



SPEECH • DISCOURS • DISCURSO • خطابات

REMARKS

by

Khoo Boon Hui

INTERPOL President

**80<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly**

3 November 2011

Hanoi, Vietnam

His Excellency, Lieutenant-General Tran Dai Quang, Minister of Public Security;

His Excellency, Mr Pham Quy Ngo Vice-Minister of Public Security;

Mr. Ronald K. Noble, INTERPOL Secretary General;

Major-General Phan Van Vinh, Director-General of the Vietnam Police;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Over the last four days, I was heartened to see so many senior law enforcement officers display such deep and broad commitment to the principles of enhancing international police cooperation.

I was encouraged by your willingness to listen and openly share experiences and challenges. This augurs well for the future. Only through joint efforts and leveraging on each other's strengths can we navigate this organisation through the rapidly changing operating environment influenced by a complex web of forces worldwide.

The keynote speeches by our distinguished speakers from the US, Vietnam and Tanzania gave us a glimpse of the emerging issues that the international law enforcement community will have to grapple with. This will allow us to better identify possible areas of strategic collaboration, thus taking international police cooperation to new heights.

The importance and success of this year's INTERPOL General Assembly can be measured in more ways than one. Today, the INTERPOL family is proud to welcome three new members: Curacao, Sint Maarten and South Sudan. This has brought our membership to 190 countries - indeed a positive development for global police cooperation. At this General Assembly, we manifested our collective resolve to confront present and emerging security threats. We addressed a range of issues including the enhanced use of INTERPOL's tools to combat crimes such as online sexual exploitation of children, maritime piracy, firearms trafficking and fugitive investigations.

We examined our Organisation's priorities and activities, making sure that it is always reflective of the expectations of all its member countries. Through all this we remain on the lookout for innovative ways to further strengthen INTERPOL's internal processes and procedures to bring us to the next level of strategic anticipation, operational agility and financial resilience. The spirited and informative discussions on various INTERPOL issues reflect your commitment and our collective strong desire to make our Organization ready and well placed to face the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> Century policing.

I fully understand that the issue of the enhancement of the Red Notice and the Registration of the INTERPOL Constitution remain contentious. As your President, together with the entire Executive Committee, let me assure you that we will hear what all member countries have to say. Together with the Secretary General and his able staff, we remain committed to work with all of you in developing the best possible approach. It is my belief that the spirit of international cooperation will prevail and we will be able to work through these issues.

We have also forged strategic and operational partnerships with other international stakeholders, having recognized that we will need to work with them to tackle the growing scourge of transnational crimes. All of these were made possible because of your belief and support to the INTERPOL vision of connecting police and partners for a safer world.

Finally, we have a crop of new leadership coming onboard the Executive Committee. Let me bid a fond farewell to the outgoing members and at the same time, welcome our new representatives for the Americas, Africa and Europe. Please accept my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your conviction to serve and take our Organization to new heights. I look forward to working with all of you in the INTERPOL Executive Committee Sessions.

My dear friends and colleagues, we must remain steadfast to maintain the impetus and leverage on the gains achieved in this General Assembly.

It leaves me to now thank our gracious hosts on behalf of the INTERPOL family. The Ministry of Public Security, under the able leadership of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Tran Dai Quang, Minister of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has indeed done an excellent job. We will always remember the warm and sincere hospitality extended which has made all of us so welcome and at home. Allow me to also thank NCB Hanoi, in cooperation with the INTERPOL General Secretariat, for working so tirelessly over the past one year, to deliver us such a well organised and successful INTERPOL General Assembly. These past four days have been a productive and enjoyable experience for us. I am sure that all participants will look back with fond memories of their stay in Hanoi. Allow me to also thank the Secretary-General and his able staff, interpreters and support staff who have been working diligently behind the scenes.

I look forward to learning about your progress at our next INTERPOL General Assembly in Rome, Italy next year. I wish you all a pleasant journey back home.

Thank you.