6TH BORDER MANAGEMENT & IDENTITY CONFERENCE REPORT
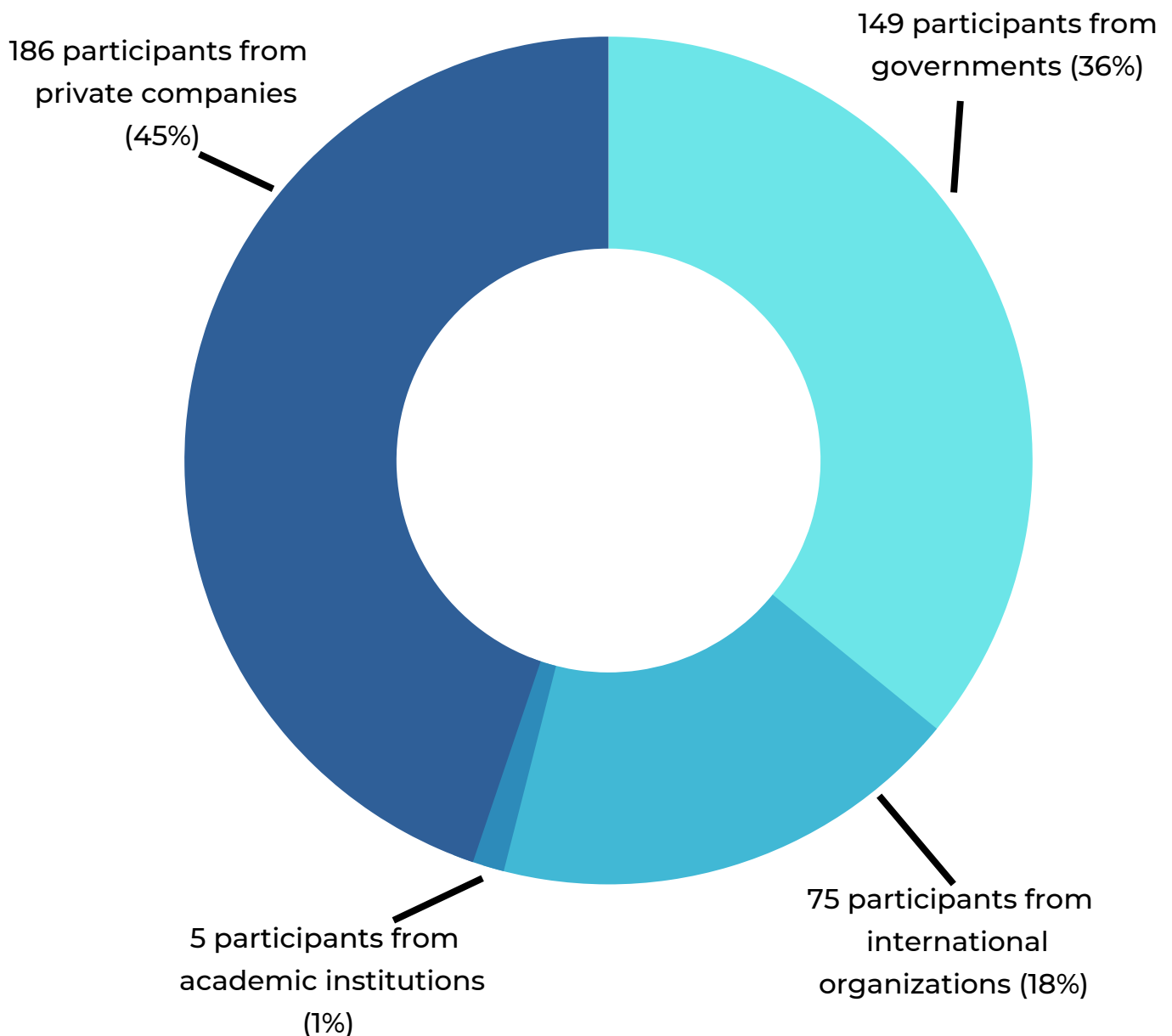
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6TH BMIC IN NUMBERS

424 Participants

186 participants from private companies (45%)

149 participants from governments (36%)

5 participants from academic institutions (1%)

75 participants from international organizations (18%)
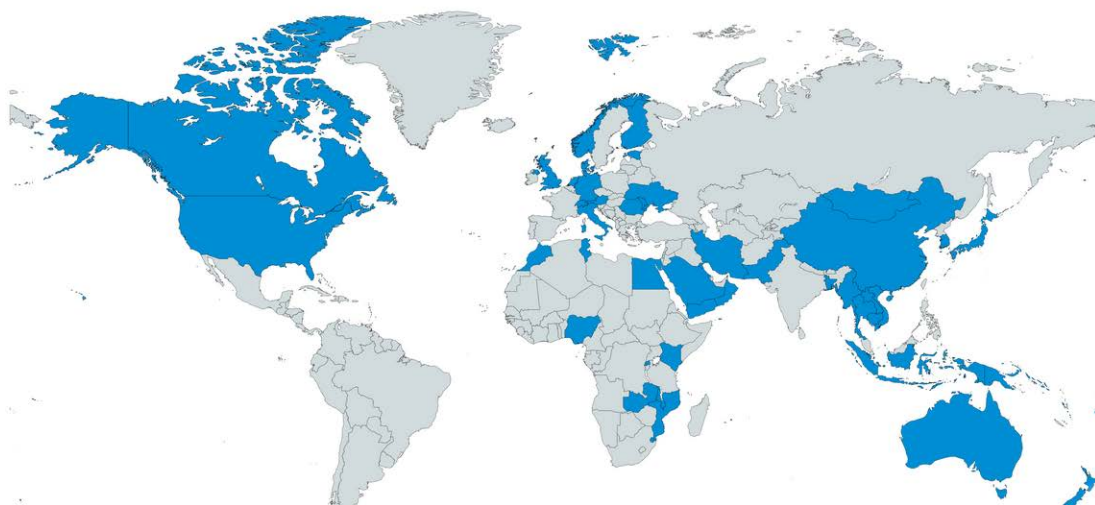
* The chart does not include 9 media staff from IOM and APSCA.

