



About INTERPOL

Created in 1923, INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization. Its mission is to assist law enforcement agencies in its 186 member countries to combat all forms of transnational crime.

INTERPOL provides a high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support to enable police forces around the world to meet the growing challenges of crime in the 21st century. The Organization focuses on six priority crime areas: corruption; drugs and organized crime; financial and high-tech crime; fugitives; public safety and terrorism; and trafficking in human beings.

The General Secretariat is located in Lyon, France, and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. INTERPOL also has six regional offices across the world and a representative office at the United Nations in New York. Each of the member countries maintains a National Central Bureau staffed by highly trained law enforcement officers.

2007

ANNUAL REPORT



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SECRETARY GENERAL'S FOREWORD

Ronald K. NOBLE

The year 2007 was exceptionally exciting and productive for INTERPOL as we worked to create a 21st century vision of international policing.

July saw a momentous achievement as Somalia connected to I-24/7, our secure police communications system. For the first time in INTERPOL's history, all 186 member countries could communicate and exchange vital police data through a secure network. This was a personal commitment made when I was elected Secretary General in 2000, and I am pleased that we were able to fulfil this essential promise.

In October, a ground-breaking public appeal resulted in the identification and arrest of a suspected serial child sex offender. This showed the world how INTERPOL could harness the collective expertise of international police, the power of the media and the involvement of the public.

We worked tirelessly to convince countries of the urgent need to protect their borders from terrorists and other dangerous criminals. Our calls were heard because, by the end of the year, positive matches on INTERPOL's database of stolen and lost travel documents had more than doubled to 6,000. We also issued a record number of more than 3,000 Red Notices, which our member countries clearly endorse as the most effective means of alerting the global law enforcement community to dangerous fugitives.

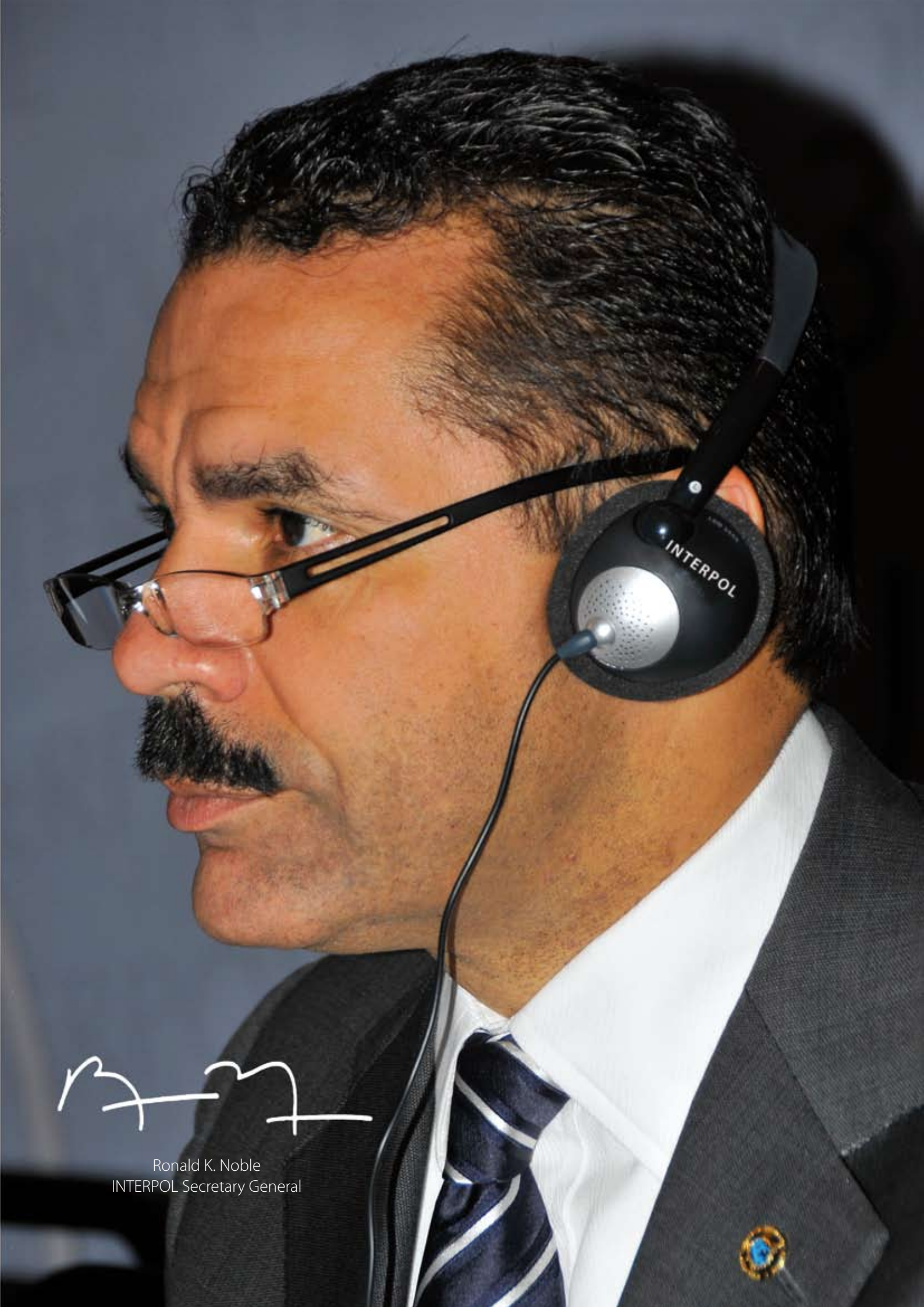
A major technical advance was the first regional roll-out of our MIND/FIND solutions, in the Caribbean for the Cricket World Cup. Officers at airports and border crossings could connect directly to our databases in a security system that will benefit the region for years to come.

Another technological innovation launched in 2007, I-link, will centralize and automate INTERPOL's databases, enabling investigators in our member countries to cross-reference their queries and connect pieces of data to assist their investigations.

A reality facing law enforcement professionals is the "capacity divide" among our member countries. This is why we designated Police Training and Development as our fourth core function in 2007, to enable police in less developed regions to strengthen their expertise. I applaud the German government for recognizing this priority and for pledging to support OASIS Africa. This new programme will help African countries develop better systems and infrastructure to participate more actively in international policing.

All our activities in 2007 have made INTERPOL stronger and better equipped to help police forces respond to the 21st century challenges of crime-fighting in a comprehensive and sustainable way.

The accomplishments outlined in this report were made possible only by the dedicated hard work of the men and women in our National Central Bureaus, the professionalism of the police and law enforcement services in our member countries, the leadership of our Executive Committee and the staff working at the General Secretariat and its regional offices.



Ronald K. Noble
INTERPOL Secretary General



2007 – A YEAR OF 'FIRSTS' FOR INTERPOL



THE YEAR 2007 SAW A NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECORD RESULTS IN INTERPOL'S HISTORY.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

- Only 11 days after INTERPOL's **first ever public appeal**, a serial child abuser was identified and arrested. As part of Operation VICO, the appeal itself generated a record 1.6 million page views of INTERPOL's website in a single day.
- More than **3,000 Red Notices** were issued in a single year, seeking the arrest of wanted persons.
- **5,234 arrests** were made on the basis of a notice or diffusion.

EXPANSION, INNOVATION AND ENSURING RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

- For the first time, **all 186 member countries** were connected to the **I-24/7** secure police communications system, with the addition of NCB Mogadishu (Somalia).
- Croatia pioneered **mobile access to INTERPOL's databases** via mobile phones and laptops.
- The Caribbean became the **first region to be entirely connected to MIND/FIND** as part of security arrangements put in place for the Cricket World Cup.
- The Automated Fingerprint Identification System and the INTERPOL Criminal Information System were **available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year**.
- Police worldwide carried out more than **one million searches of INTERPOL's nominal database** of criminals.
- More than **10 million messages** were exchanged between the General Secretariat and its National Central Bureaus.
- **14 million stolen and lost travel documents** were recorded in the SLTD database by the end of the year.



NEW INITIATIVES IN FIGHTING CRIME AND TRAINING POLICE PERSONNEL

- The first round of trainees graduated from **INTERPOL's international police training programme**.
- More than 400 people were arrested across Asia following the first INTERPOL co-ordinated **operation to combat illegal soccer gambling**.
- INTERPOL provided **intelligence and analysis to support a FRONTEX operation** (Amazon), targeting illegal immigration into the EU from South America.
- A headquarters agreement was signed with Austria to create the **INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Academy** in Vienna – the first of its kind in the world.
- The **INTERPOL Anti-Heroin Smuggling Training Centre** opened in Domodedovo, near Moscow.
- In order to strengthen ongoing collaboration, a **liaison office was opened** at the Europol headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Member countries demonstrated almost total support with **99 per cent payment of statutory contributions**.

