



REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

BALI PROCESS

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

RSO NEWSLETTER

Edition Five

Message from the Co-Managers

Happy anniversary, Regional Support Office! One year after the official launch of the Regional Support Office (RSO), we are looking back on a busy year – meeting with Bali Process members, liaising with UN agencies and civil society partners, implementing approved activities and starting up operations at the office in Bangkok.

Milestones were, among others, implementing activities for the RSO four foundation projects. The first foundation project has been concluded with the [Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea](#), which took place in March 2013. The development of the RSO Expert Roster, and a draft MoU with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) on further cooperation regarding training activities on topics of thematic and geographic rele-

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vance to the Bali Process as well as a mapping of regional training institutions, are further milestones of the RSO's inception year.

Senior officials seconded to the RSO by the governments of Afghanistan and New Zealand have added their professional knowledge and experience to designated projects and thereby increased the RSO's ability to implement projects as mandated by the Bali Process, while ensuring Bali Process members' ownership.

Another achievement in the first year of RSO operations was the establishment of a Drafting Committee for policy guides on the criminalization of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. The RSO is actively supporting the Drafting Committee meetings, with the policy guides envisaged to be finalized by the next Bali Process SOM (Senior Officials Meeting) in early 2014.

For the coming year, the RSO aims to scale-up opera-



tions and activities, to increase its human capacity, and continue implementing projects in a results-oriented manner. The RSO is considering options for implementation of additional approved activities to ensure that the office acts as a long-term and practical resource for Bali Process members. Regional engagement and ownership by Bali Process members continues to be critical to the success of the RSO in the future.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all Bali Process members and observers for the continued support and engagement throughout the past year.

Greg Kelly
Co-Manager (Australia)

Bebeb A.K.N. Djundjuna
Co-Manager (Indonesia)

Policy Guides Drafting Committee – First and second meeting

At the Fifth Regional Ministerial Conference, the RSO was tasked to develop policy guides which could be used by states across a range of domestic agencies to promote a consistent understanding of international legal obligations and assist in developing effective domestic legislation. The policy guides will support countries in implementing obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons protocols, in particular obligations related to criminalization.

With Thailand and Australia as Co-Chairs, the Drafting Committee held its first meeting at the RSO facilities in Bangkok on 23 August 2013. Representatives of

Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and UNODC discussed the outline, content, purpose and timeline of the envisaged policy guides. It was agreed to draft two short introductory guides for policy makers and practitioners on how to strengthen legislative frameworks to effectively criminalize human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

At the *Second Drafting Committee Meeting* on 9 October 2013, input from all Drafting Committee members was reviewed. Once the reviewing process has concluded, a finalized draft will be shared with all Bali Process members for input and comments to ensure support by the wider Bali Process membership. A consultation workshop with interested Bali Process members is envisaged for the first quarter of 2014.



Update on RSO Foundation Projects

The RSO's engagement with Bali Process members continues through on-going work on two of foundation projects covering key migration and refugee protection issues.

Enhancing Collection, Use and Sharing of Data

Overview: *This project, implemented by IOM, promotes improved information management between States and international organizations by enhancing data collection, supporting further analysis and reporting, and facilitating information sharing and dialogue. It is funded by the Australian Government.*

As the Questionnaire was successfully launched to country members on 16 July 2013, the IOM project team is now following up with member countries to ensure their participation in the Questionnaire exercise. The goal of this exercise is to retrieve accurate and complete information to be used for additional research and analysis to support the development of regional mechanisms and to improve migration man-



agement among Bali Process member countries. The deadline for responses to the Questionnaire has now been extended to 30 October 2013, allowing for subsequent research to be conducted in the follow-up.

Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance

Overview: *This pilot project aims to raise awareness of voluntary repatriation opportunities for irregular migrants and enhancing government capacity to facilitate voluntary returns. This project is implemented by IOM and funded by the Australian Government.*

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 3 September, 24 persons have returned to their country of origin, with an additional 52 persons approved and awaiting return. In the case of asylum seekers and refugees, return has been facilitated in line with UNHCR's established principles and procedures. The project is implemented by IOM under the auspices of the RSO and funded by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Pilot study on information exchange and data analysis on irregular migration by sea

Overview: *Consideration is currently being given on how to proceed with this project by the RSO based on the recommendations made at the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Migration by Sea.*

Follow up to the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea

As a follow up to the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea co-hosted by the Government of Indonesia and UNHCR in March 2013, a series of proposals are under consideration for specific activities to take forward key recommendations from the Roundtable. In this context, UNHCR plans to convene a meeting under the auspices of the RSO by mid December to discuss with interested States options for taking forward work on mapping disembarkation options to ensure that States are properly supported and developing a set of Regional Guidelines and Operational Checklists on Disembarkation.

