



# REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

## BALI PROCESS

The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

### RSO NEWSLETTER

Edition Four

#### Message from the Co-Managers

With our visit to the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in June 2013, we have taken forward the recommendation from the Fifth Regional Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process, to work with JCLEC to develop a program of cooperation and training which would bring together law enforcement and immigration management experts to build capacity and strengthen the capabilities of Member states.

Ministers highlighted the value of linking the Bali Process with the law enforcement training expertise of existing centres of excellence. It was further agreed that the Bali Process would establish cooperation with JCLEC.

The RSO team was very appreciative of the opportunity to visit JCLEC and impressed by the JCLEC facilities. The possible opportunities the centre may present for the RSO and the Bali Process are promising as discussions proved to be both productive and constructive and we have commenced exploring avenues of cooperation. Overall, regional engagement and ownership by Bali Process members will be critical to the success of the envisioned regional network of existing centres of excellence.

Greg Kelly  
Co-Manager (Australia)

Bebeb A.K.N. Djundjuna  
Co-Manager (Indonesia)



#### Contents

- Message from the Co-Managers.....page 1
- Stakeholder Meeting on Combatting Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Bangkok, 21 June 2013 .....page 2
- RSO to facilitate drafting of policy guides to support UNTOC implementation.....page 2
- RSO participates in Fourth Global Meeting of RCPs.....page 2
- Update on RSO Foundation Projects.....page 3
- Forthcoming—RSO Capacity Building Catalogue.....page 4
- RSO Roster of Experts.....page 4
- Bali Process members encouraged to nominate RSO National Focal Points.....page 4
- RSO Meeting with the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees in Europe, North America and Australia (IGC) .....page 4
- RSO Engagement with Civil Society.....page 5
- Follow-up: The RSO - Technical officer secondment .....page 5
- Launch of the Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC) .....page 5



## Stakeholder Meeting on Combatting Trafficking in Persons (TiP) in Bangkok, 21 June 2013



At the Fifth Regional Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process in April 2013, Ministers agreed that the Bali Process would establish a working group to specifically focus on addressing trafficking in persons (TiP) issues. To scope the range and types of activities for RSO involvement in lieu of a future working group on TiP, the RSO organized an Anti-Trafficking Stakeholder Meeting in Bangkok on 21 June 2013.

The meeting aimed to reach a better understanding of current initiatives in addressing trafficking issues in Asia and the Pacific, to identify gaps in efforts and difficulties in combatting trafficking in the region, in particular with regard to regional training activities, and to delineate where the RSO can add value in supporting on-going initiatives or engaging in new activities.

The meeting was attended by representatives of NGOs in the field of combatting TiP, UN agencies with programmes and projects on TiP, by diplomatic missions supporting or implementing counter-trafficking projects and by representatives of the RSO.



At the meeting, participants highlighted the need for regional data integration across agencies and encouraged the RSO to explore the possibility to create a central hub for information on implementation and services for victims of trafficking in Asia and the Pacific.

## RSO to facilitate drafting of policy guides to support UNTOC implementation

At the Fifth Regional Ministerial Conference, the RSO was tasked to develop policy guides which could be used by states across a range of domestic agencies to promote a consistent understanding of international legal obligations and assist in developing effective domestic legislation. The policy guides will support countries in implementing obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons protocols, in particular obligations related to criminalization.

With RSO support, Thailand and Australia are taking the lead in a drafting committee that is currently being established. The drafting committee will consist of a small number of interested Bali Process Member states to prepare a draft of the policy guides. Once drafted, the policy guides will be shared with all Bali Process members for input and comment to ensure an inclusive approach. As a first step, the RSO has drafted a work plan and Terms of Reference for the drafting committee. A first drafting committee meeting is scheduled for August 2013.

## RSO participates in Fourth Global Meeting of RCPs

The RSO participated in the Fourth Global Meeting of RCP Chairs and Secretariats themed *Defining the Place of RCPs in a Changing International Migration Landscape* took place in Lima, Peru, on 22-23 May 2013, with representatives of RCP Chairs and Secretariats, regional bodies and inter-regional forums on migration, and experts from ICMPD, ILO, IOM and UNHCR.

Key conclusions of the meeting highlighted, among others, the need for advancing interaction between the regional and inter-regional level with a view to improving outcomes for both migrants and states. Further, it was concluded that deepening the evidence base, information exchange and the sharing of lessons learned constitute important next steps for enhancing the benefits of migration for human and societal development. For more information on the Fourth Global Meeting, [click here](#).

