

Opening Remarks by Co-Chair, Mr Arron Baker at Bali Ministerial Process Workshop on Enabling Electronic Authentication of Travel Document Information, 21 August 2007

Welcome to New Zealand and to the third Bali workshop focused on building our ability to identify and prevent the use of invalid passports to smuggle and traffic people.

Over the next two days we aim to provide participants with detailed information on systems such as the APEC Regional Movement Alert System (RMAS) and Interpol's Stolen and Lost Travel Document system (MIND).

The workshop will also provide detailed information on the operational arrangements in place to ensure 'hits' against non genuine travel document alerts are managed and genuine travellers are not inconvenienced.

We will also be sharing and providing information on Memoranda of Understanding and legal frameworks for linking border management and passport information systems within countries and internationally.

During the interactive experts working group session later I hope we can explore and document potential approaches to integrating border management systems with passport systems that make the most of the different strengths of different systems.

Finally we hope to create a resource which will benefit participants into the future by sharing technical materials, contact points and capacity building opportunities to assist participants in advancing border management and passport authentication systems to better combat trans national crime - in particular people smuggling and people trafficking.

We hope to facilitate increased participation by Bali Process members in bilateral and multilateral systems such as APEC's Regional Movement Alert System (RMAS) and Interpol for preventing the use of non genuine passports.

Finally I would like to reflect on the reason we are here and have worked so hard over the past five years - that is to combat the terrible crime of people trafficking, better protect the victims of this crime and identify and prevent the trans national criminal groups behind this modern day slavery.

Thank you