

PHILIPPINE CUSTOMS 2012 FASTFORWARDING

Our Cover:

G lobalization has put the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in a situation where it has to run in order to stay in place. To remain relevant in an increasingly challenging environment, the bureau is moving fastforward with its twin programs of reforming the system and modernizing its processes by harnessing the latest technology.



The Manila International Container Terminal



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS Annual Report 2012



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From the Secretary...

he Bureau of Customs continues to face challenging obstacles in facilitating trade and generating revenues. Outdated systems and poor compliance and enforcement efforts that have plagued the Bureau in the past cannot be transformed overnight. Leading the Bureau of Customs requires boldness, patience and determination, and I would like to congratulate Commissioner Biazon for having the courage to take on such a challenge.

In 2012, his first full year in office, the collection of the Bureau of Customs grew 9.3% year-on-year. He also led the regular filing of cases against smugglers and introduced several efforts to modernize systems and processes.

I look forward to working with Commissioner Biazon in 2013 in intensifying our fight against smuggling. There is still a lot of opportunity to enhance trade facilitation and expand revenue collection. The Department of Finance will work closely with Commissioner Biazon in exploring new interventions to further weed out corruption from the ranks.

Daang Matuwid is President Aquino's marching orders. I call on all our colleagues in the Bureau of Customs to make *daang matuwid* the fundamental principle guiding the Bureau's operations. Let us make 2013 a milestone year in the Bureau's fight against corruption.

CESAR V. PURISIMA

Secretary Department of Finance

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Vision

A Customs administration which is among the world's best that every Filipino can be proud of.

Mission

- To enhance revenue collection
- To provide quality service to stake holders with professionalism and integrity
- To facilitate trade in a secured manner
- To effectively curb smuggling
- To be compliant with international best pratices and standards

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From the Commissioner...

n my first full year in office which was 2012, it was encouraging to see positive changes taking place in the Bureau of Customs (BOC), and even more gratifying to realize that the Filipino people have taken notice of them. The results of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed a reversal of our Bureau's embarrassing plunge in our people's esteem with our public trust rating rising from -69 percent in 2009 to -45 percent in September 2012.

The last year saw the different groups and units of the Bureau shortening the waiting time for the accreditation process for importers and brokers, the seizure of more smuggled items and contraband, the filing of more cases against smugglers, and the elimination of certain processes involving human interaction which used to open tempting opportunities for corruption and abuse.

We scored some unprecedented, final victories in our drive against smuggling when three cases ended in the conviction of the accused by our courts of law. It is to be hoped that these criminal convictions will put the fear of the law not only among businessmen and brokers but also among some of our own people in the Bureau.

But it was in our traditional function of tax collection where we fell short of official expectations. At P289.857 billion, our total collections were below the P347.073 billion target set by our country's financial managers.

Nevertheless it should be pointed out that last year's total represented a 9.3 percent increase over the total collections in 2011, which amounted to P265.109 billion. And we were able to achieve this increase under some unfavorable circumstances, like falling import volumes, the rising value of the peso, and the diminishing number of commodities subject to tax due to international trade liberalization and our commitments to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. REPORT 2012

This is not to say that higher revenue collections to support the requirements of our developing economy and our growing population would be unattainable. It can be done, but it would require nothing less than an overhaul of our antiquated policies and outmoded processes and systems. We must modernize or perish. We need to amend laws that make it difficult to conduct trade or run after those who violate them, review our policies, enhance our relationships with our trading partners, and tap state-of-the-art technology to achieve greater efficiency in every aspect of our work.

But even as we try to change the way we do things, we should strive even harder to change the way we think. We need to transform our values and create a culture of honesty, hard work and discipline, knowing that in the hands of the weak and the corrupt even the best machines and the most sophisticated systems are bound to break 'down and fail.

Kyn Nup M. G.

ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON Commissioner Bureau of Customs

2012: Breakthroughs and Followthroughs

he first indications of changing public perceptions of an agency that is often identified as a center of corruption and the first successful prosecution of a smuggling case provided some bright highlights to a year when the Bureau of Customs sustained the upward trajectory in revenue collection and maintained the momentum of modernization and reform.

President Benigno Aquino III, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon and other top BOC officials during the launching of the Broker's Lounge at the Port of Manila. In September last year, the Social Weather Stations (SWS) released the results of its latest survey showing the slide in people's trust in BOC not only being arrested but actually reversed. The survey said BOC's public trust rating stood at -45 percent, significantly better than the -69 percent rating it received three years earlier in 2009.

The year 2012 also saw the Run After The Smugglers (RATS) campaign score its first legal victory when a Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) convicted the owner of a forwarding company and a



customs broker on July 12. Almost two weeks later another Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Manila found an importer guilty of smuggling. And in December, the Court of Tax Appeals sent to jail an importer from Cebu for misdeclaring a shipment of vehicles. All were meted out stiff prison terms aside from being ordered to pay fines.

Revenue Collection

The total collection for the year reached Php289.857 billion. This was Php24.748 billion, or 9.3 percent, higher than the 2011 figure of Php265.109 billion.

The total cash collection amounted to Php282.360 billion, 16.7 percent or Php56.754 billion lower than the Php349.114 billion cash collection target set by the Department of Finance (DOF) and approved by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC). The non-cash collection charged to the government Tax Expenditure Fund (TEF) amounted to Php7.497 billion, -Php0.462 billion or 5.8 percent short of the target.



