

Bali Process Workshop
on

“Enabling Electronic Exchange of Lost & Stolen Travel Document Information”

Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
20– 22 April 2005

Coordinators’ Final Report

The Bali Process Workshop on Enabling Electronic Exchange of Lost and Stolen Travel Document Information was convened in Bangkok on 20-22 April 2005. The Workshop was hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand with the Government of New Zealand providing technical content and resources.

The Workshop was attended by 93 delegates representing the Countries/Economies of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, China – Hong Kong SAR, Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Myanmar, Nauru, New Caledonia (France), New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Vietnam and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Representatives of the Bangkok Immigration Control Experts (ICE) team, Belgium, Canada, Cook Islands, Foreign Anti-Narcotics Community (FANC) Thailand, Interpol, Niue, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, Pacific Immigration Directors’ Conference (PIDC) and Tuvalu also participated in the workshop as observers.

The Workshop was opened by Mr. Thakur Phanit, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand, and Police Lieutenant General Amarin Niemskul, Commissioner of Immigrations, Royal Thai Police.

The Workshop was co-chaired by Police Major General Kerkphong Pukprayura of the Royal Thai Police, and Mr. Arron Baker of the New Zealand Immigration Service.

Workshop Context, Content and Objectives

At the first Bali Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime in 2002, Ministers agreed, subject to domestic laws and national circumstances, to work towards more effective information and intelligence sharing within the region. Subsequently, the Bali Process Expert Working Group One (AHEG1) identified the development of a system for secure electronic sharing and accessing of information on lost, stolen and non-genuine travel documents as a priority for further work.

Work since then has identified that while many Bali Process Countries/Economies share information in paper form (and sometimes on computer disks) this information is not available in time to be used to identify and intercept non bona-fide travel documents when they are actually being used. Policy, operational and legal barriers to the electronic sharing of travel document information have also been identified.

Work is also progressing in a number of other areas - the development of new passport systems, bilateral arrangements between Countries/Economies to electronically access travel document information, and the development of multilateral international and regional information sharing arrangements such as the Automated Search Facility/Stolen Travel Documents Database (ASF/STD) Interpol database, initiatives in the Pacific region, ICAO, the APEC Regional Movement Alert List (RMAL) project and Enhanced International Travel Security (EITS) project.

The objective of the workshop was to assist participating Countries/Economies enhance their domestic legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support the electronic sharing of information in the region about lost, stolen and non-genuine travel documents.

Workshop Sessions

On the first day of the workshop presentations were made on;

- Results of the pre-workshop survey on national passport systems and information sharing arrangements (New Zealand)
- Development of Thailand's new e-passport and how this will contribute to international information sharing (Thailand)
- Recent experience with bilateral information sharing arrangements to support Advanced Passenger Processing (APP) systems (New Zealand, Australia)
- Regional Movement Alert List (RMAL) - APEC Business Mobility Group and EITS - current developments (Australia)
- Pacific Initiatives with Advance Passenger Information (API), APP, Lost and Stolen Passport and identity fraud databases (PIDC, Fiji, Samoa, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat)
- Current and proposed developments with Interpol's Automated Search Facility/Stolen Travel Documents Database (ASF/STD) (INTERPOL)
- Generic and specific elements required for member Countries/Economies to establish effective international information sharing; examples of relevant legislation, international agreements, bilateral MoUs, and 'model' MoUs; (New Zealand, Australia)

On the second day of the workshop detailed working group sessions were convened to discuss;

- Barriers and issues for Countries/Economies on developing frameworks to support the effective electronic exchange of information on lost, stolen, invalid and non-genuine travel documents; and
- Action objectives for Countries/Economies to progress work towards improved regional electronic exchange of lost and stolen passport information consistent with developments with other fora.

On the third day in the final plenary session of the Workshop, Countries/Economies reviewed and adopted the coordinators' statement.

Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations

The workshop recommended the following action to support, facilitate and progress the development of effective regional arrangements for secure electronic sharing and accessing of information on lost, stolen and non-genuine travel documents, and complement relevant work being done in other fora.

Noted the non-binding nature of the Bali Process and its recommendations.

