

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

VOLUME 16
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2019

FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY
POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

COVER STORY

MIGRANTS AND THEIR VULNERABILITY TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, MODERN SLAVERY AND FORCED LABOUR



SPECIAL REPORT



Analysing Integrated Check Post in the India's border with Bangladesh p.16

AGENCY NEWS



A global review of the latest news and challenges from border agencies and agencies at the border. p.24

SHORT REPORT



IOM launches five campaigns to prevent irregular migration in Mexico and Central America p.20

INDUSTRY NEWS



Latest news, views and innovations from the industry. p.35

CONTACTS

Editorial:

Tony Kingham

E: tony.kingham@knmmedia.com**Assistant Editor:**

Neil Walker

E: neilw@torchmarketing.co.uk**Design, Marketing & Production:**

Neil Walker

E: neilw@torchmarketing.co.uk**Subscriptions:**

Tony Kingham

E: tony.kingham@knmmedia.com

Border Security Report is a bi-monthly electronic magazine and is the border management industry magazine delivering agency and industry news and developments, as well as more in-depth features and analysis to over 20,000 border agencies, agencies at the borders and industry professionals, policymakers and practitioners, worldwide.



Copyright of KNM Media and Torch Marketing.

Brexit and the Irish border

As we approach the next Brexit deadline, and if we are to believe the rhetoric, the final deadline, the chances of a 'no deal' Brexit looks more and more likely.

The sticking point is of course the 'Irish Back Stop'. This is the agreement that would keep the United Kingdom (in general) in the European Union Customs Union and Northern Ireland (in particular) in some aspects of the European Single Market, until a solution is found to prevent a hard border.

This is of course an anathema to many in the UK government and the Unionists in particular and has been firmly rejected by the new Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

What Johnson, seems to be saying, as far as I understand it (and correct me if I'm wrong), is that even in the case of 'no deal Brexit', Britain will not put in place any physical border infrastructure (hard border) and will continue to allow free movement of people and goods across the border, despite the UK being outside the EU. Until such a time as the so-called soft border can be put in place.

This will put the EU in an invidious position. Why, because as custom duties and regulations diverge, to protect the integrity of the EU zone, the EU will have to demand that the UK put in place customs and immigration checks somewhere in the province. Even if it is not actually on the border. Thus, creating the hard border infrastructure that the back stop was designed to prevent.

The fear then is that this will give hard line republicans all the excuse they need to start attacking that infrastructure, wherever it is, kicking off the 'Troubles' part 2.

This seems like a high-risk strategy designed to force the EU to make concessions. Let's hope it works because nobody wants a return to the 'Troubles'.

Tony Kingham
Editor

READ THE FULL VERSION

The digital version of Border Security Report contains all the additional articles and news listed in the contents page below. The full digital version is available for download at

www.world-border-congress.com/BSR

CONTENTS

BORDER SECURITY REPORT



» p.5

4 UNODC OPENS THE FIRST SPECIALIZED FORENSICS LABORATORY IN LAOS FOR ANALYSING DIGITAL EVIDENCE

The lab will specialize in the analysis of digital evidence seized, or resulting from, criminal investigations.

5 MIGRANTS AND THEIR VULNERABILITY TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, MODERN SLAVERY AND FORCED LABOUR

A new study, undertaken by Minderoo Foundation's Walk Free initiative and IOM, examines the connection between migration and modern slavery.



» p.29



» p.16

10 AGENCY REPORTS

Latest news and reports from key agencies INTERPOL, OSCE, EUROPOL and the IOM.

16 ANALYSING INTEGRATED CHECK POST IN THE INDIA'S BORDER WITH BANGLADESH

Joyeeta Bhattacharjee looks at Integrated Check Post on the India-Bangladesh Border: A Field Survey and Brief.

21 PROTECTING EUROPE'S BORDERS WITH SECOND GENERATION MOTION DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

Colin Summers, Director of ClanTect looks at technology as a key component in maintaining the integrity of Europe's borders.

24 AGENCY NEWS

A global review of the latest news, views, stories, challenges and issues from border agencies and agencies at the border.

32 WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS

A look at the annual international border security gathering being hosted in Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020.

36 INDUSTRY NEWS

Latest news, views and innovations from the industry.



» p.21

UNODC opens the first specialized Forensics Laboratory in Laos for analysing digital evidence



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme on Cybercrime and the Lao People's Democratic Republic Police Force have jointly opened Laos' first Digital Forensics Laboratory. The lab will specialize in the

analysis of digital evidence seized, or resulting from, criminal investigations in Laos including transnational organized crime, cybercrime and wildlife crime.

UNODC collaborated closely with the Lao Police Force in setting up the facility, funded by the Government of Norway. UNODC conducted a rigorous selection process and trained and mentored specialist Lao Police Force personnel and, together with the Police Force, identified a suitable location for the lab. The lab is equipped with cutting-edge technology for the identification, extraction and analysis of digital evidence within a broad human-rights framework.

With the establishment of this facility, investigators in the country will be able to ensure the overall integrity and reliability of digital evidence whilst maintaining a proper chain-of-custody. Investigators are now able to identify, transport, recover, analyse and preserve digital evidence resulting from criminal cases and present this evidence in court. This new capability will drive Laos' criminal justice process forward, strengthening the rule of law in the country.

UNODC has been engaging with Laos for the past two years and has delivered training and mentoring to address the technical and legal challenges posed by new technologies and devices. This has helped investigators to understand the standard operating procedures for securing and handling digital evidence and follow best practices for cyber investigations and digital forensics examinations.

As a direct result, investigators are also able to combine digital forensics skillsets with traditional investigative

methodology, reflecting a multidisciplinary approach. Along with the establishment of the lab, UNODC has also equipped the Laos Police Force with Standard Operating Procedures for handling the digital evidence and established forensically sound processes for identifying, handling, analysing, storing and presenting digital evidence in court.

"The establishment of a specialized lab to analyse digital evidence in the Laos Police Force, the first of its kind in the country, is a major step forward for the criminal justice authorities, as well as for the Lao PDR society as a whole", said Alexandru Caciuloiu, UNODC Cybercrime and Cryptocurrencies Advisor for Southeast Asia and Pacific.

He added that "Citizens will benefit from a criminal justice system that operates according to the latest international standards and makes use of the latest technologies to ensure that justice is served in a fair and transparent way, thus taking Laos one step further to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 on providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

With the help of the lab, the Laos Police Force will now be able to analyse digital media for over 2,000 criminal cases per year, thereby delivering real, measurable strategic change. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime is committed to combating cybercrime and working with national and regional partners, particularly through ASEAN-based mechanisms.

The Lab was inaugurated in the Forensics Police Department, Ministry of Public Security, where UNODC briefed the Heads of Units and advised the Government. "Due to the recent increase in cybercrime, which threatens the stability, security and peace of countries in the region and across the globe, there is a need for continuous efforts and improvements in all areas of capacity building and in the utilization of advanced technology in combatting, investigating and prosecuting criminal activities", said Police Colonel Dr. Phengsavanh Thiphavongxay, Deputy Director General, General Police Department, Ministry of Public Security, Lao PDR.

MIGRANTS AND THEIR VULNERABILITY TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, MODERN SLAVERY AND FORCED LABOUR

What makes migrants vulnerable to human trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse? A new study, undertaken by Minderoo Foundation's Walk Free initiative and IOM, examines the connection between migration and modern slavery, and focuses on which migrants are most vulnerable, and in what circumstances, to modern slavery. The following is summary of that report.

WHERE ARE MIGRANTS MOST VULNERABLE?

Migrants are most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation in situations and places where the authority of the State and society is unable to protect them, either through lack of capacity, applicable laws or simple neglect. For example, migrants are highly vulnerable when fleeing situations of violence and conflict, where the State has effectively broken down and society itself is in crisis. Even once migrants have fled the immediate fighting, when people are on the move, this

vulnerability persists while migrants are dislocated from community and family support structures and are thereby typically without access to legitimate forms of employment, legal status and social protection. The risk is further increased when migrants move or work through irregular channels, where their irregular status puts them entirely at the mercy of opportunists who may seek to take advantage of their desperate circumstances. Migrant workers are also vulnerable in certain labour situations that are either unseen, hard to access



or simply not covered by existing legal protections. This includes situations that are “out of sight” such as migrant workers engaged in work at sea or even in private homes as domestic workers, but it can also include migrants who are effectively confined to worksites by private employers or agents who have a high degree of control over their ability to retain a visa, their working and living conditions, and their mobility.

WHICH MIGRANTS ARE MOST VULNERABLE?

Child and adolescent migrants are highly vulnerable to modern slavery. While an estimated 31 million children are migrants globally, legal routes of migration are typically closed to children. Children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable when travelling alone or having been separated from their families. Discrimination and racism can result in some child migrants of certain national or ethnic origins being targeted more than other children and experiencing

higher rates of victimization. Crimes against children tend to be underreported and research confirms child migrants face additional barriers to reporting, including fear of detention and deportation.

The issue of gender is relevant to vulnerability, with women experiencing higher rates of modern slavery in domestic work, the sex industry and forced marriage, while men are more likely to be exploited in state sponsored forced labour and forced labour in the construction and manufacturing sectors. All relevant studies agree that undocumented migrants are at a higher risk of modern slavery than those who are documented. Additionally, migrants whose visas are tied to a specific employer are also at higher risk of exploitation. The impact of migrants’ knowledge of migration processes is disputed. Some research suggests that poorly informed migrants are at higher risk of exploitation. However, other researchers argue that most

migrants are already aware of the dangers of migrant exploitation but are compelled into risky situations by circumstances beyond their control. Restrictive immigration policies (such as restrictions applied to certain visas or arbitrary changes to asylum procedures for nationals from certain countries) and weak migration governance structures are frequently noted as major causes of vulnerability to modern slavery, especially when combined with low-wage migration. In many contexts, migrant workers are excluded from or fall outside the protection of organized labour, where it exists.

