



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

MAN CHARGED FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF DUTY & GST ON IMPORT OF JAPANESE CARS

Singapore Customs arrested a Singaporean man on 31 March 2009 for fraudulent evasion of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) by submitting invoices that showed incorrect values for the import of motor cars from Japan.

2 Mr Ong Siong Hock (aged 36) faces 744 charges for evasion of excise duty and GST involving the import of 629 units of Japanese cars of various makes. The under-declaration had resulted in the short payment of duty and GST amounting to \$895,811.12. The offence took place between June 2006 and February 2007.

3 Mr Ong will be charged in court on 2 April 2009.

5 Between November 2008 and March 2009, Singapore Customs had charged 11 persons in court for evasion of excise duty and GST amounting to \$3.4 million on over 3,000 cars. The cases are ongoing.

6 Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of the importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the values and other related costs declared to Singapore Customs. Under-declaration of the value is a serious offence as it will result in short payment of duty, GST and Additional Registration Fee (ARF). All cases of revenue evasion and violations of customs regulations are investigated, and action will be taken against the errant importers or any persons concerned in abetting the fraudulent evasion of duty and GST. Any person who is guilty of fraudulent evasion of duties or GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duties and GST evaded or, in default, a jail sentence. In addition to the penalties meted out by the court, the offenders are also required to make good the duty and GST short-paid to the government.

ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS (新加坡关税局) (KASTAM SINGAPURA)

DATE: 1 APRIL 2009