

Presentation of General Department of Viet Nam Customs

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of General Department of Viet Nam Customs, I would like to thank the Government of the United States of America and the Royal Thai Government for giving us the opportunity to attend the Regional Forum on Transshipment Controls.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The security of the World as well as of the Asia Pacific region is under threats by international terrorist organizations, therefore duties of Customs bodies of every nation become heavy and challenging. They are facing two big challenges:

- To carry out Customs inspection and supervision effectively to eliminate violations of Customs regulations and legislation, including illegal transportation of weapons, technology and related systems of mass destruction;

- While still creating maximum favorable conditions for business.

Viet Nam Customs is not excluded from that common situation.

From 1998 up to now, General Department of Viet Nam Customs is in a process of modernization and has achieved some results: supervision and control ability over goods has been enhanced.

The National Assembly and the Government of Viet Nam has built and promulgated an adequate and effective system of laws on Customs and import-export administration:

- Early 2001, the Government of Viet Nam promulgated Decree 46/2001/QĐ-TTg defining mechanism for goods control in the 2001-2005 period, which includes specific lists of

forbidden exports and imports, and goods imported under conditions of specified management. Vietnam Export-Import Control Offices continue to promulgate Circulars giving guidance on management and licensing mechanism for goods under these lists.

- In June 2001, the National Assembly approved a new Customs law with provisions assuring Customs' effective implementation of control and supervision duty over export-import goods, exit and entrance means of transport.

- In addition, Viet Nam still has other specialized laws that ensure tight management and effective controls of means of transport traveling inland as well as crossing frontiers.

- The Government of Viet Nam has plans to, in the near future, install modern checking equipment such as container scanner and other equipment at frontiers in road, airway and seaway in order to enhance the ability and effectiveness of the control work.

- Viet Nam Customs also pays attention to training officers to meet the requirement of modernization, especially consolidating Customs investigation force by increasing staff, re-organizing management allocation by territorial areas.

- International co-operation is also given importance with regular exchanging of information, meeting and signing bilateral agreements with Customs in APEC, ASEAN as well as the rest of the world.

- Vietnam's Criminal code was also amended and supplemented with higher penalties applied to terrorism harming national security and public order.

Regarding the U.S. Initiative on Security container examine, Vietnam Customs always welcomes

cooperation to fight against international terrorism on the basis of conforming to the international as well as Vietnamese laws. In fact, the Vietnamese Government and Customs have always condemned international terrorism and cooperatively exchanged ideas with concerned nations on measures to fight against international terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Vietnam is considered as the safest country in ASEAN, and Asia-Pacific region. That goal is achieved thanks to both objective and subjective factors, however, the main factor is that the Vietnamese people is friendly and peace-lovers, who therefore do not accept any terrorist, individual or organization, existing in our country. Law enforcement bodies including Customs have a staff strong and effective enough to carry out control and supervision work basing on the transparent laws system.

Through this Regional Forum, we hope we will learn more experience in customs control and supervision work on export, re-export, transshipment and transit of goods, and share with you our information regarding the matter to establish an effective force to fight against international terrorism.

Thank you,