A climate of discrimination against migrants can be a major cause of their vulnerability to modern slavery. While sometimes discrimination may play out through tolerance of abuse, it can also mean migrants have limited access to legal and law enforcement systems that otherwise might protect them. **WHAT ENABLES**

MIGRANTS TO BE ABUSED AND EXPLOITED?

With limited access to networks, information or resources, migrants frequently need to look to third party sources of help. If verified information is not readily available through obvious, official channels, then local agents, intermediaries and employers will be able to leverage their superior control of resources to exploit migrant workers with relatively low cost and risk.

These include having superior access to information about migration processes and employment systems, local networks (particularly for potential employment), financial resources

and control of space, including workplaces. The role of third-party intermediaries in the migration process is significant. Complex or piecemeal information on official migration processes, employment and relocation options, including job vacancies, skills and educational recognition, make it difficult for prospective migrant workers to migrate without third party assistance. As a result, migrants frequently use recruitment agencies, brokers, smugglers and other intermediaries, including extended networks through family and friends, to find overseas employment and facilitate their migration.

Transactions with recruiters or recruitment agencies are one of the most common situations in which migrants are confronted with choices that lead to their exploitation. In many jurisdictions, these agencies are subject to minimal or inefficient regulation. Complex networks of subcontracting and cross jurisdictional challenges can obscure legal and financial responsibilities.

Research suggests that those involved in abusing migrants can be both opportunistic and predatory, seeking profit but also personal gratification. Perpetrators may not always view their behaviour as exploitative, as they may hold ideological beliefs that allow them to rationalize their exploitation of others. Examples include reference to concepts of free choice (“it’s their choice”) or a belief that perpetrators are providing a social good (“they are better off here”). Xenophobia and discrimination are also highly relevant to the mistreatment of migrants.



WHAT ABOUT EXISTING GOVERNMENT PROTECTIONS FOR MIGRANTS?

While there are laws, policies and practices that are intended to protect migrants from abuse and exploitation, there are many gaps in these mechanisms that leave large areas where people are entirely without protection. These gaps in protection are actively leveraged by unscrupulous recruiters, agents, employers and others to extract profit or other personal reward from vulnerable migrants. Even where formal systems exist, corruption, lack of oversight and the existence of well-entrenched “shadow systems” undermines protections.

Even when protective systems do exist, research confirms that modern slavery is a low priority for some legal and law enforcement systems, with higher priority (and consequently funding) given to immigration control. There are also considerable challenges with oversight and enforcement when the affected populations are

essentially hidden, particularly when there are disincentives for victims to selfidentify such as the threat of criminalization for offences committed while exploited. Any lack of capacity to protect will be worsened in crisis situations, where formal controls break down, systems and infrastructure are stretched to the limit (including at borders and in countries of destination), and those who hold power may themselves be complicit in the abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While there are myriad factors that contribute to vulnerability of certain migrants to human trafficking, forced labour and modern slavery, it is possible to identify salient patterns of risk. These are the areas where our prevention efforts should focus: 1. Increasing protections for victims and vulnerable migrants. 2. Reducing the capacity and opportunity for potential offenders. 3. Increasing capacity and focus of guardians and first responders. 4. Focusing research efforts on filling



critical gaps in knowledge.

RECOMMENDATION 1: INCREASE PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS AND VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

Prevention efforts should focus on strategies to increase the safety of migrants in the locations and situations where high vulnerability coincides with opportunity for offending: a. Ensure protection is provided universally for migrants escaping repressive States that subject their own citizens to forced labour. b. Increase migrants' access to information about the migration and recruitment processes. c. Increase migrants' access to legitimate sources of work and/or finance along migration pathways and in destination countries. d. Ensure that access to safe financial services, such as short term loans, and safe work or livelihoods programmes are part of responses to displacement. e. Address the threat of detention and/ or deportation that hangs over many migrant workers by creating systems and structures

that enable temporary and even irregular migrants to access basic labour rights and justice, particularly around wage theft in both formal and informal sectors. f. Eliminate gaps in labour protections for workers in informal sectors. g. In destination and transit countries where children are on the move, ensure that local child protection systems are strengthened and supported to provide protection to migrant children. h. Provide access to reasonable livelihoods for migrant parents and inclusive education support for all children regardless of migrant parents' status. i. Recognize and address the inherent potential for exploitation of children in crisis situations and take steps to ensure that children are safe even while fostered or being cared for through other informal childcare practices.

RECOMMENDATION 2: REDUCE CAPACITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Prevention efforts should focus on strategies to reduce capacity

and opportunity for offending: a. Redress the power imbalance between employers and employees by prohibiting recruitment fees, prohibiting restrictions on mobility and withholding of identity documents, and promoting labour rights, inspections and protections. This is particularly urgent in high-risk sectors such as the manufacturing, domestic work, construction and fishery sectors. b. Reduce perpetrators' control of recruitment processes through more transparent regulation and system design while fostering innovative use of information technology and increased availability of free or low-cost information. c. Focus on the structures, policies and societal norms that enable discrimination to be perpetuated against migrants and other marginal populations.

RECOMMENDATION 3: INCREASE CAPACITY AND FOCUS OF GUARDIANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Prevention efforts should focus on strategies to increase the capacity and focus of guardians such as law enforcement, labour inspectors and other potential first responders: a. Close gaps in criminal laws by criminalizing forced marriage, all forms of human trafficking and forced labour, the use of child soldiers, and the buying and selling of children for sex. b. Close gaps in protective responses and ensure all victims of these crimes, including migrants, men, women and children, are included in services and are able to access them. c. Ensure that all migrant workers are protected by labour laws, including the right to collective bargaining. d. Review immigration

laws and policies to ensure they reflect the realities of labour market and migration pressures, but also to ensure a humane balance is struck between competing policy priorities, such as security and human rights of migrants. e. Strengthen migration governance systems. f. Ensure that corruption is investigated, exposed and prosecuted. g. In crisis situations, anticipate the risk of human trafficking, forced labour and modern slavery. Bolster the capacity of governments, humanitarian workers and partners in these situations. Actively develop protective systems to identify and assist at-risk populations both during crisis and in protracted or post-crisis settings, including in neighbouring countries and areas of return. h. Fund rapid response task-forces and provide them with the flexibility to respond to emerging threats. i. Provide training and support to first responders, including creating specialized law enforcement capabilities, and pursue labour inspections in the informal sector to detect instances of modern slavery. j. Encourage transparency of efforts through support for research and reporting on the operation and effectiveness of existing responses. k. Focus on rehabilitation that includes a financial or livelihoods components to prevent re-victimization of people who have exited exploitative situations.

RECOMMENDATION 4: FOCUS RESEARCH EFFORTS ON FILLING CRITICAL GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

Effective responses to modern slavery depend on the availability of relevant, reliable data to help



understand the problem and its solutions. Research is needed to fill gaps in knowledge, particularly on: a. Offenders, most notably the methods, backgrounds and motivations of modern slavery's perpetrators and the development of a better typology of perpetrators in various types of modern slavery. b. Age and gender and their impacts on vulnerability to modern slavery. c. Understudied topics, such as forced marriage and its connections to migration, as well as recruitment of child soldiers from migrant and displaced populations. d. Understudied regions and countries, where high prevalence is indicated but there is limited research on the connection to migration and vulnerability to modern slavery specifically, such as the Caribbean, Oceania (notably the Pacific Island Nations), Southern Africa, Middle Africa, Eastern Asia, the Russian Federation, Central Asian Republics, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia, Burundi and Mauritania. e. Protective factors, such as how cultural norms and

diasporas can be better leveraged to provide protection for migrants and counter the misinformation and exploitative networks that benefit offenders.

Publication authors: Fiona David, Katharine Bryant and Jacqueline Joudo Larsen

The Report Publisher: International Organization for Migration - www.iom.int

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

To read the full report go to: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/migrants_and_their_vulnerability.pdf

40 Arrested for International Vehicle Theft and Trafficking



Europol has supported the Spanish Guardia Civil and the French Gendarmerie Nationale to dismantle an organised

crime group involved in the stealing of vehicles. 40 individuals were arrested in connection to this case (32 in Spain, 8 in France) and 118 stolen vehicles were recovered, the sale of which would have brought over € 4 500 000 to this criminal organisation.

Initiated in January 2018 by the Spanish authorities, the investigation uncovered that this crime group had been stealing original vehicle documents and vehicles of the same brand as the ones mentioned in the documents. Afterwards, they falsified the vehicles' identification numbers, produced fake license plates containing valid information and sold these vehicles to Spanish and French car dealers as well as online. The asking price for the stolen vehicles was always slightly below the market price in order to secure a quick sale.

70 Arrests in Pan-European Action Against Child Trafficking

Some 300 pieces small arms, almost 1,500 pieces of light Europol supported a pan-European operation against trafficking of minors for sexual exploitation, forced begging and labour exploitation. The operation, led by the United Kingdom, involved law enforcement authorities from 15 EU member states, Iceland and Switzerland*.

Between 17 and 23 June 2019, over 127 000 individuals, 63 800 vehicles and 1 100 locations were checked. Law enforcement authorities searched private properties, commercial establishments, hotels, buses and train stations, ferry ports, airports and border crossings. Prevention

campaigns in schools to inform minors of the risks of human trafficking were also part of the operational activities.

The overall results include 34 arrests for trafficking of human beings and 36 arrests for other offences such as robbery, dissemination of child sexual exploitation material and facilitation of illegal immigration. During the action days, 206 potential victims were identified, 53 of which were confirmed to be minors. These activities enabled the initiation of 31 new cases of human trafficking across the different participating countries.

Over 18,000 Items Seized in Operation Targeting Cultural Goods

Customs and other law enforcement authorities from 29 countries, coordinated by the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) and supported by Europol, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO), have joined forces against the trafficking of cultural goods.

