

BALI MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
AD HOC EXPERTS' GROUP II

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

IDENTITY MANAGEMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

SOME RECENT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL
INITIATIVES IN IDENTITY MANAGEMENT ¹

BANGKOK, 17-19 March 2004

¹ All information contained in this document has been obtained from publicly available sources

Recent Initiatives in Identity Management

Quick Reference Summary

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Australia

Conducting a face recognition trial at the Australia border with Australian aircrew

Work is progressing on the development of a microchip containing biometric information to be inserted in a new Australian national passport planned for release by October 2004

Brunei

Multipurpose identity card

- Contains biometric data
- Can be used for immigration entry and exit
- Has several other applications

Considering adding a biometric to national passport

Hong Kong SAR

Multipurpose identity card

- Contains biometric data
 - Can be used for immigration entry and exit
 - Has several other applications
-

Japan

Electronic check in trial is being conducted by All Nippon Airways

- Uses a smart card containing biometric data for quicker check in

Considering adding a biometric to national passport

Macao SAR

Multipurpose identity card

- Contains biometric data
 - Will incorporate several applications
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Malaysia

Multipurpose identity card

- Contains biometric data
- Can be used for immigration entry and exit
- Has several other applications

Multipurpose identity card is used as a travel document for some Malaysians to enter and exit Brunei

- Plan to initiate similar arrangements with Singapore
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Myanmar

Piloting a new e-passport

- Contains biometric data
 - Used for immigration purposes
-

New Zealand

Trialing facial recognition technology

- Captures facial images at the border and compares them against a database

Considering introduction of fingerprint access across a range of government agencies

People's Republic of China

National identity smart card

- Expected to assist authorities to combat identity fraud related crime
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Philippines

Introducing a smart identity card for foreign nationals

- Expected to assist authorities to combat illegal migration and people smuggling

Adding security features, including biometric technology, to passports and visas

Singapore

Considering adding a biometric to Singapore national passport

Immigration Automated Clearance system

- Uses a smart card with biometric information for immigration entry and exit

Considering the application of facial recognition technology across a number of government agencies

Thailand

Multipurpose identity card

- Contains biometric data
- Has several applications

Considering adding a microchip containing biometric information to the Thailand national passport

REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES

APEC

APEC Business Travel Card

- Enables visa free travel between APEC member countries
 - Expedites processing at immigration checkpoints
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Malaysia/Brunei

Frequent Traveller Card Pilot Project

- Eliminates the need for passports to travel between the two countries
 - Improves efficiency and reduce travel time
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PIDC

Training immigration officials in the Pacific region in document examination skills and training skills

- These officials then pass these skills on to other officials in countries throughout the region.
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Republic of Korea/Japan

E-check in trial

- Uses biometric identifiers to confirm passenger identity
-

Recent Initiatives in Identity Management

Detailed Description

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

AUSTRALIA

Facial recognition technology trial

The Australia Customs Service (ACS) is currently trialing the use of facial recognition technology. The trial is currently being conducted with the cooperation of QANTAS international flight crews, with a view to expand the project to other international travellers if it proves to be successful.

Biometric enabled electronic passport

The Australian Government is working towards the addition of a microchip, containing biometric information, in its national passport in order to comply with the new biometric requirement of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

BRUNEI

Smart Identity Card (SIC)

The Brunei Government has introduced a multipurpose identity card, the smart identity card (SIC). The SIC initially included compatibility with the national registration and immigration functions. The card functions were then expanded to include pension and other government services.

The SIC contains the template of two thumb prints, one digital photograph, general personal data and immigration specific data. Through an automated clearance system and the use of fingerprint biometrics technology, citizens can use the SIC instead of a national passport for entry and exit at immigration control points. All Brunei citizens, permanent residents and temporary residents are issued with a card. Frequent visitors can also be issued with a card. The SIC will be used to introduce a frequent traveller program between Brunei and Malaysia, to be introduced in 2004.

Biometric identifier addition to national passport

The Brunei Government is considering the addition of a biometric identifier to its national passport.

HONG KONG SAR

Smart ID

Smart ID is Hong Kong's new multipurpose identity card. The card contains biometric information and allows the holder to proceed quickly through automated processing centres at immigration checkpoints, which match the biometric data on the card with the holder's thumb prints.

The Smart ID card has a wide variety of other functions such as a driver's licence, a library card and a credit card. The card will have a 'digital certificate', which is used to authenticate a user's identity for the purpose of on-line transactions, providing a secure, convenient platform for e-commerce.

JAPAN

'e-Check in'

As part of the Japanese Government's 'e-Airport plan, All Nippon Airways (ANA) has commenced a trial of the 'e-Check in' biometric check for passengers using Narita airport. The Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation is promoting this trial for the wider application of technology in air transit centres.

'e-Check In' will use two different types of biometric identifiers, facial and iris recognition, to identify passengers. This biometric information will be stored on a personal identity card and verified at automated immigration checkpoints.

The scheme will run on a trial basis from December 2003 to the end of March 2004.

Biometric identifier addition to national passport

The Japan Government is considering the addition of a biometric identifier to its national passport in compliance with the new biometric requirement of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

MACAO SAR

Smart identity card

The Macao administration is introducing a multi-function smart identification card, which is being distributed to its residents over the next four years. The smart card contains biometric information and other security features.

The smart card will ultimately serve as a multi-application card, including identification card, driver's license, student card, medical card, social security card and electronic wallet.