Figure A. Annual Cash Collections CY 2007-2012 Figure B. BOC January to December 2012 Revenue Collections (In Billion Pesos)

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BOC January - December 2012 Revenue Collections (In Billion Pesos)

	JAN-DEC	2012	Deviation		
	Target	Actual	Amount	%	
Total Collections	347.073	289.857	(57.216)	-16.5%	
Cash Collections	339.114	282.360	(56.754)	-16.7%	
TEF	7.959	7.497	(0.462)	-5.8%	
,	JAN-D	DEC	Deviation		
	2011	2012	Amount	%	
Total Collections	265.109	289.857	24.748	9.3%	
Cash Collections	255.700	282.360	26.660	10.4%	
TEF	9,409	7.497	(1.912)	-20.3%	

N.B Jan-Nov Actual Collections based on Bureau of Treasury, Dec prelim based on BOC



Figure C. Collection by Source -January to December 2012 (In Million)

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Classified according to type of tax or revenue, duties on non-oil, oil, crude oil and oil products brought in a total of Php40.696 billion and excise taxes on other imports added Php25.554 billion, lower than the 2011 levels by Php1.498 billion and Php5.523 billion, respectively.

Total collection from the value added tax (VAT) amounted to Php220.992 million, a 10.4 percent improvement on the 2011 total of Php200.223 million or an increase of Php20.769 million.

Trade liberalization and the peso's appreciation combined with the general slowdown in the global economy dampened the prospects of generating higher revenues from international trade. During the year a total of Php1.432 trillion worth of goods covered by various free trade agreements flowed into the country, resulting in Php62.238 billion in fo

foregone revenues.
Mainly because of the appreciation of the peso, the total
value of imports decrease by an almost negligible 1.2 percent to
Php3,000,388 million from Php3,037,544 million even as the import
volume increased by 12.2 percent to 66,455 tons from the previous
year's 59,216 tons.

Similarly because of the stronger peso and softer crude oil prices

In September last year, the Social Weather Stations (SWS) released the results of its latest survey showing the slide in people's trust in BOC not only being arrested but actually reversed.

		OF IMPORTS 0 Tons) nary)			
	JAN - D	EC	VARIANCE		
TOTAL	2012 66,455	<u>2011</u> 59,216	<u>Amount</u> 7,239	<u>%</u> 12.2%	
Dutiable	27,674	23,593	4,082	17.3%	
Non-Oil	26,984	22,408	4,576	20.4%	
Oil	691	1,185	(494)	-41.7%	
Oil (Crude)	0	0	0	0.0%	
Oil Products	691	1,185	(494)	-41.7%	
Non- Dutiable	38,780	35,623	3,157	8.9%	
Non-Oil Oil (Crude) Oil Products	23,799 8,861 6,120	21,777 9,109 4,737	2,022 (248) 1,383	9.3% -2.7% 29.2%	
TOTAL	66,455	59,216	7,239	12.2%	
Dutiable	27,674	23,593	4,082	17.3%	
Consumption	27,562	23,318	4,245	18.2%	
Warehousing	112	275	(163)	-59.2%	
Non- Dutiable	38,780	35,623	3,157	8.9%	
For Consumption	28,817	27,738	1,080	3.9%	
For Re-Export	9,963	7,885	2,078	26.3%	

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Figure D. Volume of Imports

Even as most of its units and personnel continued to focus on ensuring that the government gets the right amount of taxes and keeping out dangerous drugs and fake goods, BOC has initiated several projects intended to make doing business with it easy and speedy, convenient and clean.

	VALUE C (In Mi	DF CUSTON DF IMPORTS Ilion Pesos) iminary)	IS	
	2012 JAN	- DEC 2011	VARIAN Amount	<u>CE</u> <u>%</u>
TOTAL	3,000,388	3,037,544	(37,156)	-1.2%
Dutlable	1,220,493	1,180,873	39,619	3.4%
Non-Oil	1,188,322	1,124,533	63,790	5.7%
Oil	32,170	56,341	(24,170)	-42.9%
Oil (Crude)	0	0	0	0.0%
Oil Products	32,170	56,341	(24,170)	-42.9%
Non- Dutiable	1,779,895	1,856,671	(76,776)	-4.1%
Non-Oil	1,221,068	1,347,224	(126,156)	-9.4%
Oil (Crude)	316,436	321,413	(4,977)	-1.5%
Oil Products	242,391	188,033.86	54,357	28.9%
TOTAL	3,000,388	3,037,544	(37,156)	-1.2%
Dutiable	1,220,493	1,180,873	39,619	3.4%
Consumption	1,214,634	1,169,695	44,939	3.8%
Warehousing	5,858	11,178	(5,320)	-47.6%
Non- Dutiable	1,779,895	1,856,671	(76,776)	-4.1%
For Consumption	760,090	698,606	61,483	8.8%
For Re-Export	1,019,806	1,158,065	(138,259)	-11.9%

in the international market, imports of dutiable non-oil, oil, crude oil and oil products reached 27,674 tons, a hefty 17.3 percent increase over the previous year's 23,593 tons, but their total value amounted to just Php1,220,493 million, a modest increase of 3.4 percent from the previous year's Php1,180,873 million.

On the other hand, non-dutiable imports of non-oil, oil and crude shot up by 8.9 percent to 38,780 tons from 35,623 tons, but their total value fell by 4.1 percent to Php1,779,895 billion from Php1,856,671.

Dutiable imports for consumption and warehousing added up to 27,674 tons, 17.3 percent higher than the previous year's 23,593 tons. Their total value, however, rose by only 3.4 percent to P1,220,493 million from Php1,180,873 billion.

Figure E. Value of Imports

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Non-dutiable imports for consumption, re-export, duty-free, PEZA and regular re-export, totaled 38,780 tons, higher by 3,157 tons, or 8.9 percent, than the previous year's 35,623 tons.

