



Project Sky-Hole-Patching

Customs Coordination Meeting in Saint Petersburg

11-13 April 2012

Saint Petersburg, Russia



RILO AP

Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Asia Pacific

Bridge across borders

Background of Project Sky-Hole-Patching

- Proposed by China Customs in Apr 2006
- Adopted at the 4th Joint Southeast Asia and Pacific / South Asia Customs-Ozone Depleting Substances Officers Cooperation Workshop in May 2006
- Joint project coordinated by RILO A/P and UNEP

Background of Project Sky-Hole-Patching

- To form an united anti-environmental crime front in the A/P region to curb the illegal trade in ODS and hazardous waste
- Commenced on 1 Sep 2006 for ODS and 1 Mar 2007 for hazardous waste
- Routine notifications of suspicious shipments and seizures
- 21 participants
(*Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau China, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand & Vietnam*)

Operational Statistics (up to 29 Feb 2012)

ODS

- 7 Export Notifications for suspicious shipments
- 46 Seizure Notifications (796,466 kg / 40,085 nos.)
- Major seizures reported: CFC-12, HCFC-123, HCFC-22 & mixture, equipment containing ODS



Significant ODS seizures
by Indonesian and China Customs

Operational Statistics (up to 29 Feb 2012)

Hazardous Waste

49 Export Notifications for suspicious shipments

395 Seizure Notifications

Major seizures reported:

- used batteries
- used computer monitors
- used TV monitors
- copper ash
- electronic and telephone parts

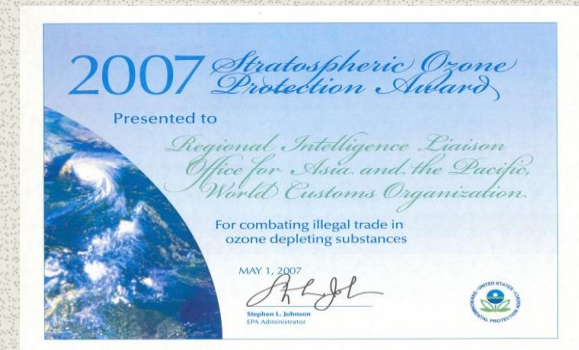


Roles of RILO A/P in Project Sky-Hole-Patching

- Facilitated intelligence exchange among members and with other organizations
- Generated reports to alert members the smuggling trends of ODS and hazardous waste
- Supported members by providing useful materials on anti-environmental crime
- Maintained close cooperation with UNEP and EPA to grasp the latest smuggling trends

Achievements of Project Sky-Hole-Patching

- Increased members' awareness of environmental crime
- Enhanced mutual cooperation between Customs and EPA in combating environment crime
- RILO A/P won “2007 Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award” from US EPA



Achievements of Project Sky-Hole-Patching

- Skeleton for various WCO's global joint operations to combat environmental crime
 - ❑ Operation Demeter I for hazardous waste (2009)
 - ❑ **Operation Sky-Hole-Patching II for ODS (2010)**
 - ❑ Operation Demeter II for hazardous waste (2012)

Background of Project Sky-Hole-Patching II

- Modeled from Project Sky-Hole-Patching
- Lasted from 3 May 2010 to 2 Nov 2010 (6 months)
- Supported by:
 - WCO's 11 Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs)
 - RILO A/P as Operational Coordination Unit (OCU)
 - National Ozone Units (NOUs)
 - Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), UNEP and its Regional Offices

Background of Project Sky-Hole-Patching II

- To take proactive action to monitor the trade of ODS and prevent trafficking triggered by the phase-out of some important ODS

