

III. LAW ENFORCEMENT AT THE BORDER AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS AND OTHER ILLEGAL ITEMS

1. Government Initiatives

(1) Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

In January 1997, considering the recent severe situations on drugs, the national government organized new Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse, which was led by the Prime Minister.

The renewed Headquarters defined the Outline on Promoting Measures against Illicit Drugs as the basic plan for fighting drug abuse in April 1997. Recognizing the need for medium- and long-term strategies, the Headquarters defined the Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in May 1998. The measures taken according to this Strategy have worked well to some extent to dissuade juveniles from abusing drugs, as observed statistically. The total amount of stimulants seized at the border in the last five years has tripled, compared with that in the preceding five years.

Nevertheless, the number of persons accused of stimulant-related offenses has remained at a high level for several years. We must recognize that the stimulant smuggling routes have not been eradicated yet and large amounts of stimulants seem to be flowing into the territory. Moreover, facing the recent rapid increase in the amounts seized of cannabis and synthetic narcotics in tablet form such as MDMA, the Headquarters defined the New Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy for the purpose of taking further comprehensive measures in closer cooperation with the ministries and agencies concerned, recognizing that we are still in the third period of stimulant abuse. Also, in view of the importance to eliminate the trafficking of illicit drugs by sea routes, the Emergency Measures at the Border to Prevent Trafficking of Illicit Drugs was defined in order to concentrate cooperation among the ministries and agencies concerned on the measures at the border.

(Note 1) Members of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

Chief:	Prime Minister
Deputy Chiefs:	Chief Cabinet Secretary, Minister of State for Measures for Drug Abuse, Chair of the National Public Safety Commission, Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
Members:	Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

(Note 2) Meetings

- January 17, 1997 ○ Cabinet decision for establishment of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse
- January 21, 1997 ○ First meeting of headquarters members
- April 18, 1997 ○ Second meeting of headquarters members
- Outline on Promoting Measures against Illicit Drugs
- May 27, 1997 ○ Third meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1996
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1997
- May 26, 1998 ○ Fourth meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Urgent Countermeasures against Juvenile Drug Abuse problems
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1997
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1998
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- May 18, 1999 ○ Fifth meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1998
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1999
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- May 23, 2000 ○ 6th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1999
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2000
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- June 1, 2001 ○ 7th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2000
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2001
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse

- May 31, 2002 ○ 8th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2001
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2002
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- July 29, 2003 ○ 9th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Adoption of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Adoption of Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- June 14, 2004 ○ 10th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- June 10, 2005 ○ 11th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- July 18, 2006 ○ 12th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- January 4, 2007 ○ 13th meeting of headquarters members
- Partial revision of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- August 3, 2007 ○ 14th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling

(2) Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms

In response to a succession of crimes with firearms involving ordinary citizens, the Firearms Control Headquarters was established in September 1995, with the Chief Cabinet Secretary as its chief and Directors-General of related agencies as its members. In December 1995, the Headquarters adopted the "Outline on Promoting Measures against Firearms" for its basic policy. It draws up a roadmap each year to promote measures for controlling firearms along the guidelines and establish close collaboration among the related government organizations. Besides its vigorous law enforcement activities for gun control, the Headquarters is engaged in publicity activities to promote public relations with the aim of obtaining understanding and cooperation from the general public, and is implementing comprehensive and positive measures to achieve its purpose.

(Note 1) Members of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms

Chief:	Chief Cabinet Secretary
Deputy Chiefs:	Minister of State for Measures against Firearms, Chair of the National Public Safety Commission
Members:	Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary Director-General of Immigration Bureau of Ministry of Justice Cabinet Public Relations Secretary Consul General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General for Policy Planning of Cabinet Office Director-General of the Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance Director-General of Community Safety Bureau of National Police Agency Deputy Director-General of Fisheries Agency Director-General of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of National Police Agency Director-General of Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Chief of Organized Crime Department of National Police Agency Director-General of Policy Bureau of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Director-General of Minister's Secretariat of Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications Vice Commandant of Japan Coast Guard Director-General of the Criminal Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Justice Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau of Ministry of the Environment

(Note 2) Meetings

- September 19, 1995 ○ Cabinet decision for establishment of the Firearms Control Headquarters
- September 28, 1995: ○ First meeting of headquarters members
- December 19, 1995: ○ Second meeting of headquarters members
- Adoption of the Outline on Promoting Measures against Firearms
 - Adoption of Action Plan for Prevention of Promotion of Publicity Activities
- May 7, 1997 ○ Third meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1996
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1997
- April 30, 1998 ○ Fourth meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures Against Firearms in Fiscal 1997
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1998
- April 27, 1999 ○ Fifth meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1998
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1999
- April 28, 2000 ○ 6th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1999
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2000
- April 20, 2001 ○ 7th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2000
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2001

