

## The Fourth Meeting of Asian Workshop on Passport Policy

Tokyo, November 29-30, 2007

### Chair's Summary

1. The Fourth Meeting of Asian Workshop on Passport Policy hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan was held on November 29 and 30, 2007 in Tokyo, with the attendance of representatives from the passport issuing authorities and immigration authorities of Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Union of Myanmar, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Embassy of India, and Japan.

2. During the meeting, participants discussed the challenges for introducing e-Passports, the effectiveness of information sharing on passport crimes in Asian countries and countermeasures against the passport crimes such as passport forgery, illegal application and illicit use, from the perspective of preventing terrorism, international crimes and illegal immigrations.

3. After ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) published last year the document 9303 part 1 "Machine Readable Travel Documents" which is international standard of e-Passport's specification, the number of the states which has introduced e-Passports is increasing rapidly. In order to facilitate introducing e-Passports in Asian region, e-Passport issuing countries reported the current situation, problems and the remaining challenges in their experiences after introducing e-Passports. On the other hand, countries which have not introduced e-Passports reported the state of preparation and challenges toward introducing e-Passport. Participants had fruitful discussion about e-Passport.

4. Each country reported the state of such crimes as forgery, illicit use and illegal obtainment of passports, statistics and trend of passport crimes. Participants reconfirmed the importance of secured adjudication of issuing passport and sharing the data of lost and stolen passports among the international community. Moreover, participants recognized the effectiveness of participating in the international information sharing activities. In this

connection, current approach to data sharing sought by Interpol was recommended.

5. Through each country's report, participants shared the beneficial information on the security measures against forged passports and countermeasures against illegal application or illicit use of passports. Participants concluded that active information exchange is necessary so that Asian countries would commence issuing MRP by the first April 2010 which is the deadline ICAO recommends, and eventually as many countries as possible would introduce e-Passport earlier. In this context, participants reached the common understanding that continuous information sharing among passport issuing authorities is necessary and the use of the all available integrated intergovernmental instruments including the International Forum for Travel Documents (IF4TD) which is the information sharing website for the exclusive use of passport authorities is one of the effective means for this end.