

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

THE ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS AND HEADS OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISIONS OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DGICM)+ AUSTRALIA CONSULTATIONS

10 November 2005
Siem Reap-Angkor, Kingdom of Cambodia

1. The First ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + Australia Consultation was held on 10 November 2005 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. It was co-chaired by Pol. Maj. Gen. Meach Sophana, Director of Immigration Department, National Police, Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Cambodia and Mr. Bob Correll, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA), Australia.
2. The Meeting was attended by the ASEAN Heads of Immigration and Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and the ASEAN Secretariat and the DIMIA's representatives.
3. The Meeting exchanged views and shared best practices on immigration related issues and discussed the possible areas for future ASEAN-Australia cooperation on immigration matters.
4. The Meeting reached the following conclusions:
 - a. Cooperation between ASEAN and Australia immigration agencies on border and migration management, based on the principles of equality and respect, is of mutual benefit for all countries in the region; and
 - b. The Challenges of facilitating economically beneficial movement that promotes people-to-people linkages, and to combating irregular movement that presents a risk to common security, are trans-boundary in nature and requires sustained efforts by all, for the benefit of all.
5. The Meeting noted the objectives set in the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime will continue to address the issues of people smuggling, trafficking and irregular migration in the region. These include the need for more effective information and immigration intelligence sharing arrangements, development of national legislation on border and visa systems, more effective use of returns as a strategy to deter illegal migration, cooperation to identify the nationality of illegal migrants, and improved capacity in the region.

6. The Meeting welcomed the initiative of Australia and Singapore to co-host a Ball Process Workshop on Operationalising Immigration Intelligence to be held in Singapore on 17-19 January 2006.

7. The Meeting agreed that priorities over the next few years include to enhance efforts on detecting fraudulent travel documents, to strengthen immigration intelligence and information exchange, to sustain and expand consultative practices at the working level and to strengthen border control management.

8. The Meeting agreed that both sides would develop cooperation to achieve these objectives under the ASEAN-Australia cooperation on immigration and border security issues.

9. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the people and the Royal Government of Cambodia for the excellent arrangement and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.