1. Update on the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

   Opening presentation by the Australian Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues, Caroline Millar, on behalf of the co-chairs of the Bali Process, Australia and Indonesia.

   On behalf of the co-chairs of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, Indonesia and Australia, I have been asked to update the participants of this workshop on the other Bali Process activities that have taken place this year and those activities which we are planning for the next few months.

   First, I would like to thank our Malaysian hosts,
   – in particular the Director-General of Immigration Malaysia, Dato’ Jamal and his deputy Dato Abdullah as well as the Director of the Port Dickson Academy, Mr Omar, for Malaysia’s generous offer again to host the workshop on legislation and for the excellent arrangements.

   I would also like to thank Assistant Commissioner Krerkphong Pukprayura, the coordinator of Ad Hoc Experts’ Group II, for his advice and guidance in setting up this workshop and for freeing himself from a busy schedule to chair it over the next two days
   – and I acknowledge the dedication of IOM’s Bangkok Office in facilitating participation of many countries here today and the Australian Attorney-General’s Department in assisting General Krerkphong in developing a substantive and hopefully valuable program for our work.

   Since the second Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali in April, preparations have been underway on a range of practical activities to give effect to the decisions reached by Ministers at the Conference
   – as reflected in the co-chairs’ statement from the Conference.
Apart from this legislation workshop, the Republic of Korea hosted a very useful trafficking/public awareness workshop in Seoul in September this year.

Representatives from 21 Bali Process countries attended, and exchanged their experiences on developing public awareness campaigns on both people smuggling and trafficking in persons

- as well as domestic efforts to combat trafficking in persons
- Mr Cho will provide you with a full account shortly, and on plans to host a further workshop next year.

A suite of further Bali Process activities will take place prior to the Senior Officials’ review meeting which Ministers have asked be convened next year.

These activities, most of which were outlined in the IOM funding appeal document which was launched in Geneva on 19 September this year, include workshops on returns issues, asylum management, identity verification and the targeting of key people smugglers and traffickers in the region.

To take forward the activities agreed by Ministers and ensure coordination between the two AHEGs, the Bali Process Steering Group, comprising representatives of the co-chairs (Australia and Indonesia), the two Ad Hoc Experts’ Group coordinators (New Zealand and Thailand) and the two associate agencies to the Bali Process (the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), has met twice since the Conference, in Bangkok in June and in Canberra in October.

Countries will have differing degrees of interest in these activities and I should emphasise that it is up to national governments to determine which activities they want to be involved in and to what extent - consistent with the voluntary non-binding nature of the Bali process.
But for these to take place they need to be funded.

I would encourage all countries here today to consider seriously making either a financial or an in-kind contribution towards the Bali Process.

We have been fortunate so far to have had such a broad regional commitment to engagement by Bali Process countries since the first Ministerial Conference in February 2002.

A number of countries have generously hosted meetings or workshops over the past 15 months or so: Thailand, Brunei, Malaysia, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea and Indonesia

− and other countries that have assisted the Ad Hoc Experts’ Group coordinators on specific activities – Fiji, Kiribati, China, New Zealand and Australia.

On behalf of the co-chairs, Australia and Indonesia, I would like to thank all involved for their generous contribution of time and resources. And I would also like to thank those who have generously offered to host future activities.

I am looking forward to this workshop and I would encourage countries to participate actively both in the presentation sessions and in the smaller sub-groups tomorrow.

This workshop provides an important opportunity for a genuinely collaborative exchange to assist each other to build capacity – both in our own countries and through regional cooperation – to combat people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Effective legislation which criminalises people smuggling and trafficking in persons is the first key step towards successful prosecutions of the transnational organised criminals who engage in these activities

− combined with other measures such as mutual legal assistance, extradition, and tracing and seizing the proceeds of crime.
Such legislation needs to be developed and implemented in ways that are appropriate to the national circumstances of each particular country.

But for all of us the value of the Bali process will lie in its ability to strengthen and develop cooperation among operational agencies in regional countries to combat transnational crime.

I hope this workshop assists this process, that is, to increase regional cooperation on legislation and law enforcement issues.

I will be interested to hear from all of you tomorrow on Future Action and on what further follow-up measures would be useful after this workshop.

Thank you.