

REPORT ON RESULTS OF PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

Responses received

1. Twelve survey responses were received – from Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Laos, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Turkey.
2. The responses show a substantial variety of practice and systems in different countries

Passport Agencies

3. Responsibility for issuing passports lies with:
 - The Ministry or Department of Foreign Affairs (7 countries)
 - The Immigration agency (3 countries)
 - The Interior Ministry (1 country)
 - The National Police (1 country)

Electronic Storage of Information

4. Passport information is stored electronically in 11 of the 12 respondent countries but is not always available to other systems – even in the same agency.

Provision of lost and stolen passport information to other countries

5. Seven countries provide information on a regular basis (or on request) through diplomatic and consular channels to other countries. Information is provided on paper or on computer disks. Electronic transfer via the Internet is not used.
6. Three countries currently supply lost and stolen passport information to Interpol. Four other countries are considering this or intending to do so in the near future.
7. Two countries supply a (nearly) full copy of their passport database - or make their passport database available for 'real time' status queries - as part of cooperative APP arrangements. One of these countries also has arrangements to share lost and stolen passport information on CDROM with a third partner country.

Legal Barriers

8. Identified legal barriers to providing lost and stolen passport information to other countries are:
 - Privacy issues/concerns/laws (4 countries)
 - Security regulations on Internet transmission (1 country)
 - Specific legal restrictions on the disclosure/use of passport information (1 country)

Operational, Policy, or Other Barriers

9. Identified barriers/issues were:

- Need to have arrangements (24/7 response centres) to ensure that 'hits' against supplied information are not the result of data errors or inaccuracies, and that genuine travellers are not hindered unnecessarily
- Security of data supplied
- IT system capacity
- IT system security
- A framework of satisfactory agreements/MoUs on data supply and use
- Agreed processes (including consultation arrangements) for dealing with situations where there are 'hits' against supplied data
- Support staff trained and in place

Existing Bilateral Agreements

10. Formal agreements to manage the exchange of immigration and passport information currently exist between:

- Australia and New Zealand
- Australia and the United States

11. Arrangements are being developed by Australia and New Zealand with Interpol.

12. Turkey has Security and Cooperation, Readmission, and counter-human trafficking agreements with other countries.