GOVERNANCE



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GIVES DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE

INTERPOL's Executive Committee met four times in 2007, providing direction and decision-making for the organization, and working with the Secretary General to ensure that INTERPOL's activities conformed to the decisions made by the Committee and the General Assembly.

In addition to their statutory role, Executive Committee members represented INTERPOL at regional meetings and maintained regular contact with chiefs of police and other officials in their regions. In 2007, a new Vice-President for Europe and new Delegates for Africa and Europe were elected.

The members of the Executive Committee as of the end of 2007 were:

President

Jackie Selebi, South Africa, 2004-2008

Vice-President for the Americas

Arturo Herrera Verdugo, Chile, 2006-2009

Vice-President for Asia

Boon Hui Khoo, Singapore, 2006-2009

Vice-President for Europe

Juergen Stock, Germany, 2007-2010 (New)

Delegates for Africa

Farid Bencheikh, Algeria, 2007-2008 (New)

Mostapha Mouzouni, Morocco, 2006-2009

Delegates for the Americas

Thomas V. Fuentes, United States, 2006-2009

Zulmar Pimentel Dos Santos, Brazil, 2005-2008

Delegates for Asia

Ki Ryun Park, Republic of Korea, 2006-2009

Vijay Shanker, India, 2006-2009

Delegates for Europe

Francisco J. Aranda, Spain, 2005-2008

Fernand Koekelberg, Belgium, 2007-2008 (New)

Konstantin Machabely, Russia, 2006-2009

The following members completed their terms of service in November:

Mohand Amokrane Mahmoud, Algeria (resigned in 2007)

Rodolfo Ronconi, Italy



Ms Alliot-Marie, Minister of the Interior of France, attended the General Assembly

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES KEY RESOLUTIONS IN MARRAKESH

INTERPOL's supreme governing body, the General Assembly meets once a year and takes all major decisions affecting general policies, activities, operational priorities, working methods and finances. It is composed of delegates appointed by the governments of member countries.

During its 76th session in Marrakesh, Morocco from 5 to 8 November, the General Assembly passed several important resolutions, including:

- Endorsed the use of public appeals for assistance in identifying serial child sex offenders when all other means have been exhausted;
- Approved the signing of Headquarters Agreements with the governments of Austria and Cameroon establishing the INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Academy near Vienna and a new Sub-Regional Bureau for West Africa in Yaoundé;
- Supported the creation of a Vulnerable Targets Referral Centre at the General Secretariat to facilitate the exchange of technical assistance and best practice for protecting public sites and infrastructure from terror attacks;
- Urged member countries to assist the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the location and apprehension of persons wanted by the court for war crimes;
- Called for the nomination of Fugitive Investigation Contact Points in every INTERPOL National Central Bureau to facilitate the timely exchange of information and assistance in capturing internationally wanted persons;
- Sanctioned a draft agreement with the International Commission on Missing Persons to support co-operation in disaster victim identification and other areas of common concern.



SERVICES TO GLOBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT



MIND/FIND SUPPORTS OFFICERS IN THE FIELD

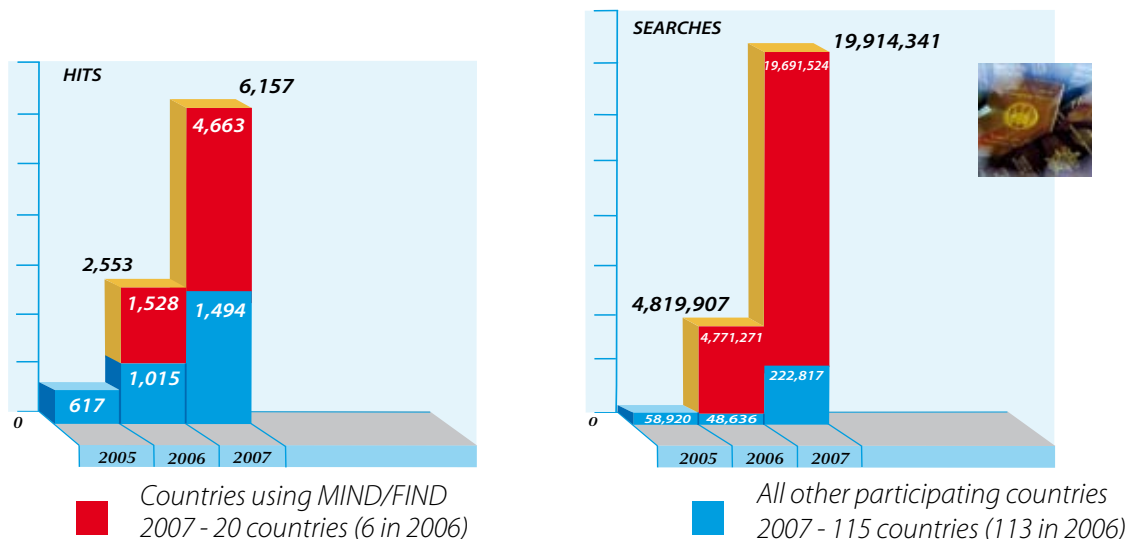
A major success in 2007 was the universal connection to the I-24/7 global police communications system. With the addition of Somalia in July, all of INTERPOL's 186 member countries now have access to the secure system, launched in 2003.

With all National Central Bureaus connected to I-24/7, the primary focus for the year was to expand direct, real-time access to INTERPOL's global police databases to officers in the field.

Using integrated technical solutions called MIND and FIND – mobile and fixed INTERPOL network databases – field officers can now have access to databases on stolen and lost travel documents, stolen motor vehicles and carefully extracted data on wanted persons. MIND/FIND was fully operational in 20 countries by the end of the year and led to three times as many documents being identified as lost or stolen compared with 2006.

Switzerland was just one country to systematically check the passports of all incoming travellers using FIND. It recorded more than 1,700 positive matches with passports issued by 45 countries on six continents.

Stolen and lost travel documents





FIND quickly exposes fraudulent passport

By running a search via the FIND system, it took only a matter of seconds for immigration officers to detect that a Sri Lankan national was travelling from Germany to JFK airport on a stolen passport. The passport number matched one that had been reported to INTERPOL by Canada. Officers at the US Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and at National Central Bureaus in Washington and Ottawa were able to share quickly the name and photograph of the passport's true bearer. The passenger was taken aside for secondary inspection upon arrival.

First regional roll-out

In January, INTERPOL launched its first regional roll-out of MIND/FIND in the Caribbean to provide security for the Cricket World Cup matches. Field officers in all nine countries involved in the event were able to screen visitors' passports against INTERPOL's databases. This was supported by INTERPOL Major Events Support Teams deployed to the region.

Establishing FIND in the US

The United States began testing FIND in October, within the pre-screening process for all passengers arriving at New York's JFK International Airport. Based on the success of the one-month trial, testing began at Los Angeles and Miami international airports in December. In 2008, the system will be extended in phases to additional airports in the US. When this implementation process is complete, the technology will be in use in airports which together account for 90 per cent of all international arrivals in the US.

NOTICES AND DIFFUSIONS LEAD TO 5,234 ARRESTS

INTERPOL notices serve to alert police to fugitives, suspected terrorists, dangerous criminals, missing persons or weapons threats. There are six colour-coded notices – Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, Black and Orange – plus the INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice.

INTERPOL published 5,153 notices in 2007:

- **3,131 Red Notices** - wanted persons;
- **412 Blue Notices** - individuals of interest in relation to a crime;
- **1,092 Green Notices** - warnings and intelligence about serious criminals;
- **410 Yellow Notices** - missing persons;
- **77 Black Notices** - unidentified bodies;
- **24 INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices** - individuals associated with Al Qaeda and the Taliban, as listed by the 1267 Committee of the UN Security Council;
- **7 Orange Notices** - dangerous materials, criminal acts or events that pose a potential threat to public safety.

In addition to notices, **14,342 diffusions** were published in 2007. Unlike the more formal notice, a diffusion can be distributed directly by an NCB to other member countries via I-24/7.