The RSO's engagement with RCPs has specific and



mutual benefits for both Bali Process member states and RCPs from other regions. For further information on the RSO's engagement with RCPs, please refer to the RSO INFORMATION SHEET: [Engagement with Regional Consultative Process on Migration](#)

## Update on RSO Foundation Projects

The RSO's engagement with Bali Process members continues through the four foundation projects covering key migration and refugee protection issues. As the first foundation project to be completed, the **Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea in the Asia-Pacific** has been concluded. Consideration is currently given by the RSO on how to take work forward including securing funding for follow-up activities. Options might include capacity building on addressing irregular migration by sea and activities to map disembarkation options and develop a set of guide lines on disembarkation.

In respect of the other foundation projects, progress is well advanced, and members are encouraged to participate.

### **Enhancing Collection, Use and Sharing of Data**

**Overview:** This project, implemented by IOM, promotes improved information management between States and international organizations by enhancing data collection, supporting further analysis and reporting, and facilitating information sharing and dialogue. It is funded by the Australian Government.

A comprehensive Online Questionnaire has been developed by IOM as the first step of the project research to collect vital information on immigration data management from each Bali Process member country. The goal of this exercise is to retrieve accurate and complete information to be used for additional research and analysis to support the development of regional mechanisms and to improve migration management among Bali Process member coun-

tries. The Questionnaire has been launched in some member countries, and will be expanded to all member countries in the coming days. It is expected that questionnaire results will be received by September 2013, allowing for subsequent research to be conducted during the last quarter of the year. Active participation in completing the questionnaire by Bali Process member states will be critical to the success of the project. In this regard, the RSO encourages member states to nominate a government focal point to be engaged in the questionnaire exercise.

### **Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance**

**Overview:** This pilot project aims to raise awareness of voluntary repatriation opportunities for irregular migrants and enhancing government capacity to facilitate voluntary returns. This project is implemented by IOM and funded by the Australian Government.

As at 24 June 2013, the project has supported the voluntary return of 230 irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to their country of origin, with an additional 25 persons approved, and 77 persons awaiting approval for return. In the case of asylum seekers and refugees, return has been facilitated in line with UNHCR's established principles and procedures. The project is implemented by IOM under the auspices of the RSO and funded by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

### **Pilot study on information exchange and data analysis on irregular migration by sea**

**Overview:** Consideration is currently been given on how to proceed with this project by the RSO based on the recommendations made at the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Migration by Sea.

- **Mapping and analysing the protection situation of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in South East Asia.** This project has been implemented by UNHCR in cooperation with Mahidol University, Thailand, and concluded at the end of June 2013. As part of the project a draft set of Guidelines has been developed with the aim of providing a baseline of treatment of UASC in line with minimum international and regional standards and best practices. A Roundtable Consultation was held in Bangkok on 20 May 2013 to present the guidelines to key stakeholders, elaborate further on their content and discuss how best to further develop, adapt and make use of the Guidelines at national level.

## Forthcoming – RSO Capacity Building Catalogue

At the Fifth Regional Ministerial Conference, the RSO was tasked to link the Bali Process with the law enforcement training expertise of existing regional centres of excellence. In addition to a visit to JCLEC in Semarang, Indonesia (see *Message from the Co-Managers*, p. 1), a mapping of regional training institutions was undertaken in April and May 2013. Currently, responses to the mapping exercise are being compiled in the form of a comprehensive catalogue.

The *RSO Catalogue of Regional Capacity Building Institutions* will provide information on law enforcement and other institutions involved in capacity building training activities in geographic and thematic areas of relevance for the Bali Process. It is a tool aimed to contribute to the development of a Regional Capacity Building Program and to support Bali Process members.

## RSO Roster of Experts

For the *RSO Roster of Experts*, Bali Process members and observers are encouraged to nominate experts working for national governments, international organizations and civil society, including NGOs. Nominated experts will be registered in a database which can be accessed and searched by all Bali Process members and observers.

The *RSO Roster of Experts* objective is to ensure that all Bali process members and observers can tap into a regional common pool of expertise whenever experts are needed for the implementation and planning of activities and events. To this end, the roster serves as a tool for capacity building of interested Bali Process members by making available legal, policy and operational expertise. The scope of expertise accessible through the Expert Roster will cover refugee protection and international migration; including human trafficking and smuggling, border management and other components of migration management. A first call for expert nominations was disseminated to all Bali Process members and observers on 22 February 2013. Calls for experts are envisaged on an annual basis.

