

**Workshop 2010 on Asian Network For Prevention of Illegal
Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, 27-29 Jan 2010
Yokohama, Japan**



**Border Control Activities and Challenges
for Tackling Illegal Transboundary
Movement of Hazardous Wastes**

Peh Kay Koon, Singapore Customs

Rohaya Saharom, National Environment Agency

Presentation Outline

1. Key Enforcement Agencies

2. Roles of SC

3. Legislations

4. Controls/Enforcement

5. Challenges Ahead

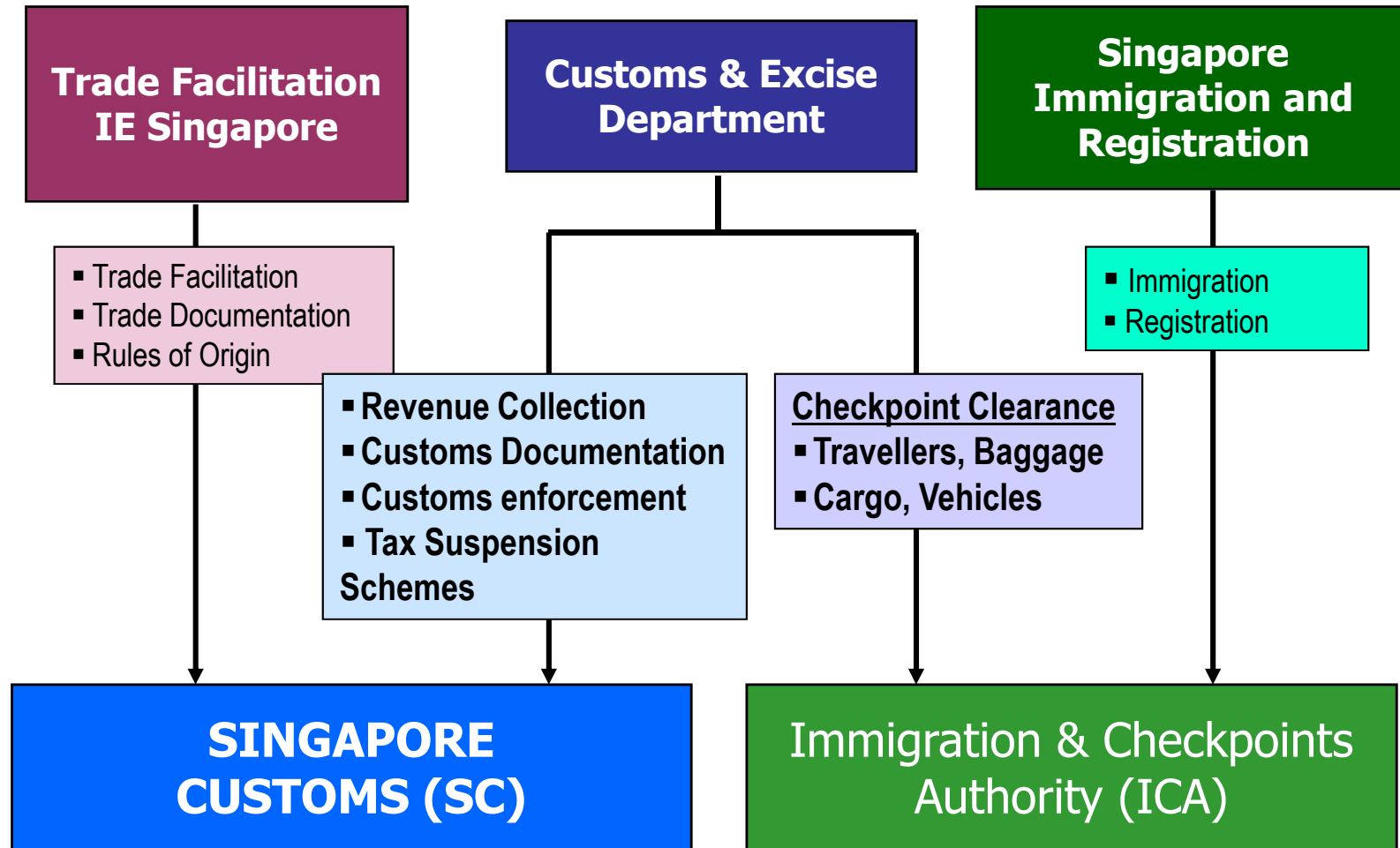
6. Collaboration

Key Enforcement Agencies on Hazardous Wastes



- **National Environment Agency (NEA)**
 - Competent Government Authority for Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes & their disposal
 - Implements the requirements and obligations under the Basel Convention
 - Enforces the relevant legislations to control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes
- **Immigration and Checkpoint Authority (ICA)**
 - Border enforcement at the checkpoints
 - Ensures that the movement of people, goods and conveyances through checkpoints is legitimate and lawful
 - Physical presence at checkpoints to check cargo & travellers
- **Singapore Customs (SC)**
 - Administer the TradeNet which regulate and control all imports, exports & transit declarations including hazardous waste

Re-Constitution Of Singapore Customs, 1 Apr 2003





Roles of Singapore Customs

- Single customs and trade regulatory agency
 - **Trade Facilitation**
 - **Trade Security**
 - **Regulatory Compliance**
- Administer and enforce the following legislation:
 - **Customs Act**
 - **GST Act**
 - **Regulation of Imports & Exports Act**
 - **Strategic Goods (Control) Act**
 - **Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act**
 - **Free Trade Zones Act**

Specific Legislation on Hazardous Wastes

A decorative graphic consisting of six circles arranged in two rows. The top row has three circles: the left one is a thin outline, the middle one is solid light purple, and the right one is a thin outline. The bottom row has three circles: the left one is solid light purple, the middle one is solid light purple, and the right one is a thin outline.

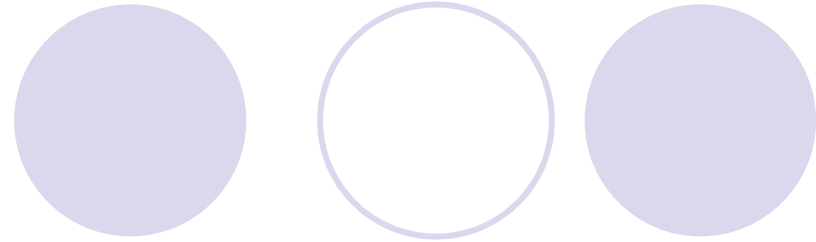
Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import & Transit) Act

- Enacted in Mar 1998
- Controls the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes controlled under the Basel Convention
