

Prospects and Challenges Analysis of China's Customs Tobacco Trade Security and Facilitation System Innovation

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Objectives: At present, affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the global industrial chain and logistics chain have been hit, and the international trade security and facilitation order have encountered unprecedented challenges. As a supervisory authority for the entry and exit of a country, customs plays a pivotal role in global economic exchanges. The customs management system is also considered one of the core issues affecting international trade, and the customs clearance link is the crucial link in the ongoing international trade. Customs clearance efficiency, import and export procedures, import and export time, import and export costs, and transparency of border management and other issues related to trade time and trade costs are closely related to customs. In the WTO's trade facilitation agreement, 90 per cent of the content is directly related to customs. At the same time, certain specific powers possessed by the customs as a government department also make it shoulder the obligations of the times entrusted by the sovereign state, this includes safeguarding normal international trade and combating the smuggling of tobacco and frozen products. Achieving adequate supervision and promoting trade facilitation are the main contradictions and challenges faced by customs in various countries under economic globalization. Facing the new international environmental changes, the customs of all countries need to spare no effort to overcome barriers and join together.

Key words: Smart Customs, Tobacco trade, Trade Facilitation, System Innovation

Tob Regul Sci.™ 2021;7(5-1): 2412-2421

DOI: doi.org/10.18001/TRS.7.5.1.11

INTRODUCTION

The Chinese government has always believed that safety should be highly focused on when opening to the outside world. As a supervisory authority for entry and exit, China Customs plays a significant

role in guarding national security, promoting tobacco trade facilitation, and taking China's development and national security into account. Under the current COVID-19 pandemic, customs, as an essential pillar of the government that coordinates international epidemic prevention,

control, domestic economic, and social development, and guarantees international trade safety and convenience should play an increasingly significant role in global economic governance, especially trade exchanges.

At this year's China-CEEC Leaders' Summit, Chinese national leader Xi Jinping proposed "deepening cooperation in customs tobacco trade security and customs clearance facilitation and launching pilot projects for cooperation on "Smart Customs, Smart Border, and Smart Sharing" (from now on referred to as the "Three Smarts"). The initiative emphasizes that the customs of all countries in the world should deepen international cooperation, innovate work ideas, promote interconnection, jointly deal with risks and challenges, and promote trade security and customs clearance facilitation.

The "Three Wisdom" cooperation of China Customs advocates to promote the close connection between the customs and the relevant parties in the international industrial supply chain, to enhance the level of high-tech and intelligent application, strengthen coordination and cooperation, and continuously improve China's customs system innovation and governance capabilities. Helping create a market-oriented, legalised, and international port business environment actively serves China's higher-level opening-up pattern.

In recent years, China Customs has achieved mutual recognition of "Authorised Operators (AEO)" with 43 countries (regions), the number of mutual recognition in the world. Promoting the "single window" of international trade has achieved remarkable results, involving important logistics nodes, such as ports, airports, railways, and terminals. In addition, China Customs has long-term cooperation with Tongfang Weishi to explore container inspection equipment that meets the needs of customs supervision (H986) of which the application of intelligent image review technology is ahead of the world, and big data technology has made considerable breakthroughs in the exploration and utilisation of risk management and other fields; actively participates in the relevant rules and standards of the World Trade Organization, World Customs Organization, World Animal Health Organization, International Plant Protection

n Convention Organization; also formulated and participated intensely in the negotiation of 19 free tobacco trade agreements, realising the comprehensive docking of relevant international rules and standards. These preliminary explorations and work have laid a solid foundation for advancing the "Three Wisdom" cooperation.^{1,2}

Although China Customs has carried out much fruitful work early and achieved good results, it still has a long way to compare with their expectations for global economy and trade; the Chinese government, especially the Chinese leaders' global influence on their country's economy. In particular, considering the four dimensions of management innovation precision, science and technology application level, the thickness of talents, and the breadth of mutual recognition of law enforcement, China Customs is facing both opportunities and challenges in the promotion of the construction of the "three pearls of wisdom".^{3,4}

CHALLENGES IN CHINA'S CUSTOMS SYSTEM INNOVATION

1. The precision of customs management innovation needs to be improved. China Customs has just gone through a management system adjustment. In 2018, the responsibilities and teams of entry-exit inspection and quarantine management were assigned to the General Administration of Customs to establish new customs.⁵ This institutional reform, analysed from the theoretical level, can be regarded as a typical case of the comprehensive utilisation of new public management theory and holistic governance theory. Nevertheless, after more than three years of running-in, some spaces still need to be improved in the system.