- April 26, 2002 ○ 8th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2001
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2002
- April 25, 2003 ○ 9th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2002
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2003
- April 27, 2004 ○ 10th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2003
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2004
- April 26, 2005 ○ 11th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2004
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2005
- May 25, 2006 ○ 12th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2005
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2006
 - Report on Progress of Efforts by Ministries and Agencies
- April 25, 2007 ○ 13th meeting of headquarters members
- Regarding the shooting of the mayor of Nagasaki and shootings in Tokyo and Kanagawa
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2006
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2007
 - Report on Progress of Efforts by Ministries and Agencies
- May 18, 2007 ○ First meeting of the project team to study further measures against firearms
- Regarding the study for the one-step-forward measures

- June 25, 2007
- Second meeting of the project team to study further measures against firearms
 - Regarding further measure plans to prevent firearms crimes
- May 1, 2008
- 14th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2007
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2008
 - Report on Progress of Efforts by Ministries and Agencies

(3) Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime

Considering the current situation where juvenile and heinous crimes occur frequently among the people's daily lives, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime was held. The first meeting of the Ministerial Meeting was held in September 2003. The Prime Minister presided over this Meeting, composed of all the Cabinet ministers. The Meeting has the mission to take effective, comprehensive and active measures in close cooperation among the ministries and other governmental agencies concerned with activities against smuggling, in order to restore Japan as "the safest country in the world."

At the Ministerial Meeting held in December 2003, three viewpoints were recognized as essential for the restoration of public security: (1) assistance of activities for the people to secure their own safety, (2) improvement of a social environment where crime is less likely to occur and (3) countermeasures against various crimes including the border measures. At the meeting, the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime was adopted. The Action Plan contains five priority tasks adapted to the characteristic tendencies in the present crime situation: (1) deterrence of immediate crime that threatens the peaceful lives of people, (2) efforts to deter juvenile crime taken by the whole society, (3) response to cross-border threats, (4) protection of the economy and society from criminal organizations, and (5) development of infrastructure for the restoration of public security.

(Note 1) Members of Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime

Chief:	Prime Minister
Members:	All the Cabinet Ministers

(Note 2) Meetings

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|--------------------|---|---|
| September 2, 2003 | ○ | Oral consent of the Cabinet on the establishment of the "Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime" |
| September 5, 2003: | ○ | First meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime |
| December 18, 2003 | ○ | Second meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime |
| June 22, 2004 | ○ | Third meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime• Adoption of Action Plan for the Measures to Be Taken at Ministries and Agencies |
| December 14, 2004 | ○ | Fourth meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime• Adoption of Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism• Adoption of Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking of Human Beings |
| June 28, 2005 | ○ | 5th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime (14th joint meeting with the Headquarters of Urban Renewal Project) |

- Safe and Secure Town Planning
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Establishment of the Immigration Control Systems Based on Biometrics
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- December 20, 2005 ○ Sixth meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning
 - Efforts on Protection of Children from Crimes
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- June 20, 2006 ○ 7th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime (Third joint meeting with the Headquarters of Promoting Juvenile Fostering)
- Juvenile Issues
 - Measures against Organized Crime Groups
 - Issues on Prevention of Recombitment of Crime
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- December 19, 2006 ○ 8th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Efforts on Protection of Children from Crimes and Saving of Children from Delinquency
 - Progress of Discussions by the Working Team (Progress of Measures against Crimes)
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- July 3, 2007 ○ 9th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- General items concerning Fostering Juveniles and Measures against Crime
 - Measures against Organized Crime Groups
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning

- December 21, 2007 ○ 10th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Progress of Discussions Concerning Measures against Crime and Working Team
 - Measures against Firearms and Organized Crime Groups
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning
- June 16, 2008 ○ 11th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Progress of Measures against Crimes taken so far and future challenges
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning

2. Law Enforcement by Japan Customs

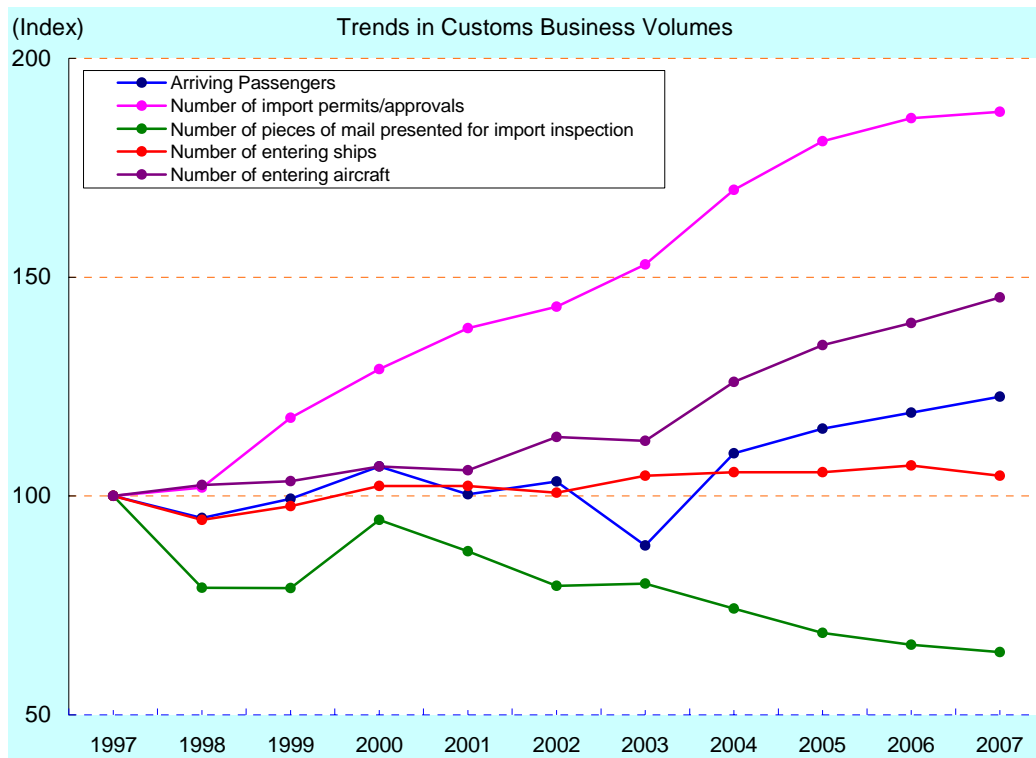
The volume of objectives for Customs control, such as passengers entering Japan and import cargo, is growing steadily. At the same time, modus operandi used by smugglers are getting increasingly devious and crafty. Japan Customs, with its limited resources, is taking various measures in order to meet these challenges and to conduct effective and efficient law enforcement at the border.

Trends in Customs Business Volumes

Object of Control (Indicator)		1997 (10 years ago)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Passengers (Arriving passengers)	10,000 people	2,159 (100.0)	1,915 (88.7)	2,370 (109.8)	2,491 (115.4)	2,570 (119.0)	2,649 (122.7)
Commercial cargoes (Import permits/approvals)	10,000 cases	941 (100.0)	1,439 (152.9)	1,599 (169.9)	1,704 (181.1)	1,753 (186.3)	1,767 (187.8)
International mail (Pieces of mail presented for import inspection)	10,000 pieces	15,308 (100.0)	12,242 (80.0)	11,375 (74.3)	10,521 (68.7)	10,103 (66.0)	9,851 (64.4)
Ships (Entering ships)	10,000 ships	12.9 (100.0)	13.5 (104.7)	13.6 (105.4)	13.6 (105.4)	13.8 (107.0)	13.5 (104.7)
Aircraft (Entering aircraft)	10,000 aircraft	11.9 (100.0)	13.4 (112.6)	15.0 (126.1)	16.0 (134.5)	16.6 (139.5)	17.3 (145.4)

Notes) 1. The numbers of arriving passengers derive from the Annual Report on Statistics on Legal Migrants published by the Ministry of Justice.
(Data of 2007 are preliminary.)

2. Number of import permits/approvals and pieces of mail presented for import inspection are checked by the Customs Clearance Division of the Japan Customs.
3. Number of entering ships and aircraft are checked by the Enforcement Division of the Japan Customs.
4. The figures in parentheses on the bottom are indexes with 1997 given as 100. (This applies hereafter.)



(1) Consolidation of Organization for Enforcement

a. Establishment of special inspection units, etc.

Units selecting cargoes to be inspected were established at Customs offices throughout the nation in order to collect cargo information more quickly and accurately. Special inspection units exclusively responsible for the inspection of commercial cargo were also established at major Customs offices throughout the nation in order to control and inspect socially harmful goods, etc. more effectively and efficiently.

b. Establishment of Mobile Units

Mobile Units were established in order to secure mobile and effective law enforcement at the border. The units are dispatched to Customs offices at local ports to supplement human powers in conducting surveillance and control.

