

Hong Kong Customs' virtual reality training module wins international award (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs' innovative training module "Cave Automatic Virtual Environment" (CAVE) received a silver award in Brandon Hall Group Technology Excellence Awards under the category "Best Advance in Augmented and Virtual Reality" at the end of last year. The accolade highlights the international recognition of the department's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance the efficiency of staff training.

CAVE, launched in 2023, employs advanced virtual reality technology to create interactive training modules that simulate various customs clearance scenarios, providing customs trainees with an immersive training experience. This innovative training method allows trainees to learn basic customs clearance skills under a controlled environment and enables instructors to adjust the training modules according to the training progress and smuggling trends, thereby strengthening the trainees' adaptability. CAVE has now been fully introduced to all induction and in-service training provided by Hong Kong Customs College, and a total of more than 600 officers have received the training.

The Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development) of Customs, Ms Tam So-ying, today (March 4) said, "This award ascertains the fact that Customs' application of virtual reality technology in competency training has reached international standards. We will continue to explore feasibility of extending the scope of applications of CAVE."

Brandon Hall Group Excellence Awards is a global award scheme that attracts institutions from around the world each year to compete for awards in different professional fields. Hong Kong Customs was the only institution in Asia to receive the "Best Advance in Augmented and Virtual Reality" award in 2024. This honour underscores the department's dedication and achievements in promoting "Smart Customs", serving as the Asia-Pacific training centre of the World Customs Organization and enhancing its enforcement capabilities to safeguard the country and Hong Kong.

