



REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

BALI PROCESS

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

RSO NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Co-Managers

The Regional Support Office (RSO) has welcomed the Year of the Horse with a rapidly expanding team and a number of new, innovative projects on the horizon.

The team in Bangkok is also engaging new partnerships, such as the training workshop with the International Training Centre for Local Actors (CIFAL), to promote greater regional cohesion in practical responses to people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Our office, now with staff seconded from the New Zealand Government, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR), consultants, and young professionals continues to work together, ensuring a wealth of opinions, experience, and backgrounds are brought together in the design and discussion of projects.

As our work continues and we move on to new projects, it is this mixture of people and experience that exemplifies the spirit of cooperation and combined capabilities that embodies what the Bali Process was designed for. We would like to extend our gratitude to all Bali Process members and observers for their continued support and engagement and wish you all the best in the Year of the Horse: *gong xi fa cai*.

Greg Kelly
Co-Manager (Australia)

Bebek A.K.N. Djundjunan
Co-Manager (Indonesia)

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35 Nations Gather to Support Regional Cohesion in Criminalizing Trafficking and Smuggling

Over 70 participants from 35 countries along with IOM, UNHCR, and UNODC, came together on the 12th and 13th of March to complete policy guides on



the creation and strengthening of legal frameworks that criminalize migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

The workshop, co-chaired by Thailand and Australia, and held in Bangkok, Thailand, gathered input, opinions and observations from Bali Process members and observers regarding drafts of the guides.



The workshop hosted dynamic and involved discussion encompassing a range of opinions on the short, practical guides and further provided participants with an opportunity to share their experiences and present case studies on migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons issues.

The policy guides have been developed by a drafting committee consisting of delegates from Australia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and UNODC with the support of IOM representatives to the RSO. The committee worked closely together leading up to and throughout the workshop to integrate the many comments put forward by members and observers.

Once submitted to the full Bali Process Senior Officials Meeting and then to the next Bali Process Regional Ministerial Conference the guides will be a key tool in promoting a consistent understanding and implementation of international and regional legal standards.

CIFAL-RSO Workshop: Enhancing a Victim Centred Approach

The RSO and CIFAL (Centre International

de Formation des Acteurs Locaux / International Training Centre for Local Actors) are working together to strengthen regional capacity in trafficking in persons issues through a joint training workshop from 17th to the 21st of March, 2014.

The specialized training workshop, *Enhancing a Victim-Centered Approach: Identification, Assistance and Protection of Trafficking Victims on the Asia-Pacific Region*, is being organized by CIFAL Jeju, in South Korea, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the RSO. The ultimate objective is to streamline a curriculum targeting local actors on identifying and assisting trafficking victims while supporting a more harmonised approach to trafficking in the region.

The training workshop will be targeted at high-level authorities, community-based organizations, and other local actors within the Bali Process region and will bring together academics, NGOs, and government agencies to discuss the identification, assistance, and protection of victims of trafficking. Presenters include experts from key organisations and projects in the region including UNHCR, New Zealand Officials, and IOM.

Strengthening Cooperation in Managing Irregular Movements by Sea: Disembarkation Meeting

UNHCR, under the auspices of the RSO and in partnership with IOM and New Zealand, convened a meeting on *Mapping Disembarkation Options: Towards Strengthening Cooperation in Managing Irregular Movements by Sea*, on the 3rd and 4th of March, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The meeting was a follow up to the conclusions of the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Maritime Movements, the recommendations of the fifth Bali Ministerial Conference and the Jakarta Special Conference on the Irregular Movement of Persons on strengthening cooperation to addressing irregular maritime movements including through the development of a “protection-sensitive regional approach”.

The meeting aimed to establish a process to discuss and agree upon the parameters, structure, content

and modalities of mapping disembarkation options in some countries. An initial group of countries - Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand - took part in the discussions.

Participants expressed support to bring the proposed mapping exercise to the attention of senior officials at national levels with feedback to the RSO expected by the 31st of March 2014. The six-month implementation timeframe was considered acceptable to enable the results of the exercise to feed into the next Bali Regional Ministerial Conference and the Jakarta Special Conference process.

Information Campaigns: Sharing Expertise and Promoting Good Practice

A two-day workshop on Addressing Irregular Migration through Effective Information Campaigns is being organised and co-hosted by the Governments of New Zealand and Indonesia in partnership with IOM under the auspices of the RSO.

Information campaigns are a critical part of raising awareness of the risks of migrant smuggling, the dangers of being trafficked, and promoting useful information on safe migration.

Following on from a 2009 workshop based around best practice information campaigns in regards to migrant smuggling, the upcoming workshop will extend the focus to trafficking in persons, involve best practice examples from external groups, and develop practical information campaign strategy templates for member states. Following on from the workshop, feedback gathered regarding the design of the strategy templates will be incorporated into the collaborative guides.

The workshop, which is currently scheduled for September this year, hopes to deepen linkages between information campaigns already underway in Bali Process countries and identify common practices that member states could utilize.

Developing a Harmonized Approach to the Rights and Needs of Unaccompanied and Separated Children

UNHCR is considering steps for taking forward work on Regional Guidelines for Responding to the Rights and Needs of Unaccompanied and Separated Children, a Regional Overview and Analysis for Mapping and Analyzing the Protection Situation of UASC developed by Mahidol University in Thailand as part of a process towards the development of a harmonized approach to UASC under the Regional Cooperation Framework adopted by the Bali Process.

