

REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE OF THE BALI PROCESS

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING FOR THE PROJECT TO INCREASE INFORMATION SHARING

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 20 JUNE 2018

MEETING SUMMARY

1. The Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (RSO) hosted the second and final Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting of experts from Bali Process Member States and Organizations to discuss cross-border information sharing to prevent, disrupt and prosecute people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.
2. Held on the morning of 20 June 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, this was the second and final meeting of the TAG for the Bali Process project to increase information sharing (project), funded by the Government of Canada. The TAG brought together representatives from Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with experience in cross-border information sharing related to people smuggling and trafficking in persons.
3. The meeting allowed the project team to present the final versions of resources developed by the project to enhance knowledge and skills in information sharing to TAG members:
 - a) *Bali Process Guidelines for Information Sharing to Address People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime* (Guidelines), and
 - b) A training curriculum and materials based on the Guidelines, including a *Facilitator's Guide* and *Student Handbook*.
4. The TAG meeting objectives were to:
 - a) Provide a review of the Framework for Information Sharing (Framework), the Guidelines, and training curriculum on information sharing,
 - b) Identify opportunities to use the developed Guidelines and its associated training materials to increase cross-border information sharing among Bali Process Members,
 - c) Discuss possibilities to use the resources in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and/or at UNODC events, and
 - d) Discuss the role of TAG after the completion of the project.
5. The TAG meeting also served as a preamble for the TAG-hosted *Bali Process Meeting on Cross-Border Information Sharing to Address People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime*, which was held in the afternoon of 20 June 2018 and attended by over fifty representatives from twenty-three countries and three international organizations. Please refer to that meeting's separate Meeting Summary, available on the Bali Process website.

Proceedings

6. Mr. Dicky Komar, the RSO Co-Manager (Indonesia), welcomed the TAG members and thanked them for their dedication and contribution to the project. He also expressed gratitude to the Government of Canada as the donor for the project.
7. Mr. Michael Odgers, the RSO Co-Manager (Australia), opened the meeting by emphasising the significance of contributions obtained from the TAG. He noted that this final TAG meeting would focus on ensuring that the Framework, Guidelines and training curriculum on information sharing were concise and relevant to Bali Process membership.
8. Mr. Graeme Jewell, Programme Coordinator at the RSO, stated that the Guidelines were the evidence of the strength and dedication of the TAG members. He accentuated that sharing information will contribute significantly to the prevention, disruption and prosecution of criminal activity. He elaborated on the agenda of TAG meeting, reiterating that its focus was to ensure conciseness and relevance of the Guidelines, Framework and training curriculum. He contrasted this with the afternoon meeting, which focused on discussions around successful information sharing as well as the showcase for these materials. He thanked the Government of Canada again for recognising the importance of information sharing.
9. Mr. Jewell reviewed the four high-level goals from the Framework developed by the project team:
 - Goal 1:** Increase confidence to share information,
 - Goal 2:** Strengthen the information sharing capacity of officials,
 - Goal 3:** Develop and promote shared and practical information sharing tools, and
 - Goal 4:** Create and promote greater opportunities to share information.He amplified that these goals and their relevant focus flows logically from Goal 1 to Goal 4 as it transformed from strategic aspects to operational. There is an opportunity for Bali Process information sharing activities to be framed by these four goals. He added that consistent definitions of key terms, appointment of national focal points to share information, and a road map to increase information sharing, are examples of activities that fit within the goals.
10. Mr. Jewell outlined the Guidelines and the development of the RAAPT Principles of information sharing: Relevance, Accuracy, Accountability, Partnership, and Timeliness. These new principles removed the principle of Proportionality from the consultation draft of the Guidelines, and replaced it with Accountability and Partnership. A Request for Information (RFI) template was also added to the Guidelines.
11. Ms. Victoria Miller, Project Officer at the RSO, highlighted success of the pilot training workshop held in partnership with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation in early May in Jakarta, Indonesia. The training curriculum on information sharing was tested in a scenario-based training that validated the content and training approach.
12. Ms. Miller explained that while the Guidelines would become available online, the training curriculum would remain separate and is available upon request to the RSO. The curriculum was comprised of a Facilitator's Guide, Student Handbook, and training materials.

13. Counsellor Greg Fiddy, International Network Manager at Canada Border Services Agency, noted his attendance at the pilot training workshop and affirmed that it was very well received. He stated that training participants took the RAAPT Principles to heart and built their confidence to share information.
14. The TAG discussed opportunities to conduct training on information sharing for relevant government agencies in their country, for example, police, immigration, border protection, social welfare, and labour agencies.
15. Mr. Maszely bin Minhad, Principal Assistant Director of D7C Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Unit at the Royal Malaysia Police, added on the need for training on information sharing in Malaysia, especially for frontline officials. He stated that the training would enhance the timeliness of intelligence and enable better informed decision-making in law enforcement. He invited the RSO to support Malaysia in organising training based on the curriculum.
16. Ms. Jessica Wong, UNODC representative, elaborated on existing tools to share information on people smuggling and trafficking in persons. She stated that there were also associated coaching and mentoring programme available for Bali Process Member States, including deployment of roaming specialists across Southeast Asian to train immigration, customs, and border officials in using information sharing and intelligence tools. She highlighted opportunities for the RSO to join with UNODC workshops and convene sessions on information sharing. She suggested that UNODC could work with the RSO on how to take information sharing programme forward.
17. Ms. Saskya Aprilya, Immigration Analyst at the Indonesian Directorate of General of Immigration, offered opportunities for the RSO to host information sharing events at an immigration training centre in Jakarta. Mr. Wayhu Eka Putra, Immigration Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok, suggested the RSO could increase information sharing by exploring engagement with ASEAN immigration-related meetings, such as Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
18. Mr. Jewell thanked the TAG and encouraged all members to keep each other's contact details for continued communications. He reinforced that the TAG and the RSO can engage directly and individually for any questions or to provide further opportunities to foster information sharing in Bali Process Member States. He thanked the TAG again and concluded the meeting.

Outcomes

19. The TAG acknowledged the importance of training on sharing information and invited the RSO to support Bali Process Members in organising further training activities.
20. The meeting provided the project team with direction to assist Bali Process Member States in implementing the Framework, and using the Guidelines and training curriculum.