

Introductory Remarks:
Police Major General Krerkphong Pukprayura
Deputy Commissioner, Royal Thai Police

Distinguished delegates, it is my pleasure to be with you here today in my capacity as Thematic Coordinator for Policy and Law Enforcement Response to work together toward achieving institutional frameworks to support the sharing of information, beginning with the electronic exchange of information on lost, stolen or non-genuine travel documents. Since I took on the role of Thematic Coordinator in 2002, I have been involved in a comprehensive range of activities and efforts to improve and identify best practices in law enforcement cooperation and response to include issues of identify verification and document fraud, development of supporting legislation, targeting people smugglers and traffickers, developing inter-agency national action plans as well as previous workshops on lost and stolen passports.

I believe that the unique regional networking opportunities that the Bali Process has provided have led to tangible results and have greatly contributed to improved cooperation on law enforcement response across the region; though, I personally feel that there is still much to be done. Because of the present global climate of transnational crime & terrorist activities, we continue to be challenged with improving our border management efforts through enacting risk management practices and strategies aimed at reducing migration risks before they reach our shores, through the sharing of intelligence with our overseas immigration counterparts and participating in information sharing systems, such as APP, API and RMAL. The 2005 workshop on Lost and Stolen passports, which was hosted by Thailand, with the technical support of New Zealand, resulted in recommendations that efforts be strengthened to facilitate and progress the development of effective regional arrangements for secure electronic sharing and accessing of information on lost, stolen and non-genuine travel documents in complement with work being done in other fora, including APEC, ASEAN Interpol and ICAO. Toward this end the 93 participants of the Bangkok meeting agreed that to achieve improved information sharing standards, states should seek to improve legislation in support of information exchange and develop capabilities to store and exchange data electronically, and enter into international

agreements that would allow for real time, online verification of accurate lost, stolen and non-genuine travel document information between participating countries.

In so doing, our border management efforts can be extended overseas, through strengthened cooperation with points of departure, allowing us to address potential migration offenders and challenges before they reach our shores. While there remains operational and technical unevenness within our vast region, our presence here at this workshop suggests that, while perhaps not immediately achievable, this goal should remain a valid objective to our collective efforts in streamlining and making more effective our border management efforts and maintaining the integrity of our borders.

I therefore look forward to participating with you in this workshop to exchange perspectives and seek avenues to achieve progressive strategies for sharing of lost and stolen passport information that will be beneficial to our national as well as regional efforts to reduce and eliminate transnational crime.

I wish you all a successful workshop,

Thank you.