

**Ad-Hoc Experts' Group II  
Identity Management Workshop  
Bangkok, Thailand**

**17-19 March 2004**

*Summary of Outcomes*

A workshop on Identity Management was hosted by Ad Hoc Experts' Group II on Policy, Legislation and Law Enforcement in Bangkok, Thailand from 17-19 March 2004. The workshop was part of a programme of ongoing practical activities to give effect to Ministers' decisions at the Second Regional Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali in April 2003.

The workshop was officially opened by Police General Nopadol Somboonsub, Deputy Commissioner General, Royal Thai Police. Participants at the workshop included representatives from the national immigration, police and consular services of the following countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste DR, Turkey and Vietnam. The Workshop was chaired by the Coordinator of Experts' Group II, Police Major General Kerkphong Pukprayura, with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Observers representing the following countries and agencies also attended: Austria, Canada, European Commission, South Africa, Spain, Romania, United States, APC, IFRC and the PIDC.

The workshop included presentations on initiatives and developments in a number of countries including Hong Kong's smart identity card system, Singapore's automated clearance system, the application of advanced passenger processing at Bangkok International airport, Indonesia's Smart Card technology and passport microchips, Bangladesh's database software "FORTRAC" for tracking outbound and incoming passengers' movement, and New Zealand's advanced passenger screening and biometrics. Participants also received an overview of initiatives being implemented by the Pacific Immigration Director's Conference (PIDC) and an outline by the United States of some practical challenges faced in assisting implementation of border management systems. A member of the Immigration, Compliance and Enforcement "ICE" Team<sup>1</sup> in Bangkok delivered a session on travel identity substitution.

Additionally, participants benefited from the presence of companies specializing in identity and security issues which set-up displays outside the workshop venue. The companies displayed examples of a range of security features and gave practical demonstrations of the use of high security papers and inks, specialized printing processes, use of biometrics and microchip technologies.

---

<sup>1</sup> Immigration Control Experts team members include: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and a representative of the Nordic Countries.

The objectives of the workshop were to 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.

Participants agreed that identity fraud was directly linked to the crimes of human smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes, including terrorism, and that the effective management of identity issues poses a challenge for immigration, law enforcement and other government agencies for all countries in the broader Asia/Pacific region.

It was further noted that Bali process countries were geographically, technologically and developmentally diverse and that efforts to improve identity management poses a variety of challenges relating to:

- the availability and reliability of base documents for establishing identity;
- demographic and cultural issues
- stage of development of particular countries
- availability of resources, financial and human
- types of borders
- technological capability
- availability of information

It was acknowledged that countries were all at different points in the development of identity management systems. Taking this into account, the workshop participants considered a range of options that could be applied as appropriate to each country's respective circumstances. In identifying these options participants were in agreement that fundamental to any identity management system were core competencies of relevant officials in identity verification in respect to immigration processes, including document examination and interviewing techniques and imposter recognition. It was noted that the application of advanced security measures including the use of micro-chips, biometrics and the like was a step by step process and that its effectiveness was dependent upon ongoing training and staff development.

In seeking to identify recommendations for improved identity management, participants considered how we identify people moving between borders, the potential for cooperation in developing regional identity management strategies and the importance of international standards in effective regional cooperation.

The following recommendations came from these discussions. States should:

1. endeavour to develop best practice guidelines for the initial establishment of identity, including the potential for the standardization of those documents that are required for

issue of travel documents and taking into account local conditions and circumstances;  
(Australia and China to assist)

2. develop mechanisms for the regional coordination of training – both human and technological – for example, training in facial recognition techniques similar to that provided by the Immigration Compliance and Enforcement (ICE) team located in Bangkok (AHEG II Coordinator/IOM/ICE Team Member Countries);
3. raise awareness of international standards relevant to identity management (establish link on Bali Process website to relevant international standards on identity documentation);
4. develop cooperative mechanisms to avoid duplication of effort and maximize communication of the above issues (consider an equivalent capacity to, for example, the PIDC, which provides a useful model for the collection and dissemination of information to member states. Other potential mechanisms include the development of a central register of national initiatives within the region and globally and coordination between the Bali Process and other regional processes.);
5. develop coordination mechanisms to assess priorities for assistance and capacity building within the region;
6. support a regional approach to information sharing about identity documentation, lost and stolen passports, relevant alert lists for persons of concern, and similar matters (linked with ongoing efforts of AHEG I);
7. share contact details of conference participants to strengthen future communication between relevant agencies within the participant countries (Bali Process Website);
8. implement security technology solutions that are realistic and practicable and that take into account their own infrastructural circumstances.