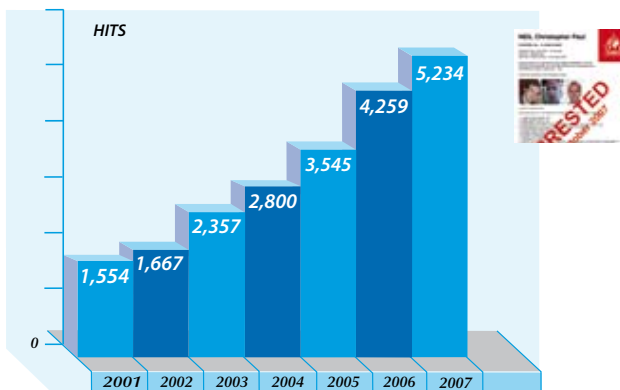
DATABASE RECORDS AND SEARCHES CONTINUE TO RISE

INTERPOL manages databases of information on criminals and crimes that are accessible to all NCBs through I-24/7. The information in the databases, which comes from queries, messages, intelligence and submissions from police in member countries, relates to:

- nominal data
- stolen and lost travel documents
- child sexual abuse images
- stolen works of art
- stolen motor vehicles
- fingerprints
- DNA profiles
- missing persons and unidentified bodies

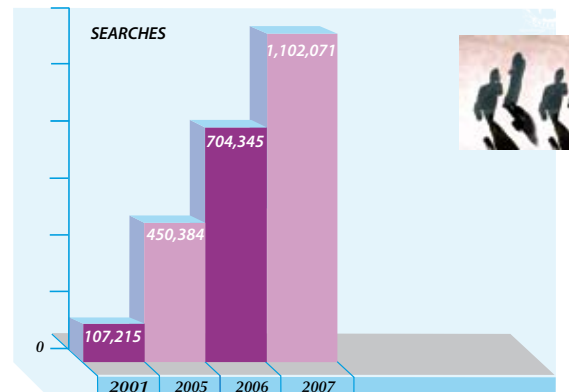
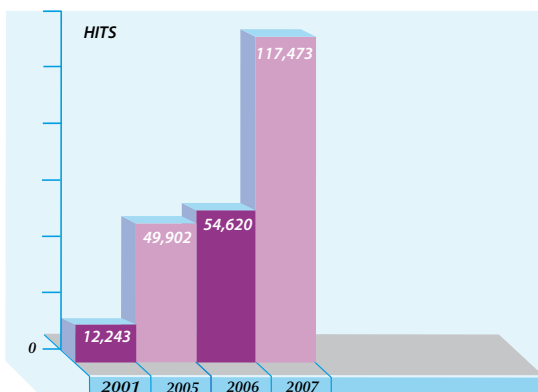
Reported arrests

The number of people arrested on the basis of a notice or diffusion rose 23 per cent in 2007. Total arrests since the year 2000 reached 21,950.



Nominal database

1 in 10 searches led to a hit. The annual number of searches exceeded one million for the first time in 2007.



186 countries participating as of December 2007

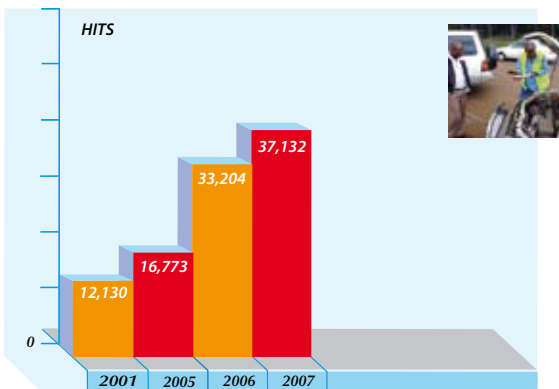


Databases reveal hidden connections

Cross-border police co-operation and the use of INTERPOL's databases led to the identification of a dangerous criminal suspect and linked him to crimes in several different countries. Finger marks recovered from a crime scene in Monaco in June were run against INTERPOL's fingerprint database, resulting in a positive match with an individual whose fingerprints and nominal data had been submitted by Serbia in 2004. The man had escaped from prison in Serbia in 2005 while serving a sentence for attempted murder. Additional checks of INTERPOL's databases revealed that the man was also sought by Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland for armed robberies of jewellery stores and other serious crimes, and was also the subject of a European Arrest Warrant issued by France. INTERPOL issued an international wanted persons notice for the suspect on 5 July.

Stolen motor vehicles

By the end of the year more than 3,000 vehicles per month were identified as stolen using the database.



119 countries participating as of December 2007

Stolen works of art

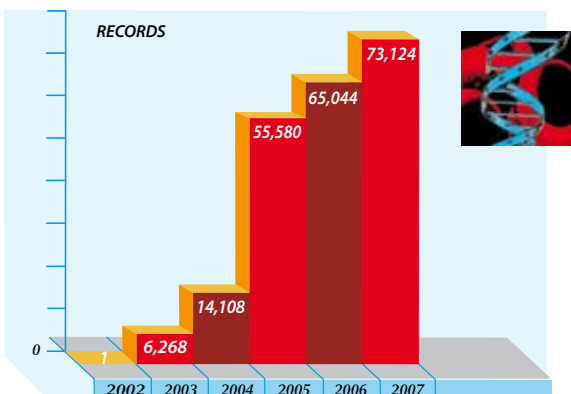
More than 1,000 records of stolen articles were added to the database.



118 countries participating as of December 2007

DNA profiles

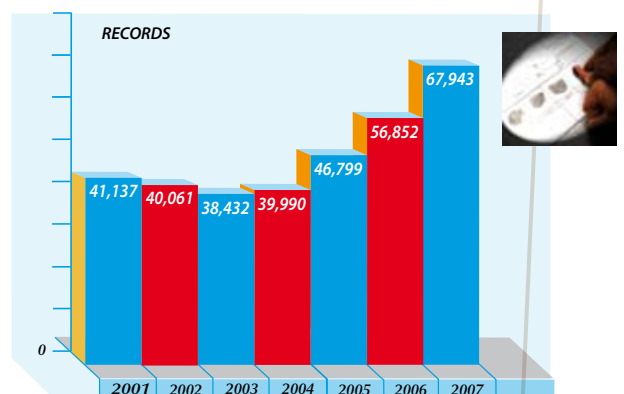
The database contained 73,000 DNA profiles and logged 38 international hits during the year.



46 countries participating as of December 2007

Fingerprints

The number of fingerprint searches and positive matches both rose by almost 20 per cent in 2007.



146 countries participating as of December 2007



KEEPING DATABASE TECHNOLOGY AT THE CUTTING EDGE

Innovative database technology is fundamental to INTERPOL's vision of 21st century international policing. We are continually upgrading and improving the database services that we provide to our member countries. In addition to developing new systems, software, databases and means of access, we are also establishing closer partnerships with stakeholders.

I-link to connect investigators worldwide

A new project was started in 2007 to create I-link, which is set to become INTERPOL's new central information system.

Once fully operational, criminal investigators and analysts in member countries will have access to the wealth of information in INTERPOL's databases. They will be able to directly query the databases and receive instant responses. Most importantly, it will help them establish essential links between pieces of data submitted by police in different countries – whether relating to drug seizures, firearms trafficking, money laundering or stolen cars, for example – that might otherwise go unnoticed.

A prototype of the system was presented in November to a working group, and included a structured electronic form to ensure smooth comparability of data among submissions from users in different member countries.

Child sexual abuse images

Police identified and rescued more than 100 victims in 2007 using the INTERPOL Child Abuse Image Database (ICAID), taking the total since the database was created to more than 600 victims rescued in 33 countries. With the support of G8 countries and Norway, the database will be automated and made accessible to specialized units in member countries, enabling them to carry out their own checks and comparisons of child sexual abuse images they have seized. Pilot testing on this enhanced version, called the International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database, will begin in four countries in 2008.

Missing persons and unidentified bodies

In accordance with a resolution passed by the General Assembly in Berlin in 2005, INTERPOL initiated the creation of an international database of missing persons and unidentified bodies for use in mass-casualty incidents or missing-persons investigations. In 2007, INTERPOL finalized all technical specifications for the new database and identified potential funding mechanisms and key partners.

New tool to identify weapons

INTERPOL's Weapons Electronic Tracing System was made available to I-24/7 users in 2007 and will drastically reduce the time that investigators spend on researching, identifying and tracing international firearms. It uses automatic cross-referencing technology, and is supported by the new INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table, inspired by a Canadian model, which helps investigators to identify a weapon's brand.



Croatia pioneers mobile access to INTERPOL databases

Croatia became the first member country to offer access to INTERPOL databases through portable devices such as laptop computers and mobile phones, making it possible for officers to conduct searches from remote areas not covered by other police networks. Following Croatia's success, most countries in southeastern Europe will be able to use the same means to access INTERPOL services for both control and investigative purposes from the beginning of 2008.

Fingerprints

INTERPOL successfully tested software which will enable member countries to view and print fingerprint files received in the format developed by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology. This software will be made available to all member countries in 2008.

DNA

As of 2007, 17 member countries had signed the charter which grants automated access to the DNA profiles database. The G8 DNA Search Request Network for data exchange between national forensic laboratories in G8 countries over the I-24/7 system was developed, tested and implemented in 2007.

24/7 WORLDWIDE ASSISTANCE TO POLICE

The Command and Co-ordination Centre (CCC) operates round the clock in all of INTERPOL's four official languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) and serves as the first point of contact for any member country faced with a crisis situation.

In order to provide enhanced operational support to NCBs and officers in the field, the CCC was split into two main functional areas in 2007 – Operations, and Crisis and Major Events.

Daily services provided to member countries included:

- instant, real-time searches of INTERPOL databases;
- priority issue of INTERPOL notices, particularly the Orange Notice;
- support for fugitive investigations;
- initiation or co-ordination of emergency-response measures;
- around-the-clock monitoring of open sources and messages between NCBs.





