

**Bali Process Workshop on ‘Operationalising Immigration Intelligence’
Singapore, 17-19 January 2006**

Workshop Co-Chairs’ Summary

The Bali Process Workshop on Operationalising Immigration Intelligence was held in Singapore from 17 to 19 January 2006. The Workshop was hosted by Singapore, and co-chaired by Australia and Singapore.

The Workshop was attended by 52 delegates, representing the governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, France (New Caledonia), Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, People’s Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Coordinator for Bali Process Follow-up Activities related to Policy and Law Enforcement Issues and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) also participated in the Workshop.

The Workshop was opened by Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs (Singapore), Mr Mohamad Maidin Bin Packer Mohd. In his opening speech, Mr Mohamad Maidin stressed the importance of having good collaboration among immigration and border protection agencies in combating crime and terrorism in the midst of increasing globalisation.

The Workshop adopted the following objectives:

- To understand the role and use of immigration intelligence for operational purposes;
- To share information on practical experiences on the collection, analysis and use of intelligence; and
- To develop working documents on practical processes/ measures to address illegal immigration problems using available intelligence.

Presentations were made on four themes: Pre-Arrival Processing, At the Border (Air Arrivals), At the Border (Land Border Crossings), and Post-Arrival Investigations.

The presentations provided the opportunity for robust discussion by participants. Participants noted several key issues in operationalising immigration intelligence, including:

- Timely and accurate pre-arrival intelligence to support risk management at checkpoints;
- The need to prioritise and address the impediments to the effective use of information and immigration intelligence;
- Collaboration and intelligence sharing amongst domestic and foreign agencies (including non-government organizations); and

- Networking and cooperation with Bali Process member countries and international organisations in sharing information.

These were highlighted by specific case studies.

The participants formed themselves into four break-out groups and continued the discussions on the four themes. During the lively and interactive discussions, the participants drew on their own experiences in mitigating risks, countering immigration offences and using immigration intelligence. Based on the outcomes of these discussions, they then listed cases detected and the risks faced by the authorities. The groups also discussed current measures adopted to mitigate these risks and the future measures that could be adopted. Finally, the groups produced a list of good practices and additional measures that could be put in place to reduce these risks.

The break-out groups' comprehensive reports in the plenary session highlighted key immigration risks faced in pre-arrival processing as well as air and land arrivals. These included the difficulties in authenticating the identities of the travellers and verifying their travel documents. While immigration officers were concerned about the truthfulness of the particulars provided and the intentions of the travellers, they also faced challenges in effectively differentiating between forged/counterfeit travel documents and genuine ones, given the increasing sophistication of criminals and the technology available to them. In terms of post-arrival investigations, participants noted that some travellers posed the risks of overstaying and engaging in illegal activities.

Participants noted the various measures adopted by regional countries to mitigate the risks. These included leveraging technology and information sources that could screen and profile travellers as well as detect forged and counterfeit travel documents, implementing protocols, processes and structures to disseminate intelligence to ground officers, and sharing information with relevant enforcement agencies. Participants agreed that appropriate legislation, including the administration of appropriate sanctions, was an important and necessary factor in preventing undesirable activities.

The groups noted that to enhance current measures and implement new ones, they would have to have greater access to appropriate technologies, have better communication infrastructure and to take a pro-active effort to share intelligence. Educating and cultivating the public as a potential source of information on immigration offences could also be considered. The summary of the break-out groups' findings is attached at [Annex A](#).

The Workshop identified key themes in relation to operationalising immigration intelligence ([Annex B](#)). Participating countries may draw upon this menu to develop or enhance their processes and/or measures for application to their particular situations.

Participants endorsed the implementation of the following action plans:

- Australia to develop a communication list and the first stage of a communication protocol by April 2006;
- Hong Kong SAR Immigration to compile a list of the general terminologies relating to immigration intelligence;

- Hong Kong SAR Immigration, New Zealand Immigration, and the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) agreed to circulate relevant bulletins to other member countries on completion of a communication list; and
- Participating countries to consider convening regular meetings with embassy staff, host government officials, airlines staff and other stakeholders for the purpose of exchanging operational information.

In addition, participating countries expressed a willingness to work together to establish and enhance communication networks for sharing of information.

Workshop participants expressed their appreciation for the hospitality of Singapore in hosting the workshop and the assistance provided by the Workshop secretariat.

Australia and Singapore (Workshop Co-Chairs)
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