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		DU	the second	COLLEC llion Pesos)	TION			
	DECEMBER		VARIANCE		JAN - DEC		VARIANCE	
	2012	2011	Amount	<u>%</u>	2012	2011	Amount	<u>%</u>
TOTAL TEF	25,362 5,413	22,148 2,860	3,214	14.5%	289,857 7,497	265,109 9,409	24,748 (1,912)	9.3%
Import Duties	7,827	4,639	3,188	68.7%	40,696	42,195	(1,498)	-3.6%
Non Oil	7,805	4.597	3,208	69.8%	40,341	41,649	(1,308)	-3.19
Oil	22	43	(20)	-47.8%	355	546	(191)	-35.09
Crude Oil	-	-	-	#DIV/0!		-		#DIV/0
Oil Products	22	43	(20)	-47.8%	355	546	(191)	-35.09
VAT	15,445	15,592	(146)	-0.9%	220,992	200,223	20,769	10.4%
Non Oil	12.155	10,985	1,170	- 10.6%	150,194	135,799	14,396	10.69
Oil	3,290	4.606	(1,316)	-28.6%	70,798	64,424	6,374	9.99
Crude Oil	1.578	2,467	(890)	-36.1%	37,441	36,053	1,388	3.89
Oil Products	1,712	2.139	(427)	-19.9%	33.357	28,371	4,986	17.69
Spec (Excise)	1,932	1,714	218	12.7%	25,554	20,031	5,523	27.69
Others	158	203	(45)	-22.2%	2,614	2,661	(46)	-1.79
Tax Credit Applied Gov't Accounts / Def.	149	243	(94)	-38,7%	3/122	5.786	(2,663)	-46.0
Payt.	1,866	226	1.640	726.3%	5,955	10.053	(4.097)	-40.89
TOTAL	25,362	22,148	3,214	14.5%	289,857	265,109	24,748	9.3
Crude Oil	1,578	2,467	(890)	-30.1%	37,441	36.053	1.388	3.8
Petro Products	2 258	2,945	(687)	-23.3%	43,974	37,935	6,039	15.9
Non-Oil	21 526	16,736	4,790	28.6%	206,441	191,120	17,321	9.1
Note: Actual Collection Ba	sed on District	Reports	Ŷ					

Figure F. BOC Cash Collections (In Million Pesos)

Financial Service Director Edna Barrida, flanked by MICP District Collector Ricardo Belmonte (to her right), EG Deputy Commissioner Horacio Suansing with other BOC officials during the Strategic Planning Workshop in Tagaytay City.

Other Income Sources

The revenue collection effort of BOC's different collection districts and ports have been boosted by the operations of some special-

ized groups and units, like those involved in intelligence gathering and law enforcement.

The Intelligence Group (IG) seized 66 shipments of misdeclared goods worth Php932 million and confiscated abandoned contraband worth Php24.5 million.



Figure G. Collection by Type of Tax - January to December 2012 (In Million)

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> Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon leads the filing of a smuggling case at the Department of Justice. Revenue Collection Monitoring Group Deputy Commissioner and concurrent head of the Run After The Smugglers (RATS) Program Peter Manzano is seated to his right.

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The Enforcement Group (EG) collected a total of Php871 million representing the value of forfeited goods as well as the proceeds from full payment of correct duties and taxes for imported items that had been held under alert orders.

VAT

220,992

200,223

Collection by Type of Tax

January to December 2012

(In Million)

The X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) collected additional taxes amounting to Php23,790,796.27 at the Port of Manila (POM), the Manila International Container Port (MICP) and the Ninoy Aquino Inter-



250,000

200,000

150,000

100,000

50.000

2012

2011

DUTIES

40,696

42,195

national Airport (NAIA).

The Post Entry Audit Group (PEAG) was able to collect over Php695 million, while the Transaction Audit Division I collected Php14 million and the Transaction Audit Division II at MICP collected Php21.7 million.

EXCISE

25,554

20,031

20122011

Complementing the efforts to raise collection is the campaign to stop smuggling and punish smugglers. During the year, the Run-After The Smugglers (RATS) Team filed 60 cases with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in connection with the smuggling of goods worth Php1.279 billion.

The number of cases filed exceeded by 150 percent, the target that the anti-smuggling unit had set for itself at the beginning of the year and brought the total to more than 100 cases, involving Php60 billion worth of cargoes. In support of the national campaign against piracy and other violations of intellectual property rights, BOC launched a number of operations which yielded a total of Php1.1 billion worth of bogus items. This accounted for 22 percent of the total value of confiscated items, one of the highest among the different law-enforcement agencies involved in this effort, according to the National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights.

Also in 2012, operatives of the Customs Task Force on Dangerous Drugs and Controlled Chemicals were able to confiscate 63.523 Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) Chief Zae Carrie de Guzman, Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazonand Intelligence Group (IG) Deputy Commissioner Danilo Lim present before media confiscated counterfeit signature bags. 2012



NAIA District Collector Carlos T. So points to Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon seized illegal drugs at the NAIA Arrival Area in the presence of ESS NAIA District Commander Marlon Alameda and officials of the Customs Task Force on Dangerous Drugs and Controlled Chemicals. Importers and Brokers enjoy faster, easier and more orderly processing of their entry at the newly opened Broker's Lounge.

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kilos of shabu, 19 tablets of Alprozalam, 8.737 kilos of cocaine and 19 tablets of the party drug Ecstasy. With an estimated street value of Php462.7 million, the year's drug haul was the biggest in three years.

