

BALI MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AD HOC EXPERTS' GROUP II

REGIONAL WORKSHOP IDENTITY MANAGEMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

BACKGROUND

Bali Ministerial Conference

At the Bali Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Co-Chairs recognised that the increase in all forms of illegal migration posed a threat to the management of countries' capacities to protect their borders, regulate migration and safeguard their citizens. They agreed that, subject to domestic laws and national circumstances, countries would work towards developing effective information and intelligence sharing arrangements and enhancing cooperation on border and visa systems to improve the detection and to fight against illegal immigration networks.

One of the outcomes of the Conference was the establishment of follow-up meetings of experts to take concrete steps to implement the recommendations. The Ad Hoc Experts' Group II of the Bali Ministerial Conference was established to focus on policy, legislation and law enforcement issues. It is mandated with targeted follow-up workshops and meetings aimed at achieving concrete results.

Proof of Identity Issues

The effective management of identity poses a challenge for immigration, law enforcement and other government agencies for all countries in the broader Asia/Pacific region. The incidence of identity fraud has become increasingly widespread in recent years as the phenomena of illegal immigration, multiple applications for visas by the same person at different locations and people smuggling and trafficking in persons have developed into major challenges affecting our region.

Perpetrators of identity fraud are able to use improved desktop publishing technology to create false identities in order to commit financial fraud, disguise criminal or terrorist activities as well as to move across international or national borders.

For countries in the region to engage with each other and to cooperate in efforts to deal with the major threat of identity fraud, there needs to be legislative and identification regimes in place that are consistent with international best practice principles and that facilitate the sharing of information on document examination techniques and lost and stolen travel documents. In an era of rapid technological advancement, which sees state of the art technology become available to the consumer market with increasing speed, such coordination is essential if countries wish to gain an advantage over criminal elements exploiting weaknesses in identity management regimes.

PROPOSAL

To hold an Experts Workshop with a focus on regional identity that provides for a practical exchange of information and contact with officials from Immigration, Entry or National Identity agencies with relevant policy and technical expertise. The workshop will explore opportunities for cooperation in dealing with identity fraud and the potential for cooperative regional approaches to building capacity - for example, in identifying the possibilities for the sharing of expertise, procedures, intelligence information, training, available and new technology, use of standards and data matching.

The workshop is a first step in the exploration of opportunities for cooperation - where countries can exchange information about how they identify who is entering, remaining and departing their country, how regional cooperation could be initiated, maintained and improved, and the impact of international standards on current procedures.

The workshop will be hosted by the Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Experts' Group II in Thailand, with the support of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Australia.

THE WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Identify current national and regional proof of identity processes in order to explore:

- opportunities for regional and international cooperation in dealing with identity fraud; and
 - the potential for cooperative regional approaches to building capacity.
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Date: 17 to 19 March 2004

Location: Baiyoke Sky Hotel, Bangkok

Host: Coordinator, Ad Hoc Experts' Group II

Participants: Ad Hoc Experts' Group II participating countries (see attached list):
Two participants from each country who are experts in identity issues:

- one technical expert, at strategic level
- one policy expert in developing business solutions

Observers: Ad Hoc Experts' Group II observers (see attached list)

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

A. INTRODUCTION

Welcome and opening remarks

Overview

Relationship to the Bali Ministerial Conference process, opportunities for cooperation and assistance, identifying partnerships.

B. KEY NOTE ADDRESS

Identity fraud - threats and risks, opportunities for practical cooperation, the international context, the way forward.

C. COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

National initiatives and developments

The need for cooperative effort within and outside the region

Aligning national, regional and international standards for effective cooperation.

D. FACILITATED PANEL DISCUSSION

Discussion of issues arising from the presentations in the context of potential for regional cooperation

E. PLENARY DISCUSSION PRIOR TO WORK GROUP SESSIONS

What identity fraud issues do countries currently face?

F. FACILITATED WORK GROUP SESSIONS

What potential is there for cooperation in how we identify people moving between borders?

What is the potential for cooperation to develop regional technical capacity building strategies?

What international standards need to be explored for effective regional cooperation?

G. REPORTS TO PLENARY SESSION

H. CHAIR'S SUMMARY AND CLOSING REMARKS

AD HOC EXPERTS' GROUP II PARTICIPANTS

Myanmar India	Bangladesh Nepal	Sri Lanka Pakistan	Bhutan
Brunei Laos Singapore	Thailand Vietnam Indonesia	Cambodia Malaysia	Timor Leste Philippines
PR China RO Korea	DPR Korea Hong Kong SAR	Japan Macau SAR	Mongolia
Fiji Nauru PNG Australia	Samoa Vanuatu Tonga	Kiribati New Zealand France (New Caledonia)	Solomons Palau
Afghanistan Turkey	Iran Iraq	Jordan	Syria
Agencies: IOM	UNHCR		

AD HOC EXPERTS' GROUP II OBSERVERS

Austria Denmark Italy	Norway Spain UK	Belgium Finland Netherlands	Russian Fed Switzerland
Canada	USA		
ASEAN Sec't EU World Bank	IGC ICRC UNDCCP	PIF Sec't UNDP ADB	Interpol ILO