A Global Coverage

55 countries represented (Government)

1. Australia
2. Austria
3. Bahrain
4. Bangladesh
5. Cambodia
6. Canada
7. China
8. Denmark
9. Egypt
10. Estonia
11. Fiji
12. Finland
13. Germany
14. Indonesia
15. Iran
16. Italy
17. Japan
18. Kenya
19. Kuwait
20. Lao People's Democratic Republic
21. Malawi
22. Malaysia
23. Mauritius
24. Mongolia
25. Morocco
26. Mozambique
27. Myanmar
28. Netherlands
29. New Zealand
30. Nigeria
31. Norway
32. Oman
33. Pakistan
34. Papua New Guinea
35. Republic of Korea
36. Republic of Moldova
37. Romania
38. Rwanda
39. Samoa
40. Saudi Arabia
41. Seychelles
42. Solomon Islands
43. Sri Lanka
44. Swaziland
45. Switzerland
46. Thailand
47. Timor-Leste
48. Tunisia
49. Ukraine
50. United Kingdom
51. United States
52. Vanuatu
53. Vietnam
54. Yemen
55. Zambia

Global Visibility

IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Twitter (@IOMAsiaPacific)

20 tweets
20,189 impressions
1,246 engagements
325 detail expands

Facebook (IOM Asia-Pacific)

19 posts
9,244 impressions
10,071 engagements
913 detail expands

Instagram (@iomasiapacific)

19 posts
141 likes
2,349 people reached
1,641 impressions
117 engagements

YouTube (IOM Asia-Pacific)

5 videos
174 views
0.8 hour total watch time

IOM Thailand

Twitter (@IOMThailand)

144 views (video)
641 impressions
100 engagements
30 detail expands

Facebook (IOM Thailand)

1 post
798 people reached
228 views
27 engagements

Instagram (@iomthailand)

1 post
6 likes
151 people reached

BMIC6 plenary room

BMIC6 breakout room

Acknowledgement

The 6th Border Management & Identity Conference (BMIC), co-organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Asia Pacific Smart Card Association (APSCA) was held in Bangkok from 7-9 December 2022 and gathered 424 participating delegates from 55 governments all over the world, international organizations, solution developers in the border technology industry, and academic institutions.

Once more the Kingdom of Thailand has provided an exquisite scenario to the BMIC. On behalf of APSCA and IOM, I would also like to commend the Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Immigration Bureau, Thailand and the city of Bangkok for having so dramatically contributed to a successful edition of our event.

To date, we are still receiving encouraging feedback from participants on the relevance of the theme, "Solutions to Minimise Disruption to Cross-Border Movements of People and Trade While Safeguarding National Security during Crises", which is very much in line with the latest challenges faced by all border management agencies worldwide in an era of unprecedented global mobility. Hence, I extend my special thanks to our sponsors of the 6th BMIC – for believing in the positive outcomes of the Conference, and in its long-term impact.

My sincere appreciation also goes to all the conference participants whose enthusiasm and dedication made this platform extremely dynamic throughout the Conference. In addition, it goes without saying that the significant contribution of the speakers was essential to the success of the 6th BIMC. The wide range of expertise and talent presented in the room was critical and has immensely contributed to meeting the objectives of the Conference.

I am indebted to the Chairperson of the 6th BMIC, Mr. Dion Chamberlain, whose leadership and brilliant performance as the moderator enriched the sessions and ensured the discussions towards the concrete achievements of the Conference. I would also like to extend my appreciation to four chairs for fulfilling their important role as the facilitators for the workshops with professionalism and passion. Your dedication has brought the discussions to a higher level.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Media and Communications Units, IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and IOM Thailand, for ensuring a remarkable media coverage of the 6th BMIC.

It must be noted the exceptional support provided by IOM colleagues from all over the world, including project managers, chief of missions, regional thematic specialists, and IBG division in IOM Headquarters in Geneva that facilitated the participation of the governments from Eastern, Central and Western Asia, the Pacific, the Oceania, Africa, the Americas and Europe.

I would like to thank IOM Thailand for the support provided during the Conference. A special thanks must be given to the Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Unit of the IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) for the tireless work to organize the BMIC in only six months.

