

BALI PROCESS BIOMETRICS ROUNDTABLE

THE EXPANDING ROLE OF BIOMETRICS AT THE BORDER

Bangkok, Thailand, 23-24 January 2019

1. On the 23-24 January 2019 the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (RSO) hosted the *Bali Process Biometrics Roundtable: The Expanding Role of Biometrics at the Border* in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. The meeting was attended by 39 representatives from 17 countries and six international organizations. This included Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Rep. of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Labor Organization (ILO), INTERPOL, and the International Border Management and Technologies Association (IBMATA).
3. The Roundtable discussed the use of technology and biometrics in migration and border management, including challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of value realization of biometrics-based solutions at the border.

Welcome address

4. The Roundtable was opened by Pak Dicky Komar, RSO Co-Manager (Indonesia) with a welcome address at the opening ceremony. Mr. Komar provided a brief introduction of the RSO and addressed the importance of practical cooperation, sharing of information and expertise, including best practices among Bali Process Members.
5. Mr. Michael Odgers, RSO Co-Manager (Australia), highlighted the purpose of the Roundtable to share experiences on the use of biometrics, learning about current and emerging trends, understanding the role of biometrics in border management, and discussing possible areas for further collaboration and action coordinated by the RSO.

Roundtable discussions

6. There were 15 presentations from seven countries (Australia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Maldives, and Malaysia) and eight international organizations (ILO, IOM, RSO, ICAO, INTERPOL, IATA, IBMATA, and UNHCR), including two via video link from London and Singapore.
7. Ms. Anna Olsen, Technical Specialist at ILO addressed the importance of technology for migration management but noted that benefits are not always distributed evenly. Investment in technology-based solutions for migration management must go hand in hand with prioritizing project development and engaging partners, including the migrant themselves. Ongoing

technical support and maintenance beyond the life of the project is critical to the adoption and use of the application by users.

8. Mr. Nicholas Burridge from the Australian Department of Home Affairs presented on the use of biometrics at Australia's borders. He underlined the importance of collaborative border management and information sharing between countries for identity, border security and facilitation. By 2020, Australia expects 90% of all travelers to self-process using Smart Gate with face recognition.
9. Commandant Raj Arora, of India's Border Security Force, explained the security context that drive India's border strategy. This strategy includes increasing the use of technology for border monitoring and incident response. Technological solutions are developed, deployed and trained in a way that is environment and context-specific across India's wide variety of border crossings.
10. Mr. Remington Low, Regional Officer from ICAO detailed the Traveler Identification Programme (TRIP) within the wider Border Control Management (BCM) programme. All countries have different contexts and capabilities that are relevant to meeting the challenges of implementing technology-based solutions (e.g. TRIP), including organizational capacity and system complexity. ICAO has a technical capacity support function that can assist States on implementing ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.
11. Ms. Dana Graber Ladek, Chief of Mission, IOM Thailand and Mr. Donato Colucci, Senior Regional Specialist, IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, highlighted biometric initiatives implemented by IOM in the region, including the benefits of data analysis. They noted that the use of biometrics remains challenging in terms of performance and cost, data quality, system tuning, information sharing, and exit strategies after projects end.
12. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali, Head of the National Identification System in Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), showcased NADRA's extensive biometrics infrastructure, including the storage of hundreds of millions of biometrics for access to social benefits, border management, and national security in Pakistan. NADRA also supports partners across the globe, including a recently concluded ten-year project to develop an e-Passport solution for Kenya.
13. Ms. Selina Banu, Additional Director-General from the Department of Immigration and Passports in Bangladesh explained the rationale for Bangladesh's implementation of e-Passports and Automated Border Control systems from 2019. This includes additional security features in the passport and piloting e-gates at three airports and two India-Bangladesh land borders.
14. Mr. Ian Neill, former Deputy-Director of e-Borders at the United Kingdom Border Force, spoke via video link from London and explained UKBF's mobile-based solution for border screening. It allows coach companies to provide their passenger records to the UKBF in advance, allowing the UKBF to apply business rules for pre-screening prior to coaches departing via ferry at the UK's seaport borders.

15. Ms. Sophie Dumoulin, Senior Operations Assistant at INTERPOL, outlined their three biometric databases and discussed Project FIRST; a recent example of biometrics sharing that has had success in Africa identifying transnational criminals. Ms. Dumoulin stated that INTERPOL work is member-driven, and participants were encouraged to seek support from INTERPOL through their NCBs.
16. Ms. Younkyung Kim, IATA Regional Manager for Asia-Pacific discussed OneID, a project aiming to provide a single biometric travel token that can be managed through all air travel checkpoints. OneID will provide an end-to-end passenger experience that is secure, seamless, and efficient helping to improve productivity and capacity, border control and aviation security.
17. Mr. Steven Grant, Non-Executive Director of IBMATA, presented on the growing ability for governments to utilize customer self-capture facial biometrics (via mobile phones) for border management solutions (e.g. passports and verification). Mr. Grant also explained IBMATA's vision for integrated border management, including identity solutions, and its role in facilitating collaboration on strategy and technology. Ten Roundtable participants agreed to join IBMATA.
18. Mr. Toshio Naito, and Mr. Bonifacio Chua, Senior Officers from UNHCR, explained how environmental conditions in the field dictate the type of biometric solution used to capture and verify the identity of refugees. This includes multi-modal solutions and different hardware and software platforms dependent on the level of network connection. UNHCR demonstrated a low-cost biometric ID card, with a series of unique security features that is used in Malaysia.
19. Mr. Usman Riza, Deputy Chief Immigration Officer from Maldives Immigration provided an overview of the new multi-purpose Maldives Passport Card. This card is an ID card, a biometric passport (at Maldives e-gates), and provides access to banking, health and insurance services. The presentation highlighted the ability to integrate biometrics technology across other services using MOUs and collaboration within government and with the private sector.
20. Mr. Mohd Fauzi bin Abu Hassan, Assistant Director of Immigration of the Immigration Department of Malaysia shared knowledge and practice on using biometrics to verify the health of foreign workers entering Malaysia. In the future Malaysia will also screen biometrics with INTERPOL, use facial recognition for bio-medical registration and verification upon arrival; and expand its use to other categories of visa holders, such as expatriates and students.
21. To conclude, Mr. Odgers provided a short brief of current trends in biometrics, including the growth of biometrics use across the world and summarized the main contemporary challenges for realizing the value of biometrics.

Next steps

22. The participants finished the Roundtable with group discussions on topics of further interest and ideas to continue the dialogue on biometrics at the border. The participants acknowledged the success of the Roundtable format, noting that 'open mic' sessions and the sharing of experiences provided opportunity for growing consensus and learning from each other.

23. Participants recognized the importance of the use of biometrics for improving facilitation and security in border management. They identified the following key themes that the Bali Process could further explore:

- Biometrics as part of a comprehensive border management system, including addressing people smuggling and trafficking in persons.
- Implementation challenges, especially procurement, financial feasibility, legal issues, user compatibility and training.
- The role of International organizations, data exchange and cross-border collaboration.
- Best practices and experiences on biometrics use at land and maritime borders.
- How new technology can provide a 'helping hand' in different contexts and environments.