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OPENING COMMENTS BY MR KHOO BOON HUI  
PRESIDENT OF INTERPOL

2010 INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IP CRIME CONFERENCE

CO-HOSTED BY INTERPOL AND HONG KONG CUSTOMS

GRAND HYATT HOTEL

HONG KONG, CHINA ON 19-21 OCTOBER 2010

“WORKING TOGETHER TO BREAK ORGANIZED CRIME”

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*Mr Gregory So, Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;*

*Mr Richard Yuen, Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Hong Kong  
Special Administrative Region;*

*Mr Charlie Abounader, President, Product Safety, Underwriters  
Laboratories;*

*Mr Allen Bruford, Deputy Director for Compliance and Facilitation  
Directorate of the World Customs Organization (WCO);*

*Mr Andy Tsang, Acting Commissioner of Police,  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;*

*Distinguished guests;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen;*

*Good morning:*

On behalf of INTERPOL, I am honoured to officially welcome you to the 2010 International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference. A recurring theme of every IP Crime Conference has been the omnipresent role of transnational organized criminals in such activities. It is not just about fake watches and handbags or pirated movies and software but also about products such as counterfeit medicines which have serious implications for the health and safety of unwitting consumers.

INTERPOL is therefore delighted to have the privilege of co-hosting this landmark event with Hong Kong Customs. Hong Kong Customs is highly regarded worldwide for its determined and sophisticated approach to tackling organized IP crime and a natural partner for INTERPOL as we strive together to make a difference. I would like to thank Commissioner Richard Yuen for his personal commitment to this increasingly productive partnership. Such a “win-win” partnership showcases how police and customs around the world can benefit by pooling resources to fight organized

crime. I would also like to express my gratitude to Underwriters Laboratories for its strong and unwavering support for the Conference, and the INTERPOL IP Rights Programme.

The IPR Programme has increased its outreach to every INTERPOL region by focusing on building IP-crime fighting capacity. This manifests itself in many ways. I had the privilege of attending the Western and Northern Africa IP Crime Training and Operational Workshops co-hosted by Senegal Police in May, together with over 200 participants from 28 countries. An outcome of the workshops will be a series of operations targeting transnational criminals throughout West Africa in 2011.

Last month, I was in Seoul for the 6<sup>th</sup> IP Crime Training Seminar attended by senior police and customs officials from 13 member countries. This will be followed by another three seminars in South-East Asia, forming the foundation for several INTERPOL programmes on organized IP crime in the region.

Another successful outcome of the Korean event was an agreement with the Lebanese authorities to work together to extend the integrated training and operational IP crime methodology to the Middle East and Northern Africa.

Next month, INTERPOL, Europol and the Turkish Police will deliver yet another training and operational programme. This specially-designed programme will prepare police and customs from 14 Central and Eastern European countries for a joint operation to disrupt traditional IP crime distribution networks operating throughout the Balkans.

The huge operational successes we now enjoy in South America, with police, WCO, customs, prosecutors and IP crime affected industries working closely together, began modestly. Operation Jupiter, starting with just three countries 5 years ago, resulted in 93 arrests and seizure of counterfeited and pirated goods valued at \$15 million. Last year, this operation had

been extended to seven countries, with 718 arrests and over \$300 million in seizures.

This year's Operation Jupiter V involves all 13 countries in South America and Panama. The interim results have been spectacular, with Colombia, Panama and Peru joining in. By the end of the third quarter, we have had over 600 arrests arising from some 340 cross-industry law enforcement interventions.

145 of our INTERPOL member countries (77%) are now affected by organized IP crime on a regional and increasingly global basis. Almost 48% of cases identified are transnational, involving two or more countries and 12% are linked to other aspects of organized crime. There is increasing evidence that the same counterfeit product types are found in every INTERPOL region and our IPR Programme works with 40 industry sectors. The full force of these initiatives will be felt in our member countries in 2011 and beyond with the IPR Programme acting as a catalyst for action. I am confident the momentum will multiply with the

enthusiastic support demonstrated by our public and private sector supporters.

“Working together to break organized crime” is therefore a most appropriate and relevant theme for this Conference. Our joint efforts will ensure that our resources are not only optimally deployed and equipped but also trained for the challenges ahead.

I am therefore pleased to announce that the online interactive International IP Crime College will go live in early 2011. This INTERPOL-led initiative, developed in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories University, has the potential to set the global standard for IP crime training and service the needs of all public and private sector IP crime investigators worldwide.

On this note, all that remains for me is to thank our co-host from the Hong Kong Customs for their generous hospitality and also each and every one of you for your commitment to the cause of global law

enforcement. Make the most of this unique opportunity to share your knowledge and experiences with subject matter experts and like-minded IP crime professionals from around the world. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you.

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