THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES E-COASTAL TRADING SYSTEM

Mr. Krisada Chinavicharana, Director General of the Customs Department, presided over the opening ceremony of the e-Coastal Trading System at Laem Chabang Port Customs Bureau on 24 May 2019. He was joined by Mr. Niti Wiwatwanich of the Sriracha District Chief Office, administrators and staff from public and private sectors as well as Yutana Phoolpipat, Director of Laem Chabang Port, who reported details of the project.

The e-Coastal Trading System project was developed to assist coastal ship operators. The system allows ship operators to report arrival and departure times and perform customs procedures electronically without having to meet with customs officers face-to-face. Ship operators can also pay lighthouse and marine service fees via the e-Bill Payment system, whereby payment is made through various channels, including internet banking, mobile application, ATM, and payment agents such as convenience stores.

"Coastal trade" is a form of sea transport from one port in a given country to another. Previously, coastal ship operators would perform customs procedures by means of documents, submitting the product release sheet and the ship's license or No. 11 attachment to the customs officer at the port of departure. When the ship arrived at the destination port, they would submit the same documents to the customs officer at the port. Hence, the whole procedure of submitting documents has been quite inconvenient for ship operators. Therefore, the Customs Department has developed this e-Coastal Trading System to be used in controlling transportation and sending products electronically.

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weight and volume of cargo loaded and the status of the containers. This information entered into the e-System reduces the processes concerning containers by bringing them to the customs officer to check before being loaded for delivery. The e-System also helps berth operators manage containers more effectively.

Thus, by eliminating multiple copies of product release and ship release documents, the e-Coastal Trading System clearly reduces the time the processes take and the volume of paper consumed.

Moreover, the system allows sharing of data between the e-Coastal Trading and e-Export systems, thereby enabling generating invoices, or e-Matching, and streamlining procedures for coastal trade operators, berth management and exporters.

The e-Coastal Trading System is expected to help Thailand achieve an improved World Bank-Ease of Doing Business Index ranking going forward.

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