

## Convenor of ExCo Non-official Members reviews Hong Kong Customs passing-out parade (with photos)

The Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council (ExCo), Mrs Regina Ip, attended the Passing-out Parade for the 144th Inspector Induction Course and the 502nd-507th Customs Officer Induction Courses at the Hong Kong Customs College today (June 5) to inspect 11 Probationary Customs Inspectors and 128 Probationary Customs Officers on parade.

All passing-out officers adopted the Chinese-style foot drill to form the logo of the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator Programme, the logo of the Single E-lock Scheme, and the English abbreviation of the Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme, symbolising Hong Kong Customs' active promotion of various trade facilitation measures to consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre and a major logistics hub in the Asia-Pacific (A/P) region.

Speaking at the passing-out parade, Mrs Ip said Hong Kong Customs is committed to leveraging Hong Kong's strategic positioning of enjoying strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world under the "one country, two systems" framework to deepen its multilateral co-operation with partners in the A/P region. This not only demonstrates the department's endeavour to echo the directional principle of "leveraging our unique advantages while reinforcing our connectivity with both the Mainland and the world" as proposed during the "two sessions", but also serves as a vivid illustration of Hong Kong's integration into the overall development of the country.

She added that, while endeavouring to boost the economy and striving for development, Hong Kong should make every effort to safeguard the sovereignty, security and development interests of the country, integrate into the country's development, and align with national development strategies. She said she believes that, as an outstanding and professional disciplined force, Hong Kong Customs will remain committed to its fight against smuggling, drug trafficking and terrorist activities and will resolutely safeguard the homeland security, societal security, economic security and ecological security of the country.

Mrs Ip encouraged the passing-out officers to uphold Hong Kong Customs' objective of "enhancing strengths and thriving through innovation and connectivity" by providing quality and diversified customs services to the public and to give full play to the department's unique role in regional collaboration, thereby contributing to the development of the country and the future of Hong Kong.