During operation Pandora III, law enforcement authorities assigned thousands of Police and Customs officers to focus on online market and key hot spots, with the aim of disrupting the activities of criminal groups involved in this form of trafficking.

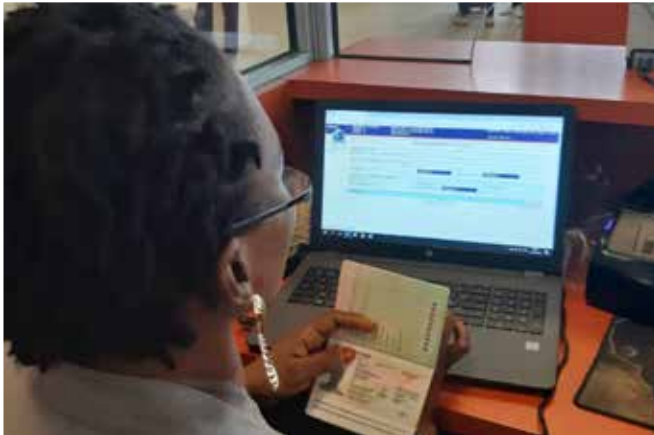
In total, 59 individuals were arrested and over 18 000 cultural goods seized, including archaeological items,

furniture, coins, paintings, musical instruments and sculptures. During the checks, objects that may facilitate the trafficking of cultural goods, such as metal detectors were also seized.

The majority of the objects seized during the operation were from European countries; however, more than 30 objects originated in countries outside Europe such as Colombia, Egypt, Iraq and Morocco.



INTERPOL operation advances border security in West Africa



An INTERPOL-led border management operation in West Africa highlighted the importance of strong security measures to detect individuals using fraudulent travel documents.

Operation Stop began with a two-day (30 and 31 July) training course for law enforcement officers in Guinea on the use of INTERPOL's policing capabilities, in particular

the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database; document fraud; detecting individuals attempting to travel illegally; and illicit cross-border financial flows.

Access to INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure police communication system was extended to the international airport in Conakry, as well as to other law enforcement units outside the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), allowing for direct access to the Organization's criminal databases.

The training phase was followed by a two-day operational phase at the airport where passengers were screened against INTERPOL's nominals and SLTD databases. Passenger manifests of flights from the previous month were also checked against the databases to further reinforce the officers' knowledge and skills.

More than 23,000 checks resulted in three positive 'hits' against documents recorded in the SLTD database, underscoring the added value of INTERPOL's policing capabilities in the region.

West Africa border operation uncovers trafficking victims, gold bars and fake pharmaceuticals



More than 100 potential human trafficking victims, including 35 minors, were identified and rescued during an INTERPOL-led operation to strengthen border controls in West Africa.

The seven-day Operation Adwenpa IV involved more than 200 frontline officers from 13 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Many of the minors, aged between 12 and 17, were identified at the land border between Benin and Niger. In

Ghana, authorities identified more than 50 potential victims travelling to the Middle East for employment.

MIND technology, which allows frontline officers to run checks against INTERPOL's database of wanted people and stolen and lost travel documents and receive an instant response, was used at the 23 airports and land border operational hubs.

As part of INTERPOL's permanent effort to tailor technical solutions to the policing needs of each of its 194 member countries, officers also tested innovative prototype tablets permitting checks against INTERPOL databases anytime and anywhere whether a network is available or not.



Mainstreaming gender in border security focus of OSCE-hosted training course in Vienna



An interactive three-day Training-of-Trainers (ToT) course on mainstreaming gender in border security, organized by the OSCE's Border Security and Management Unit of the Transnational Threats Department, concluded in Vienna.

Twenty gender focal points from border security-related

agencies of OSCE participating States learned about the principles of adult education, public speaking techniques and communication skills. They were trained on how to successfully convey the concept of mainstreaming gender to their leadership as well as to colleagues in their agencies and how to overcome resistance to this concept.

The participants, members of the OSCE Gender Equality Network, engaged in practical exercises on identification of cases of gender discrimination and sexual harassment, within their institutions but also in communities. They discussed possible ways forward to increase the participation and to achieve the successful recruitment of female border and police officers. The gender focal points also shared good practices and success stories on how to integrate a gender perspective in their work.

Kyrgyzstan hosts OSCE-supported Central Asian regional seminar on delimitation and demarcation practices



A Central Asian regional seminar on demarcation and delimitation practices concluded in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The eighth of its kind, it built on the success of the previous events organized by the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit since 2011.

One of the key outcomes of the series is a practical Guidebook on Delimitation and Demarcation based on positive bilateral experience of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Lithuania was developed and launched by TNTD/BSMU in 2017.

This seminar, organized by the OSCE's Transnational

Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU), with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Government of Kyrgyzstan, brought together 16 representatives from the national boundary commissions of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

"Clearly defined borders are beneficial to the livelihoods of border communities. They also promote wider regional security and stability, enable commercial exchanges, and the free movement of people. The OSCE created this forum in 2011 as an opportunity to share national delimitation and demarcation experiences, discuss good practices, challenges and the ways to resolve them," said Dennis Cosgrove, Head of the Border Security and Management Unit.



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

IOM Launches Two Migration Data Platforms in Spanish



The IOM presents two migration data platforms in Spanish. The first is the Regional Migration Information Platform (PRIMI, by its Spanish acronym), which will offer official migration data from the countries of Central America and the Caribbean. The second release is the Spanish version of the Global Migration Data Portal, managed from Germany by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC).

PRIMI, a platform financed by the IOM Development Fund, will make data on migration generated by the governments of the region and disaggregated by sex, age and nationality available to decision makers and the general public. PRIMI will offer data through visual representations (infographics, interactive maps, dynamic graphs, tables) and interactive databases, which will allow the crossing of variables to facilitate their analysis.

For the management of the migratory information that will be available in PRIMI, a regional network of officials from national migration directorates was formed. This network will allow the sharing of records of international entrances and exits, residences, returns and other administrative data, which will strengthen coordination and information flows between governments.

"PRIMI aims to consolidate the information produced by IOM tools and other data provided by governments to facilitate the comprehension of migratory flows in the region, as well as the design of migration programmes and policies," said Gabriela Rodríguez, project coordinator. "We also hope to carry out continuous work to strengthen the capacities of national migration offices in the region," she said.

IOM also launches the Global Migration Data Portal in Guatemala today, which will be available in Spanish for the first time since its launch in 2017. The Portal aims to serve as a single point of access to complete and timely migration statistics and reliable information on global migration data.

The site is designed to help policy makers, national statistics officers, journalists and the general public interested in the field of migration navigate the increasingly complex landscape of international migration data, currently dispersed in different organizations and agencies.

Alternatives to Irregular Migration: Vocational Training Programme for Gambians

The lack of access to employment opportunities among Gambian youth is widely cited as a major contributing factor to irregular migration. According to the 2018 Gambia Labour Force Survey, 95 per cent of Gambian irregular migrants surveyed cited "lack of work" as their primary reason for migrating.

In response to this, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has launched a vocational training programme aimed at equipping Gambian youth with the skills to engage in entrepreneurial ventures or seek employment.

The programme was designed after a baseline assessment to identify market gaps, demands and opportunities in the West Coast and Upper River Regions – which represent the first and third highest, respectively, origin of Gambian migrants. While laptops and satellites are more widely used in the peri-urban West Coast Region, the demand for

mobile phone repairs and solar panels was higher in the Upper River Region.

A total of 100 youth who will participate in four separate vocational training courses at the Gambia Telecommunications and Multimedia Institute (GTMI): satellite installation and laptop repairs in the West Coast Region; and solar panel installation and mobile phone repairs in the Upper River Region. Lasting 6 to 12 weeks each, the courses will see 50 young men and 50 young women learn both technical and entrepreneurial skills, including business administration, financial management and customer service.



Canine Support Helps Police Seize 9 Thousand Pads of Apent Fentanilo

The Community of Police of America - AMERIPOL, during the last month made the joint for the realization of the joint action aimed at the smuggling of goods of foreign origin, which focused on deploying customs control actions among the Police bodies, through of the seizure and confiscation of cigarette smuggling. This operation had the participation of 12 police forces and 8 countries such as Mexico, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina and Colombia.

Operational actions were carried out at different

geographical, land, air and sea points, such as: international crossings, national routes, warehouses, commercial establishments, urban centers, airports, river and sea areas.

As a result of this important alliance, the apprehension of 161,234,140 units of cigarettes valued at more than 10 million dollars, the capture of 264 people, 170 immobilized vehicles and the disarticulation of 24 criminal structures dedicated to transport, storage, marketing and distribution of this type of merchandise in the region.

Federal Police and Sedena Seize 235 Kilos of Methamphetamine



The Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection recognized the operational capabilities of the Intelligence Division of the Federal Police, who in coordination with personnel

from the Secretariat of National Defense, seized about 235 kilos of apparent methamphetamine, valued at more than 66 million pesos.

When carrying out inspection and surveillance work in the vicinity of La Rumorosa, Baja California, federal forces realized that the driver of a van evaded the safety filter, which was given scope to mark the stop. It carried various sacks with plastic containers that contained a granulated substance. In total 590 packages were found.

Through the application of the Chain of Custody Protocol, the person and packages were transferred to the Federal Public Ministry Agency in the entity, where the weight and type of substance insured will be determined.

Canine Support Helps Police Seize 9 Thousand Pads of Apent Fentanilo



Regional Security and Federal Forces divisions of the Federal Police, with the support of canines, in two actions secured approximately 9,670 tablets of apparent fentanyl,

in a parcel company from the Culiacán International Airport, Sinaloa and inside a bus station in Hermosillo, Sonora.

It was in a first action in the area of airport courier and parcel service, where the specimens detected in a box of typical sweets, two packages with 870 doses with the characteristics of fentanyl. They were destined for an address in Florida, United States.

In a second operation, when carrying out inspection and inspection tasks inside the bus terminal, a dog trained in the detection of narcotics located inside a bathroom, a transparent bag with 8,800 pills with similar characteristics.