With respect to offices remote from their respective regional Customs headquarters or other major branches, it is encouraged to cooperate among neighboring offices irrespective of their jurisdiction so that enforcement activities are carried out more efficiently and effectively.

(2) Reinforcement of the Collection and Analysis of Information on Smuggling

a. Introduction of intelligence-related posts

New intelligence-related posts were introduced, both centrally and regionally. The post of Director for Intelligence was established in the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance, as was the post of Supervisory Investigator for Intelligence at the regional Customs. The post of General Supervisory Investigator for Intelligence (National Intelligence Analysis Center) was established in Tokyo Customs. At the center of the organization, these officers comprehensively manage and analyze smuggling-related information received from domestic law enforcement authorities (such as Police and Coast Guard), foreign Customs administrations and other sources, making every effort to effective intelligence analysis.

b. Strengthened cooperation with trade circles for better information collection

Customs has concluded Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), aimed, inter alia, at ensuring greater cooperation in the prevention of smuggling, with organizations related to vessels, aircraft, commercial cargo and others; this is done to ensure effective enforcement against smuggling:

(a) Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance:



Japanese Shipowners Association,
Scheduled Airlines Association of Japan,
Japan Customs Brokers Association,
Japan Air Cargo Forwarders Association,
Japan Foreign Steamship Association and
Japan Fisheries Association (6 organizations in total)

(b) Each regional Customs: Associations of transportation services and travel agencies under the jurisdiction of each regional customs, fishery cooperatives, etc.

(30 organizations in total)

c. Reporting means available from the public

Ongoing efforts to gather information from public throughout the nation include the opening of a single toll-free telephone number accessible 24 hours a day, from everywhere across the nation, the distribution of leaflets, and public relations activities such as law enforcement countermeasures at the border by Customs through Customs websites, Customs public relation videos, etc. Starting from May 2007, the information can be sent via the Internet.

Leaflet (for general people)	CUSTOMS WEBSITE
 <p>* In addition, materials for port related organizations, fishery cooperatives, logistics companies and warehouse companies have been made and distributed.</p>	
<p>SMUGGLING - DIAL: (24 hours a day: toll-free)</p> <p>0120-461-961</p> <p>(Call Customs, Ministry of Finance for information on smuggling.)</p>	<p>CUSTOMS WEBSITE</p> <p>http://www.customs.go.jp/english/index.htm</p>

d. Utilization of the Information System

The Customs Intelligence Database System (CIS) – a computerized system capable of sorting out and managing various information such as Customs clearance for exports and imports as well as ship entries and departures – has been introduced at Customs offices throughout the nation. Through the improvement and reinforcement of the system for intelligence analysis, processing and management, intensive and efficient control of smuggling is being carried out at the border.

(3) Buildup of Enforcement Equipment

a. Utilization of X-ray inspection equipment

X-ray equipment both mobile and fixed have been installed at major regional Customs offices and have demonstrated great performance in detecting goods harmful to society such as illicit drugs concealed skillfully in cargo and other goods.

In addition to ordinary X-ray equipment for cargos, large-scale X-ray equipment for containerized cargoes capable of inspecting containers without unloading them from trailers, and mobile backscattered X-ray equipment for inspecting heavy items and lengthy cargoes, have been installed in principal ports across the country since February 2001 and March 2006, respectively.



b. Utilization of Customs' patrol boat

Large-size patrol boats and wide-area patrol boats, stationed at major customs offices, have been engaged in monitoring across a wide range of waters to prevent activities such as on-the-sea trafficking of illicit drugs and firearms, and smuggling at local ports or closed ports.

For reinforcing smuggling control in the Sakishima Islands, a large-size patrol boat was deployed at Ishigaki Port in March 2007.



c. Utilization of Drug Detector Dogs

Given their keen noses, which are believed to be as much as tens of thousands of times more sensitive than those of humans, dogs are very effective in ferreting out illicit drugs. Since their introduction in June 1979, the numbers of Drug Detector Dogs (Aggressive Dogs) deployed have increased. In addition, passive dogs have been deployed and effectively used in baggage inspection stations of major airports since their introduction in 1993.



