

The Sixth Meeting of Asian Workshop on Passport Policy  
Tokyo, November 26-27, 2009  
Chair's Summary

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Asian Workshop on Passport Policy hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan was held on the 26 and 27 November, 2009 in Tokyo, with the attendance of representatives from the passport issuing authorities and immigration authorities of the Republics of Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and the Embassies of the participating countries in Japan.
2. One of the purposes of this year's workshop was to support those countries not issuing ePassport to introduce ePassport through sharing the experiences of other countries. During the meeting, participants from countries which issue ePassport introduced the background, process and challenges they have faced specifications of their ePassport, the advantages derived from introducing ePassport and the future challenges to further enhancement of the function of their passports. Countries not issuing ePassport explained the specifications of their current passports, the proposed process and remaining challenges for the introduction of issuing ePassports. Through the participants' active information sharing and exchange of opinions, the meeting became a good opportunity for participants from countries not issuing ePassport to obtain useful information for continuing their efforts to do so. Those already issuing ePassport had informative exchanges of opinion as to how they might strengthen the functions of their own passports in the future.
3. Encouraging issuance of ICAO compliant passports in each Asian country will facilitate and streamline immigration process, and enable smooth trans-national movement of people in the region. To prevent and block passport-related crimes

such as possible forgeries, acquisition of counterfeit passports and identity theft, the use of ePassports/MRPs will play an important role on deterring and reducing illegal immigration, human trafficking, cross-border drug dealing, arms smuggling, money laundering and terrorism. It contributes to the stabilization of the Asian region. In this respect, this year's workshop focused on passport related crimes as another topic of the meeting. Participants reported on the trend of passport related crimes and their countermeasures for those crimes, and exchanged views on how to deal with those crimes. They also shared a common awareness of the importance of domestic legislation, the enhancement of the screening system for issuance of passports and the immigration process and strengthening cooperation with law enforcement agencies. In addition, participants also expressed on an awareness of the importance of developing international discussion and cooperation to prevent passport related crimes and enhance the functions of passports.