Finally, my gratitude extends to Ms. Sarah Lou Ysmael Arriola, IOM's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific for believing in the 6th BMIC and ensuring the unwavering support in all stages of the Conference starting from its conception.
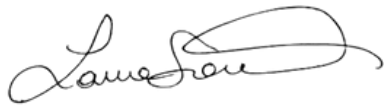
This report presents a summary of the presentations, discussions and recommendations during the three stimulating days at the 6th BMIC. It is with sincere gratitude that I refer to the commitment of the note takers: Mr. Nirut Bannob, Ms. Surucchawadi Seweewanlop, Mr. Iheb Klai who captured the essence of each presentation and discussion, coordinated by Mr. Faisal Khan, Ms. Mia Haas-Goldberg, Ms. Varaporn Naisanguansri, Mr. Adapol Aupalanon, and Ms. Pimpattra Rakdech for proofreading and editing of the report.

I am confident that this report will help recollect the fruitful discussions, the ideas shared, and recommendations proposed to address the challenges identified during the Conference.

At the end, I cannot conclude this acknowledgement without extending my gratitude to APSCA for the steadfast support as the co-organizer of the Conference and for ensuring the active participation of the solution developers. Our partnership has been extremely rewarding and I look forward to more future collaboration

I hope to see you again in the near future and most certainly in Bangkok, at the 7th BMIC on 5-7 December 2024.

Sincerely,

Laura Scorretti
Senior Regional Immigration and Border Governance Specialist
IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
January 2022

Day 1 - Morning

Opening Ceremony

Laura Scorretti,
Senior Regional Immigration and Border Governance
specialist, International Organization for Migration

Ms. Laura Scorretti opened the conference, stressing the need for preparedness of border and identity management systems to respond to border disruptions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as forgery of health credentials, destabilizing effects of climate change and political and economic downturns.

Welcome Speech

Narong Boonsatheanwong,
Deputy Director-General (Acting Director-General),Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Thailand

Mr. Narong Boonsatheanwong delivered the welcome speech where he acknowledged the importance of digitized border management in the wake of COVID-19 and stressed the need to invest in safety and security, seamless and interoperable systems, and accessibility for all persons crossing borders.

Welcome Speech

Antonio Vitorino,
Director – General, International organization for Migration

Mr. Antonio Vitorino emphasized the links between international migration and trade, highlighting the importance to re-think and streamline cross-border procedures, better equip border agencies, and re-ignite economic development. He further stated that there is a need to manage identity securely, to protect cross-border travelers and migrants from organized crime, including traffickers and smugglers, and identity fraud. Commitment to close cooperation at all levels to prepare for the next pandemic and for future crises is key. It is essential to ensure that, while we continue to pursue well-managed human mobility, we fully incorporate preparedness, response, and recovery planning, to account for the many ways in which pandemics, conflicts and natural disasters will impact global mobility in the future.

Introductory Remarks

Dion Chamberlain,
Manager, Product Development, Identity and Life Events, Department of Internal Affairs, Government of New Zealand

Mr. Dion Chamberlain began with a discussion with what he calls the four Ds, disruption, displacement, digital and identity, and dignity. With the focus of the conference on the aspect of dignity, Mr. Chamberlain asked participants to centre people in their conversations over the course of the conference as all migrants face shared challenges.

Keynote Speech

Ana Cristina Jorge, Director of Operational Response Division, European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)

Ms. Ana Cristina Jorge highlighted the significance of preparedness to respond to future obstacles to cross-border travel and the need to continue to adapt to new realities and learn from lived experience.

Official Opening

Greg Pote,
Chairman, Asia Pacific Smart Card
Association (APSCA)

Mr. Greg Pote officially opened the exhibition of the 6th BMIC with introductions to conference workshops. He noted the universal challenges associated with displacement, including violence, pandemic, and climate change. He also stressed the need to strengthen border and identity management to facilitate secure travel in crisis situations.

The European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (EU-LISA)

Krum Garkov

Mr. Krum Garkov described the ongoing digital transformation of border management and the need for a paradigm shift, from emphasis on physical to digital assets. Despite strategic challenges faced by the EU, such as outdated business models, workforce transformation, transformation of the EU's border management ecosystem is ongoing. Integrated, information-driven systems instead will facilitate trust building between governments and their citizens and meet the emerging challenges of globalization. In present times, border management, migration management and internal security and all inter-connected and thus, warrants a Paradigm shift from physical assets to digital assets and from cyber-based approach to integration and information exchange.

Overview of the ICAO Traveler Identification Programme (TRIP)

Christiane Der Marker

Ms. Christiane Der Marker provided an overview of ICAO's objectives and identity management services in relation to travel document and examination. She explained the international specifications for MRTDs as outlined in Doc 9303, specifically the components of ePassports, and noted that over 150 states issue ePassports, with 88 participating in the public key directory (PKD). At present, travel documents can be used all along the travel continuum by many actors such as immigration and border officials, by transportation ministries, by air travel industries, all requiring physical presence of the holder of such documents. For future, the aim is to shift towards travelers digital credentials as part of the pre-travel verification procedure.

Frontex-INTERPOL Electronic Library Document System (FIELDS)

Fabrizio di Carlo

Mr. Fabrizio Di Carlo introduced the Frontex-INTERPOL Electronic Library Documents System (FIELDS), which provides officers with a Quick Check Card (QCC) to improve officer capacity in document checks and tackle document fraud, with seamless procedures in place that requires less time and leads the officers directly to key detection points. Serving as decision aids for frontline officers, QCCs show the key detection points of single documents and are based on recent forgery and modus operandi trends and can be customized to national immigration contexts. After noting opportunities for government collaboration, Mr. Di Carlo described cooperation among INTERPOL, Frontex, and IOM to provide interoperability, information sharing, and capacity building.

