of mass destruction, their related materials, or delivery systems falling into the wrong hands. No country or region is immune to the potential impact of this threat as state proliferators and non-state actors continue to take advantage of legitimate international trade systems to illicitly acquire these goods. We must work diligently and collectively to combat this global threat”: Ms. Ayesha Rekhi, Chargé d’affaires at the Embassy of Canada on the occasion of the signing ceremony.

From the launch of CCP Southeast Asia in August 2014 until the end of December 2015, there have been 83 substantive activities implemented by the Programme Team, ranging from one-day private sector awareness workshops to two-week training courses across eight countries. With a total throughput at CCP Southeast Asia Ports of over 30 million containers, it is the largest site in the Global CCP portfolio.

Seizures from Southeast Asia Port Control Units across the region in 2015 have already included stolen vehicles, counterfeit cigarettes, methamphetamine, unlicensed food products and military grade equipment, misdescribed as household items. A number of investigations are still in process.

It is envisaged that 2016 will see further results as the training focus now evolves into the area of strategic trade controls, dual use and commodity identification. CCP dovetails and synergises with other programmes and technical assistance providers in this important substantive area.

The Programme is grateful for the financial support of Global Affairs Canada, the Export Control and Related-Border Security (EXBS) Programme of the United States and, more recently, the Government of Australia for their contributions to CCP in Southeast Asia. It is hoped that with further results in 2016, additional ports might join CCP, including deployment of the Air Cargo component.

“We truly hope never to open a suspect sea container and find a weapon of mass destruction inside. Yet if we can give officers the capacity to detect, deter, prevent and combat then we can reduce this risk and contribute towards making our countries, region and world a slightly safer place”: CCP Programme Coordinator for Southeast Asia.
Implementing globally means that the Programme faces different levels of challenges from region to region. However, in general, it is the same factors that will make a PCU successful or not.

The following elements make the difference between well-functioning Units and less effective ones:

- Full commitment from participating countries and agencies;
- The availability of necessary human resources;
- Forward looking selection of officials to ensure completion of curriculum and minimum tenure in the Unit; and
- Motivated staff with support from senior managers.

2016 will see a consolidation and expansion of CCP activities with a view to increasing efficiency, professionalism and sustainability of the PCUs at seaports, dry ports and airports.

The cornerstone of the CCP is its training methodology, including continuous follow-up and mentoring visits. Internal reviews have demonstrated that these actions are key to maintaining high performance and sustainability. The close follow-up and presence of UNODC and WCO experts on the ground will therefore continue in 2016. Several PCUs have reached levels where it is now meaningful to introduce advanced training, including on Strategic Trade and Export Control (WMD, Dual Use Goods, CBRNE, UNSCR 1540 sanctions, etc.). A new trainer for this purpose will be appointed in 2016. The first container control training facility will be established in Panama to augment best practice in container control for PCU team members in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Furthermore, a CCP trainer will be based in Panama during 2016 in order to have capacity on site in the region where there are the highest number of participating countries.

In new technical areas, the feasibility of offering ISO standard certification related to trade supply chain security (ISO 28000) with a pilot in Paraguay will be explored. The recommendations of the 2015 assessments on scanning technology will be taken forward in the coming year.
Annex A: regional reports and country reviews

Afghanistan

While the security situation in the country remains challenging, technical needs assessments were carried out at several locations: Hairatan, Balkh Province, bordering Uzbekistan; Kabul; Shirkhan Bandar, Kunduz Province, bordering Tajikistan; and at Torkham, Nangarhar Province, bordering Pakistan. These assessments identified the border operation processes, the potential for collaborative working, private sector cooperation and PCU accommodation needs. In November, the PCU was opened at Torkham and shortly after made its first seizure of firearms.

A further assessment was carried out at Kabul, identifying some additional needs for the PCU that was established in 2014. The PCU in Kabul is staffed by officials from three different law enforcement agencies. The Unit has made a number of Intellectual Property Rights seizures and strategic goods detections. Training has continued with a combined theoretical and practical event held in May at the Afghanistan National Customs Training Academy in Kabul for 31 officers. Germany has provided funding for Hazmat ID 360 devices which also includes training.