The Crisis and Major Events Unit planned and co-ordinated the deployment of 11 INTERPOL Major Event Support Teams (IMEST), seven Incident Response Teams (IRT), and four INTERPOL Liaison Missions (ILM) and INTERPOL Field Support Teams (IFST).

IMESTs consisting of specialized police officers and operational assistants supported host countries during the following events:

- IAAF (athletics) World Cross Country Championships in Kenya;
- Rugby World Cup in France;
- Annual meeting of the Olympic Committee in Guatemala;
- ASEAN Summit in the Philippines;
- G8 Summit in Germany;
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda;
- Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean.

IRTs assisted several countries, including:

- Jamaica with a murder investigation;
- Trinidad and Tobago in a credit-card fraud investigation;
- Cameroon in the identification of plane-crash victims;
- Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania in drug seizures and general capacity-building enhancements.

ILMs and IFSTs went to:

- Austria to support a fugitive investigation;
- Thailand for follow-up investigation into Operation Vico

ANALYSING CRIME TRENDS AND SUPPORTING OPERATIONS

INTERPOL's criminal analysts undertook a variety of operational activities, supporting projects linked to terrorism, intellectual property crime, vehicle trafficking, people smuggling, drug trafficking and organized crime. Strategic reports were produced on wide-ranging issues such as transnational Eurasian organized crime, violent religious radicalization, and nuclear and radiological trafficking.

An initiative was launched to help member countries build up their own intelligence databases. This training was provided for the Nigerian National Police, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in Cape Verde during the year.



Assistance in drug haul in Mauritania

Local authorities in Mauritania seized a record 630 kilos of cocaine in May, intercepting a drug trafficking route from Venezuela to Europe. INTERPOL provided operational assistance immediately following the seizure, deploying an Incident Response Team to the country to assist with the investigation. An operational working meeting in June brought together investigators from 10 different countries and three major suspects were subsequently arrested by Belgian and Moroccan authorities.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Recognizing the importance of sharing knowledge and developing expertise, INTERPOL designated Training and Development as its fourth core function in 2007.

Police training

The expanded training portfolio benefited more than 1,800 officers – an increase of 60 per cent from 2006 – from National Central Bureaus and other law enforcement bodies in 155 member countries. Of a total of 70 training sessions, 12 were carried out for NCBs and SRBs, 15 on INTERPOL tools and services, 13 on I-24/7 and 30 on specialized crime areas, such as trafficking in human beings, criminal analysis and drugs.

Of particular significance was the INTERPOL International Police Training Programme (IIPTP). The main objectives of IIPTP are to familiarize officers with INTERPOL's tools and services, provide opportunities to learn about policing at the international level and help build the capacity of global law enforcement bodies. In 2007 three sessions were delivered to 21 participants, with three more planned for 2008.

Future plans for police training were discussed at the 16th Symposium for Heads of Police Training in March, co-hosted with the South African Police Service. The Symposium focused on initiatives to assist countries with limited resources, the use of e-learning and multimedia in police training, and the development of more effective service delivery.

Developmental training at INTERPOL General Secretariat

INTERPOL also provided continuing education and career development courses within the organization, including hardware, software and INTERPOL's systems. An ongoing internship programme provides opportunities for students to gain valuable experience at the General Secretariat.



KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



ADDRESSING CRIME IN THE 21ST CENTURY

INTERPOL embarked in 2007 on the development of a concept to provide a higher level of service to member countries to help them better handle the ever-increasing complexity of 21st-century crime. This concept evolved into the INTERPOL Global Anti-Crime Initiative, which encompasses a range of global and regional anti-crime programmes, covering capacity-building, operational assistance and infrastructure support.

These integrated and comprehensive programmes will be developed and delivered to member countries through newly established Global Anti-Crime Centres based in Lyon and centred on INTERPOL's six priority crime areas. In addition, Regional Anti-Crime Centres will be created and integrated into existing and future Sub-Regional Bureaus to address regional crime problems more effectively.

The planning and implementation of the first of these programmes, called OASIS Africa, took shape in 2007. It will cover areas such as specialized crime training, developmental opportunities for police officers, expansion of I-24/7 services, MIND/FIND and criminal intelligence analytical tools.

Work will continue in 2008 to develop a strategic plan, determine the necessary resources and study the infrastructure required to deliver OASIS and related services.



PROVIDING REGIONAL SUPPORT TO POLICE

A variety of initiatives took place in 2007 to support National Central Bureaus (NCBs) and regional offices.

The Exchange of Good Practice programme enhances the status and role of NCBs within their organizational structures, increases countries' contributions to INTERPOL databases, and ensures the most efficient use of staff and resources. Twenty-six countries were visited in 2007 within the framework of the Exchange of Good Practice programme – six in Africa, four in the Americas, six in Asia and South Pacific, and ten in Europe.

Other initiatives included training courses, National Awareness Seminars and revitalization programmes.

Africa

Continuing an initiative to assist the reconstruction and revitalization of seven premises of NCBs that were destroyed as a result of armed conflict, visits by INTERPOL teams led to physical improvements in infrastructure and technology, and acknowledgements by authorities of the need to increase staff and resources for the NCBs.

African Regional Conference - Arusha, Tanzania, 11-13 July

On the eve of the conference, Somalia connected to INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police communications system. With all 186 member countries now connected, discussions turned towards how NCBs in the region could expand access to the system to frontline officers in the field. Four African countries implemented expansion plans in 2007, with nearly 20 others in progress.

Delegates urged all NCBs in Africa to provide the necessary assistance to arrest the remaining fugitives wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (see page 26).

In light of the increasing amount of drugs being smuggled through Africa – especially cocaine from South America en route to Europe – delegates called for greater co-ordination between INTERPOL's Sub-Regional Bureaus (SRBs) and NCBs in Africa and countries of production in Latin America and Asia.

KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Americas

INTERPOL contributed to the rebuilding of a police station in Chinchá Province, Peru, that was destroyed in August during an earthquake, further to an agreement made during the 19th Americas Regional Conference in Bogotá, Colombia, between INTERPOL's Secretary General and the delegate from Peru.

Americas Regional Conference - Bogotá, Colombia, 25-27 September

More than 50 delegates from 30 member countries in the region participated in the conference. A main topic of discussion was the Maras, gangs with origins in the United States and countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, whose criminal activities have spread throughout Central and North America.

Delegates also pledged to work together to fight major crime issues affecting the region, including illegal immigration, drug trafficking, money laundering and intellectual property crime.

Asia and South Pacific

The 6th Regional Training Course for NCB Officers was held in Seoul, Korea, in September, with 40 participants from 21 member countries. Sessions focused on ways to enhance the efficiency of NCBs and expand the use of the I-24/7 system and MIND/FIND.

Europe

Regional specialized officers provided expertise and support throughout the year to INTERPOL's two newest member countries in the region, Montenegro and San Marino. INTERPOL co-operated closely with regional bodies, including Europol, the European Commission, Frontex and the Commonwealth of Independent States, towards the common goal of enhancing security in Europe.

European Regional Conference - Varna, Bulgaria, 30 May-1 June

For the first time in the organization's history, all 49 countries in the European region were represented at the meeting. High on the agenda was the question of border control. This issue was of particular relevance, given the planned expansion of the Schengen borderless travel zone to nine new countries in December. Delegates discussed the provision of direct access to INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database to frontline officers at airports, borders and other locations.

North Africa and Middle East

The first meeting of Heads of NCBs from North Africa and the Middle East took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in June with representatives from 14 countries. It discussed a proposal to establish a Sub-Regional Bureau in the region, and familiarized participants with:

- INTERPOL's databases and services through MIND/FIND
- the INTERPOL Service Standards and the Exchange of Good Practice programme
- the role and main functions of the Command and Co-ordination Centre



Suspected terrorists arrested after co-ordinated action

An ongoing investigation by Italian authorities into a terrorist cell with international links led to the arrest of 18 people across Europe in November. Following arrest warrants issued by Milan authorities for 20 people, NCB Rome issued 'diffusions' through INTERPOL's I-24/7 network for nine of them and INTERPOL officials checked against databases to find that some of them were subjects of INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notices, and to provide Italian authorities with additional information about a number of the implicated persons. As a result, member countries were able to share additional information on the suspects (such as photos and fingerprints), which supported the arrests by police in several European countries.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND TERRORISM

Fusion Task Force links terrorism investigators

INTERPOL's primary anti-terrorism initiative, the Fusion Task Force, worked to identify active terrorist groups, share and analyse information and intelligence, and enhance the capacity of member countries to respond to the threat. The number of entities linked to terrorist activities in the Fusion Task Force database exceeded 12,000 at year's end, while the network of contact officers grew to 169.

An international conference to address the emergence of next-generation terrorists was held in April in Lyon, France, attended by 174 delegates from 72 countries. Experts discussed topics such as violent radicalization, terrorism on the Internet and new recruitment methods and trends.

