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Welcome Remarks

By

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Fellow Members of the INTERPOL Executive Committee

Conference Delegates and Observers

Other Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the 21st INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference here in Amman, Jordan.

The INTERPOL community would like to express its gratitude to our gracious host, the Directorate for Public Security led by Director General of Public Security, General Hussein Hazza AL-MAJALI. Thank you for the warm hospitality accorded to the conference participants and their guests. This is my second time in your beautiful and historic country and we are all looking forward to the opportunity to experience Jordan's rich culture, heritage and tradition.

Similar to Jordan, the Asian region is replete with history and tradition. Since ancient times, Asia has developed and shared knowledge and skills with the rest of the world – ranging from agricultural tools; food and beverages; and physics and astronomy, among others.

Today, Asia continues to be a key player in global economic and social development. Experts are projecting a conservative but nevertheless, brighter economic outlook for Asia in the coming years. With more than half of the world's population residing in Asia, the region offers vast opportunities to those with entrepreneurial spirits and innovative minds. This applies to legitimate business entrepreneurs and investors. Unfortunately, it also applies to organized crime syndicates that regard Asia as a fertile investment ground for illegal activities.

Just this April, our Malaysian colleagues arrested 83 suspects, who were mostly from China and Taiwan. These people belonged to a syndicate that cheated victims from China and Taiwan using online scams. Their modus operandi included impersonating authorities as well as faking

credit card and bank charges. They had closed down their operational base and were on the verge of fleeing Malaysia. Some of them had even made it to the airport. Thankfully, they were detained in the nick of time.

Last month our Philippines colleagues arrested 357 foreigners who employed the same online scam to cheat victims mainly from China and Taiwan. This was considered by the Philippine authorities as the largest single-day, successful operation against organized crime in the country. Reportedly, the suspects presented themselves as police, prosecutors, and insurance authorities. They told the victims that their bank accounts were being used for money laundering and terrorist financing. They pressured the victims to transfer their funds to a “safe account” provided by the syndicate. Through this, the syndicate raked in around 20 million Philippine pesos (almost USD 500,000) per day.

These two crime incidents in Malaysia and the Philippines symbolize the emerging major crime challenges faced by the law enforcement community in Asia today: innovative multi-jurisdictional modus operandi, involving suspects operating in another country and targeting victims internationally, using the Internet and other communications means as instruments for crime. Thus our theme for this conference: “Innovative Action and Law Enforcement Cooperation in Asia for a Safer World” is a timely call for us to act against these threats.

Indeed, ‘online’ scams and other cybercrimes, are a growing security threat to our societies. Investigating cybercrime is a new field for many Asian police forces. Even seasoned criminal investigators will need a better understanding of cybercrime. The borderless and global nature of the Internet requires us to adopt a pro-active, innovative and global approach against cybercrime.

For us to be ahead of these modern-day criminals, the law enforcement community needs to have adequate resources, sufficient knowledge and well-developed partnerships with relevant stakeholders. We must try to:

- Adopt a cooperative international law enforcement approach;
- Continuously scan the security landscape for emerging threats and, if need be, recalibrate our crime-fighting strategies and priorities;
- Invest and develop research and development partnerships with other sectors, to develop cutting edge and innovative solutions to mitigate emerging threats.

These are what will drive INTERPOL in the next few years.

Our Organization is committed to enhancing police cooperation to effectively address new challenges. We strive to provide solutions to meet 21st Century crime. We will continue to support member countries in the identification of crimes and criminals. INTERPOL's Global Police Communication System will need to be expanded and INTERPOL tools and services deployed from the National Central Bureaus to police field units, border control points and specialized crime units. Only thus will ground units have instant access to INTERPOL's databases of wanted persons, Stolen and Lost Travel Documents, stolen motor vehicles, DNA, fingerprints and suspected firearms. The ability to exchange critical information in real time has always been crucial to the success of our operations. Let us ensure that INTERPOL's global police communication system will serve as the critical link to authorized police and law enforcers worldwide, in the investigation of international crime.

INTERPOL is also focused on building the capacities and capabilities of our police officers in confronting cybercrimes. The INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) will be operational in Singapore by 2014. It will enhance our capabilities to tackle crime threats of the 21st century and strengthen international policing worldwide. The IGCI aims to create a centre that combines innovation and capacity building. At the same time, it will offer daily operational police support functions, which is the core of INTERPOL's mandate.

INTERPOL will draw on the strengths of its 190 member countries and establish strategic partnerships with the private sector and academia. The key aim of these partnerships is to look

for innovative solutions against this modern threat. We will set up the INTERPOL Digital Crime Centre (IDCC) at the IGCI. The IDCC will serve as a global hub for cybercrime issues. It will coordinate with national cybercrime investigators and authorities in INTERPOL's member countries, as well as private partners in the technology industry. The IDCC will focus on three main areas: Cybercrime Investigative Support; Research and Innovation; and Cyber Security.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the new security challenges that we are facing in the region have placed our traditional law enforcement methods under scrutiny. We can no longer ignore the need to transcend from national to international policing. Better integration and enhanced cooperation beyond our respective borders are vital elements to counter modern international crimes. INTERPOL is committed to providing member countries with the knowledge, innovative solutions and capacity to bring global police cooperation to the next level, to counter emerging crime threats.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to the 81st INTERPOL General Assembly in Rome this November, when I will end my term as your President. A high-level Ministerial Meeting will be held on the first day of the General Assembly. This meeting will focus on issues ranging from human trafficking to urban, youth and terrorist violence. It will also focus on the police's role in tackling the aforementioned issues. Let us all encourage our Ministers to participate in this significant event.

At the INTERPOL General Assembly, there will also be an election for seven INTERPOL Executive Committee posts. These include the posts of the INTERPOL Vice President for Asia and two EC delegates for the Asian region. Elected members will serve a three year term. I encourage you to consider serving our Organization by joining the Executive Committee and contribute to charting INTERPOL's future direction.

Let me end by reiterating that INTERPOL would not be able to achieve what it has, without your robust support and belief in our mission to create a safer world. Let us all continue to work

collectively to achieve this noble mission. The INTERPOL Executive Committee, represented here by Mrs Mireille Ballestrazzi – Vice-President for Europe; Mr Nobuyuki Kawai – Delegate for Asia; and Mr Tim Williams – Delegate for the Americas, together with our dynamic and dedicated Secretary General, Mr Ronald K. Noble, and all our INTERPOL colleagues, assure you of INTERPOL's utmost support and cooperation in all your endeavours.

I look forward to our discussions during the conference.

Thank you.