- Prohibits import, export and transit without a valid permit issued by NEA
- Penalties:
 - Corporate body: max S\$300,000
 - Individual: max S\$100,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment



Controls of Hazardous Wastes

Permit Controls for Hazardous Wastes



- The import, export and transit of hazardous wastes are subject to approval from the NEA via Basel Permits issued to the company. The permits are valid for 1 year and based on prior informed consent (PIC) notification procedure under the Basel Convention.
- In addition to the Basel Permits, customs approval is required for every shipment of hazardous waste carried out under the permit. This requirement is administered through the TradeNet system.

TradeNet Controls for Hazardous Wastes



- All declarations for the import, export and transit of hazardous wastes are submitted online via the TradeNet system which is owned and operated by SC.
- These declarations are routed to NEA for processing and final approval is done by SC.

TRADENET APPROVAL PROCESS



Importer/Declaring agent



Declaration Submitted online through TradeNet



Declaration routed to NEA for checking.



Customs approves declaration.



Enforcement of Hazardous Wastes



Enforcement

(Co-ordination with other national agencies)

- In the enforcement against illegal hazardous waste shipments SC and NEA work closely with other agencies as follows:
 - Maritime & Port Authority (MPA)
 - PSA Corporation
 - Immigration & Checkpoint Authority (ICA)
- Other than hazardous waste shipments, SC also work closely with NEA on other environmentally sensitive goods such as hazardous chemicals and ozone depleting substances
- The cooperation and coordination are in the following areas:
 - Sharing of intelligence or feedback obtained on illegal movements
 - Joint inspections and investigation
 - Training
 - Development of risk profiles

Enforcement (Coordination with regional counterparts)

- Singapore is an active participant of several enforcement networks including
 - Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
 - UNEP Regional Enforcement Network on Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
 - WCO Project Sky-Hole Patching (ODS & dangerous commodities)

Enforcement (cont'd)



● Cross-border Cooperation

Case example (May 09)

