MCS Celebrates 127th Anniversary

127th Anniversary Sports Festival

Major Achievements on Enforcement
I welcome dear readers to the 173rd issue of CJ and wish you all a very happy 127th Anniversary of our beloved organization!

Indeed, it’s a very proud moment for us as we mark our 127th Anniversary. We belong to one of the oldest organizations which dates back to the 1890. Over the years Maldives Customs Service has evolved from Bandaara Fihaa to “Athiree-farumeytu” and later to “Customs”. On November 13, 1998 Customs was renamed as Maldives Customs Service. Our Uniform, Customs Nidha, Customs Flag and Badge are attributes along with many that we flaunt with deep respect and pride. The recorded history of Maldives Customs is traced to 1890, although government export / import tax administrative infrastructure was functional long before that. It is also worth to acknowledge that MCS is the biggest contributor to the National Treasury.

We started our anniversary celebrations with a Special Flag Hoisting Ceremony early in the morning of 18th July, 2017. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Minister of Home Affairs Honorable Azleen Ahmed. Along with the Head Office, all the Regional Customs offices held Flag Hoisting Ceremony to mark the auspicious occasion.

As we mark this jubilant occasion I believe that the most important aspect to look at it is through our accomplishments and advancements. We have come a long way in terms of advancement to technology and human resources. We have moved from filing tons of paper documents for years to a completely digital documentation and archiving process. Our Declaration forms are digitized and iPads are being used for cargo examination. Importers no longer have to queue up to get their day to day activities done. Online payment through Customs portal opened a path way for people to complete their transactions from anywhere in the world.

The biggest asset to any organization is the people in it. Staff development and training is a major area of importance that developed immensely over the years. International and local trainings are carried out throughout the year in the Customs Academy. Officers are encouraged to develop their skills, aim for higher goals and improve themselves academically.

As much as our officers are encouraged to go higher up the ladder academically, MCS has open pathways for officers to excel in sports and other aspects of life. We have national level sports stars in our organization. Customs Recreation Club organizes various sports and recreation events throughout the year which boosts positivity and team spirit among all of us. These activities knit us all together as ONE FAMILY!

Marking the 127th year of service, we stand proud at the border of the Country, protecting our citizens and enhancing economy. In enforcing the law of the land we stand attentive and vigilant towards any suspicious behavior.

Flip through the pages to find out more information on the events that made headlines in the past month. Happy reading everyone!
Transfers and Appointments

Under the CG Directive (Ref: 32/2017), following appointments have been assigned effective from 15th July 2017.

Deputy Section Head of Legal Affairs: **Chief Customs Officers Uz. Ibrahim Rasheed**

Customs Procedures on Process and Goods Clearance under the Risk Management System

The Guideline on declaration process and goods clearance under Risk Management System has been revised in the Commissioner General’s directive 35/2017(Ref: (2016/U-IN-001(1)).

The purpose of this Directive is to inform importers, exporters and Customs staff on the recent amendments brought to the existing Risk Management Procedures. According to the Risk Management System, Goods Declaration and Relase process will go through 3 channels; Green Channel, Yellow Channel and Red Channel instead of 4 Channels mentioned in the previous RM Procedures.

Customs Procedures on Transit of Goods under Customs Control

The Customs Procedures on Transit Cargo has been issued under the CG Directive 34/2017 (Ref: (2017/U-004))

The purpose of this Directive is to set process and procedures on transit cargo that are destined to the Regional Customs established across the Country.
Major achievements - Investigation

As we celebrated our 127th Anniversary on 18th July 2017, it is noteworthy to mention the enforcement efforts of Customs. In addition to the seizure of 57kg of Psychoactive and Narcotic Drugs, 84% of the cases sent for investigation have been completed. These included under-valuation and classification related cases and staff related administrative as well. In this regard, during the past year between 18th July 2016 and 18th July 2017, total of 196 cases were registered for investigation from out of which 84% of cases have been completed. This was achieved due to the expedited process introduced for internal investigation.

All cases submitted for the period, relating to administrative measures of staff have also been investigated. Imports averaging $100 million in value per day, there is relatively higher possibility to fraudulent actions while in the export and import process. With regard to forged documents and other import/export process related commercial frauds, 51 cases were sent for investigation.

It is noteworthy that almost two-third of the total number of cases submitted for investigation were categorized as criminal offense. Most of these cases were related to seizure of narcotics drugs and other prohibited or restricted items. Out of the 127 criminal related cases submitted, 94% of the cases have been processed while only 8 cases are ongoing.

After ratification of Customs Act 8/2011, Customs is empowered to take actions in accordance with the law and regulations and to initiate investigations on its own. Customs is also empowered to request the Prosecutor General to initiate prosecution on cases it deems so required.
On 06th July, Assistant Commissioner of Customs Ismail Nashid and Deputy Chief Superintendent Fathimath Mohamed attended “129th – 130th WCO Council Session” held in Brussels, Belgium.