Arrested for attempted smuggling of illegal drugs were 15 foreign nationals, most of them Asians. Five have been charged in court.

Computerization For Trade Facilitation

Even as most of its units and personnel continued to focus on ensuring that the government gets the right amount of taxes and keeping out dangerous drugs and fake goods, BOC has initiated several projects intended to make doing business with it easy and speedy, convenient and clean.

The Interim Customs Accreditation and Registration Unit (ICARE) has simplified accreditation procedures, cut the steps required to just three, and set up an on-line verification system linked with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), reducing to a maximum of seven days a process that used to take weeks or even , a few months. At the same time, ICARE continued to weed out bogus



operators after examining the records of accredited importers and brokers.

Already in place, though needing some upgrading and further modification, is the electronic-to-mobile (E2M) project which allows importers and BOC personnel to conduct business via the Internet. It cov-



ers three critical areas of customs operations: import assessment, export processing, and operations/decision support.

As the lead agency in establishing the National Single Window (NSW), BOC was able to secure the cooperation of 40 different agencies to date. All these agencies are now linked to the system. When full integration is completed, traders and exporters will be able to complete transactions with a single submission and processing of data and information and single decision-making for customs clearance and release of shipments.

Monitoring of the status of shipments by brokers has also been made faster, easier and more orderly with the use of computers after the recent opening of a Brokers Lounge at both the Port of Manila (POM) and the Manila International Container Port (MICP) with the use of computers. This electronic system of monitoring eliminates the need for personal follow-ups that open opportunities for corruption.

Media Reform

Another big step taken to introduce order and clean up BOC was the review and tightening of the media accreditation process to ensure that only legitimate media practitioners will cover the agency. Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon, BAI Industry Director Efren C. Nuestro and heads of other government agencies involved in the Philippine National Single Window (NSW) project sign the Memorandum of Agreement. BEPOK

Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon leads the oath taking of elected officials of the newly formed BOC Press Corps.

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The review, which was undertaken with the help of representatives from two media associations, resulted in a much shorter list of accredited journalists, thereby limiting access to media professionals and closing the door to smart operators demanding payoffs from , both honest and dishonest officials and employees.

Moving Forward

Globalization and the implementation of free trade agreements will narrow down the list of commodities subject to duties and taxes in the coming years. Increasing revenue collections to help finance the expanding operations and the growing number of projects of the national government will thus become even more challenging for BOC.

To be able to meet this challenge, the BOC leadership envisions a modernized, fully automated and technology-driven agency. BOC will have to quicken the pace of modernization and reform designed to plug leakages in the system, make processes faster and more efficient, and bring corruption down to the barest minimum. For a start, plans to use the Global Positioning System to track the movement of shipments will have to be carried out as soon as possible. Globalization and the implementation of free trade agreements will narrow down the list of commodities subject to duties and taxes in the coming years. Increasing revenue collections to help finance the expanding operations and the growing number of projects of the national government will thus become even more challenging for BOC.

At the same time, cumbersome procedures and antiquated policies that slow down transactions and make smuggling easy will have to be junked. In this undertaking, the cooperation of Congress is essential, for it involves a thorough review and overhaul of the decades-old Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP) to make it better attuned to a much-altered global economy.

All these key measures and reforms now form part of BOC's agenda.



Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon clarifies the legal aspects in the implementation of the Philippine National Single Window (NSW) during a conference sponsored by USAID and assisted by the BOC Management Information System and Technology Group. 7 8 1 2

Group Reports

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Revenue Collection Monitoring Group

R CMG is tasked with maintaining an up-to-date account of revenue collections, handling the legal requirements of the agency, providing accurate and timely analyses of collection statistics, and conducting a continuing audit of liquidated entries and outstanding bonds.

During the year in review, RCMG achieved a major breakthrough in its efforts to combat smuggling, when the Run After The Smugglers team secured the conviction of an importer and his broker. Danilo Villar and Danilo Opiniano were found guilty of smuggling used clothing and sentenced to long prison terms by a Manila Regional Trial Court on July 12, 2012. It was the first criminal conviction for smuggling won by the government.

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RATS scored another legal victory on July 25, 2012, when another Manila RTC convicted Ronnina Alojado for illegally importing high density polyethylene resin. Then on Dec. 12, 2012, the Court of Tax Appeals found Roel Sayson guilty of violating the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines when he



illegally imported P1.8 million worth of vehicles.

Also in 2012, the RATS team filed a total of 60 criminal complaints with the Department of Justice (DOJ) against different groups and individuals for smuggling various goods with an estimate total value of Php1,278,625,228.64.

RCMG and RATS also conducted an inventory of all cases filed by BOC with the help of the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and the Department of Justice.

Another unit under the group that turned out a notable performance in 2012 was the Interim Customs Accreditation and Registration (ICARE) unit. Initially established to ferret out spurious importers and brokers and strike them off the accreditation list, this unit has streamlined and simplified the accreditation process. By cutting down the number of steps needed and setting up an on-line verification system linked to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), ICARE was able to reduce the accreditation period to just three to seven days, a drastic reduction in the processing time that in the past normally took weeks or even months.

Apart from sitting on the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Sub-Committee on Organized Crime as BOC's representative. RCMG has also represented the agency in several international conventions and meetings, including BOC Legal Officer Raulito Villar takes his oath before State Prosecutor Rohairah Lao in connection with the smuggling case filed by RATS before the DOJ in the presence of BOC Legal Service Director Simplicio Domingo II.

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the Negotiation Group on Trade Facilitation. In the past year, it made an inventory of all international commitments of BOC.

The RCMG staff also came up with BOC's Codified Rules and Regulations of 2012, which has been submitted to the Department of Finance (DOF), and reviewed existing rules and regulations covering fees and charges.