Working group meetings focused on the operational exchange of information regarding the organizational hierarchies, training, financing, methods and motives of terrorist groups in Central Asia (Georgia) and the Middle East (Egypt). They were attended by 152 police and intelligence officers from 67 countries.



KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Anti-terrorism training in East Africa

The Sub-Regional Bureau in Nairobi finalized a Manual on Counter-Terrorism in 2007 and launched one-month train-the-trainer courses benefiting 25 police officers in Somalia and Uganda. In 2008, counter-terrorism training sessions will be conducted in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, with a total of 100 police officers expected to participate.

Countering the bioterrorism threat

Bioterrorism is a potentially devastating threat and one that requires significant cross-border co-ordination and preparation. Against this background, INTERPOL conducted its first international table-top exercise in December. Codenamed Black Death, it was attended by representatives from 10 countries and five international organizations. Based on a fictional plague-attack scenario, participants discussed the necessity of multi-sector co-ordination among national governments and international organizations, the media's role in an international crisis, and mechanisms for increased communication among stakeholders. A second exercise is planned for 2008.

INTERPOL prepared and delivered a bioterrorism-prevention workshop for the Middle East, attended by 62 officers from 15 countries; and two regional train-the-trainer sessions for Africa (Kenya) and Eastern Europe (Romania), with 66 participants from police, public health and customs. Three train-the-trainer sessions will be carried out in 2008, in the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

Protecting Earth's natural resources

Organized crime involving protected wildlife, for example ivory trafficking from Africa to Southeast Asia, is a highly lucrative criminal trade with a destructive impact on the environment. The reconstruction of a light aircraft donated by INTERPOL to the Kenya Wildlife Service was completed in 2007. The plane will be handed over to the agency in 2008 for use in anti-poaching enforcement, search and rescue, and aerial support for law enforcement officers.

The annual meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, held in September in Tanzania, included for the first time one day open to representatives of non-governmental organizations. Participants discussed operational initiatives targeting trafficking in ivory, shatooshes (scarves made of very rare antelope hair), reptiles, great apes and big cats. Training courses on anti-corruption issues were planned as a result of the meeting.

The INTERPOL Investigative Manual on Illegal Oil Discharges from Vessels was published in May, providing detailed technical and legal support for investigators and prosecutors worldwide for dealing with this growing environmental crime.



Border police uncover people-smuggling operation

In June, INTERPOL's database of stolen and lost travel documents helped border police at Lyon's Saint Exupéry Airport to identify as stolen two passports used by a people-smuggling operation to move migrants from China to Europe. Two women were detained after their Japanese passports were checked against the database. One of the passports had been reported stolen in Spain in February; the other, in Japan in April.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Suspected serial child sex offender unmasked

In October, INTERPOL launched its first-ever public appeal for help identifying a man featured in child sex abuse images on the Internet, after all police channels to identify him had failed.

The photographs had been digitally altered to obscure the man's face, but investigators at Germany's Bundeskriminalamt were able to reverse the process. Five original photos were published on the INTERPOL website. They were believed to have been taken in Vietnam and Cambodia, which led to the operation being named Vico.

Within hours, members of the public on three continents named him as a Canadian national working in Korea. With police closing in, the suspect fled to Thailand, where he was arrested 11 days later after two of his alleged victims came forward.

The success of the operation was the direct result of intense co-operation among police in Cambodia, Canada, Germany, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, with the co-ordination and support of the General Secretariat and the Liaison Office in Bangkok.

Extent of people-smuggling ring exposed

The importance of INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database was highlighted by a case at Monterrey airport in Mexico. Of a group of 11 Iraqis stopped en route to the US by border officials, eight were found to be travelling on falsified passports: part of a batch of 850 blank passports stolen in Cyprus in 2003 and registered on the SLTD database. INTERPOL co-ordinated an investigation among the member countries involved, namely Cyprus, Greece, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Turkey and the United States, and facilitated Arabic-Spanish interviews of the detainees by videoconference. Investigators were able to uncover a link to organizers of a people-smuggling operation.

KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



DRUGS AND CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alerting global police to drug trends

INTERPOL issued 15 Intelligence Alerts during the year focusing on major drug trafficking trends, including:

- the rapid development of large-scale cocaine trafficking from South America to West Africa and its subsequent impact on Western Europe;
- the record production of opium in Afghanistan;
- the use of the Internet to sell drugs;

Cases of cocaine smuggling from West Africa to Europe using commercial airlines have risen sharply in recent years and affect a growing number of countries on both continents. In 2007, Project COCAF made 497 significant seizures of cocaine transported on commercial air flights. A working group in April brought together representatives from African and European law enforcement agencies to promote co-operation and sharing of information. Details of COCAF drug seizures are now made available through INTERPOL's restricted website to assist frontline police and customs officers in Africa and Europe in targeting suspected cocaine couriers.

Targeting heroin trafficking in Central Asia

The INTERPOL Anti-Heroin Smuggling Training Centre was inaugurated in Moscow in May. The Centre will provide comprehensive training in combating illegal drug trafficking to more than 2,000 officers a year from Central Asia. The centre has direct access to I-24/7, enabling it to communicate directly with the General Secretariat and NCBs and ensuring that countries outside the region gain access to valuable intelligence and resources on heroin smuggling. INTERPOL also connected the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, a joint initiative with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, to I-24/7 and delivered training to officers working at the Centre.

Millennium fights Eurasian organized crime

Project Millennium has been working since 1999 to combat transnational Eurasian organized crime. In 2007, Austria, Kazakhstan and Turkey joined the project, taking the total number of participating countries to 42. Underpinning Millennium activities is a database of more than 5,500 individuals and companies linked to this crime area. Almost 1,000 messages were processed in 2007, with a significant increase in positive matches for individuals linked to the project.



INTERPOL supports Eurasian organized crime investigation

German authorities requested support from INTERPOL with a large-scale investigation into money laundering activities by one of the most powerful transnational Eurasian organized crime groups. As a result of the operation, a judicial case against the group was opened and four leading figures arrested. INTERPOL exchanged a significant amount of intelligence on the group, submitted a statement for judicial authorities confirming the group's existence, and assisted with other aspects of the investigation, including witness protection.

DNA match links wanted persons in Europe, Middle East

In April, following the armed robbery of a jewellery store in Dubai, police in the United Arab Emirates requested an urgent check against INTERPOL's database of two DNA crime scene profiles. Within hours the General Secretariat was able to confirm that the profiles matched those of two suspects wanted by Liechtenstein.

