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19th INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference

Draft Opening Remarks of the INTERPOL President for the 19th INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference
Jakarta, 11 April 2006

*Your Excellency, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,
Fellow Law Enforcers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning*

First of all, I wish to thank the Indonesian government for hosting the [19th INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference](#).

To the officers, men, and women of the Indonesian National Police ably led by Police General Sutanto: INTERPOL wishes to express its gratitude for all your dedication and hard work in organizing this Conference, which, without a doubt, will prove to be a great success. Given the current security challenges, I know that hosting an INTERPOL Regional Conference is not an easy task.

Mr. President, on behalf of the INTERPOL Organization, I would like to thank you personally for making this important event possible here in Jakarta, Indonesia. This conference gives us the opportunity of not only developing closer working relationships with our Indonesian, and indeed all our Asian, police colleagues, but also to experience Indonesian hospitality. Your presence here today not only honours us, but also demonstrates Indonesia's strong support to INTERPOL and international policing.

Our mission for the next three days is an important one. INTERPOL Regional Conferences are, together with the [General Assembly](#), among the most important events in the calendar of our organization. They are an opportunity for all of us to discuss and decide on how we can further enhance regional police cooperation in Asia, and between the Asian countries and the rest of the world. It is also an opportunity to learn from each other and to discuss the crime threats and the challenges your region is facing. I am pleased to see that our conference agenda contains several presentations from member countries, which have agreed to share their ideas on the best ways to combat serious crime problems, such as [terrorism](#), [trafficking of human beings](#) and [drugs](#). Over the next days, we will collectively demonstrate, yet again, that we can learn a great deal of things from each other. Your input, coupled with your experiences, is valuable in the formulation of effective operational policing activities, thus making our Organization more relevant in the fight against terrorism and serious transnational crime. This idea is the core of what our Organization, INTERPOL, stands for: collectively fight for a safer world.

Over the last few years, we have made a lot of progress. The roll-out of our global secure police communications system [I-24/7](#) has been completed and all Asian member countries are now connected to I-24/7. INTERPOL's databases have grown significantly in recent past, and you will be provided with detailed information about these developments in the course of the day.

Together with our Secretary-General, Mr. [Ronald Noble](#), our next challenge is now to bring these tools and services to the police officers on the frontline. We strongly believe that the potential of the different [INTERPOL databases](#) will be fully realized if all frontline officers on the streets and at border checkpoints can have real-time access to critical information in our databases, and notably to information on Lost and Stolen Travel Documents.

This is why the theme for this [19th INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference](#) is '**INTERPOL – Supporting Law Enforcement Front-Line Services**'. This is a priority for our Organization and we look forward to your input on these developments.

During the conference, we will also be talking about another serious crime, [CORRUPTION](#). INTERPOL believes that CORRUPTION diminishes the ability of law enforcement agencies to accomplish their mission and hinders the efficient and fair functioning of society. This is particularly so when corruption influences law enforcement itself. In fact, it is one of the major obstacles in a successful campaign against transnational crime and terrorism. As transnational crimes, and particularly terrorism, can be facilitated by police corruption, a corrupt law enforcement officer obstructs the pursuit of justice and, as a result, renders law enforcement ineffective.

INTERPOL has developed a comprehensive '[Global Standards to Combat Corruption in Police Forces and Services](#)' for law enforcement and has invited all our member countries to adopt these. While these standards are not legally binding, they are essential for effective global police cooperation against transnational crime. What we have gained in our collective fight against transnational crime and terrorism will be put at great risk if we leave CORRUPTION unabated.

My fellow police colleagues, I strongly believe that enhancing the operational effectiveness of our police forces in the field and strengthening our respective institutional mechanisms against corruption should be at the core of an effective campaign against transnational crime and terrorism.

More than ever, INTERPOL is developing effective tools to reach its goals. But it is primarily by further enhancing our collective efforts that we will achieve them. And this is precisely the reason why we are gathered here today. I wish you a good conference.

Thank you and good day.