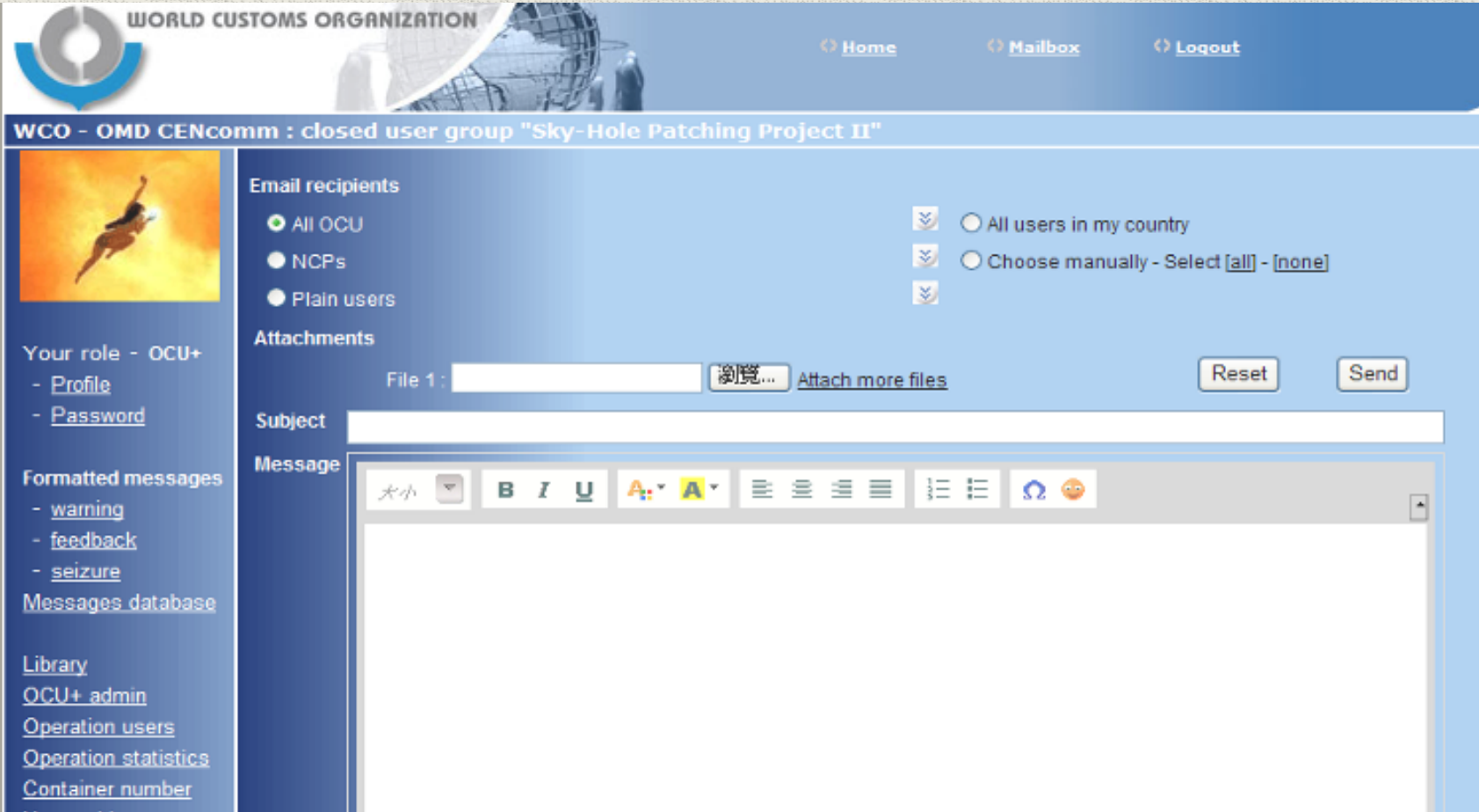
- CFCs and CFC-containing mixtures;
- HCFCs and HCFC-containing mixtures;
- HFCs and HFC-containing mixtures;
- Recycled refrigerants (CFC, HCFC and HFC) and
- ODS-containing equipments

Details of Project Sky-Hole-Patching II

- Participated by Customs from **81** countries:
 - ❑ Asia and the Pacific region: 27
 - ❑ Europe and Central Asia region: 29
 - ❑ Africa: 20
 - ❑ South America and Caribbean: 3
 - ❑ Middle East: 2

- Actions taken by **275** selected air, land and sea ports:
 - ❑ Monitoring the trade in ODS with intensified actions
 - ❑ Notification of high-risk shipments
 - ❑ Feedback against received information
 - ❑ Detection and prevention of illegal ODS shipments

Usage of WCO's tool: CENComm



The screenshot displays the WCO CENComm web interface. At the top, the header includes the WCO logo and navigation links for Home, Mailbox, and Logout. Below the header, the page title reads "WCO - OMD CENcomm : closed user group 'Sky-Hole Patching Project II'".

The interface is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains a profile picture, a navigation menu with links for "Your role - OCU+", "Formatted messages" (warning, feedback, seizure), "Messages database", and "Library" (OCU+ admin, Operation users, Operation statistics, Container number).
- Email recipients:** A section with radio buttons for "All OCU", "NCPs", and "Plain users". It also includes three dropdown menus and radio buttons for "All users in my country" and "Choose manually - Select [all] - [none]".
- Attachments:** A section with a "File 1:" input field, a "瀏覽..." (Browse) button, and an "Attach more files" link. It also features "Reset" and "Send" buttons.
- Message:** A section with a "Subject" input field and a rich text editor toolbar containing options for font size, bold, italic, underline, text color, background color, bulleted list, numbered list, link, and smiley.

Secured platform for information exchange!

Roles of RILO A/P in Project Sky-Hole-Patching II

- Role of **Operational Coordination Unit**
- Facilitated the exchange of notifications and other intelligence
- Provided trainings & technical support
- Encouraged members' participation
- Published newsletters and the final report

Operational Statistics

- 52 Pre-arrival Notifications
- 9 Feedback Notifications
- 28 Seizures Notifications
 - ❑ 4,327 cylinders (64,276 kg) ODS
 - ❑ 728 equipment containing ODS
- Categories:
 - ❑ CFC12 and its mixture
 - ❑ HCFC22 and its mixture
 - ❑ Other refrigerants



Significant ODS Cases (1)



48 cylinders (652.8kg) of R-12 seized by Thai Customs on 6 May 2010

Significant ODS Cases (2)



12 cylinders of R-12 seized by Gambian Customs on 4 Jun 2010

Over 2 tons of cocaine (US\$1 billion) also seized together with the ODS
=>Strong evidence of a link between ODS smuggling and other organized crime

Significant ODS Cases (3)



1,140 cylinders (15 tons) of R-12 seized by China Customs on 25 Jun 2010

Significant ODS Cases (4)



528 cylinders (8.9 tons) of R-12 & R-22 seized by
Thai Customs on 4 Aug 2010

Significant ODS Cases (5)



100 cylinders of R-12 seized by
Hong Kong Customs on 2 Sep 2010

Observations

- Tighten controls in both import and export
- Pose substantial threats due to the continual phasing out of the chemicals
- Falsely declared as “recycled”, “ODS alternative” or disguised with legitimate ODS
- Identification and apprehension of ODS-containing equipment

Way Forward

- Continue coordinating Project Sky-Hole-Patching
- Support other anti-environmental crime joint operations
- Maintain close cooperation with other organisations



Q&A

Thank You Very Much!



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