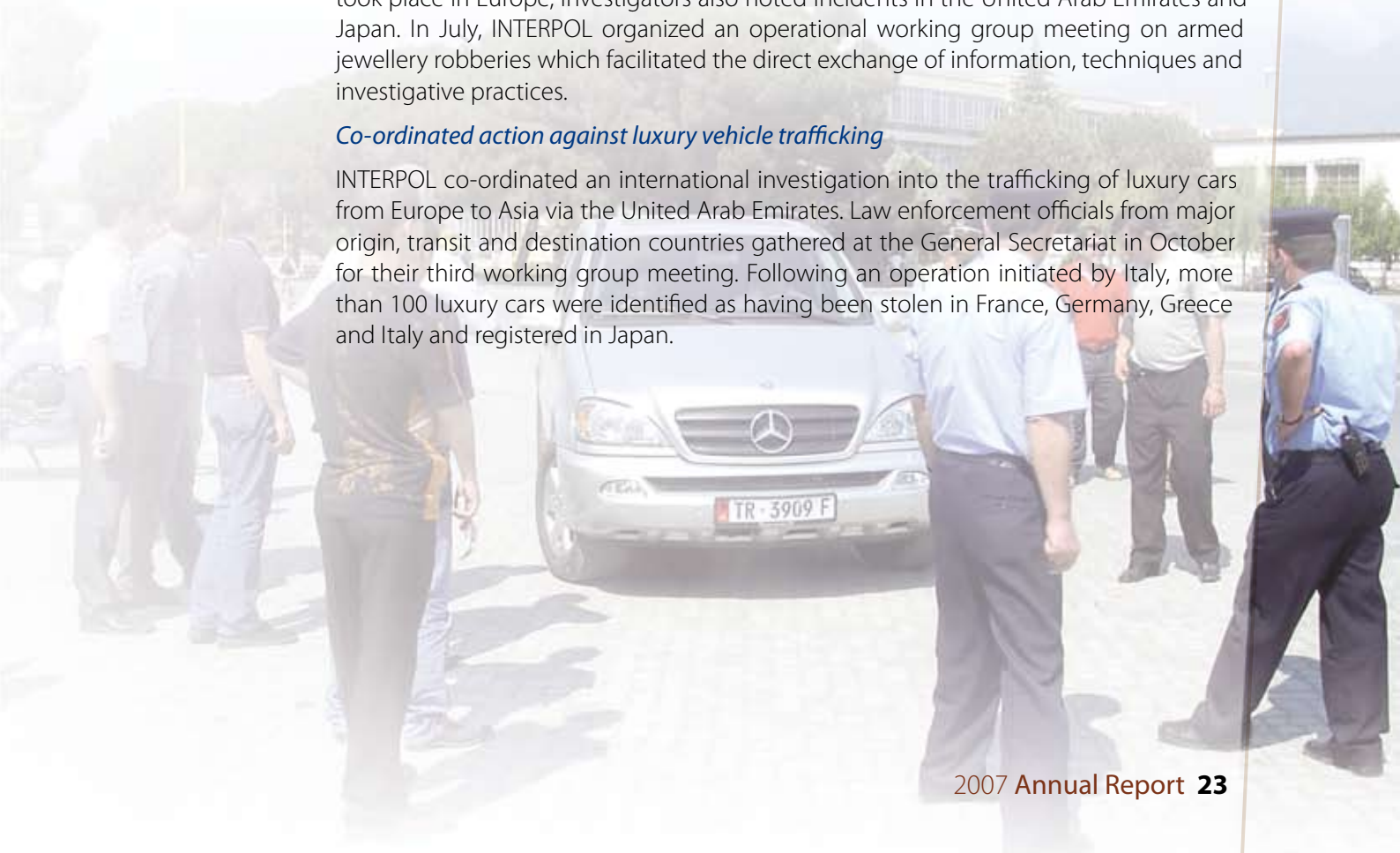


Targeting gangs

Project Pink Panthers deals with armed robberies of jewellery stores, mainly committed by itinerant criminal groups from former Yugoslavian countries. Although most crimes took place in Europe, investigators also noted incidents in the United Arab Emirates and Japan. In July, INTERPOL organized an operational working group meeting on armed jewellery robberies which facilitated the direct exchange of information, techniques and investigative practices.

Co-ordinated action against luxury vehicle trafficking

INTERPOL co-ordinated an international investigation into the trafficking of luxury cars from Europe to Asia via the United Arab Emirates. Law enforcement officials from major origin, transit and destination countries gathered at the General Secretariat in October for their third working group meeting. Following an operation initiated by Italy, more than 100 luxury cars were identified as having been stolen in France, Germany, Greece and Italy and registered in Japan.



KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Valuable works of art recovered

Numerous important artefacts recorded on the Stolen Works of Art Database were recovered, including the Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece Madonna and the Yarnwinder. British police recovered the work and arrested four people following a raid in Glasgow, Scotland in October. The database is essential to investigations into stolen works of art, with records on 31,546 individual items.

A growing trend in art theft is the illegal sale of cultural property over the internet. This emerging challenge was just one of the items on the agenda at the international conference on the Illicit Traffic in Cultural Property Stolen in Central and Eastern Europe, which took place in Poland in September. Recommendations included extending access to INTERPOL's database beyond NCBS to all law enforcement agencies involved in investigating stolen works of art.

FINANCIAL AND HIGH-TECH CRIME

Intellectual property database reveals links to organized crime

The year saw the launch of the INTERPOL Database on International Intellectual Property (DIIP) Crime, which was created to fill the void in seizure data collated by various international bodies and the private sector. Of 1,710 entities in the DIIP, checks against other INTERPOL databases revealed links to credit card and currency counterfeiting, fraud, money laundering, theft, violent crimes and trafficking in human beings, weapons and drugs. This clearly demonstrates the role of organized crime in large-scale counterfeiting and piracy.

Building capacity of information technology crime investigators

Experts at the 7th INTERPOL International Conference on Cybercrime agreed on the importance of developing partnerships with the private sector and establishing National Central Reference Points for information technology crime matters. In such a fast-moving field of crime it is crucial that police have round-the-clock access to a worldwide network of experts. The conference was held in September in New Delhi, India, with more than 200 participants from 37 countries, plus international organizations, independent authorities and the private sector. As a follow-up, INTERPOL will organize a train-the-trainer course in India in 2008 to help build the capacity of cybercrime investigators in Asia.



Cracking down on online crime

As technology evolves, new types of crime emerge. INTERPOL is focusing increasingly on the activities of criminals who systematically use the Internet to infringe copyrights. An example is the closure of the OiNK website, which was one of the world's most widely-used sources of illegally-downloaded music. The OiNK investigation illustrated how INTERPOL can play a key co-ordination role between police and the private sector to ensure police interventions occur simultaneously in different countries, in this instance, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. This capability will be enhanced in 2008 to provide private-sector stakeholders with greater access to support for Internet-based investigations.

Financial crime experts meet in Bangkok

The Global Financial Crime Congress, the first organized jointly with UNODC, focused on the latest developments, technologies and strategies to fight financial crimes, including money laundering, terrorism financing and corruption. The gathering took place in April in Bangkok, with more than 250 top experts from law enforcement, academia and private industry from more than 60 countries and international organizations in attendance.

Fight against currency counterfeiting moves to Asia

Building on the success of past outreach efforts, which mainly focused on currency counterfeiting in South America, INTERPOL expanded its activities in 2007 to other regions, including Asia. A forensic training course in the examination, identification and classification of various international currencies was held in Manila in August in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Philippines.

INTERPOL also worked to strengthen its partnerships with national and international agencies committed to fighting this crime, including the US Secret Service, the US Federal Reserve Bank, Europol, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Central Bank, as well as with private-industry leaders.



KEY PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



CORRUPTION

In recognition of the serious threat it poses to global security and public safety, INTERPOL identified corruption as its sixth priority crime area in 2007. At the same time, leaders of G8 countries resolved in June in Heiligendamm, Germany, to work with INTERPOL to fight corruption worldwide more effectively.

The creation of the INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Academy outside Vienna took shape with the signing of a Headquarters Agreement in July with the Austrian government. The agreement outlined three key elements which need to be fulfilled for the Academy to become a reality: a solid legal basis; the transformation of the site into a high-tech, modern facility by 2009; and the collection of initial start-up funding of €15 million. Fundraising efforts are currently under way.

The Academy will offer high-level instruction to anti-corruption professionals from law enforcement agencies, government, the private sector and the academic community, in areas such as the origins of corruption, asset recovery, money laundering, investigations and ethics.

FUGITIVES

For the first time, more than 3,000 Red Notices were published in one year seeking the arrest of a wanted person with a view to extradition. More than 5,000 arrests of individuals subject to Red Notices were made possible by the notice system and wanted persons list.

In 2007, three individuals sought by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) were arrested following close co-operation between the court, police in member countries and INTERPOL. Red Notices were issued for 50 other individuals wanted by the ICTR for war crimes. INTERPOL and the ICTR also created a “wanted” poster which was distributed throughout the Great Lakes region of Africa.

In addition to the ICTR, the International Criminal Court, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the Special Court for Sierra Leone have the authority to request the issue of Red Notices for individuals suspected of serious violations of international human-rights laws.



Rwandan fugitive caught in France

Isaac Kamali, wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for genocide and crimes against humanity, was arrested at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris in June after intense international co-ordination between law enforcement officials in France, Rwanda, the US and INTERPOL. Kamali had travelled from France to the US on a valid French passport. A check by US Department of Homeland Security officers against INTERPOL's databases revealed his wanted status, and he was placed on a flight back to France and immediately detained upon arrival



Wanted for Rwandan Genocide



They are charged with serious offences under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, crimes against humanity and genocide

Ils sont accusés d'infractions graves aux Conventions de Genève de 1949, crimes contre l'humanité et génocide



KABUGA Felicien



BIZIMANA Augustin



NZABONIMANA Callixte



MUNYAGISHARI Bernard



MPIRANYA Protals alias KAKULE James



NIZEYIMANA Ildephonse

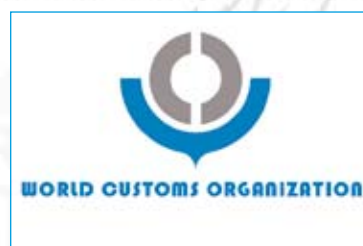


NDAHIMANA Gregoire

... KAYISHEMA Fulgence - MUNYARUGARAMA Pheneas - NDIMBATI Aloys - NTAGANZWA Ladislav - RYANDIKAYO Charles - SIKUBWABO Charles - UWINKINDI Jean Bosco

NEVER AGAIN - PLUS JAMAIS - NTIBIZONGE

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



ASSISTING THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

2007 saw close co-operation between INTERPOL and the United Nations on the questions of border security and counter-terrorism initiatives.

As a member of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, INTERPOL was named a lead entity on the Working Group on Protecting Vulnerable Targets. Funding has been secured by the UN, and the establishment of a Vulnerable Targets Referral Centre at the INTERPOL General Secretariat is in progress. It will facilitate the worldwide exchange of expertise, best practice and technical assistance in this area.

INTERPOL also contributed to:

- the first United Nations Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook;
- the UN Security Council's conference in Nairobi in October on the Prevention of Terrorist Movement and Effective Border Security;
- seven evaluation visits by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to assess the counter-terrorism capacities of law enforcement in the countries visited and to identify necessary technical assistance.