The Kabul PCU has additionally been provided with reliable internet access which means that the Unit can now regularly access the WCO’s ContainerCOMM. It was used as the communication tool during a three-week WCO exercise during June and July, focusing on precursor chemicals commonly used in the manufacture of IEDs. More reliable access will also facilitate the implementation of the ASYCUDA risk assessment system which will be further developed, once the implementing MoU has been agreed and signed.

Risk profiling has been further enhanced by an agreement, signed in March, that allows the PCU’s access to documentation accompanying containers imported to, transiting through and exported out of Afghanistan. The access to the documents for profiling purposes is now given by the customs brokers without restrictions.

Regional structure

28 operational countries
23 funded countries

| Dominican Republic | Ecuador | Guatemala | Guyana | Jamaica | Panama | Paraguay | Suriname | Argentina | Brazil | Chile | Costa Rica | Peru | Benin | Ghana | Senegal | Togo | Côte d’Ivoire | Mali | Morocco | Oman | Afghanistan | Albania | Azerbaijan | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Georgia | Jordan | Montenegro | Pakistan | Turkmenistan | Kenya | Tanzania | Uganda | Bangladesh | Indonesia | Malaysia | Maldives | Thailand | Sri Lanka | Viet Nam | Cambodia | Laos PDR | Myanmar | Nepal | Philippines | Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Moldova | Tajikistan | Ukraine | Uzbekistan |
The Black Sea

The region has two operational PCUs, both in Georgia: one at Poti with seven team members which was established in 2012 and increased its presence at Batumi Sea Port, focusing on transit and export shipments and ferry traffic to the European Union and Ukraine; the other at Tbilisi where the PCU was established formally in April 2015 and has a team of ten, consisting of officers from the Georgia Revenue Service, Patrol Police and Criminal Police. The Programme is also in the process of establishing an operational PCU in Moldova with four customs and two Border Police officers having already received training. While there have been delays, it is hoped, the unit will become operational in the near future.

Trained personnel in Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine and Moldova have access to ContainerCOMM with the operational units in Georgia using it regularly. The information from the system assists the two Georgia PCUs in sharing information with all PCUs abroad. Discussions are ongoing regarding the implementation of the WCO Cargo Targeting System which should benefit all Georgian ports and not just the two PCUs.

Successes in 2015 have included the detection and seizure of 19,488 doses of synthetic drugs in March, two seizures of cocaine in July, three seizures of footwear in May and June that infringed IPR regulations; and a number of detections of mis-declared goods, attempting to evade customs duties. Due to efforts by the Tbilisi PCU through research associated with a heroin seizure affected in Bulgaria, the PCU contributed to the ultimate seizure of 1.5 kg of heroin concealed in the rims on an empty truck and trailer destined for Bulgaria via ferry (investigation of which continues).

Training in 2015 has included theoretical training for 22 participants in Tbilisi and for a further 19 in Ukraine. Practical training was conducted for the Georgia-Tbilisi PCU and the soon to be operational Moldova-Giurgiulesti PCU in May and June respectively. Tbilisi and Poti also had a programme of monitoring/mentoring visits throughout the year. Officers from the Tbilisi PCU received training on the donated HazMatID360 drug identification equipment. Georgia PCUs participated in work study tours to Rotterdam and the port of Vuosaari in Finland. Concluding the training delivery for the year, mentorship training was held in Georgia, for both units, as well as Moldova.

Efforts to implement the CCP in Ukraine continued through constructive discussions with the country’s CCP Steering Committee. It is hoped that the positive momentum seen at the end of the year will yield a signed MOU in early 2016 which will allow for a PCU to be established in the Odessa region, followed by a CCP-Air to be established in Kiev later in the year.
Central Asia and Azerbaijan

Participating CCP countries in the region are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Kyrgyzstan expressed its interest to join the CCP and UNODC has offered the country the opportunity to join the Programme. There are well established PCUs in Baku and Astara (Azerbaijan), Turkmenbashy and Ashgabat (Turkmenistan). PCUs have been initiated at Aktau in Kazakhstan, Chukursay and Angren in Uzbekistan and Dunshanbe-2 and Nizhniy Pyanj in Tajikistan.