WCO Council Session is the annual meeting of the Organization’s supreme decision making body. Discussions were focused on several key issues including; trade facilitation, customs tax cooperation, WCO security initiatives, combating illicit financial flows, WCO Mercator Programme, capacity building, research and sharing of intelligence and information, importance of data analysis and other technology related trade management tools in addition to the challenges and opportunities from a Customs Perspective.

Moreover, WCO members portrayed the road map for the forthcoming period to ensure the effective performance of Customs performance through shaping WCO structures and new appointments.

The WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya also penned three MoUs in the presence of Council members which includes ‘WCO Regional Customs Laboratory in Mexico’, WCO Regional Dog Training Centre (RDTC) in Ankara’ and ‘WCO RDTC in the United States’.

Since the inaugural session in 1952 with only 17 members, it has grown to become a vital player of international trade landscape with over 180 members in 2017 as it celebrated its 65th Anniversary at a special reception.

Incidentally, the winner of WCO Photo Competition was won by a photo of Kyrgyzstan Customs which portrayed a Customs Officer checking the shipping documents of a truck at Torugart, the Kyrgyz-Chinese road border crossing point at 3550 metres above sea level. The competition was participated by Customs Organizations around the World including MCS, in which the winner was selected by Country Delegation’s voting.

Mr. Ismail Nashid and Dr. Fathimath Mohamed returned back from the meeting on the 11 July 2017.
WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), Australia

On 17th July, Senior Superintendent Ibrahim Mafaz attended “WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs)” held in Melbourne, Australia. The Workshop was sponsored by Japanese Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan) and conducted in cooperation with the ROCB Asia/Pacific and Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). In addition, a resource person from the WCO provided immense contribution to make the workshop a success.

The illicit trade of SALWs have been referred as “weapons of daily destruction” by the former UN Secretary General highlighting the depth of the issue. Illicitly traded and diverted SALWs accounting to social instability and fueling conflicts and extremist activities, hence requiring urgent attention.

Therefore, the aim of this workshop was to raise awareness among Customs, contribute to increase public security and to examine Member administrations enforcement efforts in tackling the issue. Customs is the primary government agency that has the access and authority to monitor cross-border movement of goods at import, export, in transit or transshipment points and is empowered to conduct audits in Customs controlled zones.

Mr. Mafaz returned back to work from the workshop on the 22nd July 2017.

Group Photo: Participants of WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Australia

Seminar on APC by Schneider Electric, India

On 10th July, Superintendent Ibrahim Naif and Senior Customs Officer Grade 1 Nasihu Nasir attended “Seminar on APC by Schneider Electric” held in Bangalore, India. The trip was funded by Roseware Cooperation Pvt. Ltd.

The aim of this trip was to discuss about how APC by Schneider Electric can transform Maldives Customs Service’s information technology infrastructure and contribute to the ever demanding external environment. Furthermore, interactive demonstrations on how the APC solutions could solve critical work environment problems were provided.

Mr. Ibrahim Naif and Mr. Nasihu Nasir returned back from the meeting on the 13 July 2017.
 Customs Officers and Executives took part in the practical sessions of the Fire & Rescue Awareness Sessions conducted by Maldives National Defense Force Fire and Rescue team.

These sessions were held at Fire and Rescue Training School in ViliMale’ on 8th July 2017. It was divided into 3 sessions and each session was held for 1 hour. Total 48 officers participated in these sessions.

The Practical Sessions provided officers with the knowledge, skill and confidence to use the fire safety equipment within their workplace and home during an emergency. The program covered demonstrating the use of a portable fire extinguisher – both CO2 and water – plus the effective and safe use of a fire blanket.
Security Management Training for MCS and MPL staff

Training Program on “Security Management” was held in the Customs Building from 11th July to 17th July 2017. The aim of the program was to provide security management information for staff of Customs and Maldives Ports Limited.

The week-long Training Program was intended to strengthen security management and surveillance at the border. The program was facilitated by the Maldives Customs Service (MCS), Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) and Maldives Police Service (MPS).

Qira’at Course Level - 1

Customs Recreation Club (CRC) in association with “Quran and Sunnah” has started Qira’at Course Level 1 for staff. The duration of the Course is 2 Months.

The Course which began on July 9th 2017, is held in the Evening from Sunday to Thursday between 20:30-22:20 at Customs Academy.

The purpose of this Course is to provide knowledge and encourage staff to recite Quran in proper manner as prescribed in the Quran and Sunnah.
Maldives Customs Service Celebrated its 127th Anniversary

Maldives Customs Service celebrates its 127th Anniversary. The celebration began with a special flag hoisting ceremony held in the morning on 18th July 2017 in front of Customs Building. The Chief Guest of the Ceremony Minister of Home Affairs Honorable Azleen Ahmed hoisted the National Flag, while Commissioner General of Customs Mr. Ibrahim Shareef Mohamed hoisted the Customs Flag.

