

APEC Customs Business Dialogue 2018 Media Release

The APEC Customs Business Dialogue (ACBD) is a dialogue between the business sector and customs administrations in the APEC Region, facilitated by the host administration, purposely aimed to develop effective communication and understanding to promote trade facilitation and harmonization of customs procedures.

The objective of the meeting is to provide business sectors the opportunity to express their opinions, suggestions, information on policies and best practises applied to improve trade facilitation and trade security for economic development in the APEC Region.

This meeting was formally opened by the Chief Commissioner of Papua New Guinea (PNG) Customs Services, Mr Ray Paul, OBE. The meeting was attended by International Organizations, APEC Member Economies, Representatives of the Private Sector and Government. Mr Paul made a special acknowledgment of the first appearance of Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) represented by its Chairman, Mr Jose Manfas, in the APEC SCCP Meeting.

Mr Paul remarked this dialogue to be a learning tool to enhance understanding of Customs business from the Business Sector, Academics and Customs Administrations' perspective and to further develop business process to meet national goals. He also highlighted the importance of Customs to Customs collaboration to identify gaps and find ways to synchronize

The theme for this year's ACBD was, "A Secure Business Environment for Economic Development- Enhancing Cooperation in the APEC Region". The theme was supported by three pillars that made up the three sessions;

1. ***Enabling Environment moderated by World Customs Organization*** focused on how Customs can stabilize the business environment through streamlining processes, how capacity building opportunities can qualify coordination of customs procedures and how good governance can invest reforms
2. ***Safe Environment moderated by the People's Republic of China Customs Administration*** focused on securing supply chain connectivity
3. ***Fair and Sustainable Environment moderated by Papua New Guinea Customs Services*** focused on illegal trading, outcome of how illicit trading affects the governance, development and human security

Presenters varied from the PNG Business Council, Divine Word University, Pacific Adventist University, British American Tobacco (PNG) Limited, PNG Human Resource Institute, PNG Manufacturer's Council and PNG Customs Services.

The SCCP 2018 Chair, Mr James Kombuk Bire, in his concluding remarks summarized key issues and outcomes discussed during the dialogue; governance, need for review of legislations and policies to effectively combat illegal traders, partnership, networking, and the need for specialized capacity building opportunities for Customs. He closed the meeting in stating a way forward from this meeting was for Customs to continue and enhance dialogue with the private sector and relevant stakeholders.