The group also issued numerous alert orders which led to the seizure of illegal shipments for violations of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP) and related laws. It made sure that the Bonds Audit Division would get an updated list of unliquidated bonds from the different ports so that collection could be speeded up, and directed the Financial Service to provide daily updates on collection performance.

Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group

The Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG) is composed of the Auction and Cargo Disposal Monitoring Division, the Export Coordination Division, and the Port Operations Coordination Division. It also exercises direct control and supervision over the Import Assessment Service (IAS) and the Port Operations Service (POS). Its principal function is to help BOC improve its revenue-generating capacity and its trade promotion capability by keeping abreast of trends in international trade and changes in international trading rules and regulations.

Secretary Leila de LIma of the Department of Justice (DOJ) with BOC Commissioner Ruffy Biazon during the recent filing of a smuggling case at DOJ.

In 2012, AOCG held a strategic planning workshop attended by district collectors. The workshop produced several important recommendations that will improve BOC operations as well as its ability to collect more duties and taxes.

In 2012, AOCG held a strategic planning workshop attended by district collectors. The workshop produced several important recommendations that will improve BOC operations as well as its ability to collect more duties and taxes.

IAS updates value information data on a daily basis for the purpose of comparing declared values of imports against previously accepted transaction values. It came out recently with the Value Reference Information System-Office of the Commissioner Reference Value Issuances which is now being used as reference values in all collection districts.

For the year 2012, POS issued a total of 971 bunkering permits, monitored the sale of bunker fuels to international vessels and kept



Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon attends the Strategic Planning Workshop organized by the Assessment Operations and Coordinating Group (AOCG) for the 17 District Collectors. Customs officials led by Commissioner Ruffy Biazon meet with the Mexican delegation at the Manila Hotel to discuss trade facilitation between their two countries.

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track of all foreign aircraft and vessels that entered and cleared various ports, monitored the volume and value of exports, and coordinated with the collection districts in the auction and disposal of confiscated or abandoned items.

POS is currently preparing for the implementation of the 2nd Pilot Project for ASEAN Self-Certification, and drafting, in coordination with other government agencies, an executive order to carry out the Self-Certification System in the Philippines.

Also in 2012, the AOCG chief was designated as BOC's focal person on all matters related to the implementation of the country's free trade agreements with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and with Japan. In this capacity, he served as the country's representative in different international trade conferences and signed the Memorandum of Intent relating to negotiations on Customs E-Certification for the Rules of Origin. All this was in addition to his responsibilities as head of various committees implementing or supporting the agency's programs and projects.

Summaries of the significant accomplishments of the committees follow:



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Adoption of global industry standards and the latest applications of information and communications technology enable officials and employees to apply best practices in dealing with importers, suppliers and other clients.

• Computerization of the Customs Bonded Warehouse's 201 Files nationwide, which established a comprehensive database for all licensed CBW operators, including subcontractors, members and accredited clients and end-users.

• The Bulk and Breakbulk Cargo Clearance Enhancement Program is evaluating the performance of the six international surveying companies accredited by the Office of the President to provide load port reports, which will guide examiners in determining the proper duties and taxes due on cargoes.

• The Committee for the Disposition of Abandoned and Overstaying Shipments, after securing a waiver of charges from the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), approved the sale of 16 containers of sugar worth P16.18 million.

• After the reconstitution of the Central Valuation Classification Review and Ruling Committee with the inclusion of new members of the Technical Support Team, the 36 case folders are expected to be resolved within a few months.

• A total of 86 companies have been accredited to use the Super Green Lane (SGL) which was established to facilitate transactions with the biggest importers and boost tax collection.

Management Information System and Technology Group

The Management Information System and Technology Group (MISTG) was created to manage and control BOC's IT facilities and services. It seeks to provide the agency with the latest applications in information and communications technology (ICT) by adopting "Industry Standards for Organizations" as well as "Industry Standards for Security Management". Adoption of these global industry standards



Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Customs Directors General lock arms (kapit-bisig) during the recent ASEAN Customs Meeting held at the Marriot Hotel in Pasay City.

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> enables officials and employees to apply best practices in dealing with importers, suppliers and other clients.

Exporters transacting business with BOC are now benefiting from reduced time and cost after the Automated Export Declaration System (AEDS) was launched. AEDS, a component of the BOC's electronic-tomobile (E2M) system, eliminates the need for signatures in the processing and approval of export declaration. Approval now comes in the form of a barcode printed on the export declaration, giving authority to load.

E2M is part of the full computerization program which will integrate all Philippine government offices issuing permits and licenses under the National Single Window (NSW), which will in turn be linked to the ASEAN Single Window.

A major undertaking of BOC, NSW forms part of the ASEAN plan

The Voluntary Disclosure Program, which allows importers to voluntarily correct erroneous information on import entry declarations and underpayments of duties and taxes without penalty, contributed a substantial amount to the group's revenue collection. to set up an economically integrated market and production base in the region. NSW is integrated with the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) and will be linked to the ASEAN Single Window (ASW).

Today 40 government agencies are already linked to NSW. When NSW regional centers are opened, businessmen in the different provinces will be able to secure permits and other requirements for import and export going to Manila.

MISTG has recommended the immediate modification and enhancement of the Electronic-to-Mobile (E2M) project, an Internetbased technology that allows BOC personnel and traders to transact business electronically. E2M covers three key transactions: import assessment, export processing and operations/decision support. The recommended modifications of E2M will allow renewal of the post entry modification system if the client profile registration system is less than 10 months old.