Speaking at the ceremony Minister Azleen Ahmed highlighted that Customs is an institution with a long history and that as gatekeepers of the nation customs provide a very important service to the nation in terms of border protection and trade facilitation. He also highlighted that the success and strength of key institutions such as these lies in the commitment and loyalty of its employees. In this regard he thanked the officers of the past and present for their commendable service in bringing the organization to where it is today. He extended his heartfelt greetings and felicitations of the occasion to the President of the Maldives Honorable Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, Customs staff of the past, present and their families, and to every member of the public who receives the services of Customs.

Addressing to the staff, Commissioner General highlighted on the milestones the organisation has achieved over the years and appreciated the work ethics, honesty and integrity of the staff which has led to this day.

A special prayer for the occasion was also said in the ceremony. The payer was led by ah’ Shaikh Yoosuf Hussain. Apart from the Head Office, the Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held at Customs offices established at various parts of the country.
There was a time each and every thing that crossed the borders were checked manually by us; traditionally known as the gatekeepers. Certainly things have changed and those practices have now been flexed into better versions of “gatekeeping.” Now, not only do we carry out control mechanisms and inspections on whether any illicit goods are smuggled into the country, but now our mandate also includes creating a fair balance between control and trade facilitation. Trade has always been the very fundamental reasons of our country’s survival.

Yes, we live in a country where we are very much dependent on trade, especially imports, mainly due to the limited resources we have. Therefore, in order to satisfy our needs, we are not left with many choices other than importing from other countries.

Sadly, due to globalization and our need to import the required goods to meet our ends, and due the increasing volume of import shipments, chances of smuggling illicit goods such as, narcotic drugs, restricted and prohibited goods shall not be ruled out. Like any other border law enforcement agency, Maldives Customs Service exists in order to establish and carry out proper approaches through which such unlawful acts could be stopped.

Anyhow, many people raise questions regarding why the goods imported are not being examined fully. What they fail to note is with the increase of importation, the requirement of human resources and the time consumed for such bullet-proof examination. Therefore, the approach used, as in other developed Customs, is through the Risk Management System, resources are utilized to concentrate more on the high risk consignments, so that more facilitated and expedited arrangements could be made for consignments of compliant traders. Most likely the chances of illicit trade taking place increases as the import rises as well.

Obviously, this isn't a problem that we can solve through never-ending discussions on how we could possibly solve this problem. Law making bodies, law enforcement bodies, government organizations, independent organizations and many other different agencies put much effort into solving this issue already. They make stricter laws hoping to create deterrence in the hearts of the people so they resist committing such crimes. They also make sure that these laws are steadfastly implemented. Studies and surveys are conducted each and every year and statistical analyses are being made to keep track of it.

Without any doubt, continuous efforts are being made at all the levels in order to manage the risk that stands before us. The responsibility rests not only on the hands of an organization or an institution alone but also on the shoulders of every citizen residing in this country. If you as the responsible citizen feel or get information of any wrongdoing at the border, please come forward and share that with us, through our toll free 1416. You all can contribute and be a partner in border protection.
Team Sarujan from Sea Cargo Examination Section lifted the Trophy of 1st Inter-section Beach Volley Tournament (Men Division) of Customs Recreation Club (CRC) after beating Passenger Clearance Section. The Women Category was crowned by the Passenger Clearance beating Team Sarujan in the final.

In the Men Division of the Tournament, Team Sarujan completed an unbeaten run to claim the trophy in which 9 teams competed in 2 groups. Team Sarujan played outstanding against the Cargo Ekuverin while an inspired performance from Mohamed Sadiq of Passenger Clearance punished the Tariff and Finance Team to seal a place in the Finals.

It was Passenger Clearance who made an energetic start to the Final match after being on the lead with two sets in their hand in a race to 3 contest. However, it was Sarujan who fought back and came from behind to deny the tiring Passenger Clearance Team.

In the Women Division, it was the other way around as Passenger Clearance proved to be too strong for the oppositions. Total five 5 teams competed in the Division in league format before the top two teams played made it to the finals. Team Sarujan joined Passenger Clearance in the Finals before surrendering to Second Place.