In 2012-2013, UNHCR commissioned Mahidol University, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship, to conduct research to map and analyze the situation of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. This led to the development of the Regional Guidelines along with a Directory of Organizations with the Potential to Respond to the Rights and Needs of UASC.

The Regional Guidelines on the Protection of UASC were introduced at an ASEAN Regional Workshop on a *Human Rights-based Approach to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* organized by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights on the 27th and 28th of November, 2013 in Manila, Philippines.

The Regional Guidelines on the Protection of UASC and other relevant documents can be found at: <http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain>

Airport Security - Forgery, Fraud, and Detection

The First Networking Meeting for the Document Examiners of Airport Forgery Units was successfully organized by IOM's Document Examination Support Center (DESC) on the 13th and 14th of November, 2013 in Bangkok. The event was supported by the RSO, with the RSO co-manager, Greg Kelly, delivering key remarks.

The meeting aimed to establish a regional forum for sharing information for detecting the use of fraudulent travel documents and fostering continued regional cooperation to better combat irregular migration and transnational organized crime. Eleven countries participated in the meeting: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.



The networking meeting is scheduled to be an annual event with Thailand agreeing to take on the chairmanship of the second meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 2014.

Funded by the Canadian government, DESC was established in February 2012 to provide guidance, advice, and support to immigration and border control officials in the Asia-Pacific region when they intercept questioned travel documents, but do not have enough information to make a decision on their status.

Reaching Out

The RSO Co-Chair Mr. Greg Kelly and RSO Migration Policy Advisor Ms. Sophie Nonnenmacher, attended a workshop organized by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on *Human Rights-based Approach to Combat Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children*, in Manila, Philippines on the 27th and 28th of November, 2013. The RSO was invited to present on its mandate given by Bali Process members and on its ongoing activities in the field of human trafficking.

Additionally, the RSO would also like to thank the Program Director, Mr. Jeffrey A. Silk and the



Executive Director, General Monthon Ngernwattana of the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok (ILEA-Bangkok) for their warm welcome and openness for future cooperation. The RSO met with ILEA-Bangkok to discuss possibilities for cooperation. ILEA is a training center with 10 years of experience in supporting criminal justice institution-building in Asia and strengthening partnerships amongst the law enforcement communities.

The Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference

The RSO and the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) are discussing avenues for engagement in the areas of information exchange and capacity building on issues relating to people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime. The Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), a forum for immigration agencies from the Pacific region, aims to promote cooperation and consultation among agencies to build and enhance immigration and border management practices within the Pacific region.

UNODC Questionnaire and Report on Migration Smuggling in Asia

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is conducting research for a report on *Migrant Smuggling from, to, through and within Asia: Current Trends and Challenges* (working title), envisaged to be published in July 2014.

The report aims to increase evidence-based knowledge on migrant smuggling with the overall objectives of 1) raising awareness of the migrant smuggling challenge, 2) informing counter-migrant smuggling policies at inter-regional, regional and national levels, and 3) fostering cooperation between concerned states and regions.

The RSO sent out information and a questionnaire related to this project in November 2013 to Bali Process member states, and encourages member states to proactively share migration-related information for a better understanding of the contemporary picture of migrant smuggling.

Meet the RSO's Regional Programme and Liaison Officer



The RSO is pleased to welcome Tim Howe who joined the team as the IOM Regional Programme and Liaison Officer in October 2013. Prior to joining the RSO, Tim worked for two years as a Migration Policy Officer at IOM's Partnership Division at IOM Geneva where he was a focal point for Regional Consultative Processes on migration. Tim has also worked with UNHCR for two years in Costa Rica, Tanzania and Geneva as a consultant on mixed migration.

As a Regional Programme and Liaison Officer, Tim will coordinate the implementation of RSO projects for IOM and support RSO initiatives.

Information Campaigns Project Specialist Joins the RSO

The RSO team has continued to grow with the addition of Hamish Wyatt, a Communications Project Specialist supporting Immigration New Zealand's secondment to the RSO, Dr. Rebecca Miller.

Hamish will be focusing on the RSO's information campaign work, including the development of a strategic template to assist member states in the design more effective information campaigns.



Hamish has worked on communications and information campaigns with the World Bank in Australia and the Pacific Islands and worked as a journalist in China. More recently, Hamish has worked in media communications for international conservation NGOs and has led communications for Australia's 'Earth Hour' campaign.

Update on RSO Foundation Projects

Enhancing Collection, Use and Sharing of Data

Further to the launch of the questionnaire in July 2013 the IOM project team has been coordinating with member countries towards the completion of the questionnaire. Members have expressed the need for additional time to coordinate among various relevant government agencies to ensure accurate and effective completion of the questionnaire.

Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance

In its first year, the project has supported the voluntary return of 234 irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to their country of origin. On 1 July 2013, the second year of the project commenced. As at 31 December 2013, 369 persons have returned to their country of origin, 337 of which were returned to countries of Bali Process Member States. In the case of asylum seekers and refugees, return has been facilitated in line with UNHCR's established principles and procedures.

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