(1) The process of the legal system improvement is slow. The current "Customs Law of the People's Republic of China" stipulates that customs is the country's entry and exit supervision and management agency. The customs should supervise the means of transport, goods, luggage items, postal items, and other items that enter and exit the country following the law, collecting duties and other taxes and fees, investigating smuggling, and compiling customs statistics, and handling other customs operations. The current

inspection and quarantine regulations stipulate the supervision and management of entry and exit goods, vehicles, and personnel, such as inspection and quarantine, certification, and official inspection and quarantine certificates.^{6,7} Unfortunately, there is no law including all the legal duties of the new customs. From the legal aspect, customs duties and inspection and quarantine duties are still expressed separately, isolated from constructing a complete legal system.

(2) It is of no reason to establish the institutional departments. After more than three years of running-in, the new customs has strictly complied with the Chinese government's requirements of "strengthening the rigid constraints of institutional organisation management, insisting on the total volume control, and prohibiting over-numbering into personnel, over-limit establishment of institutions, and over-employment of leading cadres". Institutional integration has been smooth.⁸ Completed, but it still needs to have further improvement based on actual business operations.

1) The efficiency of setting up proprietary divisions is not high. After the institutional reform, the new customs business mainly focuses on segmented supervision, which is challenging to integrate with the chain management of the initial inspection and quarantine systems, such as the functions of the port supervision department and the animal and plant quarantine supervision department, commodity inspection department. The three specialised departments and bureaus of the Import and Export Food Safety Bureau are in contact. From a practical point of view, it is recommended to merge the four departments and bureaus—^{1,5}. The supervision department can be changed to the on-site supervision department. Under the guidance of the supervision line, the grassroots business departments will be merged with the on-site operation departments of the original customs to ensure that the customs clearance procedures are simplified, and professionalism is achieved. One declaration, one inspection, and one release are under the mode. Influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic, the functional management function of the Health Inspecti

on and Quarantine Department is relatively professional and should be strengthened. It is recommended to retain and coordinate relevant professional, operational guidance functions continuously.

2) The setting of customs directly under the provincial area does not meet the requirements of modern management. For a long time, whether it is the former Customs or the former General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine, the establishment of directly affiliated institutions has not achieved a unified standard strictly. In particular, the traditional customs organisation model of setting up seven directly affiliated customs agencies in Guangdong Province is challenging to adapt to the current economic integration development needs in terms of design concepts, supervision models, and service effects. Regrettably, in the institutional reform, none of the unreasonable directly affiliated customs was abolished. At present, there are seven customs directly under the jurisdiction of Guangdong Province, and another five provinces and autonomous regions each have two customs directly under the jurisdiction of the layout structure. Although the "Customs Law" stipulates that administrative divisions do not restrict the establishment of customs agencies, "seven customs in one province" or even "two customs in one city" is unreasonable. According to the current level of institutional management, and taking into account the particularity of Guangdong's proximity to Hong Kong and Macao, it is technically feasible to retain 3-4 directly affiliated customs in Guangdong Province and merge other provinces into one directly affiliated customs.⁶

3) The level of customs management needs to be optimised. According to the current management level, the business work of each grassroots subordinate customs and office is still in charge of the directly subordinate customs. It is recommended to adjust to the leadership of the General Administration of Customs, the Department of Business Operations, and the Business Center to realise the uniformity of law enforcement truly.^{5,9} It is recommended that the customs directly under the customs only undertake the functions of customs business operation management and monitoring in the region, mainly

responsible for work coordination and supervision, business standardisation management, regional professional technical support, customs logistics support; organise the implementation of customs laws, regulations and rules analysis, research, and judgment; responsible for organising the personnel and financial management and assessment of subordinate customs, offices and grassroots supervision points. By reducing the intermediate level directly under the customs, the General Administration of Customs-the national business function centre-the first-line customs supervision point of the business will be formed, and the current organisational structure will be changed from a "spindle" to a "dumbbell" structure, and policies will be improved. Execution efficiency.^{7,9}