Significant seizures have included 33 tonnes of sulphuric acid, which is frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, at Nizhniy Pyanj in January; 320,000 cigarettes concealed in a consignment of sugar from Afghanistan at Nizhniy Pyanj in July; and 118.7 kg of heroin seized in September in Aktau.

Training of PCU officers has continued with theoretical training in Uzbekistan for 27 representatives from the State Customs Committee in February and in Tajikistan for 30 officers from the Tajik Customs and Drug Control Agency in March. Advanced interdiction training focussing on strategic goods took place from the 4-8 May at the WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building in Baku, with 28 officers from across the Region participating. The CCP set up regional priorities during its Annual Regional Meeting for Central Asia and Azerbaijan in May with participation of officers from customs services and other competent agencies from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Practical training for Uzbek customs officers in June and for Tajik officials in September were delivered to enhance profiling and examination techniques.

Additionally, mentoring training was held for officers from Turkmenistan in June, Kazakh officers in July and Azeri officers in October. Officers from Uzbek Customs and the National Centre for Drug Control went on a study visit to Poland in October. Finally, CCP countries in the region participated in a regional practical exercise aimed to strengthen the regional cooperation and information exchange between participating states via ContainerCOMM.

The duration of the Programme was extended in October and the Foreign Affairs Ministries of the participating countries have been asked to provide a formal agreement for the continuation of the CCP Regional Segment until 2018.

East Africa

The Programme was initiated in August 2014 in partnership with UNODC’s Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. The focus has been on building partnerships with Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in a regional approach. Port Assessments have been carried out at the Dry Port in Kampala, Uganda and at Dar es Salaam sea port, Tanzania, adding to the port assessment for Mombasa, Kenya, which was carried out in 2014.

In December 2015, Uganda became the latest country to formally join the Container Control Programme. Memorandums of Understanding have also been developed for Kenya and Tanzania and are awaiting signature in early 2016.

Two weeks theoretical training were delivered in Kenya and Uganda for candidates to the Joint Port Control Units in the respective countries, while the training for the candidates for the unit in Tanzania is scheduled for January 2016. Units in all three countries are expected to be operational during the first quarter of 2016. The MoU for the deployment of WCO CTS in Kenya was also signed by the Kenya Revenue Authority and the WCO. Countries in the region have expressed an interest in implementing the CCP’s Air Cargo programme.

Through the partnership with the Global Programme for combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, training was delivered to officers from police, Wildlife Authorities, Revenue Authorities, the Office of Public Prosecutions, and the Judiciary on recovery of the proceeds from wildlife and forest crime and the application of asset forfeiture legislation, prosecution skills, profiling and risk analysis. The Programme also provided training on anti-corruption measures to officers from the Kenya Wildlife Service and is supporting the development of its anti-corruption strategy.
Latin America and the Caribbean

The CCP in this region has been in place since the inception of the Programme in 2004 and is operational in the following countries:

- Dominican Republic: Port of Rio Haina and Multimodal Cauceco;
- Ecuador: Port of Guayaquil (Contecon, TPG) and Port of Bolivar in Machala;
- Guatemala: Port of Quetzal and Port of Barrios (covering Santo Tomas de Castillas);
- Guyana: Port of Georgetown;
- Jamaica: Port of Kingston and Port of Montego Bay;
- Panama: Port of Balboa, PSA International Terminal, Port of Cristobal, Port of Manzanillo and Colon Container Terminal;
- Paraguay: Asuncion covering the following ports of Terport, Fenix and Caacupemi;
- Suriname: Port of New Haven.

Peru is the latest country to join the CCP and is on target to become operational in 2016. Seizures in 2015 included over 25 tonnes of cocaine, more than 2.4 tonnes of cannabis, 56 containers containing IPR goods, six containers of endangered timber and 6.5 kgs of Sea Cucumber, a protected species. Alongside these results, numerous alerts from PCUs in the region have produced seizures in Belgium, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, and Mexico.

