

Working Group A Report

Working Group A addressed the integration of travel document status and authentication tools into existing border management systems based upon conference presentations on the Regional Movement Alert System (RMAS) (RMAS) and the INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Document Database systems. The value of each was acknowledged.

Regarding RMAS, it was noted that Australia is developing an implementation tool kit that will simplify the engineering requirements for integration into existing border management systems. Australia will provide updates on the status of this effort at the upcoming APEC Senior Officials Meeting I (SOM I) scheduled February 2008.

Initial discussion amongst the working group members focused upon a holistic approach to identity management/border security with general discourse on the utility of each of the aforementioned systems. It was agreed that maximizing the benefit of the INTERPOL and RMAS systems required identifying the most appropriate junctures for the integration of these systems into border security architectures, which may be spread across multiple departments or ministries.

Within the working group broad discussion on the integration of such tools led to the identification of a number of challenges:

- Communication flow of information between all key stakeholders (border control, enforcement agencies, national crime bureaus, document issuance agencies, airlines, travel bureaus, etc.)
- Coordination and commitment of all stakeholders, as there are more stakeholders at the border than immigration or police agencies (whole-of-Government approach to the application of data)
- Willingness to engage with the processes associated with each system is a greater barrier than the technological challenges (for example submitting information to INTERPOL on a regular basis)
- Integration of RMAS and INTERPOL into legacy border systems; i.e., system engineering requirements, cost of dedicated telecommunications (fixed line), disparate application systems, state of automation
- Airlines may be reluctant to provide information due in part to diverse domestic legislative requirements, and lack of international standards.

Recognising these challenges, the working group looked at ways to move all participants to a position where they are able to contribute data and access it in a timely and effective manner.

Specific recommendations included:

- a) the establishment and maintenance of relationships between National Crime Bureaus and appropriate immigration/travel document issuance agencies
- b) regular submission of data to INTERPOL, and
- c) using information from RMAS, INTERPOL and other tools at the earliest point possible in border management processes.