UNCCT/UNOCT Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management in the Context of Counterterrorism: The Republic of Korea Model

Rocco Messina

Mr. Rocco Messina introduced UNCCT's mandate, which involves providing expertise to member states and incorporating counter terrorism components into border management systems, and noted the importance of implementing security standards worldwide. He went on to describe good practices in border security and management during COVID-19, using the Republic of Korea as a case study.

Increasing flexibility of immigration and border management systems in responding to unordinary situations

Donato Colucci

Mr. Donato Colucci highlighted two migration trends merging in 2022 and the unequal responsibilities falling on border states in both contexts: migration in the Mediterranean and displacement of Ukrainians. He went on to stress the importance of integrated border management and facilitation of cross border movements of aid as a primary lesson learned from Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other displacement contexts. Mr. Colucci ended his presentation with key aspects to take into account: information as an asset, capacity building to counter organized crime, and human rights-centric approaches to border management.

Day 1 - Afternoon

Ukraine's DIIA initiative and management of people outflow

Liudmyla Rabchynska

Ms. Liudmyla Rabchynska described the scale of the mass displacement that took place, particularly movements into neighboring countries, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022. To overcome displacement challenges associated with paper identity documents and destruction of state infrastructure, Ukraine's DIIA initiative, introduced by Ms. Rabchynska, supports the issuance of documents for Ukrainians to safely cross-national borders. She concluded by recommending that governments remain flexible and ready to simplify requirements in emergencies.

Government of Moldova: Lessons Learned from the Moldovan Response to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

Roman Gutu

Mr. Roman Gutu began by describing the scale of movement that took place along Moldova's border with Ukraine, especially through Palanca BCP, and the country's efforts to ensure temporary protection and access to emergency services. He described the importance of coordinating with neighboring countries and the enhanced sense of solidarity, volunteerism, and cooperation that came with the crisis but noted that preparedness must be continually reevaluated to meet emerging protection needs.

Entry/Exit System in the Schengen Area and its impact on Austria

Monika Lemmerer

Ms. Monika Lemmerer introduced the European Entry and Exit System, its implementation in Austria and the country's plans for a two-stage process involving self-service machines. Moving away from passport stamps and towards biometric data, the self-service system will support pre-registration of data and strengthen security. Ms. Lemmerer also noted the challenges to implementation, including processing time and maintenance of self-service machines, and described the preliminary steps towards the new system.

The IOM Legal Identity Strategy

Nelson Goncalves

Mr. Nelson Goncalves introduced the IOM's Legal Identity Strategy, which focuses on four pillars: supporting development of consular civil registration and citizenship and document issuance services; assisting migrants who do not have proof of legal identity; supporting national civil registration and identity management systems; and providing leadership on the nexus between migration displacement and legal identity, including the protection of migrants. The Strategy also includes a manual of good practices as well as a biometrics manual to provide guidelines on biometric data collection, policies, legal frameworks, and technologies.

Legal Identity and Registration of Eswatini citizens and residents

Makhosi Simelane

Mr. Makhosi Simelane introduced the mandate of the Department of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRV) and their legal identity and registration activities in Eswatini. Registration issues stem from a combination of lack of access to facilities in rural areas to failure to meet registration requirements, however, CRV has developed methods for supporting registration accessibility, such as use of mobile registration centers. Mr. Simelane stressed that registration is an ongoing process that requires adequate resources and investment to ensure that all persons in the country receive access to services, particularly in emergencies.

Biometric borders: Leveraging technology for secure, contactless identity verification and passenger screening

Alan Renaud

Mr. Alan Renaud introduced the challenges faced by the Seychelles during COVID-19, particularly its reliance on tourism, increasing transnational organized crime, and growing drug problem. To address border management challenges and emerging threats, the state launched a biometric health travel authorization in coordination with several government agencies and Travizory, a security technology firm. Mr. Renaud described how the new system helps facilitate seamless travel, decrease congestion at border control, increase staff capacity, and provides the government with real time data.

Data and technology to enable border facilitation

Younkyung Kim

Ms. Younkyung Kim introduced IATA's mandate and the primary challenges faced by the organization during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. She explained how paper documents are not sustainable or secure and led to congestion and longer processing times at airports. Finally, she presented IATA's new One ID system, which provides a contactless experience for travelers and ensure a seamless and secure travel from start to finish.

Best Practices for Assisting Evacuees from Ukraine

Erika Noda

Ms. Erika Noda described how Japan's Immigration Services Agency (ISA) integrates awareness raising on the risks of human trafficking into the visa screening process. She noted the importance of sharing informational materials as the war in Ukraine continues and provided examples of several potential human trafficking scenarios. Finally, she shared best practices from ISA's Help Desk for evacuees from Ukraine, including the establishment of Reception Support Officers.

Day 2 - Workshop 1
Integrating climatic risks into analysis of and preparation for cross - border population displacement

Introduction to Workshop 1

Ross Greenwood

Mr. Ross Greenwood introduced the workshop with a brief discussion of the increasing severity of natural disasters resulting from climate change and encouraged participants to consider the ways in which the border and identity management industry might adapt.