Training has included a regional theoretical event in Panama for 40 officers from across the region. Alongside this, there has been the full range of mentoring training for officers from throughout the region. Specialized training has included nuclear arms control training in Panama City for PCU analysts, training on dangerous goods, IPR training, and drug detection equipment training. The company Maersk Shipping Line led a seminar on their operations in Latin America. There were study visits to Rotterdam and Antwerp for officers from the Dominican Republic and Suriname, and to Albania and Montenegro by PCU officers from Ecuador; Paraguay meanwhile hosted a study visit for officers from the PCUs in Benin, Ghana, Senegal and Togo.

All PCUs in Latin America and the Caribbean have access to the ContainerCOMM which resulted in increased seizure reporting. Panama Customs is working closely with the Maritime Chamber of Panama to ensure that shipping data is in a format that can feed into the WCO CTS system.
Middle East and North Africa

Despite the current political and security instability in the region, UNODC is working with a number of countries who have expressed an interest in joining and implementing both the Container Control and the Air Cargo Programme. The first regional meeting for the North Africa and Middle East region was held in Amman, Jordan, in December 2015. The meeting raised awareness of the importance of strong and robust border controls that facilitate the movement of legitimate trade and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination within and between the countries in the region.

On 1 September, the PCU at the Port of Aqaba, Jordan, was officially opened with a staff of 11 officers. Activities included: English and computer training, procurement of search equipment; and basic and practical training. The first seizures were made in October 2015, consisting of 142,000 ampoules of Tramadex from India, as well as 424,000 pills of prohibited sexual stimulants from China. The establishment of the Programme in Jordan has been rapid and the PCU has already achieved results; it is hoped that it will encourage other countries in the region to join the CCP.

Pakistan

Pakistan was one of the first countries to join the Programme and has had operational PCUs since 2009. Currently, there are two at the ports of Karachi and Port Qasim and six dry port units in Islamabad, Faisalabad, Lahore, Multan, Sambrial and Sust.

During 2015, the Programme in Pakistan delivered a number of mentoring events and three specialized training events, focusing on IEDs, for officers from the different units. There were also two events covering the detection and interdiction of dual use strategic goods which were run in collaboration with the US Department of Energy.

Altogether, the PCUs in Pakistan seized 301 kg of heroin, 76 kg of opium, 107 kg of psychotropic substances, and a number of under-declarations of value from consignments of goods.

In addition to developing enforcement capacities in seaports and dry ports, the Programme launched the first air cargo control unit in Karachi. A needs assessment was carried out at the beginning of the year at Jinnah International Airport, and an initial theoretical training course was conducted in November. Further training events will take place early in 2016 with the Unit expected to become operational during earlier part of the year.
South Asia

The region has PCUs at Male in the Maldives, Colombo in Sri Lanka, and Chittagong in Bangladesh. A technical needs assessment was carried out at the Dry Port in Birgunj in Nepal; the PCU is planned to be operational in spring 2016. A pre-assessment was completed at Colombo Airport in preparation for a full assessment in the coming year.

Results have included a number of revenue offences, including one single offence, totalling $307,750 of evaded revenue on mis-declared goods in April. There have also been significant seizures of heroin, cocaine and cannabis. Of particular note was a 185kg seizure of liquid cocaine, detected with the assistance of information provided by the UK – an excellent example of collaboration and cooperation.

Training this year has included theoretical and practical events for the officers from the Chittagong PCU. The Colombo PCU went to Rotterdam for a Study Visit, facilitated by Dutch Customs and officers have also received COPES training. Officers from the Maldives received WCO CTS user training. One officer from the Maldives joined the WCO’s training team as a practical trainer for an event in Port Klang, Malaysia.

The Maldives Customs Service has been working closely with local shipping agents to ensure the timely receipt of manifest information that supports targeting activity. They have also been provided with funding to purchase computer equipment that will support WCO’s nCEN software; this will enhance both intelligence analysis and profiling at their ports and airports.

Southeast Asia

CCP implementation and coverage have continued to grow in Southeast Asia during 2015 with the three additional countries of Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR added to the portfolio and funded by contributions from the Governments of Australia and Canada.