In 2012, MISTG organized the World Bank strategic planning session to upgrade the skills and capabilities of the staff. With the help of a consultant, MISTG produced an updated System Strategic Plan for 2012-2014.

The Bureau of Customs has provided kiosks at the Broker's Lounge of the Port of Manila (POM) and the Manila International Container Port (MICP) where brokers and importers can easily access the status of their entries. REPORT 2 8 1 2

The group also developed the concept paper for the Integrated Philippine Customs System Project and helped prepare the Terms of Reference for an Integrated Philippine Computer System of the Bids and Awards Committee/ Technical Working Group.

It helped organize seven workshops for the IPCS-Focus Group Discussion for the BAC/





TWG and identified the requirements of the three Value Added Service Providers in implementing the automated sectioning of their front-end system.

Operating under the supervision of MISTG is the Philippine Customs Intelligence Service. Funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), this unit is tasked with improving the ICTbased capability of BOC to collect, process, organize and disseminate operations-related information. The project seeks to provide BOC with a knowledge-management and decision-support infrastructure based on data warehouse technologies that meets BOC's requirements for intelligence gathering and other operations.

Post-Entry Audit Group

The Manila International Container Terminal

BUREAU of Customs

Checking and verifying the accuracy of import declarations is the responsibility of the Post-Entry Audit Group. Post-entry audit involves

on-site verification of shipment. It complies with the Revised Kyoto Convention that requires member-nations to shift from documentary checks upon entry to one that is based on information and communications technology and allows reasonably predictable and accountable procedures for determining dutiable value.

On-site examination and verification of books, records and business systems yields a more detailed information which, in turn, speeds up the verification process and enhances the quality and dependability of the resulting assessment. When misdeclarations are detected, PEAG imposes fines, bans or even file cases against the importer.

In 2012, PEAG was able to collect over P695 million, a 42 percent improvement on the 2011 collection of Php488,265,719.81. This amount does not include the collections of Transaction Audit Division I which reached Php14,198,970 and Transaction Audit Division II which totalled Php21,710,946.

During the year, the group issued 473 Audit Notification Letters, profiled 473 cases and recommended suspension in 139 cases. It also completed the compliance audit of 140 cases.

The Voluntary Disclosure Program, which allows importers to voluntarily correct erroneous information on import entry declarations and underpayments of duties and taxes without penalty, contributed a substantial amount to the group's revenue collection. Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon and Asst. Commissioner and concurrent PEAG head Erickson Alcovendaz (to his left) receive BOC JICA consultant and foreign customs officials at BOC.



Enforcement Group

The Enforcement Group (EG) is responsible for securing the country's ports and BOC installations and protecting cargoes and properties inside the customs zone.

In 2012, EG was able to collect a total of Php871 million, representing the value of forfeited cargoes and shipments as well as payments of correct duties and taxes on shipments placed under alert orders. The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Enforcement Group and Operations and Intelligence Office-Enforcement Group collected Php100 million, the Enforcement and Security Service, Php627 million, and the Certificate of Payment Centralized Clearance Center, Php144 million.

To comply with resolutions of the country's Anti-Terrorism Council, the group created in 2012 a permanent Bureau of Customs Anti-Terrorism Liaison Desk and trained the members of its Enforcement and Security Service to equip them with the skills to handle their additional responsibility.

EG also started the computerization of its alert system to improve the monitoring, surveillance and investigation capabilities of its personnel with the establishment of an enforcement database.



It created the Certificate of Payment Centralized Clearing Center to serve as a one-stop shop where the Maritime Industry Authority (MIA) can verify whether or not the proper duties and taxes have been collected on cargoes carried by vessels.

A memorandum of agreement with the Civil Aeronautics Board is being prepared that will allow Philippine-registered aircraft

Commissioner Ruffy Biazon flanked by IG Deputy Commissioner Danilo Lim, IAG Deputy Commissioner Juan-Lorenzo Tañada and ESS Director George Aliño present to the media seized smuggled rice in the Port of Subic worth half a billion pesos.

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to be issued clearance to fly once the proper duties and taxes are collected.

Armed with Warrant of Seizure and Detention for violating Sections 2503 and 2530 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), the group seized the following shipments:

• Ten 20-foot containers declared to be loaded with gypsum board but found to be carrying Php10 million worth of premium white rice.

- Four 40-foot containers of garlic worth Php8.9 million.
- Eight 40-foot containers declared to be loaded with household
- wares found to contain Php10 million worth of premium white rice.
 - Four 40-foot containers loaded with onions valued at Php6 million.

To comply with resolutions of the country's Anti-Terrorism Council, EG created in 2012 a permanent Bureau of Customs Anti-Terrorism Liaison Desk and trained the members of its Enforcement and Security Service to equip them with the skills to handle their additional responsibility.

ESS Director George Aliño, Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon, EG Deputy Commissioner Horacio Suansing, Jr. and IG Deputy Commissioner Danilo Lim present to media seized used clothing shipment at the Port of Manila (POM). The Enforcement Group (EG) recorded 161 alerted shipments with total value of Php627 million, and recommended for seizure 89 shipments of which 49 were found to contain dangerous drugs and chemicals.

• Sixteen 20-foot containers carrying soya bean oil worth Php17.5 million which was covered by falsified ASEAN Free Trade Area/ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement Certificates of Origin.

• One 40-foot container declared to be carrying vacuum cleaners which turned out to contain electric meters worth Php4 million.

• Five 40-foot containers loaded with clothing worth Php20 million.

• One 40-foot container filled with outboard motor parts valued at Php6 million.