Regional Cooperation and Multilateral Approach to Border Management in the Pacific

Akuila Ratu and Solomon Kantha

Mr. Akuila Ratu began his presentation by providing an overview of the challenges facing the Pacific in terms of migration management, namely the cost of technology, lack of resources, and the encroachment of rising sea levels. He went on to discuss the PIDC framework for regional information sharing, the development of standard operating procedures, and the regional framework on climate-related mobility. Mr. Ratu ended his presentation by noting the opportunities afforded by the COVID-19 pandemic for reevaluation of migration legislation and development of additional channels for inter-agency cooperation.

Managing Borders and Lessons Learnt Post-Pandemic

Amelia Komaisavai

Ms. Amelia Komaisavai focused her presentation on the changes to immigration and border management in Fiji due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She described three notable challenges as stepping stones for future planning, specifically integration of health into border management, use of API and coordinated approaches, and investment in ICT infrastructure. She noted that the pandemic allowed the Fiji Immigration Department to shift away from "traditional" threats to borders and focus on institutional strength, information sharing, and intersectional approaches.

Planning for cross-border population displacement in relation to disaster and climate change - Solomon Islands

Malachi Bate'e

Mr. Malachi Bate'e gave a brief presentation on the Solomon Islands' approach to stakeholder collaboration in light of disaster and climate change responses. He noted the establishment of standard operating procedures and stressed the significance of stakeholder inclusion throughout preparedness planning.

Discussion

The discussion that ensued touched upon diverse elements of climate induced displacement and the associated challenges. One participant asked about the role of data in facilitating relocation as well as strengthening border security while another asked about challenges to civil registration in the midst of uneven climate displacement. It was argued that in deciding to undertake planned relocation due to climate displacement, it is important to come to the conclusion that is based on concrete data, and to draw upon on such existing knowledge (e.g. demographic data), especially when looking into communities' own assessments of their living conditions, and mathematical and scientific modeling and projections of impacts and vulnerability. In response to civil registration, it was highlighted that the benefits of using biometrics can be specifically illustrated in registration processes. IOM can, for instance, help to collect data to identify vulnerable individuals who may require additional assistance, including pregnant women, persons with physical disabilities and unaccompanied children. Reliable data on vulnerabilities enable relief agencies to provide more targeted and individualized assistance. Biometric technologies offer a valuable tool that contributes to preventing identity theft and identity substitution; they also reduce the risk of multiple registrations of the same person under different identities. Given the lack of policy or legislation to guide climate relocation and displacement, panelists noted the importance of flexibility, community-based consultations, and close cooperation among governments in the Pacific. Finally, in reference to the aftermath of relocation, one participant noted the need for integration policies based off a multicultural model, where new arrivals not only become part of the community but where the community celebrates the unique heritage of the displaced. In terms of moving forward, Solomon Islands priority, at present, is moving forward with developing National Relocation Guidelines.

"It's not just livelihoods, its home, and home is special for all of us" – Ross Greenwood

The impact of environmental- and security-driven displacement on identity management: the case of northern Mozambique

Arafat Nadim D'Almeida Juma Zamila

Mr. Zamila began his presentation by highlighting the extent of displacement in Northern Mozambique and in the past 5 years mainly due to increase in conflict, reoccurring disasters and the impact of COVID-19 which has caused approximately 900,000 people have no proof of identity. He described the methodologies for civil registration, which include both electronic and mobile systems in areas of displacement, and outlined the risks that displaced populations face when left without identity documents. As per the United Nations economic commission for Africa only, 55% population in Mozambique have a birth certificate and only 24% possess an ID card. Mr. Zamila noted the need to mobilize resources, actors, and infrastructure projects to continue to register the population and reconstruct historical records.

Hemp renaissance allows decreasing carbon footprint of cross-border travel

Ihar Bayarenka

Mr. Ihar Bayarenka discussed the opportunities for inclusion of hemp in identity document printing. He noted the sustainable nature of hemp production, including the durability and low levels of toxins, and the need to pivot towards environmentally friendly paper alternatives.

Discussion – Chair, Speakers, and Participants

One participant asked whether the production of digital devices created more environmental costs than hemp fiber printing, to which the panelist remarked that in both situations, the creation of identity documents has an environmental cost.

Day 2 - Workshop 2
Facilitation during crises - Pivotal role of border management in preparing for major disruptions

Introduction to Workshop 2

Dr. Frank Paul

Dr. Frank Paul pointed to risk assessments as the first element of planning, particularly in countries using nuclear power or running nuclear programs. He discussed how planning should be based on scenarios, involve checking or establishing coordination mechanisms with neighboring countries, and ensure that communication channels and infrastructure are in working order. The existence of a basic preparedness plan ensures that, in times of crisis, that there is a basic plan that can be launched, with basic structure in place, improvising depending on the crisis. Need to have basic structure in place in time of crisis. Assessment of your capabilities and properly trained and have a digital system in place. In case of major disruption there will be total chaos at borders. As countries are shifting towards digital applications (App), in times of crisis, it's important to have an App that partially self- registers, thus leaving the border officials to do basic check when they arrive at the border, making it easier to handle the volume of population.