Covering a total of seven seaports, one river port and now an additional dry port, the region sees the flow of over 30 million sea containers per annum at these CCP locations making it, by container volume, the largest CCP field region with a variety of illicit trade threats at import, export and transshipment.

During 2015, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam all completed the standard CCP training package and established operational Port / Container Control Units. The new Units have already made notable seizures of drugs - the first seizure of methamphetamine by a CCP Unit, stolen vehicles, rhino horn, ivory, counterfeit cigarettes and of particular note three containers containing military grade strategic trade items bound for Syria and described as ‘household items’.

The Philippines finalized the CCP MoU during 2015 and agreement was reached on the location of a multi-agency Unit at the port. Basic training was delivered and the Unit will commence duties in the first quarter of 2016.

Introductory missions and Port Assessments were all carried out in the new countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar and they are all ready to commence training in early 2016.

With the CCP now involving eight of the 10 countries comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), it is set make a major contribution to regional security in the context of the ASEAN Economic Community slated for early 2016.
South Eastern Europe

The region has PCUs established in Albania at the port of Durres and in Montenegro at the port of Bar. The PCU at Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina, became fully operational in the beginning of 2015. An assessment was also carried out at the Qafe Thana border crossing point between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). It was agreed that the Durres PCU would provide support and training to colleagues from the latter.

Results have included the regions’ participation in Operation “Balkan Gate”, targeting IPR infringements and resulting in the detection of €400,000 worth of counterfeit goods. The PCUs also made seizures of cocaine, heroin, cannabis, firearms, ammunition, tobacco products, stolen cars and counterfeit currency.

Practical training was provided for officers from the newly established PCU at Bijača in February. A two day anti-corruption workshop was run in April for Albanian customs and police officers alongside representatives of the Durres Port authority. Albania also hosted COPES training for officers from across the region; the training took place in May and was the first event held in a non-English speaking country. English language training events were held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in July, which was the first to be run by the Programme and in Durres, Albania, throughout 2015. There have also been a number of mentoring events carried out across the region’s PCUs. Exchange visits and training have taken place with officers from the port of Gioia Tauro in Italy and the port of Guayaquil, Ecuador. Female officers from Durres also took part in the inauguration of the CCP Women’s Network.

West Africa

PCUs are established at Cotonou in Benin, Lome in Togo, Dakar in Senegal and the port of Tema in Ghana. The PCU in Tema implemented an export security check desk for the registration of shipping agents in July 2015. This has now been made a requirement before shipping agents can export through the port. To facilitate this process, the Unit has been provided with additional officers and equipment. There have also been initial discussions with Mali on the potential for a PCU at the Dry Port at Bamako.

2015 seizures include 40.61 million pills of counterfeit Tramadol and five million pills of counterfeit Viagra, made in the port of Cotonou. The PCU at Cotonou also made two seizures of cocaine, totalling 34.2kg. PCUs in Benin, Ghana and Togo seized consignments of counterfeit cigarettes destined for Burkina Faso and Niger. In total, 223.7 million cigarettes were seized. There were detections involving tax fraud and other mis-declared consignments.

Study tours were made to Ascuncion in Paraguay, Felixstowe in the United Kingdom and Le Havre in France. These tours gave officers an insight into intelligence gathering, targeting and profiling of containers and the tools and techniques to tackle “rip off” smuggling. Inter-regional exchange visits have also taken place, including visits by new officers from Dakar to Tema and to Cotonou for officers from Lome.

Training delivered in 2015 was across all the PCUs and focussed on tackling wildlife crime, drugs and precursor chemicals. Also a basic theoretical training was organized in Mali for some law enforcement officers.
Annex B: Interviews

Interview with Customs Service General Lieutenant Aydin Aliyev: Chairman, State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The relationship between the State Customs Committee and the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) spans almost a decade. How would you evaluate the interaction between our organizations?

Besides having a multifaceted nature, the cooperation of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan with UNODC/ROCA is of principal importance for us. I have always valued our collaboration very positively, and this is due to many reasons. As an important part of our co-operation, I would like to highlight the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme. Under the framework of this Programme, very important work is carried out, from the organization of workshops and study tours to the allocation of office premises in customs points and the provision of equipment.