• One 40-foot container declared to be carrying 985 packages of parts and engines for agricultural tractors and found to be holding a Hyundai Sonata and five bicycles with a combined values of Php2.5 million.

Also in 2012, EG recorded 161 alerted shipments with total value of Php627 million, and recommended for seizure 89 shipments, of which 49 were found to contain dangerous drugs and chemicals. Five shipments were recommended to be auctioned, seven to be declared as abandoned and 39 for the lifting of alert orders and continued processing.



Intelligence Group

Considered as BOC's eyes and ears, the Intelligence Group (IG) gathers intelligence information on customs and other economic activities, conducts inquiries and investigations, and exercises some police powers. It supports the agency's collection efforts while keeping watch over the

Intelligence Group (IG) Deputy Commissioner Danilo Lim answers questions of news reporters after the presentation of seized smuggled items in the presence of Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon.

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BUREAU of Customs
country's borders and helping in facilitating international trade.

An essential component in the agency's heightened campaign against smuggling and other illegal activities, IG in 2012 seized 66 shipments containing misdeclared or undeclared commodities with a combined value of Php932 million and confiscated abandoned contraband worth Php24.5 million.

Other significant apprehensions chalked up by the group were the following:

• Rice shipments (including the cargo vessel) that were found to have violated existing quotas issued to private partnerships and farmer cooperatives.

• Rhinoceros horns which are banned from being traded under the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Convention.

• Laboratory equipment and supplies used in the manufacture of illegal drugs.

• Illegally imported onions and pyrotechnics.



 Various pharmaceutical products, motor vehicles, cigarettes, foodstuff, used clothing, resin and pirated products and similar items.

Internal Administration Group (IAG)

The Internal Administration Group (IAG) handles the recruitment and training of personnel and provides financial, budgetary and other support services.

Preparing the agency's annual budget, keeping its book of accounts and disbursing funds for various purposes are the main responsibilities of the Financial Management Office (FMO) and its two Commissioner Ruffy Biazon and IG Deputy Commissioner Danilo Lim witness the weighing of the smuggled Rhinoceros horns seized at MICP. The newly renovated covered walks leading to the BOC Main Office, one of the latest projects of the Internal Administration Group.



divisions, the Accounting Division and the Budget Division.

Training

To upgrade the skills of BOC officers and staff members and broaden their knowledge of global best practices in their respective line of work, the Interim Training Development and conducts Division training workshops and seminars and helps provide opportunities for training abroad. A total

Director Ma. Corazon C. Azaña of the Administration Office-IAG speaks at the Strategic Planning Workshop held in Tagaytay City.

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of 52 training workshops and seminars were conducted for BOC's 1,947 personnel in 2012, including workshops on strategic planning, effective leadership and team-building as well as refresher courses



on various aspects of customs administration.

In the same year, BOC sent 40 officials for training in different countries of Southeast Asia, Japan, South Korea and the United States. The bureau also sent delegations to 73 international meetings and conferences held in different cities abroad.



Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon flanked by BOC Press Corps President Chito Junia (to his right) and Internal Administration Group (IAG) Deputy Commissioner Juan-Lorenzo Tañada, speaks at a recent "Kapihan sa Aduana" Media Forum.

Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD)

The Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD) serves as the information arm of BOC. It organizes media conferences and issues press releases to publicize the programs and projects of the bureau as well as its significant accomplishments, and monitors media reports.

In 2012 PIAD, in consultation with the officers of existing BOC media associations, revised the guidelines and procedures for media accreditation so that only reporters assigned by legitimate media organizations will be able to cover the beat. This move trimmed down the number of accredited reporters from more than 300 to 96, representing forty media outlets.

Other notable activities of PIAD during the year were: the production of the BOC Audio-Visual Presentation (AVP) explaining BOC's history and functions and its programs and vision, the preparation of the agency's 2011 Annual Report, and the organization of the bimonthly "Kapihan sa Aduana" to serve as a forum where BOC officials can discuss their activities as well as issues and ideas with the members of the press.

PIAD organized the bimonthly "Kapihan sa Aduana" to serve as a forum where BOC officials can discuss their activities as well as issues and ideas with the members of the press. REPOR

General Services Division (GSD)

Another vital unit in IAG is the General Services Division (GSD) which handles the procurement of fixed assets and equipment and their repair and maintenance, and provides other basic but essential services.

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Among GSD's significant activities in 2012 were holding public biddings for the renovation and improvement of the main building in the Port of Batangas, the renovation and improvement of the Customhouse in the Port of Cagayan de Oro and the rebidding for the supply of 1,000 desktop computers, 50 laptops, 35 wireless projectors and other IT equipment, and a new elevator for the Port of Manila (POM) building.

The Manila International Container Terminal

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X-ray Inspection Project

A flagship project of BOC, the X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) has proven



to be a powerful tool in controlling smuggling and the misdeclaration of goods. XIP makes use of non-intrusive, state-ofthe art X-ray machines to identify cargoes loaded inside thick steel containers that some unscrupulous importers use to hide highly dutiable items or contraband.

Launched in 2007, XIP has been instrumental in the detection and seizure of Php17.049

billion worth of goods, Php23.79 million of which were seized in 2012.

The project has been so successful that it has been cited by several international organizations, including the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the European Union Commission. The XIP head office and the field office located at the Port of Manila (POM) has also earned Industry Standards for Organization (ISO) certification. And its project head has been invited to address at least two international conferences to share the Philippine experience in applying X-ray technology to thwart smugglers who employ increasingly sophisticated methods in their activities.

At present, XIP manages and operates 30 X-ray machines installed in the country's ports and sub-ports.