4) It is of significance to focus on strengthening the positioning of some new functions. In recent years, China has adjusted its inspection and quarantine functions into public security and regards inspection and quarantine as a vital force in managing non-traditional security issues. The new customs' critical tasks are becoming more arduous, and it needs to be strengthened in areas involving national security and certain non-traditional functions. Currently, non-traditional security issues mainly include economic security, financial security, ecological environment security, information security, resource, and energy security, terrorism, disease spread, transnational crime, drug smuggling, food security. Especially after the emergence of the new crown epidemic, the role of customs in blocking international epidemics has become more urgent, and biosecurity has also become a priority. The new customs must play a specific role and improve the quarantine access risk assessment of agricultural and food products and biological products covering the entire chain of production and trade as soon as possible, agreement signing, pre-inspection of origin, entry quarantine, which are more in line with the customs supervision system in the post-epidemic era. The role of its functions.

2. The level of the customs technology system needs to be improved.

As technologies such as big data and artificial

intelligence are becoming more mature and digitalisation, networking, and intelligence are being integrated and developed, the World Customs Organization has proposed the concept of building data-driven "digital customs". As a critical node in global trade, China is developing from a major trading country to a powerful trading country and has put forward high-level requirements for customs in safeguarding national security and promoting the construction of a new high-level open economic system. China Customs should seize the opportunity to participate in the formulation of new international trade rules, actively lead the international trade data standards, promote the cooperative application of technology, the big data in the field of international trade, establish a transnational data sharing mechanism, and share digital dividends with other countries, to obtain more development opportunities and more significant development space.

(1) Maintain national security. After the institutional reform, customs supervision responsibilities have increased, the scope of supervision is broad, the chain of supervision is long, and the task of maintaining national security has become more arduous and arduous. Smuggling that endangers the safety of the ecological environment and social security has been repeatedly banned, in recent years, the smuggling of tobacco and frozen products has been more and more. Ebola hemorrhagic fever, new coronavirus pneumonia, and other epidemics are frequently occurring, the risk of invasion of alien species and the loss of essential species resources has increased, convenient transportation networks and a large number of Global trade, increasingly frequent personnel exchanges, and the rapid development of new trade formats and models have made the transmission channels of the epidemic more complicated and the risks unprecedentedly severe. Customs should change traditional management concepts, innovate supervision models, upgrade big data application technology, use technology to improve law enforcement capabilities, quickly identify national security risk factors, and perform its duties of guarding the country with high standards.

(2) Foreign trade development with high-quality services. In terms of serving the country's foreign trade, China Customs should provide timely, efficient, and accurate trade data, accurately analyse and forecast, and provide essential reference data for national decision-making. Especially in the implementation of the national "One Belt One Road" initiative, China Customs should actively promote the construction of a unified and open data resource system with the "One Belt One Road" countries, continue to promote the establishment of an international trade data standard system, and further expand my country's influence in international trade.

Take the tobacco industry as an example. China is the world's largest tobacco production and consumption country. China imports a large amount of tobacco from abroad every year, mainly from the United States, Canadians, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Greece, Thailand, South Africa, Malaysia and other countries. Imported tobacco leaves, flue-cured tobacco is mainly imported from Brazil, Zimbabwe, the United States, Canada, and Argentina, while self-ribbed tobacco is mainly imported from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Zimbabwe and other countries, and a small amount of aromatic tobacco is imported from Turkey, Greece, and Thailand. After joining the WTO, the opening of the tobacco market and the international tobacco control conventions exerted increasing pressure, which brought huge challenges to China's tobacco "going out" strategy. In April 2015, China began to take the lead in promoting the "Belt and Road" construction. This great project runs through the three major sectors of Asia, Europe, and Africa, covering 65 countries along the route. However, at present, smuggling activities such as smuggling at sea, borders and non-customs areas in China, smuggling activities such as water passengers and crew entrainment are still rampant, and the situation is not optimistic. One is the smuggling entry channel "one south and one north". The Beilun River area on the southern China-Vietnam border is still the country's largest smuggling entry channel. Another entry channel for smuggled cigarettes is the northern Yalu River border area between China and North Korea. The second is to use false

