



Press Release of the Agency Against Corruption, Ministry of Justice

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Preventing Corruption in Advance –

We do not wish another act of smuggling, nor bribery for clearance

The Director-General of the Agency against Corruption, Mr.Chu, the Director-General of Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Lang Wang, and the President of Taipei Customs Brokers' Association, Mr. Wei Qing-Li jointly opened and signed a “Letter to Sea and Air Customs Brokers” at a press conference held in the Agency against Corruption at 11:00 on May 28, 2013 announcing zero tolerance for any act of smuggling, or clearance bribery.

Director-General Chu emphasized that the “Banquet entertainment and gift receipt” is the source of corruption. The analysis of many customs-involved corruption seized in the past reveals that a very small number of declaration practitioners have played an intermediary role in such activities by providing a customs officers' drinking fund, or inviting them to join customs brokers' associations, or acting as an intermediary to match them with unscrupulous smugglers in industry, and some custom officers, who fail to resist the

temptation of money, have been found to provide corrupt rules to industry to collude with those illegal clearances in operations such as import inspection, import classification valuation, flexible patrol, planeside clearance and aquatic customs clearance etc. Ever since assuming his position, Wang Lian, the Director of Customs Administration, has committed himself to reform by repeatedly instructing temporary and permanent solutions in business review meetings and even demanding the implementation of joint punishment as well as requesting the timely discovery of illegal activities of smuggling and tax evasion in a manner which is able to withstand strict and harsh judicial scrutiny. The Chairman of Taipei Customs Association Wei Qing-Li is also aware of the fact that a small number of declaration practitioners do act as an evil member of the herd. In view of a very small number of unscrupulous operators and customs officers who, for their own selfish interests, ignore the public interest and let smuggled goods, drugs and contraband march directly into the country, have run a serious threat to national society, all of them co-sponsored a press conference and invited 1608 nation-wide custom brokers by letter under the name of Director-General Chu to hear their solemn appeal.

“Corruption prevention prior to eliminating corruption” is the key concept of new concept of integrity promoted by Director-General Chu since he took office. He aims to bring the role of whistleblowing of the government employee ethics units forward to a warning function, requesting government ethics officers pay attention and report the emergence of any illegal behavior prior to the occurrence of corruption so as to prevent public officers from committing corruption crimes. The “Letter to Sea and Air Customs Brokers” is actually a measure of “Preventing Corruption in Advance”. It focuses on changing bad habits and building up internal and external oversight mechanisms so as to

enable the vast majority of law-based administration by customs officers and law-abiding custom declarations to supervise and report discovered illegal conduct of a small number of unscrupulous customs officers and customs practitioners in order to create quality customs clearance and to prevent smuggled goods, drugs and contraband from endangering national society.