Please join us in discussing...

ACCELERATING SECURE TRADE AT PORTS & BORDERS

New Tech, Better Detection, More Trade

November 13, 2019 • Webinar Hosted by World Border Security

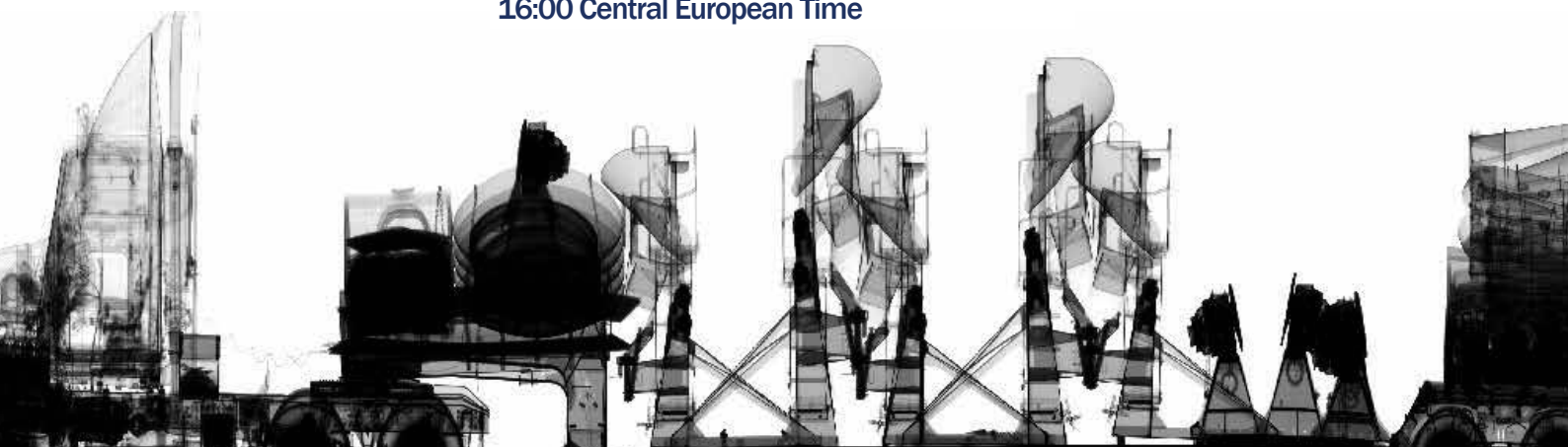


Further details and
to Register at
[www.border-security-report.com/
S2-webinar](http://www.border-security-report.com/S2-webinar)

Upgrading inspection capabilities by integrating systems allows ports and borders to create fast entry lanes that are capable of 100% inspection.

During this webinar, representatives working with US CBP, international Customs agencies, global port operators, trade executives and defense leaders will discuss initiatives that enable data sharing between agencies and facilitate more inspection, better detection, faster Customs clearances and increased trade.

November 13, 2019
10:00 Eastern Time Zone (US)
16:00 Central European Time



ANALYSING INTEGRATED CHECK POST IN THE INDIA'S BORDER WITH BANGLADESH

By Joyeeta Bhattacharjee

Promoting trade and connectivity have been a major focus of India's neighbourhood policy. Efficient management of the checkpoint considered to play a crucial role in this respect. Easy cross border movement of goods and people provides a stimulus for growth of trade. Currently, India has initiated the work on improving the infrastructure at the border checkpoints by developing

Integrated Check Posts (ICP) in the existing Land Custom Stations (LCS). 20 LCSs have been designated as ICPs in the entire length of its border with all its neighbours. Out of the 20 ICPs, 10 are in India's border with Bangladesh. Infrastructures at the ICPs are promoted in two phases. In the first phase, 7 of the ICPs are being developed and 6 of them are operational already. Two of the first

7 ICPs-Agartala and Petrapole are in India's border with Bangladesh. Considering the largest number of ICPs are in the Bangladesh border, a close analysis of the ICPs will provide an insight into challenges India facing in developing the border checking points.

Understanding ICP

ICPs are envisioned to provide adequate passenger and freight process facilities under one roof at the border checkpoints. ICP aims to integrate three main border-related functions- customs, immigration and border security.

Customs- clearance of cargo/ goods carried by vehicles, valuable personal items of passengers, and currency by monitoring mechanism and installed equipment.

Immigration- checking of passport, visas and passenger identification.

Border Security- maintaining security, preventing the flow of illegal arms and other lethal weapons, and providing backup support to customs and immigration.

The primary function of ICP is to facilitate systematic, seamless and secure cross-border movement of goods and people by ensuring efficient passenger flow, providing adequate passenger facilities, smoothening process, optimising the use of facilities, systematising support facilities, and improving traffic flow.

To promote trade ICPs should provide facilities including- warehouse and open yards for the storage of goods, parking facilities for smooth flow of trucks; in-house weighing facilities for trucks; and

prevent security for the goods to prevent pilferage at the warehouse. Facilities for movement of the people include-immigration and customs all under one roof. A model ICP should have facilities including- immigration, customs, security, taxation authorities, animal quarantine, warehouses, cargo and baggage examination yards, parking zones, banks post offices, communication facilities, tourist information centres, waiting for halls, canteens refreshment stalls, public convenience, health service.

Involvement of multiple stakeholders required to enhance the efficiency of the ICPs. Key stakeholders are- Central Board of Indirect Taxes, Immigration officials, Border Guarding forces, Food safety departments, Banks, Warehousing authorities, Plant quarantine etc. Government of India established the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) for management of ICPs. LPAI falls under the Border Management Department of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs and is responsible for developing, sanitising and managing the facilities at the designated checkpoints along India's border with neighbours.

List of ICPs in the India's borders with neighbours

SI	ICPs	State	Bordering Country	Status
1	Atari	Punjab	Pakistan	Operationalised 13.4.2012
2	Agartala	Tripura	Bangladesh	Operationalised 17.11.2013
3	Petrapole	West Bengal	Bangladesh	Operationalised 12.02.2016
4	Raxual	Bihar	Nepal	Operationalised 3.6.2016
5	Jogbani	Bihar	Nepal	Operationalised 15.1.2016
6	Moreh	Manipur	Myanmar	Operationalised 15.11.2018
7	Dawki	Meghalaya	Bangladesh	Foundation stone laid on 24.1.2017 Under construction
8	Jaigaon	West Bengal	Bhutan	To be developed
9	Sanauli	Uttar Pradesh	Nepal	To be developed
10	Panitanki	West Bengal	Nepal	To be developed
11	Hili	West Bengal	Bangladesh	To be developed
12	Changrabandha	West Bengal	Bangladesh	To be developed
13	Suatkandi	Assam	Bangladesh	To be developed
14	Rupaidiha	Uttar Pradesh	Nepal	To be developed
15	Kawarupichuah	Mizoram	Bangladesh	To be developed
16	Mahadipur	West Bengal	Bangladesh	To be developed
17	Fulbari	West Bengal	Bangladesh	To be developed
18	Banbasa	Uttarakhand	Nepal	To be developed
19	Bhitamore	Bihar	Nepal	To be developed
20	Ghojadanga	West Bengal	Bangladesh	To be developed

The ICPs are developed in two phases. 1 to 7 are part to phase-1 and 8 to 20 are to be developed in phase-2. The ICPs highlighted in blue are in the Bangladesh border

India's Border with Bangladesh

India has international borders with countries like- Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Amongst its neighbours, India shares the longest border with Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh

have around 4096 kilometres of the border running through five of the Indian states including -West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. It is worthy to note that India and Bangladesh were one before the partition of India in 1947. Post-1947, Bangladesh became part of Pakistan until it was liberated in 1971. Due to their historical linkages, the two countries share the commonality of language, culture, familial connect and economic links.

Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia with bilateral trade worth \$10 billion. Besides, Bangladesh is one of the largest sources of tourists in India. India's largest visa service globally is in Dhaka. The Indian mission in Bangladesh issues around 1 million visas annually.

Most of the trade and movement of the people takes place by the land border. India-Bangladesh land border caters to 75 per cent of the imports from and 50 of the exports to Bangladesh. The facilities in the border checkpoints play a key role

in the smooth movement of the people and goods.

India's Border check points before ICP

There are around 38 checkpoints in the border with Bangladesh for entry and exit of goods and people across India and Bangladesh border. The infrastructure in these points is insufficient to deal with the flow of the people and goods that passes across the border. The inadequate facilities not only made border crossing cumbersome but also escalated the transaction cost of doing business.

Before the ICPs, the average time delay for a shipment of cargo was four days. None of the LCS provided facilities comparable to an excellent standard. The condition at the Petrapole, the biggest LCS in the India-Bangladesh border is a case in point. A major lacuna in Petrapole included- communication constraint, absence of testing facilities, inadequate storage facilities for perishable goods and poor goods handling facilities.

Impact of ICPs

Facilities in the ICPs in Agartala and Petrapole became operational in 2013 and 2016 respectively. Facilities available in Agartala are- Passenger Terminal Cargo Building, Warehouses, Inspection Shed, Plant Quarantine, Health Parking Facilities, Loose Cargo Area, Driver Rest Area, etc. Facilities available at Petrapole- Cargo Terminal, Import Warehouse, Export Warehouse, Customs Service Building, Quarantine block, Public Health office, Weigh Bridges, Public Utilities Block, Banks/ ATM, Electric Sub Station, Foreign Exchange Bureau, Parking Area for Vehicles, Cafeteria, Rummaging Sheds, Dormitory Building.

Experiences at the Agartala and Petrapole suggests some improvement in the border crossing between India and Bangladesh. Some of the preliminary impressions suggest ICPs- Relatively increased efficiency in the inspection and release of good, improved quality of services rendered by border agencies and expedited border-crossing improved flow managed. Still, there is scope for further improvement to exploits their potential to the optimal.