Mapping and analysing the protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in South East Asia

This project was implemented by UNHCR in cooperation with Mahidol University, Thailand, and concluded at the end of June 2013. As part of the project a set of draft Regional Guidelines was developed with the aim of providing a baseline of treatment of UASC in line with minimum international and regional standards and best practices. A mapping exercise was also undertaken on the situation and treatment of UASC. Plans are under way for the official launch of research findings and the Regional Guidelines in early December 2013 in Bangkok.

RSO Capacity Building Catalogue

At the Fifth Regional Ministerial Conference, the RSO was tasked to link the Bali Process with the law enforcement training expertise of existing regional centres of excellence. In addition to a visit to JCLEC in Semarang, Indonesia, a mapping of regional training institutions was undertaken in April and May 2013.

The draft *RSO Catalogue of Regional Capacity Building Institutions (RSO Catalogue)* is currently being collated. The *RSO Catalogue* will provide information on law enforcement and other institutions involved in capacity building training activities in geographic and thematic areas of relevance for the Bali Process. It is a tool aimed to contribute to the development of a Regional Capacity Building Program and to support Bali Process members. The RSO will share the draft with the wider Bali Process membership for feedback and input. After the revision process is concluded, the *RSO Catalogue* will be made available via the Bali Process secure portal.

The RSO - Technical officer secondment: New Zealand Secondment

New Zealand, as a member of the Bali Process Steering Group, is committed to working with other countries to prevent migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. With a view of providing support to the operationalization of the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF), a decision was made to place Dr. Rebecca Miller from Immigration New Zealand (INZ) in the RSO.



Rebecca is a migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons expert with almost 14 years of experience working in the Asia Pacific region. During her 18-month secondment as Bali Process Project Coordinator, Rebecca will focus on, and contribute to, a number of RSO activities on prevention. She is one of six members of the drafting committee to develop Bali Process guides on criminalizing migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. In addition, Rebecca will lead a project related to the design and implementation of effective information campaigns. She will also support the RSO in exploring opportunities for engagement with the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) as well as planned activities following from the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea held in March 2013. Last, Rebecca will consider opportunities to either establish, or provide on-going support to, existing law enforcement networks in order to promote better-targeted responses to migrant smuggling and irregular migration in the region.

RSO Roster of Experts

For the *RSO Roster of Experts*, Bali Process members and observers are encouraged to nominate experts working for national governments, international organizations and civil society, including NGOs. Nominated experts will be registered in a database which can be accessed and searched by all Bali Process members and observers.

The *RSO Roster of Experts* objective is to ensure that all Bali process members and observers can tap into a regional common pool of expertise whenever experts are needed for the implementation and planning of activities and events. To this end, the roster serves as a tool for capacity building of interested Bali Process members by making available legal, policy and operational expertise. The scope of expertise accessible through the Expert Roster will cover refugee protec-

tion and international migration; including human trafficking and smuggling, border management and other components of migration management. A first call for expert nominations was disseminated to all Bali Process members and observers on 22 February 2013. Calls for experts are envisaged on an annual basis.

To nominate experts, Bali Process members and observers are encouraged to complete the [Expert Nomination Form](#) and return by email via expertroster@rso.baliprocess.net or fax +66 2 676 7337. For more information on the *RSO Roster of Experts*, [click here](#).

Bali Process members encouraged to nominate RSO National Focal Points

To facilitate direct communication and engagement, the RSO encourages Bali Process members to nominate officials from government departments or ministries relevant to the scope of the Bali Process with a senior level of authority and decision-making capacity to act as *RSO National Focal Points*.

RSO National Focal Points will have the role of acting as a direct contact point for the RSO and as a primary recipient of information on RSO initiatives and events. Further, the *RSO National Focal Point* facilitates information sharing, coordination and joint planning on RSO matters and shares information on immigration policies, procedures and practices at a national level among key government departments.

To nominate, Bali Process members can complete the [RSO National Focal Points Nomination Form](#) and return by email via info@rso.baliprocess.net or fax +66 2 676 7337. For more information on the *RSO Network of National Focal Points*, [click here](#).

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