- Notification from foreign counterparts on hazardous wastes
- 'Waste monitors' declared as normal goods
- NEA investigated the case, supported by local agencies
- Enforcement actions taken against the non-compliance company

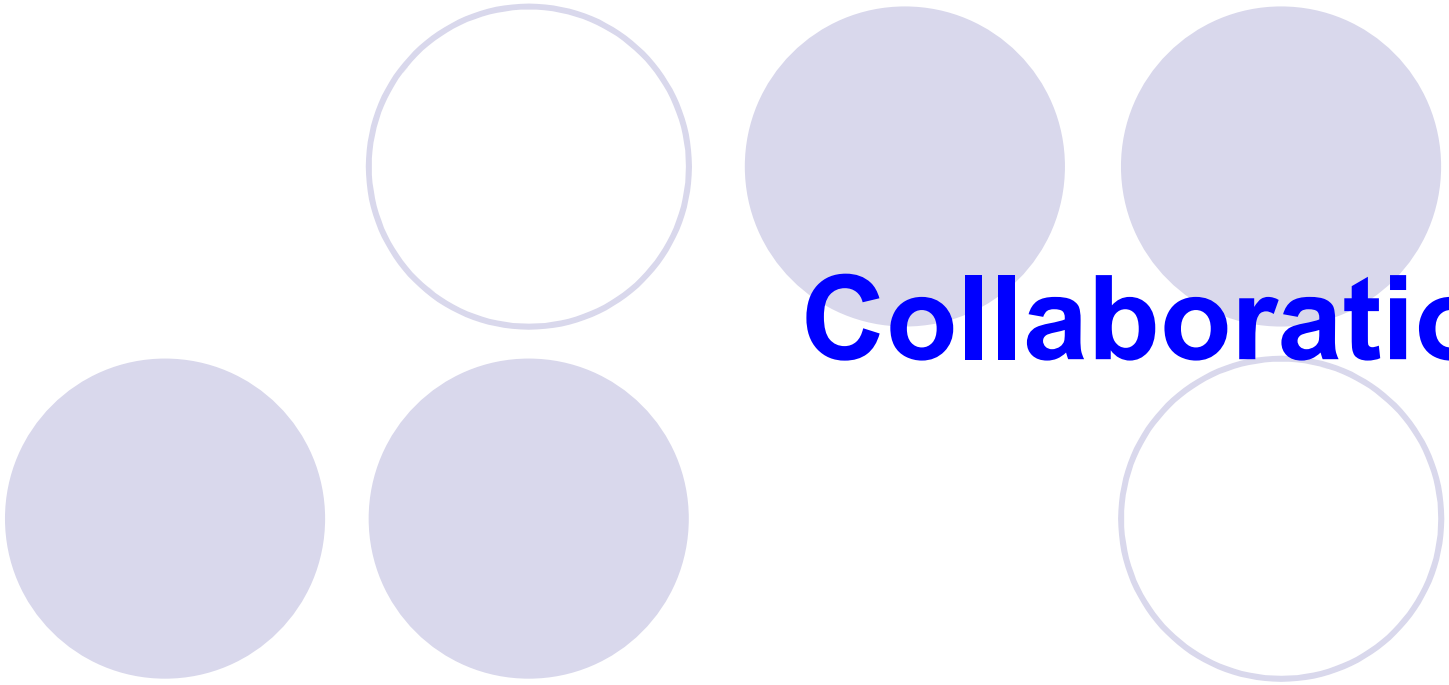


Challenges Ahead

Challenges Ahead



- Illegal transboundary movements and mismanagement of hazardous wastes may occur through many causes as follows:
 - False declaration
 - Ignorance among industries and traders on hazardous waste issues
 - Confusion among industries and traders on the different definitions of hazardous wastes between countries, especially common consumer items that they deal with everyday such as used electronic goods
 - Weakening economy
 - Companies may use recycling facilities as a front to receive hazardous wastes which are then channeled elsewhere and not recycled at facilities;
 - Companies cutting down on health and safety measures
 - Increase in number of waste collection companies (due to government policy and legislation on recycling or take-back) but lack of proper recycling facilities



Collaboration

Expected Collaboration



- Establish strong network with local authorities (eg. customs, maritime and port authorities) as well as with regional and international counterparts.
- A strong network facilitates information sharing and timely intelligence.



Thank You