To nominate experts, Bali Process members and observers are encouraged to complete the [Expert Nomination Form](#) and return by email via [expertroster@rso.baliprocess.net](mailto:expertroster@rso.baliprocess.net) or fax +66 2 676 7337.

For more information on the *RSO Roster of Experts*, [click here](#).

## Bali Process members encouraged to nominate RSO National Focal Points

To facilitate direct communication and engagement, the RSO encourages Bali Process members to nominate officials from government departments or ministries relevant to the scope of the Bali Process with a senior level of authority and decision-making capacity to act as *RSO National Focal Points*.

*RSO National Focal Points* will have the role of acting as a direct contact point for the RSO and as a primary recipient of information on RSO initiatives and events. Further, the *RSO National Focal Point* facilitates information sharing, coordination and joint planning on RSO matters and shares information on immigration policies, procedures and practices at a national level among key government departments.

To nominate, Bali Process members can complete the [RSO National Focal Points Nomination Form](#) and return by email via [info@rso.baliprocess.net](mailto:info@rso.baliprocess.net) or fax +66 2 676 7337. For more information on the *RSO Network of National Focal Points*, [click here](#).

## RSO Meeting with the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees in Europe, North America and Australia (IGC)

The RSO was pleased to welcome Friedrich Loeper, Coordinating Officer at IGC, Geneva, for a visit to the RSO in Bangkok. At the meeting, experiences were exchanged and possible synergies between Regional Consultative Processes (RCP) discussed, with both parties sharing organizational and substantive methodology. The meeting highlighted the need for stronger inter-regional linkages with other RCPs and provided an opportunity to discuss possible ways forward in cooperation and exchange.

The IGC is an informal, non-decision making forum for intergovernmental information exchange and policy debate on issues of relevance to the management of international migratory flows. The IGC brings together 17 Participating States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International

Organization for Migration and the European Commission.

For further information on the IGC and other Regional Consultative Processes and Organizations, [click here](#). For further information on the RSO's engagement with RCPs, please refer to the RSO INFORMATION SHEET: [Engagement with Regional Consultative Process on Migration](#).



## RSO Engagement with Civil Society

At the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) annual Red Cross Red Crescent Representatives Meeting in Bangkok, on 17 May 2013, the RSO presented on its activities in the Bali Process Region, and current and upcoming priorities, with a focus on the important role that civil society plays in the Bali Process. The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with civil society partners, looking at areas of current or possible complementarities.

The RSO welcomes open communication and also supports greater cooperation with civil society actors as part of policy, legislative and operational initiatives where this is requested by member states. For further information on the RSO's engagement with civil society, please refer to the RSO INFORMATION SHEET: [Engagement with Civil Society](#). For more information on ways to engage with the RSO, [click here](#).

### Contact us

Level 27, Rajanakarn Building  
183 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn  
Bangkok 10120, Thailand  
Telephone: +66 (0) 2343 9477  
Email: [info@rso.baliprocess.net](mailto:info@rso.baliprocess.net)

## Follow-up: The RSO - Technical officer secondment



The secondment of Mohammed Yasin Stanikzai, Director of Document Examination Lab (Kabul International Airport), by the Government of Afghanistan to the RSO has concluded. For two months, Mr. Stanikzai contributed with his expertise to the drafting of a checklist for document examination to be used by Afghan border officials. The checklist has been printed and is currently being distributed.

## Launch of the Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC)

On 16 July 2013, UNODC launched the VRS-MSRC. States participating in the VRS-MSRC are now able to access and use the VRS-MSRC.

The VRS-MSRC is an internet-based, secure system for state authorities to collect, share, and facilitate the analysis of data for the purpose of strengthening strategic analysis to inform policy development at inter-regional, regional, and national levels. Therefore, the VRS-MSRC seeks to establish non-nominal quantitative and qualitative data on migrant smuggling and irregular migration.

The VRS-MSRC was developed in response to the Fourth Bali Process Regional Ministerial Conference in March 2011. At the Fifth Bali Process Regional Ministerial Conference on 2 April 2013, Ministers encouraged Bali Process member to participate in the VRS-MSRC. On 20 May, the Co-Chairs of the Bali Process reiterated in a joint letter their support to and encouraged all members to participate in the VRS-MSRC in order to strengthen its value as an information database to enhance and better inform policy development in response to migrant smuggling.

More information about the VRS-MSRC is available [here](#). State authorities interested in participating in the VRS-MSRC, should contact the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at [vrs@unodc.org](mailto:vrs@unodc.org).