



## **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SINGAPORE CUSTOMS PRESS RELEASE**

### **Singapore Collaborates with ICAO and WCO in First Ever Joint Conference on Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation**

1 Singapore is collaborating with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to jointly organise a conference on the theme '*Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation – Synergy Through Co-operation*' on 5 and 6 July 2012 at the Orchard Hotel, Singapore. Mr Raymond Benjamin, Secretary-General of the ICAO, and Mr Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary-General of the WCO, will deliver the keynote speeches at the Joint Conference. Mr Pang Kin Keong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Singapore, will give the opening address.

2 The Joint Conference, which is the first such collaboration with the ICAO and WCO, will bring together more than 300 aviation security and customs authorities, as well as private sector stakeholders, from 40 countries. The aim is to identify ways to further enhance co-ordination and co-operation to strengthen aviation and border security while facilitating the secure and smooth movement of air cargo.

3 In conjunction with the Joint Conference, the ICAO and WCO will issue a Joint Communiqué to pave the way for enhanced collaboration between both organisations in securing air cargo from acts of unlawful interference, while facilitating the movement of goods by air worldwide. The Joint Conference and its associated Joint Communiqué both build on the existing Memorandum of Understanding signed between the ICAO and WCO in June 2011, and reaffirm the parties' commitment towards working for the common goal of a secure and efficient air cargo supply chain.

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## **FACTSHEET**

### **ICAO-WCO-Singapore Joint Conference on Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation, 5-6 July 2012, Orchard Hotel, Singapore**

#### Importance of the air cargo sector

1 Air cargo is a crucial segment of the global civil aviation industry and an important contributor to international trade. According to statistics from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), cargo carried on aircraft accounts for 35% of all international trade by value, and the sector supports some 32 million jobs and generates US\$3.5 trillion of economic activity globally. Demand for air cargo traffic is expected to continue to rise with the growing demand for high-value and time-sensitive goods.

#### The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and air cargo security

2 The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations which promotes the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety and security, as well as for aviation environmental protection.

3 Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention) sets out the ICAO's standards and recommended practices for safeguarding civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference, i.e., terrorist acts. With effect from July 2011, the enhanced ICAO standards concerning air cargo security include a requirement for its 191 member States to establish a supply chain security process. The ICAO's work in air cargo security is governed by the strategic focus areas set out in the ICAO Comprehensive Aviation Security Strategy (ICASS) – Strategic Plan of Action 2011-2016, adopted by the ICAO Assembly in October 2010. These strategic focus areas include: developing practical measures from a risk management approach to address new and existing threats; promoting innovative, effective, and efficient security approaches; promoting information sharing amongst ICAO States; promoting global compliance and provision of capacity-building assistance to States in need; promoting mutual recognition of aviation security processes to avoid duplication; and enhancing the level of security awareness at the national and international levels among all relevant stakeholders. (More information on the ICAO's work in aviation security is at <http://www2.icao.int/en/AVSEC/Pages/default.aspx>.)

## The World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the SAFE Framework

4 The World Customs Organisation (WCO) is an independent inter-governmental body whose mission is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Customs administrations, through setting international standards to facilitate cross-border trade and secure the international trade supply chain. The WCO's Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework) advocates risk management and profiling through harmonised cargo data requirements, and details facilitation benefits that Customs administrations could provide to companies who have implemented robust supply chain security measures, in support of the twin pillars of Customs-to-Customs networks and Customs-to-business partnerships. (More information on the SAFE Framework is at [http://www.wcoomd.org/home\\_pfoverviewboxes\\_safepackage.htm](http://www.wcoomd.org/home_pfoverviewboxes_safepackage.htm).)

5 In December 2010, the WCO Policy Commission issued a Communiqué on Air Cargo Security which underlined the importance of national and international co-operation including among relevant international bodies, security focus on all modes of transport, co-ordinated border management, threat information sharing, strengthened use of intelligence-driven risk management, enhanced Customs-Business partnerships, development of models and best practices for post-incident recovery, and continued focus on capacity-building. (The text of this Communiqué is at <http://www.wcoomd.org/press/?v=1&lid=1&cid=7>.)

## Co-operation between the ICAO and WCO

6 In June 2011, the ICAO and WCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to increase co-operation to protect air cargo from acts of terrorism or other criminal activity and for speeding up the movement of goods by air worldwide. It is important that the ICAO and WCO understand each other's framework, mandates, and tools, in order to enhance their collaboration to strengthen the security of air cargo through pragmatic and effective supply chain security regimes that also facilitates the smooth movement of goods. Co-operation between both organisations will focus on aligning their respective regulatory frameworks for air cargo. The ICAO-WCO-Singapore Joint Conference on Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation on 5-6 July 2012 is a milestone in this effort. (More information on the MOU between the ICAO and WCO is at <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/icao-and-wco-join-forces-to-strengthen-air-cargo-security.aspx> and <http://www.wcoomd.org/press/?v=1&lid=1&cid=8&id=264>.)

## Singapore's total supply chain approach to cargo security

7 Singapore takes a total supply chain approach to securing the cargo supply chain against acts of terrorism, as the global supply chain is only as secure as its weakest link:

- i) First, as global supply chains span many different nodes and cross international borders multiple times, supply chain security efforts need to be holistic and cover the entire chain.
- ii) Second, given the complexity and number of players involved in the supply chain, responsibility for security has to be seen as a chain of responsibility, with each player undertaking the part that he is best placed to do. This is more efficient than placing the onus on one or two nodes only, and allows all players to enjoy greater confidence and assurance of the security of goods passing through each stage of the supply chain.
- iii) Finally, supply chain security efforts should contribute to the private sector's competitiveness and enhance trade. While companies benefit directly from taking their own supply chain security measures through reducing pilferage, preventing contamination and criminal activity, and keeping insurance costs down, it is important for governments to also recognise their efforts in a way that enhances trade.

8 The total supply chain security approach to cargo security is in line with the principles advocated by the WCO in its SAFE Framework. International co-operation between States as well as among international organisations such as the ICAO and WCO is essential to the implementation of this approach.