



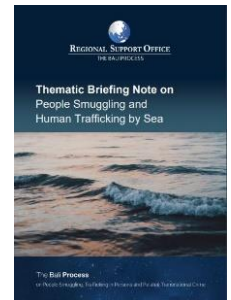
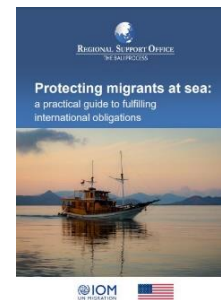
## REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE THE BALI PROCESS

### Irregular Maritime Challenges

The challenges regarding irregular maritime movements in the Asia-Pacific region are manifold. The need to bolster regional and international collaboration when addressing irregular maritime challenges is essential to combat transnational criminal networks and to respond to related humanitarian challenges, adopting a holistic position. At the same time, the need for a victim-centered, humanitarian approach has been acknowledged as a precondition for successful strategies. The Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (RSO) supports Bali Process Member States to respond to these challenges by enhancing regional capacity-building, providing knowledge-based tools for responding in the field and ensuring that such challenges addressed comply with international obligations and ‘best practice’ standards, guaranteeing Member States’ legitimate security interests while protecting those in need.

### Resources

Several resources have been developed to support Bali Process Member States in their efforts to address the challenges of irregular maritime movement. Recent publications include the [Thematic Briefing Note on People Smuggling and Human Trafficking by Sea](#) and [Protecting Migrants at Sea: a practical guide to fulfilling international obligations](#). These publications, among many others, are all publicly available on the RSO website at [www.baliprocess.net/resources](http://www.baliprocess.net/resources) and are free to download.



### The Bali Process Task Force on Planning and Preparedness

The Bali Process Task Force on Planning and Preparedness (TFPP) was established in 2016 to support the coordination among Bali Process Member States of action at an operational level in the event of a large influx of irregular migrants following the Andaman Sea situation in May 2015. The first TFPP meeting also recommended measures to harmonize detection, search and rescue and disembarkation of irregular migrants through the sharing of national and regional experiences. The sixth meeting of the TFPP was held in June 2021 and focused on the importance of safety of life at sea, prevention, and operational responses to irregular maritime ventures. Emerging areas of focus for the TFPP include strengthening the prevention of irregular maritime ventures and improving the coordination and connection with other Bali Process working groups to strengthen ongoing coordinated dialogue. The seventh meeting of the TFPP will be held in late 2022.



### GET IN TOUCH

The RSO of the Bali Process is a regional mechanism that brings together relevant policy knowledge, technical expertise and operational experience from Bali Process members and other key stakeholders, to develop practical initiatives that address people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.

The RSO stands ready to collaborate and respond to address the needs of Bali Process Member States. **Please contact us by email ([info@rso.baliprocess.net](mailto:info@rso.baliprocess.net)) or Twitter ([@baliprocessrso](https://twitter.com/baliprocessrso)) to inquire and discuss your needs or to add your details to our mailing list.**



# Irregular Maritime Capacity Building Activities

As irregular maritime movements continue to affect the Asia-Pacific region, Bali Process Member States must be prepared to respond comprehensively to these situations to ensure that lives are not lost at sea. The RSO assists by building the capacity of Bali Process Member States to address the challenges which arise from irregular maritime migration.

## **RSO Training Workshop on Addressing People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons by Sea:**

On 9 April 2021, the RSO hosted a capacity building workshop to address people smuggling and trafficking in persons by sea which was delivered for participants from the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency (BAKAMLA). The workshop brought together experts from the RSO and BAKAMLA to share their knowledge and expertise with BAKAMLA officers stationed across provinces throughout Indonesia. During this workshop, participants learned of the international obligation to rescue those in distress, protection requirements for different groups of people and the importance of international cooperation to address the crimes of people smuggling and trafficking in persons. Following participant discussions and questions, it became clear to the RSO that challenges in the maritime space remain significant. As such, the RSO will continue to conduct maritime capacity building initiatives including additional workshops on addressing people smuggling and trafficking in persons by sea.



Training Workshop on Addressing People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons by Sea  
Virtually via the JCLEC Cloudroom (Stationary Model) (100M)  
9 April 2021

## **Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Exercises:**

In November 2021, the RSO was invited to facilitate table-top exercises in two Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercises conducted by the United States Pacific Fleet in cooperation with the Royal Brunei Navy and the Bangladesh Navy. The scenario stressed primacy of safety of life at sea and highlighted the importance of having a victim-centered and gender balanced response to these incidents. The table-top exercise was positively received by the United States, Bangladesh and Brunei navies and all look forward to taking part in additional CARAT events in late 2022.



## **Operation Redback XVI ATIPSOM:**

The RSO participated in the Operation Redback XVI ATIPSOM workshop hosted by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and the Australian Border Force (ABF). An interactive presentation was delivered by the RSO, outlining the international legal framework relevant to criminal justice responses to maritime human trafficking and people smuggling. The RSO is working closely with the ABF to identify areas for further cooperation and capacity building initiatives in the maritime space.



## **Coast Guard Global Summit and Head of Asian Coast Guards Annual Meeting**

The RSO is a member of the Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) and an observer to the Head of Asian Coast Guards Annual Meeting (HACGAM). In addition to attending various working and high-level meetings in 2021, the RSO also took part in capacity building initiatives put on by the CGGS and HACGAM including the CGGS First Online Pilot Program for Coast Guard Global Human Resource Development in March 2021, and the HACGAM Capacity Building Program on Law of the Sea and Maritime Enforcement in October 2021. The RSO continues to engage with the CGGS and HACGAM, providing its expertise and support where applicable.