Throughout the year, INTERPOL worked with the UN Security Council's 1267 Committee to issue special notices for individuals who were the subjects of UN sanctions against Al Qaeda and the Taliban. There were 24 such notices issued in 2007, taking the total number in circulation to 300. Discussions continued on how special notices could also be published for selected entities on the Committee's sanctions list.

ROOTING OUT FAKE MEDICINES WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

INTERPOL committed more resources to the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force (IMPACT) in 2007. The WHO estimates that as many as 30 per cent of medicines sold in some areas of Southeast Asia are counterfeit: damaging company profits but also putting lives at risk. An INTERPOL specialized officer in intellectual property crime will be seconded to WHO-IMPACT in Geneva in 2008 to spearhead efforts to foster stronger alliances between the law enforcement community and the public health sector. INTERPOL also contributed to the publication of a manual for investigators in countries with little or no enforcement capacity to better tackle pharmaceutical counterfeiting.



TACKLING DRUG PRODUCTION WITH THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

Co-operation between INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) strengthened in a number of areas, notably in preventing the illegal diversion of precursor chemicals in South America. Customs and police services from 12 South American countries participated in Operation Andes III. The three-week operation resulted in the seizure of 31,112 gallons and nearly 118 tons of different chemical precursors used in the manufacture of illicit drugs. Nine arrests were made and 48 illegal drug laboratories were detected and destroyed. The operation was supported by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

INTERPOL also continued to support the Container Control Programme of the WCO and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which aims to help countries in Africa, Asia and South America prevent the use of shipping containers for drug trafficking and other illegal activities.

WORKING TOWARDS A SAFER EUROPE

In 2007, INTERPOL opened a liaison office at Europol's headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, to enhance co-operation and communication between the two organizations on ongoing projects and the analysis of crime and criminal data. An exchange programme with Europol was also implemented during the year, with officers from each organization spending two-week periods at the other. The first INTERPOL officer went to Europol in June.

Also during the year, INTERPOL was granted access to two Europol Analytical Work Files, meaning the two organizations could combine information and intelligence for combating cocaine trafficking from South America to Europe and organized crime groups involved in large-scale burglaries and other crimes.

INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble and Europol Director Max-Peter Ratzel signed a new 2007 Amendment to the 2001 Joint Initiative of INTERPOL and Europol on Combating Counterfeit Currency. The new amendment recognized that Europol would be primarily responsible for the worldwide protection of the euro, while INTERPOL would focus on the collection of counterfeit information for other international currencies.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



LINKING ASEANAPOL WITH THE WORLD'S POLICE

INTERPOL and the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) signed an historic agreement in June, making accessible information stored in the electronic ASEANAPOL Database System to law enforcement worldwide through I-24/7 while automating searches of ASEANAPOL's database against INTERPOL's databases. It was the first time that INTERPOL agreed to share these databases with another regional or international entity on a real-time basis.

ENHANCING CAPACITY OF POLICE IN CIS COUNTRIES

In partnership with the European Commission, INTERPOL moved ahead to the next phase of the Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) project, whose objective is to enhance the capacity of NCBs in the region to more effectively fight transnational crimes such as terrorism, organized crime, and trafficking in humans, weapons and drugs.

The main activities for 2007 involved the ongoing modernization of NCBs and expansion of access to INTERPOL tools and services beyond the NCBs to remote sites in Russia and Ukraine, while initial work began in the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

JOINT OPERATIONS WITH REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

All of INTERPOL's regional activities in 2007 were carried out with the active support and co-operation of the INTERPOL Sub-Regional Bureaus (SRBs) – Abidjan, Buenos Aires, Harare, Nairobi and San Salvador – the Liaison Office in Bangkok, and key regional partners, such as police chiefs' associations and other organizations.

Vehicle trafficking in Central America

At the request of the Central American Association of Police Chiefs, SRB San Salvador co-ordinated Huracán, the first INTERPOL intelligence-led operation targeting vehicle theft in Central America.

More than 5.5 million searches were performed during the first phase in October. MIND was specially modified to cross-reference data from INTERPOL's stolen motor vehicle (SMV) database with the national vehicle registries of participating member countries.

The operation led to positive matches between more than 650 cars reported stolen in the Americas, Asia and Europe and ones legally registered in participating countries in Central America. A follow-up operation will be conducted in 2008, and the operational methodology will be replicated in other regions.

Following the success of Operation Huracán, Mexico began submitting records to the SMV database – accounting for about 9 per cent of its total.

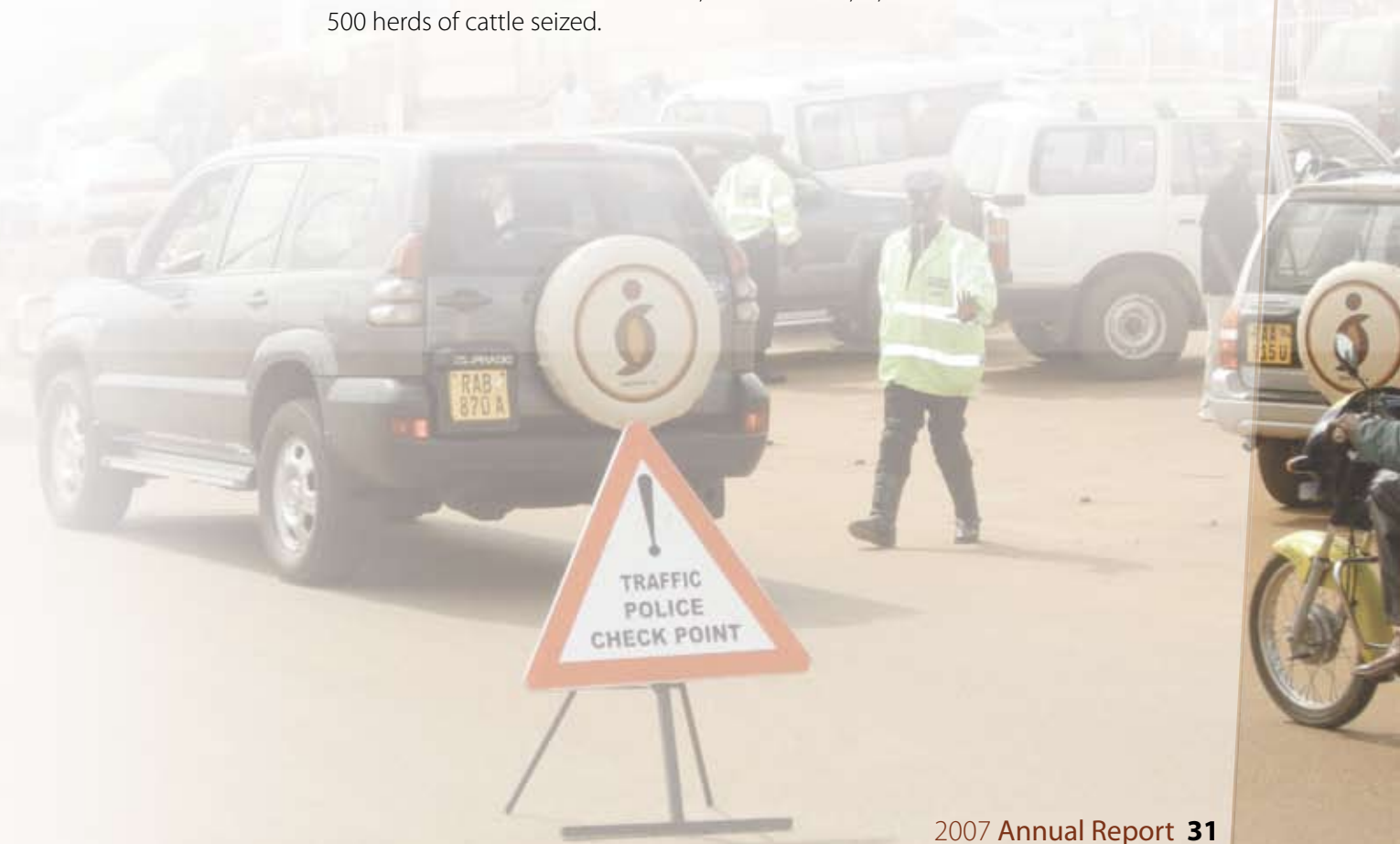


Vehicle theft and other crimes in Southern Africa

The Sub-Regional Bureau in Harare and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organization co-ordinated three joint operations involving police in 12 countries in Southern Africa. The operations, codenamed Maluti, Thabana Ntelanyana and Senqu, targeted vehicle theft, drug trafficking, trafficking in small arms and light weapons, illegal immigration, and other serious crime issues for the region.

