

*Cambodia's Approach
To
Trafficking in Persons Presented by
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Mr. Co-Chairs
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Cambodia's Delegation, I would like to express our profound appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality accorded to us.

I would like also to convey our sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Australia for their assistance of international development to Cambodia and people, particularly their legal assistance to carve Cambodia's today Counter-Terrorism Law, and presently to draft Anti- Smuggling of Migrant Law, just to name a few.

Last and not least, I would like to extend our warmest appreciation to the Organizing Committee, International Organization for Migration, for its tireless efforts and excellent arrangement to make our participation in this important forum possible and pleasant.

Distinguished Delegates,

You have seen in the past few minutes on the most constructive presentation of Indonesia on trends of trafficking in persons. You have heard AHG Workshop summaries from October 2009 to December 2010 with great articulation. The context of summaries filled with deep encouragement indicated that the participants of Bali Process have achieved a number of effective mechanisms to tackle smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.

I- Trafficking in Persons Situation:

For more than 2 thousand kilometers stretching the porous borders with Lao DPR, Thailand and Vietnam, Cambodia is generally facing the correlation between trafficking in persons, smuggling migrants and security, because of cross-border nature, with particular reference to terrorism.

Cambodia considers the Trafficking in Persons is the global problem. Cambodia is alarmingly facing acts of people trafficking and smuggling that are staged by organized crime networks. Cambodia also becomes the transit for people trafficking and smuggling for the past decade.

The trafficking in persons is an epidemic disease that afflicts dignity, rights and serenity of vulnerable women and children worldwide through sexual exploitation and labor exploitation. The traffickers' strategic plans are usually out performed law enforcers' actions if complacency takes place.

Therefore, effective mechanisms in preventing and combating the infestation require national and international collective cooperation. Bali Process is the suitable forum for all of us to commit ourselves with one voice to suppress those traffickers for the sake of the vulnerable women and children of ours.

In recent years, there has been a remarkable increase of people movement in South East Asia to search for employment due to the disparity of wealth and level of economic development from one country to another in the region.

While the ASEAN infrastructure is nearly complete for the regional economic integration, it is expected that the irregular movement of people will continue to be on the rise. The traffickers crave the influx of people. The immigration policy of the destination country is however getting more stringent. Criminal syndicates undoubtedly exploit the irregular movement of people to make profit from visa arrangement at the border control check point of the destination country.

II. Cambodia's Challenges:

A substantive program of regional workshops has effectively addressed a number of priority action areas identified by the attendees including the Cambodian law enforcers, who profited greatly by knowledge and skill transfer from the regional partners. Yet the Cambodian law enforcers still lack of the followings:

- Information on safe labor market and on danger of risky migration
- Legal norms on the suppression of people trafficking and smuggling
- Effective communication and cooperation mechanisms between country of origin, transit and destination country
- Strategic information exchange to timely apprehend the offenders and mutually investigate their case and to prosecute them

III. Cambodia's Approaches for Solutions:

From Cambodia's perspective, the problem is clear: there is a general lack of understanding between Member States of the real situation borders, the different means by which each country regulates its immigration and border control matters, and the actual system that each country has in place. To remedy this situation, Cambodia suggests the following elements be included in any serious effort to enhance border control and immigration matters between Member States:

- As a first step, personnel from each country should be designated as focal points for these matters. The focal points would be primarily responsible for each of the substantive activities that are necessary to actually achieve greater cross border cooperation on these matters.
- A detailed review should be conducted of the laws and regulations by which each country implements its border control and immigration activities. This should be conducted by officials from each Member State, as designated by the focal points. Through this process, representatives would achieve a clear understanding of each others' systems, and would also specifically identify and recommend areas in which each

country's regulations can be harmonized to enable greater cooperation.

- Conduct a series of site visits to the various Member State border crossings. These visits would include officials from each relevant State. Building on the understanding of each country's regulatory approach, these visits would provide "real-life information" about steps that are necessary to improve border control and immigration operations.
- Detailed information sharing about the data bases that each country uses to compile and track border crossing and immigration matters. This should be followed by an agreement to fully share the information contained in each country's databases, as well as a long term effort to harmonize these systems so that they are mutually compatible and can be readily accessed by all Member States.
- There should be dedicated trainings for all border control and immigration personnel from each country. These trainings would enhance understanding about each country's procedures and databases, and provide the basis for enhanced day-to-day cooperation between member countries at the working level.
- Cambodia would be pleased to participate in each of these activities. Cambodia is also eager to learn and carefully consider any specific Member States' proposals in this regard. Cambodia believes that in the long term all Member countries should adopt a common system for addressing immigration and border issues, and hopes that the cooperation that is currently under discussion among member countries can be a first step in this regard, mainly aiming to effectively prevent and to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

Cambodia looks forward to hearing in more detail in the specific sorts of recommendations that Member States propose on border control and immigration, and looks forward to close cooperation with them on these issues.

Thank you for your kind attention.