Mohamed Sadiq (704) of Passenger Clearance, Mohamed Faisal (545) from Sarujan and Ahmed Abdulla (910) from S. Tariff & Finance were named as Best 3 players of Men Division while Aminath Nazra (1172) and Aminath Zeena (525) from Passenger Processing and Aishath Yashfa (816) from Team Sarujan made it to Top 3 players in Women Division.
Already grabbing couple of silverware in the First Event of the 127th Anniversary Sports Festival, Team Sarujan never failed to add to their Trophy Cabinet after claiming the Champions Trophy of 2nd CRC Inter-Section Carrom Tournament after beating Inte ‘N’ SO X-Team. In the Women Division, Inte ‘N’ SO registered their first trophy of Sports Festival after found to be too strong for S.Tariff & Finance B Team.

The 2-day Tournament was played from 24th to 25th of July 2017. CRC Chairperson and Commissioner General of Customs Mr. Ibrahim Shareef Mohamed inaugurated the event with other Executives of Maldives Customs Service.

After the immediate completion of the successful Beach Volley Tournament, the massive turnout in the 2nd CRC Inter-Section Carrom Tournament added to eagerly awaited 127th Anniversary Sports Festival’s accomplishments. Amazingly 147 officers registered in 21 teams too part in ‘Strike and Pocket’ indoor table game.

Ali Mahir (417) and Hamid Faisal (932) from Inte ‘N’ SO X-Team, Ibrahim Thaufeeq (287) and Ibrahim Razeef (1068) of Team Air Cargo made it to Best 4 players in Men Category while Aminath Nazra (1172) from Passenger processing along with Aminath Waheeda (433), Uthsiyya Thaufeeq (74) and Zuleykha Nabeela (642) were named as Best players in Women Category.
Although Team Sarujan continues their supreme run of success in the 127th Anniversary Sports Festival, it was their counterparts of Seaport Division who made it to the ultimate Prize in 1st CRC Inter-Section Table Tennis Tournament. Team Sarujan was outclassed by the Team Pending Doc from Sea Cargo Documentation as they made history in the Tournament.

Tournament was held from 30th to 31st July 2017 at Meerubahuru Maalam of Maldives Customs Service. The Commissioner General himself along with other Executives participated in the Tournament as “Team Executives” along with 12 other teams selected from various departments of the Customs.

Mohamed Yameen (700) from Passenger Processing, Ahmed Safwath (291) and Aishath Yashfa (816) from Sarujan and Abdulla Yasir (889) from Pending Doc were named as the Team of the Tournament.
Ahmed Shifau
Superintendent
मोहम्मद इब्राइम (M.I)
सीरीज़ क्यास्टम्स ऑफिसर III
নাম: মোহাম্মদ ইব্রাহিম (ম.ই)
স্ট্রিপ্ট ৩রা সিপিএস (আই.সিএস) কর্মী
चौथ्युत का रूपांतरण के लिए स्ट्रोजम और मूल्यों में बदलाव करके, श्रेय और भाग देने के लिए जुड़वाने के लिए एक सेट है।

आईयू और बेसिक यूनियन की मदद से, यह सही तरीके से अधिक आयुर्वेदिक उपचार और गहन स्वास्थ्य शेयर करता है।

यह सही तरीके से अधिक आयुर्वेदिक उपचार और गहन स्वास्थ्य शेयर करता है।

"मैं चाहता हूं कि सभी इसके प्राप्ति का काम करें। चाहिए जो कि कोई कोई घर से यह सेवा लें।"

दूसरों के लिए वितरण के लिए आयुर्वेदिक उपचार का स्वागत।

"चाहिए जो कि कोई कोई घर से यह सेवा लें।"

दूसरों के लिए वितरण के लिए आयुर्वेदिक उपचार का स्वागत।

"मैं चाहता हूं कि सभी इसके प्राप्ति का काम करें। चाहिए जो कि कोई कोई घर से यह सेवा लें।"
Customs Revenue increases by 20% in July

The total revenue collected through customs duty and other fees and fines during July 2017 showed an increase of 20% compared to that of July 2016. A total of MVR 252 million was collected through Customs duty last month.

The CIF value of goods imported during July increased by 24% compared to July last year. Approximately MVR 2.5 billion worth of goods were imported during July 2016, whereas this year the figure was recorded at MVR 3.1 billion. Among the top importing countries, Singapore recorded the highest with 15% and China at the second with 14%.

The FOB value of goods exported during last July showed an increase of 29% to that of the same period last year, which is an increase from MVR 157 million in July 2016 to MVR 202 million in July 2017. The largest quantity of the exports was to Thailand which is 43% of the total exports for the month of July.

For further details please refer to ‘Monthly Statistics Sheet’.
CJ Team

Aishath Wilny (Editor)
Chief Customs Officer

Ahmed Niyaz
Senior Superintendent

Ibrahim Asim
Superintendent

Mohamed Ibrahim
Senior Customs Officer III

Mohamed Majid
Senior Customs Officer I

Hamdhoon Faisal
Senior Customs Officer I

Mohamed Moosa
Customs Officer II

Fathimath Sidhrath
Assistant Customs Officer