



RSO NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Regional Support Office

From late 2014 into the first months of 2015, the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (RSO) has held a number of workshops, review committees and training sessions to address people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.

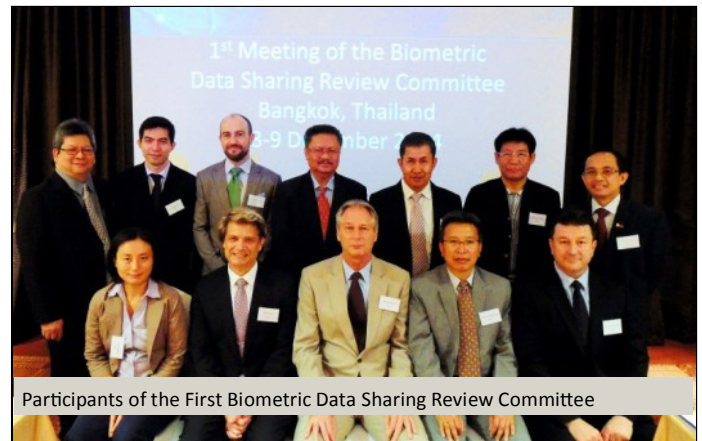
These activities have included a Biometric Data Sharing Review Committee, an AVRR Capacity Building Workshop, three drafting committees for new Policy Guides, a training workshop on Addressing Irregular Movements by Sea, and a frontline border officials curriculum review committee.

The RSO is now finalising its 2013-2015 program and planning for the 9th Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting on 6 May, 2015 in Wellington, New Zealand.

Biometric Data Sharing Review Committee

On 8-9 December, 2014, a newly established Biometric Data Sharing Review Committee met in Bangkok, Thailand to oversee the RSO's development of the Regional Biometric Data Exchange Solution (RBDES).

The RBDES aims to facilitate harmonized, secure and timely



Participants of the First Biometric Data Sharing Review Committee

biometric data exchange among interested Bali Process members for identification and identity verification purposes. The RBDES is designed to be consistent with member states' national laws and international standards. Participation in the RBDES is voluntary, non-binding and members can opt in and opt out of the RBDES at any time.

Biometric data exchange through the RBDES will contribute to improved migration and border management, the early detection of smuggling and trafficking in persons and provision of critical evidence for the investigation and prosecution of these offences.

The Review Committee met to review policy and framework documents for the RBDES, explore technical approaches and requirements related to biometric data exchange, and develop a forward timeline for further development of the RBDES.

The next meeting of the Review Committee will be held on 19-20 February 2015. The Review Committee will present the policy and framework at a Bali Process Consultation



Workshop on the Regional Biometric Data Exchange Solution scheduled for 8-9 April 2015. Following this, the RBDES will be presented for endorsement at the 9th Meeting of the Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials.

Bangkok, Thailand.

The policy guides aim to provide a clear and concise overview of applicable international and regional standards for the identification and protection of victims



Participants of the AVRR Capacity Building Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand



Participants of the Third Meeting of the Policy Guides Drafting Committee

AVRR Capacity Building Workshop

A Capacity Building Workshop on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), a process which involves the safe and dignified return of irregular migrants to their country of origin, took place from 15-17 December, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The workshop expands on the RSO's Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance Program for Bali Process Member States and provided a forum to increase awareness and understanding of AVRR.

Jointly organized by IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand, the workshop involved participants from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Through facilitated discussions, participants identified methods to implement AVRR programs. These methods included updating legal frameworks, capacity building on return and reintegration, and developing programs to address root causes of irregular migration.

Policy Guides Drafting Committees

On 8-9 January, 2015, the RSO hosted the third meeting of the Bali Process Policy Guides on Identifying and Protecting Victims of Trafficking Drafting Committee in

of trafficking, drawing on examples of good practices across the Bali Process membership. The Policy Guides draw on a common understanding of obligations under international criminal, human rights and refugee law.

The drafting committee, led by Indonesia and IOM and supported by Australia, Maldives, Philippines, and Thailand, will present the draft policy guides at a consultation workshop due to be held on 23-24 March in Bangkok, Thailand.

The consultation workshop will provide all Bali Process members with the opportunity to review and comment on the policy guides and provide case studies from their national experience to complement the drafts.

The finalized guides will be presented to the Ad-Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting in May, 2015.

Training Workshop on International Obligations and Good Practices for Addressing Irregular Movements by Sea

On 19-22 January, 2015 a training workshop on Comprehensive Approaches for Addressing Irregular

Movements by Sea: International Obligations, Standards and Good Practices was held in Bangkok, Thailand.



Discussions at the Irregular Movements by Sea Training Workshop, Bangkok

The workshop aimed to harmonize responses to protecting vulnerable migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees by providing an overview of international refugee, maritime, criminal and migration law along with human rights law and regional cooperation mechanisms.

Participants from 11 Bali Process Member States including border officials, naval police, port authorities, and internal security officials, as well as legal/policy makers took part in the training. The workshop was jointly organized by IOM and UNHCR and was funded by the United States Government, Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).

Following this training workshop, IOM and UNHCR will develop a regional standardized curriculum on Comprehensive Approaches for Addressing Irregular Movements by Sea. The curriculum will be used to support regular training for Bali Process Members through partnerships with regional centres of excellence such as the International Law Enforcement Academy, Bangkok, and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation.

First Meeting of the Frontline Border Officials Curriculum Review Committee

On 27 January, 2015, IOM hosted a Curriculum Review Committee comprised of Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand to develop a standardized Bali Process induction training for border officials. Once developed, the curriculum will be available to Bali Process Members for

use.

The review committee will next meet to consider the draft curriculum in late February. A third meeting of the Curriculum Review Committee will be held in April to refine and finalize the curriculum before presentation to Senior Officials in May, 2015.

Expressions of Interest for Government Secondees to the RSO

The RSO is seeking expressions of interest from the Governments of all Bali Process member and observer countries, to second a representative to the RSO to participate in short term project based assignments.

The assignments present a unique opportunity for qualified junior to mid-level government representatives from Bali Process member and observer countries to contribute to a range of key RSO projects in support of the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF), in advance of the 6th Ministerial Meeting proposed for mid-2015.

For further information on the projects and how to apply, please contact the RSO via info@rso.baliprocess.net with reference to "RSO Secondment".

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