and private criminal methods. According to the intelligence provided by the customs of Vietnam, Singapore and other countries and the analysis of the situation of smuggled cigarettes seized within the country, smugglers have smuggled into the country, in addition to smuggling genuine cigarettes, counterfeit Chinese best-selling brand cigarettes produced by overseas cigarette factories in the Philippines, Myanmar, and North Korea. The Chinese government attaches great importance to international cooperation in combating illegal tobacco trade. On January 10, 2013, China signed the "Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products", which is of great significance to China's in-depth promotion of anti-counterfeiting and smuggling of tobacco products, strengthening international cooperation, and safeguarding public health.

(3) The challenge of high-level service in the new format of foreign trade. New forms of foreign trade are emerging one after another. Trade forms represented by cross-border e-commerce are developing rapidly, trade fragmentation is increasing, and intelligent supply chains that integrate modern logistics, cross-border finance, big data, the Internet, and the Internet of Things are emerging. China Customs We should use big data, artificial intelligence, and other core technologies to innovate regulatory models to quickly respond to the needs of new industries, new formats, and new models, maintain national security at a higher level, promote non-inductive customs clearance, continue to improve the degree of customs clearance facilitation, and meet the needs of emerging industries. Regulatory and service requirements.

3. The quality of customs personnel needs to be strengthened. After integrating institutions, the customs have an unprecedented demand for professionals, especially high-level talents across industries and disciplines. The new customs are very professional and should further clarify the implementation of personnel classification management. It can focus on the customs title system, use the customs title system as a carrier, and achieve professional promotion by promoting the title of the custom. This move does not involve reforming the number of institutions, and the professional sequence is easy to be unified with

the administrative sequence in the customs title sequence. Try to explore an administrative system. The professional promotion model with customs characteristics for leading cadres to "can go up and down".

(1) Improve the talent training model. Under the process structure of the new customs, every customs employee must receive information about the entire customs clearance process, learn to think about problems in an all-around way and work from simple to complex. China Customs should focus on strengthening training at two levels. First, the training of expert talents should focus on enhancing the research and analysis and judgment capabilities of relevant personnel at the macro level, broadening their business vision, and enhancing the overall grasp of regional business work and the ability to refine work indicators and processes. Second, for the training of the backbone of the customs business at the grassroots level, the focus should be placed on improving the standardization and high-efficiency operation of the daily work process. Through repeated exercises and deductions, various situations encountered can improve the standardized law enforcement and enforcement of the customs at the grassroots level—resilience at work.

(2) Improve management incentive mechanism. "The efficiency of machinery is limited, while the efficiency of competition is almost unlimited." Establishing an incentive mechanism is an essential measure for implementing internal management, and customs is no exception. Most of the internal work of the customs does not contain internal incentives and needs to rely on external incentives. Guidance should be strengthened to develop internal incentive effects. Customs officers generally work locally, but considering the need for talents with one speciality and multiple talents and the needs of the customs for all-round development and exchanges, a regional intelligence introduction mechanism should be established to monitor the training and establishment of a team of customs experts in a specific area, and conduct personnel exchanges and exchanges regularly—exchange activities to realise the sharing of intellectual resources and increase the mobility of regional talents. Pay attention

to the personal career planning and design of customs officers, and realise the simultaneous development of customs officers and the customs business.

(3) Explore the construction of "flexible customs". The current customs organisation structure has multiple levels, minor horizontal adjustments, and management efficiency is not high. It is not easy to adapt to the needs of customs management for rapid response. Implement flexible management, flatten the internal management level through organisational reengineering and information technology, implement the high-speed flow and transmission of information in all links, and improve the organisation's ability to adapt to external changes to build "flexible customs".