The operations combined both traditional and high-tech police techniques, with INTERPOL providing laptops to enable officers to access the INTERPOL database of stolen motor vehicles at roadblocks using MIND. The cumulative totals for the operations, which were carried out in phases, included:

- 462 suspected stolen vehicles impounded;
- 786 illegal immigrants arrested;
- 435 suspects detained for other offences;
- More than 85 tonnes of cannabis, 106 firearms, 2,210 rounds of ammunition and 500 herds of cattle seized.





Intellectual property crime in South America

Operation Jupiter-South America III took place between October and December 2007. The co-ordinated efforts of police and customs authorities, in partnership with INTERPOL and the private sector, led to hundreds of arrests and the seizure of counterfeit and pirated goods in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay valued at over USD 121 million.

Experience gained from previous operations contributed to an increase in the level of seizures, and also resulted in improved communication, co-operation and co-ordination among the customs and police agencies involved. Further operations are planned for the future, with an increased number of partners.

Pharmaceutical counterfeiting in Southeast Asia

Jupiter-Southeast Asia is a joint operation between police in China and Myanmar, the General Secretariat and LOBANG targeting counterfeit pharmaceuticals in the Greater Mekong region. It culminated in November in the arrests of four individuals in China and Myanmar and the seizure of at least 24,720 boxes of counterfeit medicines.

Tackling illegal gambling syndicates

Operation SOGA targeted illegal football gambling controlled by organized crime groups in Asia. Simultaneous and joint operations were conducted in October and November by police in China (including Hong Kong and Macao), Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The operation was co-ordinated by the General Secretariat and the Liaison Office in Bangkok, and demonstrates the impact that national law enforcement can have when efforts are co-ordinated through INTERPOL's global network and resources. A total of 266 successful raids were conducted, 432 individuals arrested and more than USD 680,000 worth of cash and assets confiscated. A second phase will be carried out in 2008.



SUPPORT SERVICES



HUMAN RESOURCES

A total of 562 officials worked at the General Secretariat, regional bureaus and the UN office as of the end of 2007, representing 82 different nationalities. Of these, 182 officials, or 32 per cent of the staff, were law enforcement personnel either seconded by their national administrations or compensated by INTERPOL through reimbursements to their national administrations. The remaining 68 per cent were employed directly by INTERPOL. Women made up almost 43 per cent of the staff.

INTERPOL's dedication to a staff that reflected the organization's worldwide membership meant it could effectively address the specific needs of law enforcement in its five working regions, and also allowed the organization to benefit from a diversity of ideas, skills, backgrounds and experiences.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Office of Legal Affairs provided legal counsel on all of INTERPOL's activities throughout the year. It supported the regional conferences in Africa, the Americas and Europe and the General Assembly in Marrakesh, Morocco, by drafting and revising legal documents and recommendations. The office reviewed draft co-operation agreements with the International Commission for Missing Persons, ASEAN and UN bodies, and Headquarters Agreements with the governments of Austria and Cameroon.

The office also reviewed all requests for notices prior to publication to ensure they did not violate Article 3 of INTERPOL's Constitution, which prohibits the organization from undertaking activities of a political or military nature. In the event of a dispute between member countries on the issue of a notice, the office formulated the organization's opinion for review and approval by the Executive Committee, or the full General Assembly, if necessary.



COMMUNICATIONS

INTERPOL's unprecedented public search to identify a suspected paedophile in Operation Vico (see page 21) generated a huge media interest with more than 15,000 articles published by media outlets throughout the world.

The Secretary General and other key staff conducted interviews with more than 50 national and international newspapers and radio and TV stations during the 11 days from the launch of the operation to the arrest of the suspect in Thailand.

INTERPOL's website logged more than 800,000 visits in the first five days of the operation – compared to an average of 15,000 a day prior to the launch – and more than 300 messages from the public providing potential leads were received.

The Press Office received dozens of enquiries each week from journalists seeking a global perspective on various aspects of transnational crime. Other topics that attracted high media interest during the year included terrorism, border security, other cases of online child sexual abuse, drug trafficking and fugitive investigations.



FINANCES



For the financial year 2007, INTERPOL's operating income totalled €49 million, of which 88% was contributed by member countries, mostly in the form of statutory contributions (86%). Income received on externally-funded projects or from private foundations and/or commercial enterprises, with similar objectives or interests to INTERPOL, constituted 9% of gross income. Financial income made up 2% of the total.

Total ordinary operating expenditures were €48 million globally, with pay constituting the major cost component at 62% of the total, followed by travel and conference costs (12%), maintenance expenditures (4%), premises running costs (4%), third-party and other costs (3%), and telecommunications costs associated with INTERPOL's global telecommunications system, I-24/7 (3%). Depreciation expenditures constituted 8% of the total.

INTERPOL's financial performance saw a surplus during 2007, which was added to the organization's accumulated reserve funds. Capital projects consumed €4.7 million of financial resources. Cash and cash equivalents increased by €5.2 million, due mainly to advance receipts on externally-funded project accounts, increases in employee-related liabilities and increases in payables. Financial equity and reserves – represented by various funds – increased by nearly €1 million over the previous year because of the operational surplus in 2007.

The financial tables which appear on the following pages – statements of financial position, financial performance, changes in equity, and cash flows – are externally audited and summarize the financial status and performance of the organization in 2007 and 2006. The financial statements of the organization are prepared, where possible, in compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). Where IPSAS does not have any specific standard, the International Accounting Standards (IAS) have been used.

The organization's financial statements are in full compliance with IPSAS. Figures for 2006 have been restated for the presentation of results according to IPSAS requirements.

These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, conforming to the historical cost convention using the accrual method of accounting. All transactions comply with the organization's financial regulations.

Statement of Financial Position as at:

000s Euros

31st December
2007

31st December
2006

ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	28,986	23,766
Other accounts receivables and prepayments	2,518	2,657
Statutory contributions receivable	2,149	2,394
Inventories	593	624
Total current assets	34,246	29,441
Non-current assets		
Non-current statutory contributions receivable	544	274
Net fixed assets	23,460	22,507
Total non-current assets	24,004	22,781
TOTAL ASSETS	58,250	52,222
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	(3,803)	(2,589)
Income received in advance	(708)	(570)
Deferred project income	(5,178)	(2,807)
Total current liabilities	(9,689)	(5,966)
Non-current liabilities		
Employee-related liabilities	(4,413)	(3,093)
Total non-current liabilities	(4,413)	(3,093)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(14,102)	(9,059)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	44,148	43,163
EQUITY		
Capital financing reserve	23,460	22,507
Accumulated reserve funds	20,688	20,656
TOTAL EQUITY	44,148	43,163

FINANCES



Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended on:

000s Euros	31st December 2007	31st December 2006
Operating revenue		
Statutory contributions	41,398	38,370
Sub-Regional Bureau financing	781	767
Voluntary contributions	797	852
Reimbursements and recoveries	593	616
Financial income	1,157	895
Other income	4,555	3,724
Exchange rate gains/(losses) net	(168)	(131)
Total operating revenue	49,113	45,093
Operating expenses		
Pay costs	29,798	27,295
Other staff costs	911	1,011
Premises running costs	1,729	1,526
Maintenance	1,775	2,013
Missions and meetings	6,015	6,425
Office expenses	1,447	1,596
Telecommunication costs	1,514	1,283
Third party and other costs	1,215	2,228
Depreciation expenditure	3,724	3,614
Total operating expenses	(48,128)	(46,991)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	985	(1,898)

Statement of Changes in Equity for the financial year ended on 31st December 2007

000s Euros	Capital Financing Reserve	Accumulated Reserve Funds	Total
Balance at 31 December 2006	22,507	22,404	44,911
Prior year adjustments		(1,748)	(1,748)
Restated balance at 31 December 2006	22,507	20,656	43,163
Net gains and losses not recognised in statement of financial performance, being capital expenditures (net) funded out of Accumulated Reserve Funds	953	(953)	
Net (deficit) / surplus for the year		985	985
Balance at 31 December 2007	23,460	20,688	44,148

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended on:

000s Euros

31st December
2007

31st December
2006

Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus / (Deficit) from Ordinary Operating Activities	985	(1,898)
Non-cash movements		
Depreciation expenditure	3,724	3,614
Adjustment for financial income (reported separately)	(1,157)	(895)
Adjustment for gain/ loss on sale of assets	8	11
Increase / (decrease) in payables	1,214	759
Increase / (decrease) in income received in advance	138	(406)
Increase / (decrease) in deferred project income	2,371	1,917
Increase / (decrease) in employee-related liabilities	1,320	423
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	31	(65)
(Increase) / decrease in statutory contributions receivable non-current	(270)	(78)
(Increase) / decrease in other accounts receivables & pre-payments current	139	(502)
(Increase) / decrease in statutory contributions receivable current	245	1,728
Net cash flows from operating activities	8,748	4,608
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchases of fixed assets	(4,685)	(4,205)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(4,685)	(4,205)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Financial interest income received	1,157	895
Net cash flows from financing activities	1,157	895
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	5,220	1,298
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period	23,766	22,468
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period	28,986	23,766
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	5,220	1,298



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at the United Nations in New York

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