



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

## **Bali Process: Following the Money Forum** **Bangkok, Thailand, 16-17 May 2016** **Co-Chairs' Statement**

The Office of the Attorney-General of Thailand and the Australian Attorney-General's Department co-hosted the *Bali Process Following the Money Forum* in Bangkok, Thailand from 16-17 May 2016. The Forum was a *Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons* event, focused on highlighting the value of leveraging anti-money laundering and asset recovery tools and techniques to disrupt the illicit profits of trafficking in persons (TIP) criminal networks.

The Forum was opened by Ms Intranee Sumawong, Deputy Director General, Anti-Human Trafficking Department, Office of the Attorney-General of Thailand, and His Excellency Mr Paul Robilliard, Australia's Ambassador to Thailand. The event was co-chaired by Mr Wanchai Roujanavong, Senior Consultant Public Prosecutor to the Office of the Attorney-General of Thailand and Mr Chris Collett, Assistant Secretary, Transnational Crime Branch, Australian Attorney-General's Department. 88 participants attended, including law and justice officials from 30 Bali Process member countries and 5 international organisations. Presentations included case studies from the Thai Anti-Money Laundering Office, the Sri Lankan Police, the Indonesian Attorney-General's Office, the Australian Federal Police, and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### ***Recommendations for Future Action***

1. Co-chairs acknowledged the importance of disrupting the financial incentive for TIP and related transnational crime, including people smuggling. Co-chairs highlighted the importance of Bali Process members having strong anti-money laundering and asset recovery policy and legislative frameworks, and welcomed the Forum as an opportunity to expand participants' toolkits to investigate and prosecute TIP and related transnational crime.
2. To establish a baseline understanding of the financial activity associated with TIP in Bali Process member countries and members' capacity to prevent and combat TIP, participants recommended the Working Group of Trafficking in Persons:
  - a. **analyse the business models and methods used to launder the proceeds of TIP in Bali Process member countries** and
  - b. compile data on Bali Process member countries' **capability to combat TIP and disrupt the associated illicit profits**, including: legislative and policy frameworks, the operational capacity of investigators and prosecutors, and use of formal and informal international crime cooperation mechanisms.
3. Participants also acknowledged the value of **practical regional guidance on anti-money laundering and proceeds of crime mechanisms**, and recommended the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons develop guidance materials on effectively criminalising money laundering and proceeds of crime, the nexus between

money laundering and TIP, and key anti-money laundering tools that law and justice officials can use in TIP cases. Co-Chairs noted that this was consistent with a direction from Ministers at the 6<sup>th</sup> Bali Process Ministerial Conference in March 2016.

4. Participants further acknowledged the value of **training** on anti-money laundering and proceeds of crime mechanisms for law and justice officials involved in combating TIP, and agreed that the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons should develop a **regional training module on disrupting the financial incentives for TIP**, to be delivered to interested Bali Process member countries, and adapted to their domestic settings.
5. Participants acknowledged the importance of **formal and informal international crime cooperation** to disrupt money laundering across borders, and to trace and recover the proceeds of crime. To strengthen international cooperation in the region to deprive criminals of their illicit profits, co-chairs encouraged Bali Process member countries' participation in:
  - the **Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network – Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP)**
  - the **Regional Asset Forfeiture Conference**, and
  - relevant training courses delivered by the **Asia Region Law Enforcement Management Program (ARLEMP)**.
6. Participants commended the efforts of the **Bali Process Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Networks involved in People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons**. Participants encouraged the Working Group to increase its focus in the next *Joint Period of Action* on the use of follow the money techniques to trace the illicit flow of profits and disrupt criminal networks involved in TIP and related transnational crime.