4. Mutual recognition of customs enforcement is a long way to go.

In recent years, China Customs and the Customs of the BRICS countries have jointly signed the "Strategic Framework for Customs Cooperation in the BRICS Countries" and determined that "information exchange, mutual recognition of supervision, and mutual assistance in law enforcement" shall be adopted as the principle of cooperation between the customs of the BRICS countries. The areas of law enforcement, emerging affairs, capacity building, and coordination of positions within a multilateral framework have been established as the focus of customs cooperation among the BRICS countries. In terms of trade facilitation, the "Strategic Framework" clearly promotes the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); promotes mutual recognition of "certified business operators" (AEO) cooperation; and joins hands to enhance the ability of rapid customs clearance of goods, Through the joint establishment of relevant standards, speed up the customs clearance of transit goods; enhance the application of information technology in customs cooperation, actively establish a platform for customs data exchange, service, and sharing, and explore the use of internationally recognised equipment to ensure the security of the supply chain.

(1) Promote trade facilitation. WTO defines trade facilitation as simplifying and coordinating international trade procedures (including the activities, practices, and procedures for collecting, providing, communicating, and processing data required for the flow of international trade in goods), that is, the international flow of goods from sellers to buyers and payment to buyers. Necessary procedures and simplify and standardise the flow of corresponding information. Objectively speaking, both customs taxation inspection and inspection and quarantine procedures have added a barrier to import and export trade, which is inherently contradictory to trade convenience to a certain extent. However, as a sovereign country, maintaining its economy, epidemic prevention security, and ecological security also brings trade convenience in a broader sense. The experience of developed countries has illustrated that mutual recognition of standards between the two parties in terms of internationalisation and standardisation at the operational level can significantly reduce the cost of customs clearance operations for enterprises. The new customs should more accurately connect with international trade rules, minimise unnecessary complicated procedures and procedures, and shorten the waiting time for customs clearance, which will undoubtedly maximise the benefits of trade convenience in a broad sense.

(2) Customs protection of intellectual property rights. In October 1995, China promulgated and implemented the "Regulations on the Customs Protection of Intellectual Property Rights" for the first time and began establishing an intellectual property border protection system that complies with the rules of the World Trade Organization. At present, China Customs has established a complete set of intellectual property rights, including customs declaration document review, import and export goods inspection, detention and investigation of infringing goods, punishment of illegal importers and exporters, and disposal of infringing goods. Law enforcement system. However, as the Sino-US trade disputes intensify, the achievements of China's customs protection of intellectual property rights are also directly related to the

bargaining chip of the trade dispute between the two countries. At present, there are still many cases in which the United States has notified Chinese products that involve intellectual property infringement. In the next stage, the protection of intellectual property rights should be combined with enhancing the new customs' ability to inspect commodities, be more specialised and have a broader scope, and genuinely demonstrate China's status as a responsible power in the world.^{10,11}

1.4.3 To set up safe access and exit. Since the end of the Cold War, various countries' security environment and the international security situation have undergone turning changes. In particular, the changing pattern of the international trade situation after the financial crisis and the new characteristics of international border security after the 9/11 incident has caused the customs of various countries to pay attention to it. Security issues, optimise and expand its original functions, and strengthen border management agencies' access research and practice on non-traditional security issues. WCO explained the meaning of "safety" and believed that "safety" in the "Global Trade Security and Convenience Standard Framework" refers to the security of the supply chain, not all the security of the entire trade field. To deal with the potential impact of non-traditional security threats on national security under the new situation, China Customs should perform the access review duties of the border management department, focusing on effective control of prohibited commodities and goods involved in the entry and exit links the supply chain And extension, which will be a breakthrough in the traditional functions of customs and a significant adjustment of customs functions around the macro theme of national security. At the same time, this kind of law enforcement should also be recognised by the customs of all countries in the world.^{12,13}