As the State Customs Committee, we are interested in broadening cooperation with ROCA. Assuming its responsibility in fighting illicit drug trafficking defined by legislation, the Committee has always paid particular attention to developing its relations with other organizations although there is still a long way to go. Various tools are used to struggle with illicit drug trafficking, including profiling high-risk consignments, canine service, various technical means and investigation techniques should be noted in particular.

Azerbaijan co-operates actively with the CCP. How would you evaluate its implementation in Azerbaijan?

The Government of Azerbaijan has welcomed the CCP due to its importance and assigned the State Customs Committee to act as the national agency responsible for its implementation in line with national customs legislation. As known, cooperation is not a one-way road. We have also felt the support of UNODC/ROCA, including its senior management. Important tools and equipment have been provided to the State Customs Committee and specialized training has been organized in many areas to assist with the rapid identification of hazardous materials and other illicit goods which are crucial in combating trafficking.

In addition, to increase professionalism, knowledge, skills and coordinate increased cooperation, study tours to Vienna, Panama, Rotterdam, Ashgabat, Almaty and the port of Poti have been organized as well as various training courses in Baku and Astara. In turn, the State Customs Committee has extended all necessary organizational support to these activities. Representatives of the Committee and relevant competent authorities from several other countries have acquired experience and knowledge in container profiling; container inspection techniques; container seals; rip on/off techniques; drug detection; risk indicators; ContainerCOMM and CEN systems; prevention of illicit strategic goods trafficking; and best practice from other countries. The ContainerCOMM network is actively used.

Which priority tasks are faced by the State Customs Committee in the fight against drugs?

Combating illicit drug trafficking in Azerbaijan is a matter of national priority. The geographic position of our country located at the crossroad of Europe and Asia and the favourable transport communications make this task necessary. The third State Programme on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors for the years of 2013 – 2018 is being implemented successfully by the State Customs Committee. In the coming years, planned priorities are to foster further co-operation with international organizations, relevant public agencies of other countries, as well as the State authorities and organizations active in this sphere in Azerbaijan, increase our data sharing, professionalism of our officers and undertake more capacity building measures for customs bodies.
Interview with Director General, Giorgi Tabuashvili: Revenue Service Georgia

What was the motivation of the Revenue Service of Georgia to join this Programme, given the CCP has a much clearer focus on illicit trade rather than on revenue collection?

Georgia lies at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and between large regional markets. This means that it is crucial that we create an attractive environment which will be safe and secure for legal trade. Although one of the major responsibilities is revenue collection, we have a wide range of competence, especially related to border control. On one hand, safety and security of our citizens is our constitutional obligation; on the other, to be focused on illicit trade and trans-border crime is part of our international obligations. We intend to deliver against both commitments.

In 2015, a second (Dry) Port Control Unit was established in the capital Tbilisi. Why did you decide to have a second unit in Georgia, even outside a port area?

The opening of the Poti PCU in 2012 showed us what inter-agency cooperation between customs, criminal police and patrol police officers could deliver. Tbilisi is a very important port in terms of transit and transhipment of goods by land. The city is on the crossroads between both east to west and from north to south and was therefore an ideal location to open the second PCU in Georgia.

The Port Control Units in Poti and Tbilisi are both multi-agency units. Have there been any problems with the other governmental departments agreeing on its composition?

All the Agencies working in the PCU have competencies and responsibilities relating to narcotics, smuggling and illicit trade. The good collaboration and cooperation between our agencies and the good understanding they have of the regional and international threats make our cooperation much easier and focused on the delivery of results. The success of the CCP and the joint agency collaboration it delivered was a driver behind the creation of a joint dog detection team in 2014.

What do you consider to be the advantages of the multi-agency composition of the Port Control Units in Georgia?

Cooperation and collaborative working by all the Agencies working at the PCU makes control activities more effective. For instance, while one agency will have access to very specific information, another agency will have the enforcement power, therefore activity is complemented and actions are reinforced.

