

## Information exchange with Customs China to begin by April 2018

Pakistan Customs will start exchange of information with Customs China by April 2018. According to Wajid Ali Director, Directorate Reforms and Automation, Pakistan customs after signing an agreement with Customs China regarding exchange of information, had been working to make online module and now the same was in its final stages and hopefully be launched by April 2018.

Speaking at a meeting of FPCCI Standing Committee on Customs Agents held at Federation House here, he said that customs department would be able to verify the veracity of FTA certificates along with exchange of trade information by April 2018. The Pakistan is presently facing the massive under-reporting or misdeclaration or under-invoicing in the imports from China and witnessing huge gap between Chinese reported exports to Pakistan and country's reported imports from China.

Based on SBP data reported in Daily *Business Recorder* on September 22, 2017, Pakistan reports bilateral trade with China at \$9.2 billion whereas the corresponding figure reported by China is \$17.2 billion. Customs authorities appear optimistic to considerably reduce the massive under-reporting after online exchange of information between these two customs expected to be commenced by April 2018.

During meeting Wajid further stated that customs would not only allow online manufacturing bond facility by December 31, 2017 but also commence e-payment module on the same date. Earlier, Qamar Alam Chairman FPCCI Standing Committee on Customs Agents and Arshad Jamal Chairman FPCCI Standing Committee on Customs urged the Director Reforms to simplify the FTA process.

They suggested allowing system users to get valuation ruling on their computer screen with daily updating besides incorporating online token purchase facility in the system to file goods declarations 24x7. "WeBOC system should have online module related to section 82 of Customs Act 1969," they said, adding that customs department may also add an option for the goods declarants to opt yellow or green channel facility for their consignments clearance instead of giving only green channel access for the purpose, which created unnecessary responsibility on the trade in case of any objection.

Moreover, they said that the customs should also allow submission of relevant documents at the time of first and second reviews before sending message for documents cancellation and give pre-weightment request to the terminal operators as well.

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