

## **The result of 20 years of ASEAN customs cooperation**

Since 1995, along with Vietnam became an official member of ASEAN, Vietnam Customs has participated actively, proactively and have made important contributions in the field of customs cooperation and the cooperation areas other economic customs related to ASEAN.

### **These outstanding results**

Specifically, Vietnam Customs has participated in negotiations, construction and deployment of the customs integration commitments region including ASEAN Customs Agreement, the Agreement and the Protocol developed and implemented OSS ASEAN, Protocols perform list ASEAN Harmonized tariff nomenclature (AHTN), constructive Protocol Transit system ASEAN Customs.

Simultaneously develop and implement the Strategic Plan of Customs Development ASEAN 5 years respectively in the 1995-2000 period; 2000-2005; 2005-2010 and 2010-2015.

Vietnam Customs also participated in the negotiation and implementation of economic cooperation commitments related to intra-ASEAN customs including cargo trade agreement ASEAN Master Plan implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community, Chapter the ASEAN trade Facilitation and the commitment of the free trade Agreement (FTA) between ASEAN and its dialogue partners, including China, Korea, Japan, India, Australia - New Zealand, Agreement for comprehensive economic cooperation region (RCEP).

These efforts contributed by Vietnam Customs has given some outstanding results in the past 20 years, especially in recent years.

Specifically built, negotiation, signing and implementation of the new ASEAN Customs Agreement, signed in 2012 and came into effect from 11.07.2014, replaces the Agreement signed in 1997. ASEAN Customs Agreement this creates corridors and comprehensive legal basis for co-operation and integration of ASEAN customs operations in the context of regional economic cooperation deeper and implementation of the ASEAN economic Community in 2015.

The second is the construction, negotiation, signing and implementation of the Agreement and the Protocol developed and implemented mechanisms ASEAN Single Window (ASW).

The deployment of OSS countries (NSW) towards ASW not only stems from the need to integrate and implement international commitments in order to facilitate trade, service of process of formation of the ASEAN Economic Community but also from the intrinsic demands of the Government of Vietnam to implement administrative reforms in the state administration agencies.

Shortly after the time of 2008, when the document on the development and implementation of effective ASW, Vietnam has made efforts to prepare all the necessary conditions for a legal basis and procedures in

the country, basically infrastructure of information technology as well as raise awareness of relevant stakeholders for the implementation of the Vietnam NSW.

9/2015 to May, Vietnam has announced the official implementation of NSW and the other four ASEAN countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand ready technical connection with the ASW in 12/2015.

The third is building, negotiation and signing of Protocol 7 of the Customs Transit System ASEAN under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in transit.

The Protocol negotiations began in 2000 but the negotiation process is interrupted by the dissent. Along with other countries, Vietnam has very effort involved in drafting and agreed on the content of the Protocol. Vietnam is also one of the first countries to complete the internal procedures in the country to sign this Protocol. Currently, we along with the ongoing approval procedure for the Protocol to take effect.

When in force and be implemented, Protocol 7 will help build a customs transit regime between ASEAN countries more favorable in terms of business processes and how to perform (through the electronic system) , saving time and costs for transit trade.

Fourth, Vietnam joined the countries participating in the construction, check conversion list ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) from 2002 to 2007 and the version from 2007 to 2012 as well as the completion of internal domestic procedures to implement updated versions conversions suit harmonized system (HS) of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Reaching international standards of modern customs

In the process of cooperation and ASEAN customs integration, Vietnam has shown a positive role, proactive and responsible in implementing in full and on the progress of intra-regional integration commitments and foreign blocks. Countries such efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Projects like deploying NSW and also opens opportunities ASW simple harmonization of customs procedures and border management. Thereby, facilitate business in import and export activities, from simple documentation, shortening the time and reducing transaction costs, contribute to improving competitive advantage for exports of Vietnam .

ASEAN cooperation process with the binding commitment has created an opportunity for Vietnam Customs access to standards, international practices of modern customs, contributing to the process of completing the legal framework customs Act, the customs Act specifically amended and related regulations. At the same time Vietnam has access to sources of technical assistance from international organizations and countries customs.

In the coming time, Vietnam Customs continue to concentrate resources on implementing existing commitments, especially the commitment to the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Connectivity Initiative includes implementation NSW and ASW, implementation of customs transit systems ASEAN.

Besides, the study proposed orientations for the new phase of cooperation in a more specific definition and to achieve substantial efficiency.

Continue to improve the institutional, legal framework, infrastructure and human resources to strengthen the implementation of commitments in the ASEAN cooperation.

Vietnam Customs will also actively propagate and raise awareness of the business community about the benefits and challenges of the integration process of ASEAN customs and mobilize the support and active participation of the business community in this process.

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