



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2010/030

Geneva, 28 October 2010

CONCERNING:

Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation

1. In 2002, the Secretariat advised the Parties of the introduction of certificates of commendation that would be issued, at the Secretary-General's discretion, to recognize exemplary actions related to enforcement.
2. The latest such Certificates are to be awarded to the Airports of Thailand Public Company and the CITES Wildlife Checkpoint of the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department of the Government of Thailand, at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok.
3. The Certificates are being awarded in recognition of a seizure, made at Suvarnabhumi Airport on 23 August 2010, when officials of the two agencies discovered a person attempting to smuggle a live tiger cub out of the country. The tiger had been carefully concealed in baggage but was discovered during X-ray screening.
4. It is commendable, especially during the Chinese Year of the Tiger and at a time when the species is under threat of extinction, that this live tiger was prevented from being traded illegally.
5. Additionally, this seizure demonstrates the importance of raising awareness of illegal trade in wildlife among port security personnel, who are ideally placed to detect instances of smuggling. The CITES Secretariat notes that such personnel in Thailand have received training of this nature, which was delivered by the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network's Programme Coordination Unit and TRAFFIC, and funded by USAID.
6. The date and venue for the presentation of the certificates have yet to be decided.