Several Georgian officers participated in Study Visits to ports and the Port Control Units in other countries. Do you consider such study visits to be useful?

Once again I want to express our sincere gratitude to WCO, UNODC and the Customs Administrations of the USA, Pakistan, Netherlands and Finland for their support in organizing such study visits. Customs and border control activity gets significant benefits from international cooperation and these visits help to create and improve personal relationships between officers, which sometimes play a very significant role in the prevention of crime.

What expectations do you have as a Director General of your Port Control Units over the next three years?

At this stage I believe we have achieved one of the most important objectives of the Container Control Programme - inter-agency cooperation at both PCUs. In the medium term I want to see this cooperation deliver strengthened controls in the fight against illicit movements of narcotics, dual-use goods, hazardous materials and other illicit goods.

How do you consider the support of UNODC and WCO to implement the CCP in Georgia?

We very much appreciate the support which has been provided from UNODC and WCO. Let me assure you that all agencies involved in CCP in Georgia have a clear understanding of those global threats against which Poti and Tbilisi PCUs are dealing with. In this regard, we acknowledge the crucial importance of the technical assistance, informational support and sharing of best practices provided by the WCO and UNODC.

A number of Georgian officers have now been trained by WCO container control specialists. What is the feedback from your officers on this training?

First of all on behalf of GRS and the other agencies involved in CCP let me express our sincere gratitude to WCO and its experts for the professionalism and the delivery of increased knowledge and skills to our officers. We have had a very positive response from our officers to the training provided and have built good working relationships with the trainers. Furthermore our Administration fully supports the proposed establishment of the Regional Container Control Training Centre (RCCTC) in Georgia. Georgia is at a key point on the South Caucasus transport corridor from Central Asia to Europe, and we think it is the best location for the RCCTC, law enforcement agencies from across the region will benefit from this training facility.
Annex C: CCP organization and structure

The CCP was created in 2004 as a partnership between UNODC and the WCO. The cornerstone of the Programme is the creation of inter-agency Port Control Units (PCUs) in which capability is developed and maintained to carry out risk assessments, targeted the control and examinations of containers.

**UNODC**

UNODC provides the administration for the Programme, continued development and quality assurance. This includes fundraising and engagement with the Programme’s donors and the coordination of CCP activities in participating countries, which is done in partnership with the WCO.

UNODC is also responsible for developing and building collaboration and cooperation with international organizations, bilateral partners, private sector partners and organizations and other United Nations agencies.

The CCP has grown considerably since 2004 and is organized into nine regions, each with a CCP Programme Coordinator. In addition, Afghanistan and Pakistan currently have a country structure with their own Country Programme Coordinators.

Through this Programme Coordinator Network, UNODC and WCO implement day-to-day CCP activities which include liaison with Government officials, technical needs assessments and close engagement with national institutions and agencies. Coordinators also develop Standard Operating Procedures and arrange training and study visits.

UNODC has a CCP central management team with staff based in Vienna, including the UNODC Senior Programme Coordinator.

**WCO**

Key to the success of the CCP is WCO’s facilitation and delivery of the training programme. This includes both classroom and practical training, mentoring and work study tours, done in collaboration and support of WCO members and UNODC. WCO’s role is also to promote cooperation between law enforcement agencies and with the private sector to strengthen supply chain security and facilitate trade.

WCO’s ContainerCOMM system is the secure and effective communication tool for the PCUs. Installation, maintenance, linkages to commercial databases and training are provided by WCO. 2015 also saw the start of the roll-out of the WCO Cargo Targeting System to PCUs. The WCO CTS is a software package developed by WCO that provides an automated risk assessment capability. It therefore allows for the effective deployment of resources to the highest risk, coupled with enhanced trade facilitation as high risk consignments can be better identified in a significantly shorter time prior to examination.