MALAYSIA

MyKad

Malaysia launched its national multipurpose ID card, MyKad, on 5 September 2001. MyKad is a multi-function national identity card for citizens and permanent residents. MyKad currently functions as an identification card, a driver's licence, contains international passport information, health information, enables the use of e-cash and automated-teller machine services, toll-roads, parking and public transport and contains a 'digital signature' which enables secure e-commerce transactions. As part of MyKad there are a number of reading devices which will enhance its effectiveness:

- Mobile Card Acceptance Devices (CAD), which allow enforcement agencies to read cardholder information and verify fingerprints.
- Immigration Autogates, which facilitate automatic entry and exit at busy Immigration checkpoints.
- Key ring readers (KRR), which allow ordinary citizens access to basic information stored in the chip while enforcement officers use the larger and more powerful KRRs.

As of January 2004, MyKad has been used as a travel document for some Malaysians to enter and exit Brunei. The Singapore Government has indicated an interest in allowing MyKad to be used as a travel document for Malaysians travelling to Singapore.

MYANMAR

Electronic Passport (e-passport)

As part of their e-government project the Myanmar government have initiated a pilot e-passport project. The e-passport contains the owner's photograph, immigration data and thumb print.

The e-passport project was introduced at Rangoon airport using smart card technology supplied by Image Retrieval Identification System (IRIS).

This system is compatible with an autogate system which checks the passport chip and the holders fingerprint against a database. The autogate takes eight seconds to verify the card holder.

NEW ZEALAND

ID 2000

The New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS) is trialing the use of facial recognition technology to capture facial images of people entering New Zealand and cross check these images with a database of known people. Authorities are alerted if a match is made.

Fingerprint access

NZCS is considering a system under which its own staff would use their fingerprints to access computers or sensitive areas. The NZ Government is considering using this technology across a range of government agencies.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

National Identity Card

The PRC Government is phasing in a new digital national identity smart card. The card, which will be issued to all PRC citizens, contains an embedded microchip which stores an individual's personal information that can be read and checked against databases kept by China's authorities.

The new smart ID cards are expected to assist authorities to combat identity fraud related crime.

PHILIPPINES

Identity Card for foreign nationals

The Philippines Bureau of Immigration (BI) proposes to issue a smart identity card, containing biometric information, to all foreign nationals. The identity card is aimed at assisting the prevention of illegal migration and people smuggling and will assist the BI to monitor the legality of the duration and nature of stay of foreign nationals in the country.

Machine Readable Passports and Visa project

The project aims to simplify and modernise the visa grant process and will introduce security features in visas and passports. In compliance with international standards these security changes will incorporate the use of biometric identifiers.

SINGAPORE

Biometric identifier addition to national passport

The Singapore Government is considering the addition of a biometric identifier to its national passport in compliance with the new biometric requirement of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

Immigration Automated Clearance System (IACS)

Frequent travellers who wish to use the IACS can apply for a personalised Access Card, which stores the holder's fingerprint data. This card contains biometric information and allows the holder to proceed quickly through automated processing centres at immigration checkpoints, which match the biometric data on the card with the holder's fingerprints.

The IACS system was implemented in 1997 at Changi Airport and was consequently extended to land border checkpoints at Tuas in 1998 and Woodlands in 1999. In addition to Singapore Citizens, the IACS system is available to non-citizens who have been granted long-term visas.

Facial recognition technology

The Singapore Government is exploring the use of face recognition technology in order to improve systems across a number of government agencies.

THAILAND

National Identity Card

The Thai Government plans to issue a national identity card to all its citizens. The card will contain biometric identification, personal details, health, insurance, tax and welfare benefit information. It is proposed that government agencies would be able to select the information to be stored. The card may also contain a driver's licence, job title, membership of any organisations or be used as an e-purse or e-passport in the future.

E-Passport

The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considering adding a biometric identifier to its national passport. The passport would contain a microchip containing all the relevant passport information as well as a possible range of biometric data.

REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)

The ABTC, which must be used in conjunction with a valid passport, enables visa-free travel between APEC countries and expedited processing at immigration checkpoints. The card is available to approved business travellers from APEC member countries.

APEC's 21 Member countries are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Vietnam.

The ABTC is ICAO type one, which means that it is credit card sized, contains a photographic image, signature and has a machine-readable zone.

MALAYSIA/BRUNEI

Frequent Traveller Card (FTC)

Malaysia and Brunei plan to introduce the Frequent Traveller Card (FTC) to facilitate travel of their citizens between the two countries. This will eliminate the need for passports, improve efficiency and reduce travel time.

The FTC will be trialed in 2004. Malaysians will be able to use their MyKad in place of the FTC, while citizens of Brunei will be able to use their Smart Identity Card.

PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE (PIDC)

Training initiative

The PIDC is providing technical training for training instructors in the Pacific region. In May 2003, 15 immigration officials from countries in the Pacific region participated in the 'Border Control Training Program 2003', coordinated by the PIDC Secretariat. The training focussed on developing document examination skills and training skills. The trainers who participated in the program will now pass these skills on to other officials in countries throughout the region.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA/JAPAN

'e-Check In'

The Republic of Korea and Japanese governments will be trialing a new e-Check In system at Incheon International Airport in Korea. The system uses facial recognition during the check in process and confirms the passenger's identity by checking their iris using an infra-red beam.

Various technologies have been used to build the system, including products from Imaging Automation and Iridian. The tests are being conducted from 8 January 2004 to 30 June 2004. About 5,000 travellers will participate.