Challenges facing ICPs

Importance of infrastructure

Development of the infrastructure both within the ICPs and in the surrounding areas is a necessity for ICPs to perform to its fullest potential. Absence of appropriate infrastructure like roads results in traffic hazards, which influence traffic flow. For example, the road connecting Petrapole to Kolkata, a metropolis in India located 80



kilometres from the border and a major destination of goods and people, is narrow causing massive congestion.

Similarly, in Petrapole a separate cargo terminal constructed, however, the facilities in the passenger terminal are not sufficient to handle the flow of people. Often-long queues seen outside the passenger terminal. It is worthy to note that Petrapole is one of the busiest border checkpoints in Asia with around 2 million people passing through this border point.

Again, the asymmetry of infrastructure across the border affects the performance of the ICPs. Parking at the Petrapole can accommodate 2000 Trucks a day, while the parking in Benapole, the corresponding checkpoint in Bangladesh, could accommodate only 450 trucks daily. Thus, there is always a backlog of trucks. Synergising the standard of the infrastructure across the border will contribute to enhancing the performance of the ICPs.

Use of Technology

Of late, substantial emphasis given on the use of technology for border management in India. In this regard, the ICPs expected to use technology, primarily, for scanning and inspection. There is hardly any technological tools available for scanning of the trucks crossing the border for loading and unloading purposes. Mostly, inspection is conducted manually which is not reliable and often give space for pilferage. Baggage scanner is the most dominant sign of technology for inspecting goods and baggage of the passengers.

Such scanners frequently found to be non-functional.

Increasing the use of technology for surveillance will help to enhance efficiency in monitoring and inspections in the ICPs. Absence of technological support often provides opportunities to criminal groups to use such points for smuggling of narcotics, gold etc. There have been instances where legitimate passengers used to smuggle goods like gold.

A major obstacle for the smooth functioning of the ICPs has been poor digital connectivity. Implementing a single-window system is a major goal of ICPs to facilitate trade but apprehensions persist about its success due to poor availability of the broadband connectivity. High-speed internet connectivity is required for the success of the ICPs.

Conclusion

In spite of the challenges, ICPs display India's willingness to promote world-class infrastructure at the checkpoints for supporting cross border trade and movement

of people. Experiences in the Agartala and Petrapole suggests a significant improvement in the conditions at the border crossing at the India and Bangladesh border. Since most of the ICPs are yet to be developed, lessons could be drawn from the existing ICPs and rectified accordingly. India should concentrate on upgrading the infrastructure timely. Additionally, the focus should be given on deepening use of technology for efficient management of the ICPs. The state of infrastructure at the checkpoints in the border crossing will transform significantly after all the ICPs are functional and optimism is riding high about its positive impact in future.

Author is a Senior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. Views expressed are authors personal. (This article is based on a report "Integrated Check Post on the India-Bangladesh Border: A Field Survey and Brief" by the author published at orfonline.org.)



IOM launches five campaigns to prevent irregular migration in Mexico and Central America



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is currently launching five campaigns to prevent the risks of irregular migration and encourage informed decision making among potential young Central American migrants.

Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras have already presented their campaigns Migrar Informados, Échale ganas and Ponele plan a tu vida. El Salvador is currently preparing to launch the Conectá con tu futuro campaign for the month of September. That same month, Nicaragua and UNICEF will present the #YoCamino campaign.

All campaigns are based on IOM's experience in Asia with the hugely successful IOMX project, which used the Communication for Development (C4D) methodology.

The five campaigns were developed based on the results of more than 2,800 interviews, coordination spaces with more than 100 local partners and the validation of the audience to which the campaigns are directed.

In Mexico, results showed that 97 per cent of migrants in transit would make a great effort to obtain the documents needed to regulate their stay in the country, but 59 per cent do not know which documents they need.

In addition, 49 per cent mentioned not knowing where to look for information to migrate in a regular way. In response to these needs, the Migrar Informados campaign seeks

to raise awareness about the existence and benefits of migration regularization routes in Mexico.

In the three countries of the Northern Triangle (Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador), initial research showed that more than 80 per cent of people wish to receive information on regular migration channels and most would make an effort to get their documents for regular migration. In addition, between 59 per cent and 70 per cent of people interviewed would be willing to engage in local education, employment or entrepreneurship opportunities as an alternative to irregular migration.

The campaigns Ponele plan a tu vida in Honduras, Échale ganas in Guatemala and Conectá con tu futuro in El Salvador, aim to make young people reflect on their life plans and consider information on alternatives to irregular migration.

Esteban Martínez Segovia, Head of Communications of El Salvador's General Directorate of Migration stressed that "under this approach, more strategic communication plans can be promoted and aimed at achieving better results. Empathy with the communities is key to understanding the causes of migration, which, as we know, is evolving and adopting new forms."

Data from the interviews in Nicaragua showed that 60 per cent of adolescents are unaware of the difference between traveling regularly and doing it irregularly. Responding to the needs shown in the diagnosis, the #YoCamino campaign, which will be launched in September, focuses on making the processes of regular migration known. In Nicaragua, the campaign is funded and supported by UNICEF.

The campaigns are strengthened at a local level with a network of information points formed by organizations and institutions trained by IOM and government counterparts. This network will provide personalized information on regular migration and local development opportunities. The percentages of people interviewed willing to visit a Migration Information Centre range from 81 per cent to 89 per cent per country.

PROTECTING EUROPE'S BORDERS WITH SECOND GENERATION MOTION DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

By Colin Summers
Director, ClanTect Ltd

The current refugee crisis is one of today's hottest topics, which reverberates across so many aspects of politics, commerce and everyday life. Figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) suggest there are now 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, with 25.4 million refugees and 3.1 million asylum-seekers. The numbers have never been as large, and they are creating huge economic and

political problems in many regions, and the respective border controls are understandably under immense pressures, to control the flow of both people and goods.

The problems are global, with huge transit populations pressurising borders as widespread as South Asia in India, Bangladesh and Burma; Central and East Africa, in several war-ravaged countries and in North and Central America, not

just on the Mexican - US border, but also on the Guatemala – Mexico border, escaping both economic collapse and political repression. Equally, we are all far more aware of, and sensitive to, the millions of refugees, trying to cross into mainland Europe, from the Middle East countries and from Africa, pressurising the borders of Spain, Italy and Greece and other adjacent countries. Sources* estimate that there were over 110,000 detected illegal crossings made into Europe, for the first 9 months, in 2018. ...understandably there are no figures available for the number of undetected crossings..

Managing the borders presents unique logistical challenges, balancing the need to enforce high levels of security while enabling the flow of traffic, i.e. both goods and people, to progress through the borders at reasonable speeds. Do consider that many of Europe's border crossings are some of the busiest sea ports, rail terminals and highways in the world, with thousands of vehicles crossing each way, often on a 24 x 7 basis. Many of the European border areas, particularly the sea ports, date back hundreds of years. The infrastructures may be out dated, the available space may also be limited, and many buildings and road and rail surfaces have to be constantly maintained and upgraded. The geographic locations are also typically exposed to the harsh conditions of weather. All of these factors mean that border crossing points are tremendously busy environments.

Amongst the tens of thousands of vehicles, crossing the borders,

there will be clandestines hidden away, desperate to get through the border crossing. The options available to the Border Force agencies are limited, particularly if they are to maintain a reasonable flow of traffic, not easy when you consider that ideally every truck has to be searched and searched thoroughly. In order to appreciate the immensity of this challenge, stand next to a typical 44 tonne articulated vehicle; it will measure 16.5 metres long, 2.55 metres wide and 4.2 metres height.....and then consider how many boxes, pallets and crates could be packed inside!!

The sheer scale of the vehicles underlines the difficulty, if not near-impossibility, of manually searching each truck. A thorough manual search would require 2-3 people, and a fork lift truck to ensure proper access through the interior of the truck; and if every crate and box is to be checked, this could take at least 1 hour. The reality is that the required manpower and time is simply not available, and even if it was, how reliable would the search be?

Another key consideration for any search is the desperation, determination and ingenuity of the

hidden clandestines. Many have survived life threatening journeys, and they will take huge risks in hiding away in cramped areas and in uncomfortable positions, often with limited air.....sometimes with fatal consequences. Equally with organised crime gangs, involved in the trafficking, the clandestines may have their own intelligence and know-how (e.g. using different scents, in order, to deter the sniffer dogs).

Finally, the sheer volume of traffic in most ports and border crossing points means that it is simply not possible to search every vehicle.

Different technology types have been tried, albeit with limited success. For example, 'sniffer' technology cannot be deployed on all types of large vehicles. While X-Ray technology is also limited in being deployed only on certain types of trucks, in addition to the fact that there are health and safety concerns, for both the operator and any hidden clandestine.

Motion Detection Technology (MDT), sometimes called 'Heartbeat Detectors', was hailed as 'THE' solution for Border Force Agencies. However, it is important to appreciate that the early form of this





technology was first introduced and deployed several years ago with very limited success. The earlier generation of systems were not able to operate effectively in busy port environments: the openness and exposure of these locations, added to the constant stream of noise and disturbances, generating too many 'false positives'.

It was to address these problems that Professor Steve Daley BSc (Hons), PhD, CEng, FIMechE and the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, at the University of Southampton were called in. Prof. Daley is recognised as one of the world's leading experts in the field of sound, motion and vibration technology. He was tasked with working out why the existing technology was not working effectively and what, if anything, could be done to improve its performance. Calling on his years of experience working in the highly specialised defence and maritime sectors, Professor Daley and his team were able to develop a new form of MDT technology that is able to effectively isolate the subject

vehicle from its environment, providing an extremely high degree of accuracy that was simply not available from the early systems.