National Coordination

Encourage Countries/Economies to review intra/inter-agency issues relating to the sharing and management of national travel document information.

Legal Issues

Encourage Countries/Economies to accelerate development of domestic legislation and intra/inter-agency mechanisms to enable the electronic sharing of travel document information nationally and internationally.

IT systems and security

Encourage Countries/Economies to develop national capability to store, access and share travel document information electronically among relevant agencies

Noted all standards for storing, extracting and supplying information electronically meet international standards (ICAO)

Noted security of information storage, transmission and use is vital and must be covered in legislation, system development and international agreements

Noted the preferred model is an efficient, real time, online verification of accurate lost, stolen and non-genuine travel document information between participating Countries/Economies

Noted where Countries/Economies are experiencing IT capability problems they may request assistance from developed Countries/Economies and/or Development partners (EG: Asian Development Bank (ADB))

Encourage Countries/Economies to accelerate the consolidation of national information systems for storing travel document information including procedures for maintaining data accuracy and a comprehensive plan for maintaining data security

Encourage Countries/Economies to notify travel document applicants that if their travel document is lost or stolen the information can be shared with other jurisdictions for border control purposes

Noted the Bali Process supports APEC RMAL and Interpol ASF/STD feasibility studies. The results of these studies will be reviewed by the Bali Process members to determine suitability and application for use as information sharing systems

Noted that whatever agreements are put in place the objective of immigration processing is to facilitate the movement of legitimate travelers, while preventing the use of lost, stolen or non-genuine travel documents

Recognizes the importance of maintaining the dignity of bona fide travelers

International agreements and arrangements

Encourage sub-regional, regional and multilateral arrangements for the efficient sharing of lost, stolen and non-genuine travel document information, while recognizing that such cooperation would be complemented by bilateral arrangements

Noted that country to country Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) are useful for bilateral information sharing arrangements; but that they may not be practical in a multilateral information sharing mechanism due to the difficulty in managing large numbers of MOU

Noted that model MOU examples and links to relevant international conventions have been provided to Countries/Economies and are available on the Bali Process website (www.baliprocess.net)

Operational arrangements

Recognize the need to provide 24/7 response centers to deal with situations where there is a data match against information which has been supplied on lost, stolen and non-genuine travel documents

Follow-up

Participants agreed that in view of the progress made, the wide ranging work to be progressed in the future, the significant developments in the Interpol and APEC fora - that a follow-up workshop to review and maintain progress on this issue would be highly desirable. Participants requested that the coordinators communicated this to the Bali Process steering committee for consideration for future planning and funding.

Web-based resources

The workshop noted and agreed that the following information will be posted on the Bali Process website after the conclusion of the workshop:

- Workshop Agenda
- Opening Statements
- Delegates List
- Workshop Presentations
- Workshop resource materials
- Model examples of MOU and legislation
- Working Group reports
- Workshop closing statement from the coordinators
- Information and links to relevant international conventions, standards and agreements

Appreciation

There was widespread appreciation for the hospitality of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand in hosting the Workshop, and for New Zealand in developing the workshop content, resources and programme. Thanks was also recorded for the guidance provided to the meeting by the co-ordinators and moderators, and the assistance provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Workshop Secretariat.

Pol. Major General Kreckphong Pukprayura
Thailand

Mr. Arron Baker
New Zealand

Bangkok, Thailand

22 April 2005

Attachments

- 1 – Workshop Programme
- 2 – Workshop Attendees
- 3 – Glossary of Acronyms

Glossary of Acronyms

APEC BMG - Asian Pacific Economic Forum, Business Mobility Group
ICAO – International Civil Aviation Organization
ADB – Asian Development Bank
IOM – International Organization for Migration
PIDC – Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference
ICE – Immigration Control Experts team Bangkok
FANC – Foreign Anti-Narcotics Community
AHEG – Ad Hoc Experts' Group
RMAL – Regional Movement Alerts List
EITS – Enhanced International Travel Security System
ASF/STD – Automated Search Facility/Stolen Travel Documents
API – Advance Passenger Information
APP – Advance Passenger Processing
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
ICPO – International Criminal Police Organization