The WCO has a core team of programme administrative and training staff, based at its headquarters in Brussels, along with the WCO Senior Programme Coordinator.
Annex D: CCP Activity

The CCP is essentially a long-term capacity building programme that develops effective and sustainable port controls through the establishment of Port Control Units. These provide a coordinated approach to container and air freight profiling, targeting and examination, are located in secure environments (usually inside ports and airports) and are staffed by front line officers who are provided with structured training to ensure effective targeting and examination of containers. The training and equipping of these units is designed to ensure the sustainable development of both officers and the activity and results they deliver. This is achieved by carrying out needs assessments, supported by a phased training concept and mentoring training sessions implemented throughout the Programme.

Equipment

A range of tools and equipment are provided to the PCUs, comprising basic protection and search equipment, field test kits for the preliminary identification of drugs and chemicals, computer workstations and encrypted radio communications. In addition, some PCUs are also equipped with basic office equipment.

Training

Training is structured into a number of phases: the first phase starts with a two-week theoretical training course where officers are introduced to risk analysis, profiling and targeting techniques. They will also learn about cargo examination, information sources and information exchange mechanisms. The second part of this phase is the practical application of this knowledge in the operational environment, again lasting two weeks. This training is usually implemented within six to nine months of the creation of the PCU and builds the foundation for the following specialized training courses. However, the time frame is flexible and has to be tailored towards the needs and capabilities of individual PCUs.

Depending on the performance of the PCU officers, a work-study tour will be organized. This provides the opportunity to learn firsthand from experienced customs officers and see different working techniques that can be applied at their home port. In order to get the maximum benefit, work-study tours only take place when operational capability has been developed and established within the PCU.

Once these phases have been completed, most PCU officers will have the knowledge and experience to participate in specialized training on more complex forms of illicit trade. In line with the staged training approach of the CCP, this further builds on the PCUs capabilities to target and search for a wider range of commodities in the container environment.

Specialized advanced training is a relatively new and developing part of the curriculum. Among more detailed training on infringements of Intellectual Property Rights, CITES, precursor chemicals, seizure and evidence handling (COPES), it will contain three one-week training modules that include topics ranging from Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) items, dual-use items and other international obligations for PCU members to include in their profiling and risk analysis process.

To ensure that the targeting skills are maintained and continually developed, regular mentoring is provided by a pool of experts. This ensures sustainability and the assurance that officers’ training is consistent and that they have all been taught the same set of skills.
Collaborative working

The concept of national ownership and empowerment is a core CCP principle. In particular, the Programme actively encourages collaboration between law enforcement agencies. Improved inter-agency cooperation and improved information sharing ensures that law enforcement capacity and capabilities are increased. This also helps to improve the facilitation of legitimate trade through improved risk profiling that in turn leads to better informed decision making and targeting of the highest risk consignments.

Part of the Programme’s methodology is the formal cooperative agreement between UNODC and a participating country which establishes the foundation for such cooperation. This high level agreement facilitates the development of the inter-agency PCU through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).

ContainerCOMM

The WCO web-based ContainerCOMM information exchange system, developed and continuously enhanced by the WCO, represents the core of the information sharing and is the vital communication component of the CCP. The system provides for the encrypted exchange of information and intelligence between users in participating ports and countries. ContainerCOMM links all the PCUs with each other and provides for accessible and secure communication. The Programme grants the system for free to all the PCUs, CCP trainers and experts, relevant agencies and organizations and WCO members, both in the developed and developing world. ContainerCOMM’s pre-formatted message templates for alerts, feedback and seizures are available in Dari, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Urdu and soon in Vietnamese. This communication platform has the potential to be the pathway for port-to-port communication on illicit trade at global level.

WCO Cargo Targeting System

The WCO has developed the CTS System for containerized shipments that allows for quicker and more effective targeting, based on cargo manifest data. The system provides for secure access to commercial cargo data and stores information over which risk rules can be applied, either manually or automatically. This has a range of benefits, including the systematic and significantly quicker targeting of containers for examination from pre-arrival and pre-departure information. By ensuring that only high risk cargo is examined, customs authorities are enabled to facilitate the processing of large volumes of low risk cargo through ports. Consequently, the WCO CTS allows for more efficient deployment of scarce resources.

Seizure of 140 kilos of cocaine at the port of Cristobal, Panama; Photo courtesy of PCU Cristobal, Panama
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