Manufactured by a new company ClanTect Ltd, with Prof. Daley as Managing Director, this second generation of MDT has been specifically designed for these operational environments and provides many crucial benefits for the Border Force agencies. As previously mentioned the system is able to operate effectively regardless of any noise disturbances, such as passing traffic, or road works or from nearby turbines and engines. The system is also able to execute searches on multiple vehicles at the same time. So the system makes a significant contribution to the traffic flow.

The system is also easy and quick to operate. Technical skills and intensive training are not required. Sensors are attached to the frame of the vehicle, which literally takes seconds. The operator then presses a button, and the system then automatically executes an 'electronic search' of the vehicle,

which is completed in just over a minute. The system is highly accurate, and will detect any presence, human or animal, inside the vehicle.

The system is also built to operate on a 24 x 7 basis, obviously many of the port operations run on multiple shifts, and the performance and reliability of the system has to be in synch with this. ClanTect therefore offers a self-testing module, for the all-important sensors. A thorough test can be completed in a minute, which validates the performance and accuracy of the sensors.

Another new component to the technology, is the addition of a management and support tool, in the form of 'ClanConnect', which is a secure and high-speed communications gateway. This enables online communications between the remote terminals installed at the border check points; which may be deployed in over a hundred locations in multiple regions and countries; and the central operational control centre. One major benefit is that any operational issues can be instantly alerted, diagnosed online and resolved..... this means both rapid problem solving as well as minimum downtime..... absolutely critical at such busy locations.

As a result of the technology refresh, this second generation MDT has been successfully deployed on multiple border crossings; and on multiple types of vehicles. The technology is truly a key component in maintaining the integrity of Europe's borders.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

Equatorial Guinea builds wall to stop migrants



The tiny oil-rich central African nation of Equatorial Guinea is carrying on plans to erect a wall along its 183km-long border with Cameroon.

The plans have sparked controversy with Cameroon authorities because of concerns about encroachment into Cameroon's territory. Equato-Guinean officials are said to have already erected milestones to demarcate the line along which the border wall will be constructed.

The move has angered Cameroon's government. It dispatched its army chief of staff at the end of July to the border town of Kye-Ossi for a situation report and stationed elite forces along the border.

There has been a history of border friction between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. Tensions have been rising

between the central African neighbors since Equatorial Guinea discovered oil in the 1990s. The smaller country has often blamed Cameroon for allowing illegal migrants from West and Central Africa, especially Nigeria and Cameroon, to pass through en route to Equatorial Guinea in search of economic opportunity. Eq Guinea officials seem to fear an influx of foreigners will weaken efforts to provide jobs to its citizens, majority of whom still live in poverty.

Morocco boosts security at border crossing with Mauritania



Morocco is tightening control over its southern borders with state-of-the-art technology to keep the Sahara and the whole country at bay from threats posed by terrorist groups and organized crime networks, the Moroccan press reported.

The most-southern tip on the shared borders with Mauritania had long been a haven for dealers until Morocco cracked down two years ago by combing the area and setting up rigorous security control.

The move irked the Algerian-backed Polisario, which moved in its militiamen to the area beyond Morocco's security berm, hindering the free flow of traffic and threatening regional peace and security by its provocations of Morocco's armed forces.

The Guerguarat border crossing of about 5 kilometers was left to the UN administration since the 1991 ceasefire, honored by Morocco but frequently breached by the Polisario militias, which gained notoriety in terrifying truck drivers and engaging in all sorts of trafficking. Hence the need for Morocco to secure its territory by ensuring steady control of the strip.

Thousands of Returning Moroccans Overwhelm Ceuta Border

Thousands of Moroccans living abroad (MREs) returning to Morocco for Eid



al-Adha overwhelmed the Moroccan border with Ceuta.

As many as 295,000 Moroccans have returned to Morocco from Spain for the summer holidays since July 15, when Spain's Operation Strait Passage (OPE) began. Each year, OPE facilitates the return of Maghrebis to their home countries.

The weekend saw the operation's busiest days as many Moroccans returned home for the Eid of sacrifice. Muslim families celebrate together God's provision of a lamb for Ibrahim by sacrificing a ram or goat.

Many Moroccans had come across the Strait of Gibraltar from Algeciras to Ceuta by ferry. In Algeciras, some ferries left more than 30 minutes after their scheduled departure due to the large volume of vehicles.

Officials anticipated the large influx of MREs, and there were no incidents reported in connection with the delays at Algeciras.

Nakop border police nab smugglers carrying tyres stuffed with dagga

Nakop border police have been applauded for stopping a considerably large shipment of unregulated dagga from entering South Africa.

For South Africa and Namibia's bilateral



relations, Nakop is an important trade route. Trading Economics estimated that bilateral relations between the two countries yielded a R30-billion annual trade balance between 2015 and 2017.

It comes as no surprise that a bunch of smugglers from Namibia, with ambitions of breaking into South Africa's thriving illicit dagga market, would take a chance at transporting kilos of it through its borders.

According to police spokesperson, Brigadier R Ramatseba, three suspects attempting to cross the Nakop border into the Siyanda District Municipality were stopped and searched by alert border officials.

On a hunch, the officials took a closer look at two suspiciously bloated tyres. Ramatseba revealed that as they removed each tyre from its rim, bags of dagga, wrapped in brown tape, fell out onto the ground.

It was established that the three suspects attempted to smuggle at least 51 bags of dagga into the country, the full weight and value of which has yet to be determined.

Denmark Considers More Control With Swedish Border After Copenhagen Blast



Denmark's government is considering strengthening controls at its border with Sweden after two bomb blasts aimed at a government agency in Copenhagen that led to two Swedes being charged, the Danish prime minister said on Wednesday.

"We will look into the possibility of protecting our border with Sweden in a better and smarter way," recently appointed Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told a news conference.

Denmark is connected to Sweden via the Oresund bridge across a 16 kilometer (10-mile) strait and thousands of citizens from the two countries commute across the border daily by train and car. Both countries are members of the European Union.

Croatian Police Commended over Frontex Training Programme



Croatian police officers were commended for organising and implementing the Land Border Surveillance Officer Frontex training programme recently in Sankt Augustin, Germany, involving EU

member-countries currently faced with the problem of migrant crisis, the Croatian Police Directorate said.

The programme is designed to prepare police forces of EU member-countries for participation in international operations which are aimed at strengthening internal border control within the Schengen area and the protection of the EU's external borders.

The programme was based on workshops on police conduct at border crossings, the treatment of asylum seekers and migrants in need of medical help, and the treatment of illegal migrants caught in the EU.

It was attended by 18 border police officers from Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Lithuania and Croatia.

Border Patrol agents arrest 2 at immigration checkpoint on Interstate



U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested two Mexican Nationals for violations of United States immigration laws during its three-day immigration checkpoint on Interstate 95.

Border Patrol agents conducted the immigration checkpoint on the southbound lane of Interstate 95 just past Exit 264 in Sherman.

According to a press release from the Border Patrol, the two men were

traveling south on I-95 on Tuesday morning when they were stopped at the checkpoint. Once officers asked the men to pull off to the side for a secondary inspection, one of the men was found to have entered the United States illegally, more than 20 years ago. The other man, who entered the U.S. legally, was found to have violated his temporary worker status by abandoning his lawful employment.

BGB, BSF exchange sweets, greetings on Eid day



The Border Security Force of India and the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) exchanged sweets and wishes on the occasion of Eid-ul Adha at designated points along the 4,096-km frontier between the two countries.

By contrast, the customary exchange of sweets between border guarding troops of India and Pakistan along the international border did not take place today on the occasion, our New Delhi correspondent reports quoting Indian officials.

They said senior commanders of BSF and BGB presented sweets to each other as part of the existing friendly protocol along the Bangladesh border, the officials said.

On the other hand, Indian officials said the Pakistani side declined to attend the sweet-exchange ceremony after the Border Security Force (BSF)

sent across official communication to exchange sweets and greetings along the International Border running through Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Katharine Gorka steps down as Customs and Border Protection press secretary after two months



Katharine Gorka is leaving her post as press secretary for US Customs and Border Protection after only two months on the job.

"I have served the administration for almost three years. I've decided it's time to spend more time with my family," she said, adding that it was "100%" her choice to leave the position.

During her tenure at CBP, the agency was in the spotlight for severe overcrowding at its border facilities, as well as reports of lewd and demeaning social media postings by former and current agents.

Gorka's departure is the latest in a string of high-profile turnovers at the Department of Homeland Security, which has left the department with an acting secretary since April, as well as all three immigration-focused agencies with acting chiefs.

Acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan joined the agency in early July after a short stint at Immigration and Customs Enforcement. With Gorka's

departure, both CBP and ICE will also be without a political appointee in their communications offices..

Slovenia to extend border fence to prevent refugee crossings



Slovenia has started work on an additional 40km of wire fencing along its southern border with Croatia to prevent people from entering the country irregularly, according to media reports.

The move came after Slovenian border officials said July saw the highest number of crossings in a month since the peak of the refugee crisis a few years ago when thousands of people fleeing war and poverty in their home countries tried to move up from the Balkans towards northern Europe.

"The fence will be erected temporarily in the areas where it is necessary to prevent illegal crossings of the state border and ensure the safety of people and their property," said Irena Likar, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of the Interior.

341 kilos of marijuana seized at Dubrovnik border crossing

341 kilos of marijuana were seized at the border crossing between Montenegro and Croatia yesterday.



This was the second biggest ever seizure of marijuana at the Karasovici border crossing, after 705 kilos were uncovered in 2005. With a believed street value of over 2 million Euro the capture of this amount of drugs yesterday was certainly an impressive haul for the police. In fact, this is the tenth time the border police and the Dubrovnik police have uncovered and seizure narcotics weighing more than 50 kilograms.

According to the police report the border police and customs officials noticed the driver's nervousness at the entrance to the border check which aroused their attention. The vehicle in question was a tourist coach from a Dubrovnik agency. An inspection of the luggage compartment revealed 17 large travel bags that the driver said contained sporting equipment. After a search warrant was obtained the bags were searched and the haul of marijuana was uncovered.

