

Keynote Address
By Dr. Sathit Limpongpan
Director-General of the Royal Thai Customs
To
Global Transshipment and Enforcement Seminar: Synergies of Strategic Trade
Control Elements
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Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure and honour that I was invited to deliver the keynote address at the Global Transshipment and Enforcement Seminar. I should like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Office of Export Control Cooperation United States for its role in co-hosting this important Seminar.

It is obvious that the operating environment for Customs today is a combination of rapid increases in international trade, technological advancement and security concerns. Traditionally, the primary task of Customs involves control of the movement of goods, with particular emphasis on the collection of revenues and deterrence of illicit trade.

However, in today's modern and global economy, our responsibilities are changing. The traditional Customs methodologies of control are outdated in the modern era. Customs administrations must make sure they strike a balance between security and facilitation of trade. They have to respond to society's legitimate demands for increased protection whilst ensuring the facilitation of trade.

In seeking to achieve this balance between trade facilitation and control, the Royal Thai Customs is using modern techniques such as risk analysis and appropriate detection measures to counter the threat posed by the movement of goods. Some key activities are through cooperation between the Royal Thai Customs and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Bureau while others are under the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards.

To support the U.S. Container Security Initiative or CSI program, the Royal Thai Customs and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Bureau have agreed upon the "Declaration of Principles Governing Cooperation, Including the Posting of U.S. CBP Officers at the Port of Laem Chabang." In the meantime, there are four CBP officials working with officers of the Royal Thai Customs at the Laem Chabang Port to establish security criteria for identifying high-risk containers before they are shipped to U.S. ports.

Apart from cooperation under the CSI Program, the Royal Thai customs and the U.S. Department of Energy also signed the "MOU in Support of the Declaration of Principles Governing Cooperation, Including the Posting of U.S. CBP Officers at the Port of Laem Chabang." Under this MOU, radiation detection equipment and materials are provided for use at the Laem Chabang Port to detect and interdict illicit nuclear and radioactive materials.

Another interesting cooperation between the Royal Thai Customs and the U.S. CBP Bureau is the International Port Security Program. The key objective of this Program

is to help the United States and its maritime trading partners better protect the global shipping industry by facilitating the implementation of security improvements in ports around the world. It is clearly seen that the International Port Security Program can very well complement the CSI Program. Following the implementation of the program, good progress was made. There were many meetings held both at the Laem Chabang Port and some of the U.S. Ports, as well as training courses.

In addition, the Royal Thai Customs also expressed its intention to implement the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. This instrument reflects the international Customs community's commitment to meet the challenges raised by the new world trade environment. It sets forth the principles and the standards for adoption by WCO members as a minimum threshold to meet the challenges and opportunity of the 21st Century.

These are indeed just examples of the Royal Thai Customs' roles in trade facilitation and control in the new era. I do believe that this Seminar will provide a forum for senior policy and enforcement officials from around the world to share expertise and discuss best practices relating to controlling transshipment.

Finally, let me once again express my thanks to the United States for assuming a greater role in global transshipment and for responding positively to meet tomorrow's challenges.

I wish you every success in you work and thank you very much for your attention.