

October 2013

# CCL Brief

Ministry of Finance, Japan

Central  
Customs  
Laboratory



**C**CL celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The Central Customs Laboratory (CCL), Japan, one of the historic Customs laboratories in the world, was established on 15 June 1963, as an affiliated organization of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), under a centralization concept for conducting effective analyses of import-and-export products requiring advanced instruments with highly technical skills and research and development of analysis methods necessary for such products. The reason for the establishment was to enhance the competence of Customs analysis before Japan applied Brussels Tariff Nomenclature. In 1966, the CCL got sufficient facilities for Customs analyses, by moving from a space of the headquarters building of the MOF to its first independent building in Matsudo, Chiba.



The 1<sup>st</sup> independent building of the CCL (1966 – 2001; one annex building was added in 1979.)

Worldwide contributions of the CCL, especially to the WCO, are traced back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Chemist Committee (the former WCO Scientific Sub-Committee) in 1968. The CCL has also carried out its international technical co-operation activities on Customs analysis for developing countries since 1989, and received a total of one hundred and twenty-one officers from twenty-three Customs administrations and dispatched seventy-nine experts to

fourteen Customs administrations, to date. In honor of its efforts on international cooperation in transferring Customs analysis techniques, the CCL was given the award “WCO distinguished service certificate” in 1993.

Due to a narrowing work space, the CCL in 2001 moved to its present building in Kashiwa, Chiba. Since rapid changes in Customs environment often give Customs laboratories new challenges, the CCL has strengthened its functions on research and development for Customs analysis methods and inspection devices, and periodically upgrades its analytical instruments and equipment to conduct effective and efficient operations. On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mr. Kiyooki Yamada, Director-General of the CCL, expresses his policy that the CCL advances in tackling various challenges and continuously provides its scientific support to Japan Customs for achieving three basic missions, “appropriate collection of taxes”, “ensuring secure and safe society”, and “trade facilitation”.



The present CCL building in Kashiwa (2001 -)

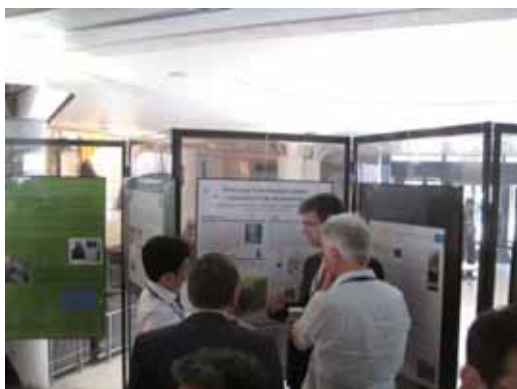
*Mr. Kiyooki Yamada, DG of the Central Customs Laboratory, Japan, appointed on 1 July 2013*

*I hope the CCL contributes scientific analyses and knowledge to Customs authorities in the world as well as the Japan Customs and the WCO.*



## Swallowed illegal drugs are detected by radio waves through human bodies.

The CCL has researched and developed a new inspection device for detecting swallowed methamphetamines based on Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance (NQR) phenomena. The concept of this new detection device was demonstrated by Dr. Junichiro Shinohara, Researcher of the Research and Development section, at the poster session of the 5<sup>th</sup> seminar of European Customs Chemists which was held from 10 to 12 July 2013 in Paris, France. A trial product under the concept has already been developed at the CCL and used for a demonstration test at inspection sites in local Customs offices for collecting practical data. You will find a prototype of this device, when you visit the CCL.



In the poster session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Seminar of European Customs Chemist

## Trial program for the WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) is ongoing.

According to an agreement in the 22<sup>nd</sup> WCO A/P RCP meeting of September 2012, a trial program for establishment of a WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) is being implemented by the CCL. RCL is a new regional entity responsible for conducting Capacity Building programs and information exchanges in the chemical analysis field. As a kick-off event of the trial program, the CCL organized "Customs Laboratory Forum for WCO A/P region" from 27 to 28 March 2013. In the forum, Forty-five participants from twenty-four A/P member administrations confirmed the importance of chemical analysis for achieving Customs missions and

discussed future regional cooperation for enhancing the capacity of chemical analysis.



The Customs Laboratory Forum for the WCO A/P Region (from 27 to 28 March 2013)

Additionally, a one month training course on chemical analysis in which three officers from Fiji, Mongolia and Indonesia participated was conducted at the CCL from 22 May 2013 to 21 June 2013.



A scene of the attachment training course on chemical analysis (from 22 May to 21 June 2013)

The following events under the trial program are scheduled at the CCL as future actions:

- (1) Overseas training course on chemical analysis under the WCO/Japan Regional Customs Laboratories Programme (<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2013/july/regional-customs-laboratories-programme.aspx>) (from 28 October to 11 December 2013; for the first group), and;
- (2) WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Chemical Analysis for Customs Purposes (16 to 19 December 2013), and;
- (3) Overseas training course on chemical analysis under the WCO Regional Customs Laboratories Programme (in spring 2014; for the second group).

Don't hesitate to send your comments or questions to [cclmaile@mof.go.jp](mailto:cclmaile@mof.go.jp). You can find further information about the CCL, Japan at our homepage ([http://www.customs.go.jp/ccl/e\\_index.htm](http://www.customs.go.jp/ccl/e_index.htm)).

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