XIP makes use of non-intrusive, state-of-the art X-ray machines to identify cargoes loaded inside thick steel containers that some unscrupulous importers use to hide highly dutiable items or contraband.

X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) head Lourdes Mangaoang supervises the condemnation of seized Peking duck shipment in the presence of Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon and Port of Manila (POM) District Collector Rogel Gatchalian.



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CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER Series of 2012

NO. DA CAO 1-2012 26

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DATE 26 Jun 2012

SUBJECT

Establishing an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program for Exporters

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM ORDERS Series of 2012

	NO. CMO 1-2012	DATE 12 Jan 2012	SUBJECT Strengthening the Run After The Smugglers (RATS) Group under the Revenue Collection and Monitoring Group (RCMG) and Intensifying its Role in the Anti- Smuggling Efforts of the Bureau of Customs	
Y	CMO 2-1012	31 Jan 2012	Client Profile Registration System (CPRS) Registration procedures of Tourist Enterprise Zone Operators and Registered Tourist Enterprise with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) Amending for the Purpose Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) 39-2008	
	СМО 3-2012	13 Feb 2012	OCOM CLEARANCE as Requirement for Release of Shipments of IRON and STEEL PRODUCTS	
	CMO 4-2012	14 Feb 2012	Alleged Importation of Truck Parts and Engines Declared as Truck Parts for Replacement Purposes but instead Used for Rebuilding Services	

СМО 5-2012	12 Mar 2012	Simplified Clearance Procedure for Consumption Entries
СМО 5-2012 А	12 April 2012	Amended Simplified Clearance Procedure for Consumption Entries
CMO 6-2012	3 April 2012	Transfer of the interim Customs Accreditation and Registration (ICARE) Unit, from the Revenue Collection and Monitoring Group (RCMG) to the Intelligence Group (IG)
СМО 7-2012	4 May 2012	Supplemental Guidelines in the Implementation of the Automated Export Documentation System under e2m Customs
CMO 8-2012	29 Aug. 2012	RE: Procedures for the Verification of Outstanding Balances of VAT Tax Credit Certificate (TCCs) for the issuances and processing of Notice of Payment Schedule (NPS), implementing Executive Order No. 68 Series of 2012 and Joint Circular No. 3-2012 dated May 31, 2012
CMO 9-2012	26 Jul 2012	Requiring the Prior Approval of the Commissioner of Customs or of the Deputy Commissioner, MISTG for the Manual Processing of Import Entries to Effect the Clearance & release of Imported Goods from Customs
СМО 10-2012	30 Aug 2012	Guidelines for the implementation of Department Order 57-2011

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	СМО 11-2012	4 Oct 2012	Establishing Rules and Regulations for the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program
	CMO 12-2012	7 Nov. 2012	Guidelines in the Tagging of e-Permits/Clearances of Import/Export cargoes through the Philippine National Single Window (PNSW)
	CMO 13-2012	31 Oct. 2012	Clarification on the Rate of Cargo Transfer Fees for the Domestic transit using the Customs e2m Transit System of Imports Discharged at All Ports of Entries with PEZA or FREEPORT/SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES/Areas as Final Destinations
Ŷ	CMO 14-2012	31 Oct 2012	Procedures for the Implementation of e2m Customs System for the Automated Bonds Management System (ABMS) in all Customs ports Nationwide
	СМО 15-2012	6 Nov 2012	Reactivation of the Customs Tariff Review Committee
	СМО 16-2012	27 Nov 2012	Validity Period of Duty Drawback TCCs



Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon Commissioner



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Danilo Lim Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence Group



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Juan-Lorenzo Tañada Deputy Commissioner for Internal Administration Group



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Horacio P. Suansing, Jr. Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement Group



Ma. Caridad P. Maranang Deputy Commissioner for Management Information System and Technology Group



Management Team

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BUREAU

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ROZZANO RU

COMMISSION

EPZA-LAGUNA WILLIAM S. DIONISIO

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Bureau of Customs (BOC) Directory

Office of the Commissioner 527-4573/5274537/526-6355

BOC X-Ray Inspection Project 521-2238

Internal Administration Group 527-1960/5274507

Administration Office 527-4518/527-6389

Public Information & Assistance Division 527-1968/527-8259

Medical & Dental Division 527-4601

Human Resource Management Division 526-6669/527-6571

General Services Division 527-4566/527-4526/526-6571

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Budget Division 527-5430

Accounting Division 527-4534

Planning & Policy Research Division 527-4508/527-8258

Revenue Collection and Monitoring Group 527-527-4602/527-9453

Legal Service 527-4515/527-4565

Tax Exempt Division 527-4579/526-1834

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Intellectual Property Rights Division

Enforcement Group

Enforcement and Security Service

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Technology Management Service 917-3225

System Management Division 527-8406/917-3225

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Trade Information and Risk Analysis Office 527-8257

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Port of Manila 527-2929/526-8610

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Ninoy Aquino International Airport 879-6003/832-2955/247-0981

Port of Batangas (043)722-0705/723-0631

Port of Legaspi (052)820-2508/214-3439

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Ronnie C. Silvestre Collector of Customs VI District Collector of Customs

Nelson B. Belen SVCOO OIC "Daang Matuwid is President Aquino's marching orders. I call on all our colleagues in the Bureau of Customs to make daang matuwid the fundamental principle guiding the Bureau's operations. Let us make 2013 a milestone year in the Bureau's fight against corruption."

> — Cesar V. Purisima DOF Secretary

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"We need to transform our values and create a culture of honesty, hard work and discipline, knowing that in the hands of the weak and the corrupt even the best machines and the most sophisticated systems are bound to break down and fail." — Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon BOC Commissioner