Estonia's practices and overall response to the arrivals and registration of Ukrainians (Managing Identity/Registration)

Vaiko Vaher

Mr. Vaiko Vaher gave an overview of Estonia's emergency plan for mass migration from the Russian Federation and Latvia prior to the outbreak of war in Ukraine and shared how procedures changed after 24 February 2022. For example, Estonia extended visas, streamlined temporary protection procedures, and created the data form filled by all those at the borders of Poland and were to enter Estonia, so that necessary information is available to prepare their welcome at the Estonian border and created an early warning system that strengthened information sharing among border control points through shared databases. Mr. Vaher also shared how the border agency learned from the experience, such as identifying complications from cases of dual citizens, technical issues, quick trainings, and the lack of rapid biometric data analysis.

Lessons learned from covid and conflict: applying seamless travel tools to improve borders of the future

Steve Grant

Mr. Steve Grant introduced the IDVAAS application, which allows immigration agencies to facilitate immigration permission systems via smartphone app, and described how the technology lends itself to flexible, secure, and seamless travel. He recommended the activation of a digital travel portal between governments and industry to shorten queues, reduce space-consuming digital hardware, and increase security.

Lessons Learned from the Romanian Response to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

Cornel Stoica

Mr. Cornel Stoica described the establishment of a coordination mechanism upon the outbreak of war in Ukraine to avoid duplication efforts through support to local authorities with technical expertise and through strengthened capacity of first responder NGOs. He noted the use of a simplified mechanism for identifying trafficking in persons cases and stressed the importance of building response plans from risk assessments.

Discussion

The discussion began with recommendations from IOM Moldova representatives on how to quickly build capacity at borders and plan for several types of scenarios in coordination with other agencies, including social services. One delegate asked about how to process large numbers of persons crossing at night, to which discussants suggested first establishing government focal points to activate IGOs and NGOs and developing standard operating procedures and checklists outlining the necessary steps for processing each person. A key recommendation was to ensure communication with both the people arriving at the borders who are not familiar with the crisis situation that is unfolding and communication within and across government and partners. One suggestion, agreed by the discussant, was to have an advance checklist of which organizations/ministries focal person to call, and an SOP for it during the crisis situation. And to further ensure to delegate this authority to colleagues and entrust them with such responsibilities.

From smartphones to secure border control: How to handle a lack of infrastructure when a crisis hits

Mate Fejes

Mr. Mate Fejes suggested using biometrics to decongest and secure border crossing points, particularly in places lacking physical infrastructure. Through digital IDs and similar platforms, asylum seekers can register on their smartphones before crossing borders and provide necessary documentation and data digitally with Optical Character Recognition (OCR). These systems also provide important information to border agencies on the number of persons on the move and speeds up the registration process upon arrival. When purchasing identify verification technology, however, governments should specifically consider core algorithm performance and benchmarking, including fairness, speed, practicality, and user experience.

Facilitation during crises: use of mobile biometric devices at border control for refugee registration. Case studies: Ukrainian war refugee registration in Europe and refugee registration in Africa

Wilhelm Faul

Mr. Wilhelm Faul began by describing the complexity of biometric registration of millions of persons in short time spans and shared the necessary project planning and facility requirements. He went on to detail the training and knowledge assessment demands central to biometric registration and described the quality assurance process. Finally, Mr. Faul noted the role of strong leadership and clear role assignment, including political support, the existence of in-country project delivery teams, clear reporting lines, and strategic in-country staffing that accounts for local languages and norms.

Discussion – Chair, Speakers, and Participants

Participants asked about how to fund preparedness mechanisms with a small budget, to which panelists recommended focusing on basic infrastructure with less physical material, such as cloud infrastructure, but government willingness to use such a system must also exist. Participants agreed on the importance of ensuring clear channels of communication internally, with beneficiaries, and with neighboring countries and partner organizations, and in implementing planning, risk analyses, and decongestion measures prior to the outbreak of crisis.

Day 2 - Workshop 3

Credentials for pandemics: Innovative solutions to issues and processes involving "immunity travel documents"

Introduction to Workshop 3

Raymond Wong

Enhanced border management and health system during pandemics: case of Rwanda

Pascale Mugwaneza

Ms. Pascale Mugwaneza began the presentation with an introduction to Rwanda Immigration's approach during COVID-19, particularly in response to paper-based health documents. The country transitioned to digital health credentials, robotic fever screening, and GPS tracking for drivers transporting goods and the country continues to expand their border management system at both airports and land borders. She highlighted the importance of learning from the COVID-19 pandemic and the fraudulent paper-based health documents and encouraged participants to consider new collaborative initiatives for verifying and sharing health data.

Rethinking the paper-based vaccination certificates in post-COVID era

Mattias Schneider

Mr. Mattias Schneider introduced NXP as a manufacturer of semiconductors and leading expert in security credentials. He noted the importance of ensuring trust between suppliers and governments, as well as the population served by such travel documents, and described the benefits of interoperability and Public Key Directorate use. Finally, he outlined the parameters of a chip-based solution for ePassports as a flexible solution that supports authentication of a range of traveler credentials.

How pandemic driven solutions lead to a more convenient and secure travel experience

Corinna Schindler

Ms. Corinna Schindler discussed how the integration of biometrics with traveler management can facilitate both a seamless and secure journey. She noted several challenges stemming from digitization, including configuration of disclosed information, the need to define standardization and interoperability, and the development of accessible technology that is inclusive for all.