Montenegro and Albania: Joint Patrol for Border Control

Ministers of Defense and Interior



Predrag Bošković and Mevludin Nuhodžić recently visited watchtower Krenza on the border with the Republic of Albania that is kept by mixed patrols of the Army and the Police.

"Minister Nuhodžić and I have visited this area and not only this part of our border, but also a complete part of the border with Kosovo to the Albanian border and we make sure that exactly the Army and the Police are working together in order to fully secure and maximum possible ban on illegal crossing of our borders. Precisely, this kind of joint patrols provide the ability to rehearse procedures by together work and all that is essential in order to better quality and a better way to ensure our border, but up to us is to boost their working conditions and stay in these facilities," Minister Bošković pointed out.

Speaking about the engagement of the police and army to protect state borders from the illegal immigration and cross – border crime, Minister Nuhodžić emphasised for the Ministry of Defence that mixed patrols prevented about 2,000 persons of illegally entering Montenegro from August to December 2018.

China police seize 39 kg drugs in SW border province

Police in southwest China's Yunnan Province have captured three drug trafficking suspects and seized 39.18 kg of drugs, local authorities said.

Border police in the city of Pu'er intercepted two suspected motorcycles in Jiangcheng County, seizing 38.75 kg of opium, 0.36 kg of heroin and 0.07 kg of methamphetamine from two woven bags on one of the motorcycles. Three suspects were nabbed on the spot.

Frontex and Hellenic Coast Guard Trial New Border Tech



In partnership with the Hellenic Coast Guard, Frontex has launched a one-month trial of an aerostat and other equipment for border surveillance on the Greek island of Samos.

The aerostat pilot project aims to assess the capacity and cost efficiency of aerostat performing sea surveillance in an operational environment. The aerostat will be flown at various altitudes to test its use for effective surveillance to detect unauthorised border crossings, support sea rescue operations and combat cross-border crime.

One of the core tasks of Frontex is to identify various technologies that can be used for border control. The agency has tested a variety of technologies, including biometrics, automated border crossing gates now commonly used at international airports and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.

Homeland Security moves \$155m from FEMA disaster relief for immigration enforcement



The Trump administration plans to shift at least \$155 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief fund to support its policy of returning some migrants to Mexico.

The Department of Homeland Security has informed Congress it will reprogram and transfer \$271 million in total to its immigration enforcement agency from elsewhere in the department, including the FEMA money, according to documents.

The move comes as Tropical Storm Dorian nears hurricane strength as it approaches Puerto Rico.

Last week, the administration announced its intention to

hold migrant families indefinitely, aimed at scrapping a settlement that put a 20-day limit on family detention.

DHS notified Congress of its plan to reprogram and transfer funds from agencies over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, DHS' enforcement arm, on July 26, according to a DHS official. The department plans to transfer around \$116 million for ICE detention beds, as well as transportation and deportation, the official said.

The department will not pull funds for detention beds from the US Secret Service, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

In recent months, however, the agency has been consistently holding more people in detention: As of August 10, 55,530 people were in immigration detention, according to the agency.

Last year, the department was also sharply criticized for shifting around \$10 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's operating budget to fund immigration detention and deportations. The administration also quietly redirected \$200 million from multiple parts of DHS to ICE last summer, according to a congressional document released last fall.

Japanese national arrested at Sydney Airport for alleged drug importation



A 62-year-old Japanese woman is due to appear before Sydney's Central Local Court today after she allegedly attempted to import two kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in binders.

The woman arrived at Sydney International Airport yesterday (26 August 2019) and was selected to undergo a baggage search by Australian Border Force (ABF) officers.

Upon a search of her luggage, officers located two ring binders.

A further inspection of the folders revealed a fine crystalline substance between the pages which tested positive for methamphetamine. Forensic testing will be undertaken by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to determine the exact weight and purity of the substances.



WorldBorderSecurity.net

World Border Security Network (WorldBorderSecurity.net), a global network for agency officials at the borders.

The purpose of the network is to encourage and facilitate inter-agency co-operation and communication. Members of the network will be able to:

- communicate securely
- share information
- share documents
- share best practise
- view past presentations
- keep up-to-date with the latest technology developments
- share training opportunities
- and more...

WorldBorderSecurity.net is open to all World Border Security Congress government agency delegates past and present.

Access is restricted to government and intergovernmental personnel; border, customs, immigration agency officials and specialist law enforcement officers.

Non-delegate agency officials will also be welcome but by member invitation only.



IRIS RECOGNITION SPEEDS THE AIRPORT SECURITY PROCESS

By Mohammed Murad

Whether it's boarding a plane or clearing customs, both government agencies and passengers require an accurate, fast and convenient way to assure a person's identity. Biometric technology is providing a solution for these requirements as it enhances the experience in airports worldwide.

Since 2002, scores of major international airports have installed iris recognition technology. It's a

good fit as iris recognition offers the highest accuracy and speed among biometric technologies.

Here's a look at four examples where recognition technology is playing a vital role.

Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is the Netherlands main international airport and Europe's third busiest, serving 71.7 million passengers in 2018. Schiphol's Privium® program



enables enrolled Dutch citizens to quickly move through boarding and customs lines. Passengers enroll with an initial iris scan – much like a photo capture. The process involves no bright lights or direct contact with the eyes. The iris patterns, unique to each person, are turned into digital templates stored only on Privium cards and not in any database.

Kiosks equipped with iris readers are installed at each Privium gate. Passengers look into the reader to have their irises compared to the scan stored on their cards. If there's a match, the gate opens and passengers proceed to boarding areas. Passengers arriving from another country use the same technology to clear customs within 10 to 15 seconds.

Qatar Hamad International Airport (HIA) enables passengers to use iris recognition technology in at an airport immigration desk. Each passenger entering the country must be enrolled/identified by the use of iris recognition technology. Currently, HIA process 35 million

transit passengers and 4 million entries into the country annually using iris recognition to authenticate each entry and exit.

Each identity is searched against a data repository of over 12 million records. This process allows the government to ensure no duplicate/fake passports are used to gain entrance to the country.

Nexus, a joint program of the Canadian Border Services Agency and U.S. Customs & Border Protection, uses iris-based technology to speed low-risk, pre-approved travelers moving between Canada and the United States. Self-serve kiosks with iris readers enable passengers to speed through Canadian or U.S. customs at nine major international airports in Canada. The same system is used at other select airports in Canada and at Transportation Security Administration Pre-Check lines in more than 180 participating U.S. airports.

The system is also in place at dedicated vehicle lanes at 21 land

border crossings and at more than 450 Canadian marine sites for travelers arriving by boat.

CLEAR is a private company bringing expedited security clearances to certain passenger terminals in more than 30 major U.S. airports. The CLEAR system uses iris recognition technology to move passengers through security in a fraction of time compared to regular security lines. CLEAR kiosks are also used at some U.S. stadiums and arenas. The company's kiosks have completed more than 33 million identity authentications.

Iris recognition technology has helped create a better experience for millions of airport passengers while also improving security through definitive identity authentication.

(Mohammed Murad is vice president, global development and sales for Cranbury, N.J.-based Iris ID, the world leader in iris recognition platform deployment).

BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

EVENT PREVIEW



March 31st-2nd April 2020
Athens, Greece

www.world-border-congress.com

The annual gathering of the international border management and protection community will take place in the historic city of Athens, Greece on March 31st to 2nd April 2020.

Supported by the Ministry of Citizen Protection & KEMEA (Center for Security Studies under the Ministry of Citizen Protection), the World Border Security Congress is delighted to be positioned in the heart of some of the most recent migration challenges.

Greece has been in the forefront of the global migration crisis since it started in 2015. 2015/16 saw the escalation of the global migration crisis, with mass movements of people fleeing the war zones of the Middle East as well as illegal economic immigration from Africa and elsewhere.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that

2020 World Border Security Congress Topics Announced

Topics of discussion for the 2020 World Border Security Congress in Athens have been announced by the organisers. For further details and registration visit www.world-border-congress.com.

The Latest Threats and Challenges at the Border

With the final collapse of the so-called IS Caliphate, returning foreign fighters are a particular challenge for the next few years, but mass migration, transiting terrorists, cross border organised crime, human trafficking, small arms, weapons of mass destruction and drug smuggling will continue to be areas of major concern for the global border community.

Continuing efforts against foreign terrorist fighters, irregular migration and human trafficking

How we deal with foreign terrorist fighters, irregular migration and human trafficking are inextricably linked. Because it is through clandestine trafficking networks that foreign fighters will attempt to return to their countries of origin or to other destinations. They may also attempt to return through conventional travel networks by the use of forged or lookalike documents. Or they may hide among genuine refugees as we have already seen. These experienced fighters pose a real threat to their communities. API and PNR are part of the answer but what else can we do to meet this challenge?

Capacity Building and Training in Border and Migration Management

Enhancing capacity and migration management through by improved technical support and knowledge; administrative ability; promoting mechanisms for co-operation and the exchange of expertise between migration management personnel and the strengthening the monitoring and oversight.

Securing the Littoral Border: Understanding Threats and Challenges for Maritime Borders

Our coastline borders present huge security challenges for the border community. With dramatically varied terrain from mountains and cliffs to beaches and swamps. Tens of thousands of kilometers of extended coastline with multiple lonely bays, Inlets, estuaries and Islands that can all be exploited by terrorists, illegal migrants, drug and arms smugglers, human traffickers and organised crime. How do we secure this complex and challenging environment?

Pre-Travel Risk Assessment and Trusted Travellers

With a plethora of trusted traveller programs around the world, how can we make legitimate travel more seamless? Is it possible to provide better connectivity between programs? How can API / PNR play a role on pre-travel risk assessment.

The developing role of Biometrics in identity management & document fraud

Formal identification is a prerequisite for effective border control. Document fraud has become an enabler of terrorism and organised crime and is linked to the trafficking of human beings and migrant smuggling. Facial recognition, fingerprinting and iris scan are now maturing technologies with increasing accuracy and performance. What is the developing and future role of biometrics in managing identity and our borders, and how are associated technologies best utilised to bridge the gap and underdocumentation, so widespread in the developing world?