CHINA CUSTOMS TRADE FACILITATION OUTLOOK

In recent years, globalisation has been strongly challenged, and the trend of anti-globalisation has prevailed worldwide. The new crown pneumonia epidemic that broke out last year has encouraged unilateralism and "self-protection" behaviours,

disrupted the original international industrial chain structure, shook the foundation of globalisation, and intensified the anti-globalisation trend, marking the entry of globalisation into history—the sexual turning point. In the face of the adverse impact of the anti-globalisation trend on the development of globalisation under the epidemic, it is imperative to seek a response plan from China, the world's second-largest economy.¹¹

Under the epidemic, international trade and economic integration have brought new security challenges. The total volume and complexity of international trade have increased significantly. New business formats and new models represented by cross-border e-commerce have developed rapidly, trade fragmentation has increased, and traditional Intertwining with non-traditional security threats has brought customs supervision and services challenges. It is against this background that in recent years, the international customs community of China Customs has focused on intelligent construction, using disruptive technologies to explore the reconstruction of the customs governance system and further promote interconnection. Customs of various countries are looking forward to using the key of "smart" to open the door on the road ahead, further improve the efficiency of supervision services, and promote trade security and facilitation of customs clearance.

1. Promote the construction of intelligent customs and improve customs' open supervision capabilities. Smart customs refers to the customs of a country or region. Using new technologies such as information technology and network technology, using new equipment such as intelligent hardware and automation equipment greatly improves the information collection capabilities, risk assessment capabilities, precise deployment and control capabilities, and non-intrusive capabilities. Inspection capability, digital processing, networked transmission, automated operation, and intelligent discrimination are generally realised in the customs supervision. The supervision efficiency has been dramatically improved, which can more accurately prevent and combat illegal acts and ensure

legal goods' barrier-free entry and exit. Brilliant form.

The "Three pearls of Wisdom" cooperation advocates the creation of "smart customs" by advancing the intelligence of customs infrastructure, customs management, and customs supervision, which is the key to ensuring that the customs' capabilities adapt to the requirements of the times; in the next stage, China Customs will further increase the application of technological innovations Strengthen the construction of information systems such as customs clearance management based on cloud computing, big data, artificial intelligence, and 5G communications, integrate and optimise the system architecture, improve risk identification, early warning, and disposal efficiency, and enhance the informatisation and intelligence of customs management level. Comprehensively deepen the integrated reform of all customs business areas, improve various supervision systems, optimise the allocation of supervision resources, improve the supervision accuracy and effectiveness, and promote cross-border trade facilitation to optimise the customs clearance operation process and simultaneously build a customs intelligent operation platform. Promote intelligent early warning of logistics supervision, intelligent research and judgment of security risks, intelligent analysis of enterprise credit, and intelligent traceability of product information, and improve the transparency, accuracy, fairness, and impartiality of customs supervision.¹¹

2. Promote the construction of intelligent borders and improve the efficiency of port operations. "Smart Border" focuses on intelligent border supervision methods, intelligent border coordinated supervision, and intelligent border cross-border cooperation. Relevant departments at the border have improved the automatic data collection function by building a cross-departmental compatible information system to realise real-time data transmission. At the same time, through the deepening of international trade "single window" and other applications, import and export enterprises can submit the required information and documents at one time and promote coordinated supervision and efficiency improvement. By advancing the

intelligent construction of "smart border" through optimised border supervision methods, joint supervision of various border departments, and cross-border cooperation, it is guaranteed to ensure that customs supervision services effectively promote trade safety and convenience. At the same time, Smart Border advocates that based on inevitable progress made in the construction of intelligent customs, customs of various countries should expand intelligent cooperation to more border management departments across or across borders, and realise information sharing and joint risk prevention and control through innovative border management concepts. , Mutual assistance in law enforcement to create a new pattern of border governance.

In the next stage, China Customs will coordinate the construction of management information, build a full-process and intelligent port operation system, promote the digital transformation of ports, accelerate the intelligent upgrade of border facilities and equipment, realise centralised, intelligent, and standardised management of border operations, and improve customs management. Improve various regulatory systems with the level of informatisation and intelligence. Build a "one-stop" trade service platform covering the entire chain of cross-border trade. Deepen the reform of "delegating control and service" at ports, further optimise the customs clearance process, improve operational efficiency, reduce compliance costs, improve customs clearance services, improve the overall level of trade security and customs clearance facilitation, and realise the "flow of people, logistics, and capital" and "flow of funds" at the port. "Customs clearance + service" integrated linkage.¹ Optimise the allocation of supervision resources, improve the accuracy and effectiveness of supervision, and promote the facilitation of cross-border trade.