While "aggressive dogs" send alert signals to their handlers by scratching baggage, "passive dogs" are trained to send alert signals to their handlers by their sitting motion when they scent illicit drugs hidden on or around them.

d. Introduction of Port Monitoring Camera Systems

Since March 1996, highly sensitive monitoring cameras with night vision have been installed at major sea ports to tighten controls over vessels, movement of goods and persons at the port areas.

(4) Closer Cooperation with Relevant Agencies

a. Enforcement through cooperation with relevant agencies

With the aim of imposing effective controls at the border, Customs, the Police, the Coast Guard and other organizations are working in close cooperation, each making full use of its own information, organizational resources, jurisdiction and experience.

In more specific terms, Customs is conducting joint training (see the photo) and joint operations together with the Police and the Coast Guard across the country.



b. Holding of Law Enforcement Meeting on Measures against Smuggling

The Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance organizes Law Enforcement Meetings on Measures against Smuggling to strengthen the cooperation with the ministries and agencies concerned and promote the exchange of information needed to interdict smuggling cases. Thus, information exchange is promoted at the national level. Regional Customs offices also organize regional law enforcement meetings on smuggling with the law enforcement authorities concerned to promote information exchange at the regional level.

(5) Promotion of International Information Exchange

a. Promotion of information exchange with foreign Customs administrations

As the only contact point of Japan Customs for information exchange with foreign customs administrations, the International Intelligence Office has been established in Tokyo Customs. In order to facilitate information exchange, Japan Customs improved rules for information provision to foreign customs administrations based on the tariff reform in March 1998 and concluded with various foreign countries the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement that includes provisions for information exchange concerning the smuggling of illicit drugs and so on. (See "Present Condition of the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement.")

Using international networks for information exchange, such as the ones managed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) for Asia and the Pacific, Japan Customs exchanges smuggling-related information and intelligence with foreign customs administrations and other law enforcement authorities.

Note: The RILO is the base for the WCO's regional projects, which has been established for the purpose of promoting exchange of information on illicit drugs, etc. among Customs

administrations in the region and improving the intelligence analysis on the trends of smuggling in the region.

The RILO for Asia and the Pacific, in which Japan Customs administration has a membership, was established in Hong Kong as the first RILO of the world in December 1987. Japan Customs hosted the RILO for Asia and the Pacific (located in Tokyo Customs) for the five years from January 1999 and has actively participated in the RILO project with many contributions. The RILO for Asia and the Pacific, whose office was relocated to China (within Beijing Customs Office) in January 2004, analyzes trends in smuggling within the region based on the reports from participant countries and regions on the interdicted cases of smuggling of illicit drugs and related objects, distributes the results to participating countries and other organizations, and facilitate exchange of information between customs administrations in these countries.

Present Condition of the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (as of April 2008)

- EPAs (Note 1)
Singapore (November 2002), Malaysia (July 2006), Thailand (November 2007)
Philippines (signed in September 2006), Brunei (signed in June 2007),
Indonesia (signed in August 2007) (Note 2)
- Intergovernmental Agreements
United States (June 1997), South Korea (December 2004),
China (April 2006), EC (February 2008)
- Cooperative Arrangements between Customs Administrations
Australia (June 2003), NZ (April 2004), Canada (June 2005), Hong Kong
(January 2008)

(Note 1) Containing provisions for customs mutual assistance.

(Note 2) EPAs with Philippines, Brunei and Indonesia have not entered into force yet.

The month and year of the entry into force or signature is shown in parentheses.

b. Collecting smuggling-related information through dispatch of officers

Customs officers are sent to the countries and regions that are likely to be sources for illicit drugs, etc. smuggled into Japan to collect information on smuggling and establish mutual cooperative relations with the foreign Customs administrations. In addition, Japan Customs dispatches officers specialized in intelligence analysis to the countries and regions which are tackling offenses related to illicit drug smuggling to exchange views on the analysis of intelligence on source countries of smuggling, etc.

c. Participation in international conferences

Japan Customs is actively taking part in international conferences, such as the Enforcement Committee of the WCO and WCO/RILO for Asia and the Pacific Contact Points Meetings, to exchange opinions and information on control of illicit drugs with various countries.

(6) Technical Cooperation in the Field of Customs Enforcement

Japan Customs has been extending technical cooperation in the field of smuggling control at the border in order to strengthen the capacities of Customs administrations of developing countries, mainly those in Asia, for collecting information and analyzing intelligence on smuggling of illicit drugs and so on.

In FY 2007, for training intelligence analysts, Japan Customs dispatched its officers to developing countries in the Asian region and invited Customs officers of such countries to Japan to attend lectures on better utilization of intelligence and on-site observation of enforcement equipment.