Discussion

One participant asked about the mobility situation of those residing in border communities and how their needs are balanced with the goals of immigration departments. Ms. Mugwaneza described how e-gates were installed at borders to be able to facilitate travel for border communities, approximately 45000 travellers per day, allowing quick passenger access sometimes 5-8 times per day, by using their ID cards. There was further discussion on the sustainability of chip-based travel documents over those without chips, while one participant suggested hybridity among both types of security.

A cross-agency platform for risk-based targeting in border operations

Chathura De Silva

Shantha Kulasekara

Dr. Chathura De Silva and Mr. Shantha Kulasekara described Sri Lanka's integrated border management strategy and outlined the country's use of risk-based targeting to ensure that borders are open for trade and regular migration. Beginning at the Border Risk Assessment Center (BRAC) and ending with intervention by border agencies, the two-stage system filters passengers and then analyzes the extent of the risk posed by the passenger.

Immunity status as new use case in the digitalization of electronic IDs

Eric Bultel

Mr. Eric Bultel began by describing the parallel rise in ID document creation and health documents to avoid forgeries during the COVID-19 pandemic. He then outlined the possible options for transmitting immunity status through national IDs.

Discussion – Chair, Speakers, and Participants

Participants considered the differences between solution providers' technologies, speculating on resource depletion and sustainability, and considered the costs of investing in such systems and technologies.

Day 2 - Workshop 4

Beyond the biological threat: Strengthening border technology against cyber-attacks and technical disruptions

Introduction to Workshop 4

Haddon Wright

Mr. Haddon Wright began by describing the importance of cybersecurity and the vulnerabilities of the technologies that we work with, especially in border operations. He stressed that health services, data management teams, and civil registration should work together to facilitate integrated border management.

Controls at all levels

Paul Cross

Mr. Paul Cross presented the key components of a layered approach to integrated border management, including the involvement of ICT technology to provide early insight on traveler data, linking of intelligent data management, and digitization of end user processes for border control. Mr. Cross then described the importance of focusing on system planning, including privacy impact assessments, information management, security and risk management planning, disaster recovery and business continuity planning, and the standardization of operational procedures. Finally, he noted that policy making and legislation should be part of the planning process, and that mandates for each agency involved in border management should be clarified.

The Three Laws in practice: Introduction to the Three Laws of Biometrics and a Good Practice Framework for biometrics

Isabelle Moeller

Ms. Isabelle Moeller began by discussing the benefits of biometrics as a critical component of traveler facilitation, border management, and legal identity. Given the sensitive nature of biometric data, she noted the importance of investing in and integrating cybersecurity in border management processes and procedures. Ms. Moeller then described the three laws of biometrics: any use of biometrics should be proportionate with basic human rights, ethics, and privacy; safeguards should be in place to ensure that decisions are reviewed, operations are fair, and operators are accountable; and that knowledge of algorithms, biometric, systems, data quality, and operating environment should be used to mitigate vulnerabilities, limitations, and risks.

Business Continuity Issues for Border Systems

Ross Greenwood

Mr. Ross Greenwood began by describing how border management systems process large volumes of travelers in environments where operating time is critical, meaning that business and disaster recovery continuity plans should be organized and detailed. To ensure plan development and implementation, infrastructure, reliable electricity sources, reliable broadband for data connectivity, and effective voice communication should be considered during planning exercises. Finally, Mr. Greenwood recommended that both physical and virtual information security be assessed, with fire protection, data protection, and cybersecurity measures put in place where needed.

The Political Dimension of Cyber Security

Krum Garkov

Mr. Krum Garkov began by describing the significance of cybersecurity in a highly digital world; globally, 90% of data and information can be accessed online and about 1.5 billion smartphones are sold annually. He explained how the resumption of border crossings in Europe, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic, will generate a large volume of data that can serve as an asset for border agencies. The increase of information, however, is accompanied by an increase in cyberattacks and cybercrimes, which demand new policies, capacity building, and technologies at borders. Finally, Mr. Garkov emphasized the importance of effective and timely responses to changing informational technology and accompanying modus operandi of criminals.

How Egypt made the national identity program more resilient to major disruptions

Ihar Bayarenka

Mr. Ihar Bayarenka began by providing context on the COVID-19 situation and operating environment in Egypt and moved on to describe the development of the security printing industry and the necessary government support, training, and technical specialists involved in the project. Finally, Mr. Bayarenka explained how an enhanced population registration system allows the government of Egypt to increase resilience to potential cyberattacks and technical disruptions and speed up responses.

Day 3 - Morning

Undermining is everywhere but no one sees it! Integrity risk displaces focus on document security

Fons Knopjes

Mr. Fons Knopjes began by describing the ways that travel and identity documents are undermined by criminal entities and shared common actions to prevent corruption and strengthen document security. He recommended conditioning the use of personal data, implementing periodic monitoring of data quality, performing regular but unpredictable checks, adopting a zero-tolerance policy for abuse and harassment, and ensuring the secure transport of resources, among other actions.

Pakistan's border and identity management responses, Government of Pakistan

Sheharyar Ajmal Khan

Mr. Sheharyar Ajmal Khan began by introducing Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and their online ID card system for rapid ID applications, travel, and health insurance, and went on to stress that emergency and preparedness frameworks must be inclusive, widely implementable, durable, and that development must be people centric. He described NADRA's preparation for COVID-19, including development of mobile registration infrastructure, enhancement of social protection programs and mobile payment platforms, all of which functioned without physical contact.