Smuggling & Trade in Illicit Goods, Antiquities and Endangered Species

The global trade in endangered species, over 1.5million transactions per year, will drive some species to extinction if the trade is not stopped. The cultural damage inflicted by the global trade in antiquities, valued over \$20 billion, cannot be quantified but is all too easily understood. So, what can the border community do to stem the flow and illegal trade of illicit goods, antiquities and endangered species?

The Future Trends and Approach to Alternatives for Securing Borders

Brexit, the US/Mexico Wall, Greek/Turkish borders are forcing the debate about future border developments. But could any or all of them really supply the blue print for the future of borders for land, sea and air? Has Integrated Border Management (IBM) proven successful? What's the latest thought leadership in enhancing border protection and management to counter the ever changing challenges?

contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

International organised criminal gangs and human and drug trafficking groups exploit opportunities and increasingly use the internet and technology to enhance their activities.

Controlling and managing international borders in the 21st Century continues to challenge the border control and immigration agencies around the world. It is generally agreed that in a globalised world borders should be as open as possible, but threats continue to remain in ever evolving circumstances and situations.

Supported by the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), National Security & Resilience Consortium, International Security Industry Organisation and International Association of CIP Professionals, the World Border Security Congress remains the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the international border management and protection policy makers and practitioners and community gathers to share views, thoughts and challenges.

As well as the 3 day main congress agenda, the event will also have a series of Closed Agency Only Workshops and opportunities for delegates to visit Athens International

Airport of Piraeus Seaport during the Site Visits being hosted. Great opportunities to gain insights into how operational and technological aspects combine for successful border security, migration and cargo management.

Register your interest to attend the event at www.world-border-congress.com/registration.

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020.

Further details can be viewed at www.world-border-congress.com.

Co-Hosted by:



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Citizen Protection



KEMEA
ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ ΑΣΦΑΛΕΙΑΣ
ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΜΕΤΑΦΡΑΣΕΩΣ

Lanyard Sponsor:



Cellebrite

Delegate Folder Sponsor:

MSAB



osce

Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



European Association
of Airport and Seaport Police



AFRICAN UNION
UNION AFRICAINE
UNION AFRICAINE



International Association of
CIP Professionals



Two airline passengers caught smuggling 71kg of molasses tobacco



The Australian Border Force (ABF) has seized 71kg of molasses tobacco at Avalon Airport after two passengers attempted to smuggle the tobacco inside their baggage. The total revenue evaded was estimated to be more than \$85,000.

The passengers arrived on a flight from Kuala Lumpur on

19 August and were selected for further examination by ABF officers.

ABF officers found and seized the undeclared molasses tobacco from inside the luggage of an Australian national and her travelling companion, a female national from New Zealand.

ABF Regional Commander Victoria, Craig Palmer, said this detection at a smaller port demonstrated the vigilance of ABF officers around the country processing travellers arriving into Australia.

"No matter the size or location of the air or sea port, our high skilled officers will find any goods that travellers attempt to smuggle in," Commander Palmer said.

In the last financial year, the ABF made more than 286,600 detections of illicit tobacco at the border, seizing more than 426.2 million cigarettes and 310.6 tonnes of tobacco, worth more than \$668.9 million in evaded duty.

BGB-BSF agree on stopping border crimes



A battalion commander level flag meeting between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India has reached a consensus on peaceful coexistence along border through stopping all sorts of crimes.

The border forces of the two neighbouring countries discussed and devised ways and means on how to stop drugs trafficking, border killings and illegal cross border intrusions on Wednesday.

The two-hour meeting was held in Meergonj BGB camp area under Bagha upazila in the district.

A 10-member BGB team headed by 1 BGB Battalion Commander Lt Col Ferdous Ziauddin Mahmud and the 10-member Indian BSF team headed by 43 BSF Battalion Commandant Ratikanta Thakur attended the meeting.

Other officials concerned of both sides were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to solve the existing border problems between the two countries. They also stressed the need for checking smuggling, women-children trafficking and illegal trespassing from both the countries.

Lt Col Ziauddin Mahmud told journalists that the meeting was held in a congenial atmosphere.

"Both forces agreed to work jointly to resolve all border-related issues," Lt Col Mahmud added.

Aerostat Systems Provide Persistent Surveillance over Long Periods of Time, at a Minimal Cost

The SkyStar aerostat systems are ideal for defense, security, border control and HLS missions, as they offer availability of over 85% in any given area, and provide persistent surveillance and communication over long periods of time at a very minimal cost. In Israel, the SkyStar aerostats are deployed at the Gaza border, as part of the war against terrorism.



RT's SkyStar™ family of aerostats includes the SkyStar 110, SkyStar 120, SkyStar 180, and SkyStar 330. The SkyStar Aerostat systems are deployed by many different forces around the world for border protection.

SkyStar is a self-contained, versatile, easily transportable, cost-effective tactical system comprised of a ground control station, a ground system module, a tether, a lighter-than-air platform, a stabilized payload platform, and a sensor suite. The SkyStar systems already

accomplished more than 1.5 million operational hours worldwide and are currently operational in various military and civilian missions in many different countries.

Rami Shmueli, RT's CEO: "Offering availability of over 85% in any given area, RT's SkyStar aerostats provide a complete set of solutions for defense, HLS, border control, public safety and camp protection. Using an aerostat resembles building a tower of 1,500 ft. in only 20 minutes, and at a minimal cost per day. No other defense solution, manned or unmanned, is as cost-

effective as aerostats, and that is what makes them an ideal mean for securing and

protecting wide and long areas, such as borders."

Contract Awards for New Levee Wall and Border Wall Gates in the Rio Grande Valley

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has awarded a contract to construct approximately 11 miles of new levee wall system in three non-contiguous segments located within U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector in Hidalgo County, Texas.

The project area begins at the intersection of Conway Road and the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) levee in Mission, Texas and extends eastward to approximately one quarter mile west of Stewart Road and the IBWC levee south of San Juan, Texas.

The contract for this project was awarded on August 7, 2019 to Southwest Valley Constructors Co. for the base contract amount of \$80,869,000. The total contract value, including options, is \$304,600,000. Construction will take place in locations where no barriers currently exist. The levee wall system will be very similar to previously constructed levee wall in the RGV area during 2008,

but the system will also include all-weather roads, lighting, enforcement cameras, and other related technology to create a complete enforcement zone. CBP's designs for levee wall system consist of steel bollards at a minimum height of 18 feet atop a concrete wall to the height of the existing flood levee.

This project is funded by CBP's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriation. It is not a project undertaken pursuant to the National Emergency Declaration, 10 U.S.C § 284, 10 U.S.C. § 2808, nor does it draw from any other source of funding, including appropriations available to the Department of Defense or Department of Treasury.

Based on language in CBP's

FY 2019 appropriation, border wall construction will not take place at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, La Lomita Historical Park, Bentsen-Rio Grande

Valley State Park, within or east of the Vista del Mar Ranch tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, or the National Butterfly Center.

Thales to Safeguard Thai Citizens' Identity with Innovative E-Passports

The Thai Government launched 'Thailand 4.0' with a vision to develop Thailand into an innovative, dynamic and value-driven economy.



With this in mind, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Thailand will provide 15 million technically-advanced, high-security e-passports to Thai citizens thanks to the DGM Consortium, which includes Gemalto,

a Thales Company, Data Products Toppan Forms Ltd., and MultiCert. The Thai E-passport project is the largest passport project contracted for the Group in 2019.

Thai citizens can look forward to a newly-

designed 64-page biometric travel document which includes an e-Cover with a thin, flexible datapage made of polycarbonate as well as a window containing a second image of the citizen and a true colour UV photo. These security features ensure that the document complies with the highest standards of security recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Thai citizens will benefit from the highest level of performance of the secure embedded software for fast border crossing. Furthermore the DGM Consortium will also implement a highly secure end-to-end electronic passport system that will also strictly comply to the Personal Data Protection Act of Thailand.

The current passport production capacity will increase significantly, as two active high security

production sites – a Remote and a Main facility - will be established as part of the project to ensure business continuity and security for passport issuance. By providing continuous training and transfer-of-technology to develop local expertise in passport issuance, Thales is leveraging its global technological expertise to upskill the Thai workforce as it moves towards a digital future.

Beyond a newly-designed passport, Thai citizens will benefit from greater efficiency in registering for their passports as the project will upgrade citizen-facing enrolment operations in 22 existing managed sites throughout Thailand, as well as include an expansion plan to establish 15 new sites throughout the country, offering more service points for Thai citizens to obtain their travel documents.

ADVERTISING SALES

Jerome Merite
(France)

E: j.callumerite@gmail.com

T: +33 (0) 6 11 27 10 53

For Rest of World contact:

E: marketing@knmmedia.com

T: +44 (0) 1273 931 593

Paul McPherson
(Americas)

E: paulm@torchmarketing.us

T: +1-240-463-1700



March 31st-2nd April 2020

ATHENS, GREECE

www.world-border-congress.com

Building Trust and Co-operation through Discussion and Dialogue

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

REGISTER FOR YOUR DELEGATE PASS ONLINE TODAY

Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devastating impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place to convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

The World Border Security Congress Committee invite you to join the international border security and management community and Apply for your Delegate Pass at www.world-border-congress.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

www.world-border-congress.com

for the international border management and security industry

To discuss exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities and your involvement please contact:

Paul Gloc
UK & Rest of Europe
E: paulg@torchmarketing.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 7786 270 820

Jerome Merite
France
E: jcallumerite@gmail.com
T: +33 (0) 6 11 27 10 53

Paul McPherson
Americas
E: paulm@torchmarketing.us
T: +1-240-463-1700



Supported by:

Media Partners: