

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR KHOO BOON HUI  
PRESIDENT OF INTERPOL**

**2012 INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IP CRIME CONFERENCE CO-  
HOSTED BY INTERPOL AND POLICÍA NACIONAL DE PANAMÁ TO BE  
HELD AT THE WESTIN PLAYA BONITA HOTEL  
PANAMÁ CITY, PANAMÁ ON 11-13 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**“EAST MEETS WEST – WORKING WITH THE AMERICAS TO COMBAT  
COUNTERFEITING”**

=====

*Mr José Raúl Mulino Quintero, Minister of Public Security,  
Panama (Speaker 4);*

*Mr José E. Ayú Prado Canals, Procurador General de la Nación,  
(Panama Attorney General) (Non-speaker);*

*Mr Julio Molto, Director De Policia Nacional de Panamá  
(Speaker 2);*

*Mrs Gloria Moreno de Lopez, Director General, National Customs  
Authority, Panama (Non-speaker);*

*Mr Keith Williams, President and CEO, Underwriters  
Laboratories (Speaker 3);*

*Distinguished guests;*

*Esteemed colleagues;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen;*

*Good morning:*

*Welcome*

On behalf of INTERPOL, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2012 International Law Enforcement IP Crime Conference. I realise that some of you have traveled from afar, like I have, and may still be jet-lagged. Nevertheless, I'm confident that all of us will find our attendance, not only worthwhile, but also memorable. Panama is indeed a place where East meets West and the record attendance from 52 countries attests to its leading role in connecting people, its vibrant economy and the warm hospitality we have received. Now a recurring theme of every IP Crime Conference has been how we can work together nationally and regionally to prevent and disrupt what transnational criminals do. These unrelenting criminals are well organised. They systematically manufacture and distribute counterfeit and pirated goods worldwide without regard for the effects their actions have on unsuspecting consumers. This operational, annual intellectual property conference has been occurring since 2007. Since then, INTERPOL is always impressed with the commitment from a

wide range of public and private partners who are joining efforts to tackle counterfeiters everywhere on the globe.

INTERPOL is therefore delighted to have the privilege of co-hosting this milestone conference, the first in Central America, with the Policia Nacional de Panamá. Panamá has been an INTERPOL member country since 1958 and INTERPOL considers the Policia Nacional de Panamá as one of its valued partners. Minister Mulino Quintero, Attorney General Prado Canals and Police National Director Molto: your leadership and determination to place Panamá at the forefront of international efforts and to make a meaningful impact on this dangerous crime is very much appreciated. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Underwriters Laboratories for the steadfast and dynamic support, not only towards the Conference but also the INTERPOL IPR Programme. Yesterday, we had a fruitful meeting with the General Counsels and Brand Protection Managers of a number of companies who were brought together by UL.

*IP Rights success in the past year*

Allow me to illustrate our outreach and successes this year, and you will also see the wide and diverse geographic spread

of the challenges facing us. As of September 2012, INTERPOL can proudly speak of 5 international operations in Africa, Central Europe and Central America. Operation Opson, targeting counterfeit and substandard foodstuff, was deployed in 10 Western European countries. Then Operation Tonse followed, focusing on counterfeit products in five countries in Eastern Africa. In April, Operation Maya, a transnational IP crime operation was deployed in 11 Central American countries. Then came the month long Operation Black Poseidon, in May, in 5 Central European countries which saw 1700 interventions at commercial locations like markets, ports and airports. The operation involved law enforcement working with prosecutors, customs and intellectual property crime experts. After our phenomenal success with the sheer volume of interventions, arrest of 1400 individuals, and the seizure of \$7.3 million items worth of trafficked goods valued at €122 million from Operation Poseidon, it did not stop there. There was one more.

Certainly not the last for this year, in July, Operation Meerkat, was jointly coordinated with World Customs Organisation. Covering 7 Southern African countries, it focused on illicit alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco products. In all, our successes this year for IP crime are seizures of counterfeit, pirated

and illicit goods valued at over €155 million and the arrest of over 1700 suspects.

The global operations involved 27% or 51 INTERPOL member countries, from different regions or sub-regions. While each of these countries differed in terms of systems, processes, language, culture, they were all united by their experiences, and faced the same destructive threat from IP crime. Our common aim is to create and preserve a safe environment for individuals, families, communities, businesses and governments. And we must each do our part in our respective countries, for a collectively safer world.

The manufacture and distribution of counterfeit and illicit products clearly takes place on an industrial scale because we find the same counterfeit and illicit product types in every region. Illicit trade including tax evasion and diversion fueled by corrupt practices is an ever present feature. Worse, this illicit trade, which often seriously injures and even kills members of the public, is conducted with a complete disregard for the health and safety of consumers. Clearly, individual safety is not the business or an interest of transnational organised criminals. Of particular note is that these operations consistently confirm that counterfeiting and

piracy are just 2 components of a much larger transnational organised criminal activity which is trafficking in illicit goods.

*Trafficking in Illicit Goods*

Trafficking in illicit goods is a generic term used by INTERPOL to describe all types of illicit trade. It includes various types of intellectual property infringements, environmental crime, illegal trade in natural resources, trade in substances that cause health or safety risks, the smuggling of excisable goods, as well as a variety of illicit financial flows. This complex yet diverse situation demands an even more comprehensive global partnership response to firmly focus on the transnational criminals responsible for these activities. They effectively act as commodity brokers by manipulating any illicit product to generate significant profits regardless of the consequences.

We are thankful for the external investments into the INTERPOL Fund for a Safer World, which has enabled INTERPOL to counter these crimes. It has led to an expansion of the proven IP crime model to all types of trafficking in illicit goods.

*Mentoring Scheme*

An immediate benefit is the introduction of a mentoring programme for senior police investigators in all aspects of trafficking in illicit goods to ensure good investigation skills are widely available in member countries. The cadre of mentored officers will acquire specialist knowledge and skills during integrated training and operational intervention deployments in their own country and a period of attachment to the trafficking in illicit goods programme. The process has begun today with the attendance of 50 police and customs officers representing every INTERPOL region to maximize benefits derived from collective knowledge and expertise.

*Strategic partnerships and capacity building*

In the context of training I am particularly proud of the partnership between INTERPOL and Underwriters Laboratories which has resulted in the creation and delivery of the on-line International IP Crime Investigators College (IIPCIC). On successful completion of the 14 core modules students receive an IIPCIC Certificate endorsed by INTERPOL certifying they have “successfully completed a course of professional studies on the investigation of transnational and organized intellectual property (IP) crime.” The certificated course, recognised by INTERPOL,

sets international standards and provides IP crime professionals with evidence of specialist awareness and learning on the subject of transnational organized IP crime.

*Conclusion*

On that note, all that remains is for me to thank each one of you for your commitment to this issue. Please make the most of this Conference and especially the operational workshops. I trust you will enjoy this unique opportunity to exchange your knowledge and experiences with subject matter experts and other like minded IP crime professionals from around the world. Personally, I have found the time I spent with you over the past few years most rewarding. Though this will be my last engagement with you as the President of INTERPOL, I hope to be able to carry on contributing to this community of practitioners in any way I can. Together we really can make a difference here in the Americas and around the world. Thank you

=====