3. Promote the construction of intelligent sharing, smooth international economic and trade, and personnel exchanges. "Smart Share Unicom" advocates the establishment of interconnection and real-time collaboration between customs, customs, and other parties in the global supply chain under the cooperation framework of the WTO and the World Customs Organization and then realises the seamless point-to-point management of the global supply chain. , To jointly

promote the security and convenience of global trade.

The realisation of "Smart Sharing" through the promotion of intelligent interconnection of customs networks, intelligent docking of customs governance, and intelligent cooperation of global supply chains is a means to ensure a smooth connection of customs supervision systems and information in various countries and reflects the direction of China's customs modernisation. China Customs will continue to improve the integration pattern and further promote the "single window" docking with critical countries along the "Belt and Road", including Central and Eastern European countries, AEO mutual recognition cooperation, international networking of electronic certificates, and bilateral quarantine access negotiations, and pragmatically advance" Projects such as "Guantietong" and China-Russia Customs Coordination Supervision have been implemented, actively supporting the development of China-Europe Railway Express and the construction of new land-sea corridors, and accelerating the construction of significant projects such as the Hungary-Serbia Railway. Build and promote the customs information exchange and sharing platform, and strengthen the intelligent interconnection of the customs network. Strengthen the coordination of customs clearance at border ports, promote the docking of customs systems, policies, and standards in various countries, promote the safe and efficient flow of goods and people across borders, increase information exchange and administrative mutual assistance and investigation, and ensure the safety and stability of the industrial chain and supply chain.^{1,11}

It is foreseeable that China Customs will jointly build a "Belt and Road" customs information exchange and sharing platform with more countries, accelerate the construction and connection of the "single window" of international trade, and promote the "Three Wisdom" cooperation of relevant countries of the "Belt and Road" initiative. The concept of intelligent management has run through the entire customs administration. On the one hand, it can effectively reduce administrative operating costs and optimise internal risk control; on the other hand, it has a

significant role in promoting the reform and innovation of customs business and modernising governance capabilities. China Customs is actively committed to advancing the "Three Wisdom" cooperation and the docking of relevant strategies of the World Customs Organization, carrying out joint project research, accelerating the promotion of the "Three Wisdom" cooperation pilots with the customs of Central and Eastern European countries, and comprehensively deepening the security of customs tobacco trade with Central and Eastern European countries. Cooperate with customs clearance facilitation, actively promote the construction of the China-CEEC Customs Information Center and the China-Europe-Europe-Sea Express Line countries along with the customs clearance of coordination consultation point, promote the completion of the "17+1" customs high-level forum and expand the "security and wisdom trade" with relevant countries in China and Europe. "For cooperation under the project framework, explore the development of inspection and quarantine certificate verification systems that conform to international standards, accelerate the development of electronic certificate cooperation, and make every effort to ensure that the practical cooperation results of the China-CEEC Leadership Summit will be implemented in Central and Eastern Europe as soon as possible. We will vigorously and orderly promote the implementation of the "Three Wisdom" cooperation in a way that the international community understands, accepts, and has recognition.^{10,14}

In summary, the "Three pearls of Wisdom" cooperation initiative was creatively proposed under the combination of collaborative governance theory and the application of modern technology. It provides a Chinese solution for deepening international customs cooperation, safeguarding multilateralism, and jointly coping with global challenges.¹⁵ The leading spirit of the "Global Tobacco Trade Security and Convenience Standard Framework" formulated by the organisation is consistent with the leading spirit. It

is believed that in the future, as the Chinese government vigorously promotes the "Three Wisdom" cooperation, as the Chinese Customs' system innovation advances in-depth, a new situation in international customs cooperation will undoubtedly be created.

Author Declaration

This research is not funded by any organization related to tobacco production.

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