

Introductory Remarks,
Police General Nopadol Somboonsub
Deputy Commissioner General, Royal Thai Police

I am pleased to be with you here today on behalf of the Royal Thai Police and the Kingdom of Thailand to welcome you to Bangkok for this important workshop on Identity Management – Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation. Over the past two years, General Krerkphong has kept me closely apprised of the Bali Process follow-up and, in particular, the important contribution that has been made by the Ad-Hoc Experts' Group II on Policy, Legislation and Law Enforcement, to strengthen regional cooperation in the area of law enforcement and legislative development – both critical in the fight against the growing menace of transnational organized crime.

Perhaps it is fitting then, that we are holding this workshop in Thailand's tallest building, as its very structure stands as a testament to the heights that can be achieved, despite the inherent challenges, when supported by sound planning and a solid foundation. The challenge to eliminate human smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime is indeed a formidable challenge. However, it is not insurmountable. Through the work of the Bali Process, our ministers have provided the planning and framework for addressing this challenge. And, through the work of the two Ad Hoc Experts' Groups we have begun building the foundation to achieve our goal, brick by brick, through the undertaking of practical steps to improve information and intelligence sharing, and cooperation in the areas of legislative development and law enforcement.

The aim of this workshop is therefore to provide another opportunity for you to make contact with your regional counterparts in immigration, border control and national identity agencies to advance these efforts and strengthen our foundation, through exchanging information and seeking to define new strategies for improved identity management. I am confident that our efforts over the next three days to forge cooperation in the area of identity management will lead to concrete recommendations

that will greatly contribute to our fight against people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime. I wish you much success.