Biometrics and its role in enhancing border security in Arab countries

Fahad M. Alharby

Dr. Fahad Alharby began by outlining a recent studied intended to identify international standards for biometrics, and to measure and evaluate the current capacity of Arab countries to face emerging, overlapping security threats. He introduced the Border Security Biometrics Checklist (BSBC) as a method for evaluating legislative frameworks and technical readiness, current best practices, operational capacity, and technology implementation to support general preparedness planning and human security.

Contrasting document and identity fraud in field activities at borders

Claudio Kavrecic

Mr. Claudio Kavrecic noted the importance of shifting from opinions to formal assessments when checking travel documents, and shared Frontex's Quick Reference Guide as an example of a streamlined assessment tool that consists of terminology for facial comparison, to be used at border crossing points by border guards and investigators. He went on to describe the integration of fingerprints into border management activities and identity documents and introduced Frontex's fingerprint comparison guide for border guards.

Moving Identity Management into the Digital Age: Humanitarian Delivery into Refugee Crisis

Amalina Majit

Ms. Amalina Majit introduced UNHCR's use of remote registration for asylum seekers, a system that also provides asylum seekers with a platform to access specific assistance in certain parts of a country. The registration system provides an ID document, QR code, and application to authenticate biometric data and helps UNHCR prioritize vulnerable persons for vaccinations. Ms. Majit stressed the importance of high standards for identity management through facial verification technology, the safe use of technology, including privacy parameters, and a refugee-centric approach and constant feedback.

Post-Pandemic is Pre-Pandemic: What Role can Free Movement Zones and Cross-Border Identities Play

Stephan D. Hofstetter

Mr. Stephan Hofstetter described how certain policy and border management regulations can create barriers to regular migration for certain groups. For example, he explained how lack of internet access, the cost of travel documents, and varied resources at different ports of entry can serve as a hurdle to free movement in multiple contexts, such as in border communities where daily crossings are necessary. He noted that different standards for Evidence of Identity (EOI), different civil registries, and varied legal structures in free movement zones can impact levels of integration and accessibility.

Migration, Trade Facilitation and National Security in Zambia

Japhet Lishomwa

Dr. Japhet Lishomwa described the relationship between migration and trade. He noted the Small-Scale Cross Border Trade (SSCBT) Initiative, which contributes to the income of 43 percent of Africa's entire population, but explained how limited access to finance, corruption, and harassment disrupt this informal economy. He explained how SSCBT has the potential to support the African continent's ongoing development and that these activities should be considered when planning for migration crises. Finally, he introduced E-Jeton Solution, a simplified border pass system that facilitates cross-border movement and is currently being piloted at the border between Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia by IOM.

Day 3 - Afternoon
Presentation outcomes

Workshop 1

Ross Greenwood

Mr. Ross Greenwood summarized remarks from the Pacific islands states on climate induced displacement and planning and the presentation from a representative from Mozambique on registration efforts in wake of overlapping crises. Finally, he described the remarks by an industry provider on the use of hemp paper as a more sustainable solution for the identity management industry. He suggested that the identity and border management community contribute to the mitigation of climate change and that states should be ready with flexible solutions to address cross border displacement induced by environmental disasters. Recommendations include the adoption of climate change lexicon and adopting technology solutions that runs the lens of climate change impact in order ot reduce the future severity of climate change, building from IOM's experience in responding to disasters that are a consequence of an extreme weather events which are predictors of future impacts for climate change, and participation in mitigation measures to reduce the severity of climate change, a responsibility shared globally.

Workshop 2

Dr. Frank Paul

Dr. Frank Paul described the discussion from the workshop, which largely centered on planning and risk assessments; while plans may not reflect an unknown reality, they serve as an important method for testing capabilities and considering how flexibility will be integrated into planning. Workshop participants also discussed inclusivity and the need to cooperate with all stakeholders, especially counterparts in neighboring countries. Recommendations included the establishment of pathways for quick funding to facilitate rapid responses, evaluation of internal and external communication channels, consideration of alternative or backup communication infrastructure, honest assessments of available knowledge in emergencies, and confirmation of knowledge on available UN mechanisms and support.

Workshop 3

Raymond Wong

Dr. Raymond Wong described the discussion from the session, which included recommendations from solution providers on how to facilitate seamless and secure travel and case studies from government representatives on the challenges and solutions for facilitating movement that establishes security through data management and analysis, while also catering to relevant border communities. Dr. Wong also shared input from the discussion on transmitting immunity status through travel documents and IDs, which requires further consideration by governments. Recommendations included cultivating and maintaining trust between solution providers and governments and between governments and travelers, as well as working to balance security, seamless travel, and accessibility for travelers.

Workshop 4

Haddon Wright

Mr. Haddon Wright described the primary points of discussion from the workshop, including the limits of technology, gaps in budgeting, and importance of considering border and identity management infrastructure in its entirety. Recommendations were varied and included, but were not limited to budgeting for cybersecurity, adopting a layered approach to data and infrastructure security that accounts for internal policies and processes, identifying the type of information being collected and justifying its purpose and need, and establishing partnerships across agencies to both guide responses during crises and better understand recovery processes. He stressed the importance of addressing gaps in processes before reaching for technological solutions and recommended that governments share lessons learned as part of the crisis planning and recovery process.
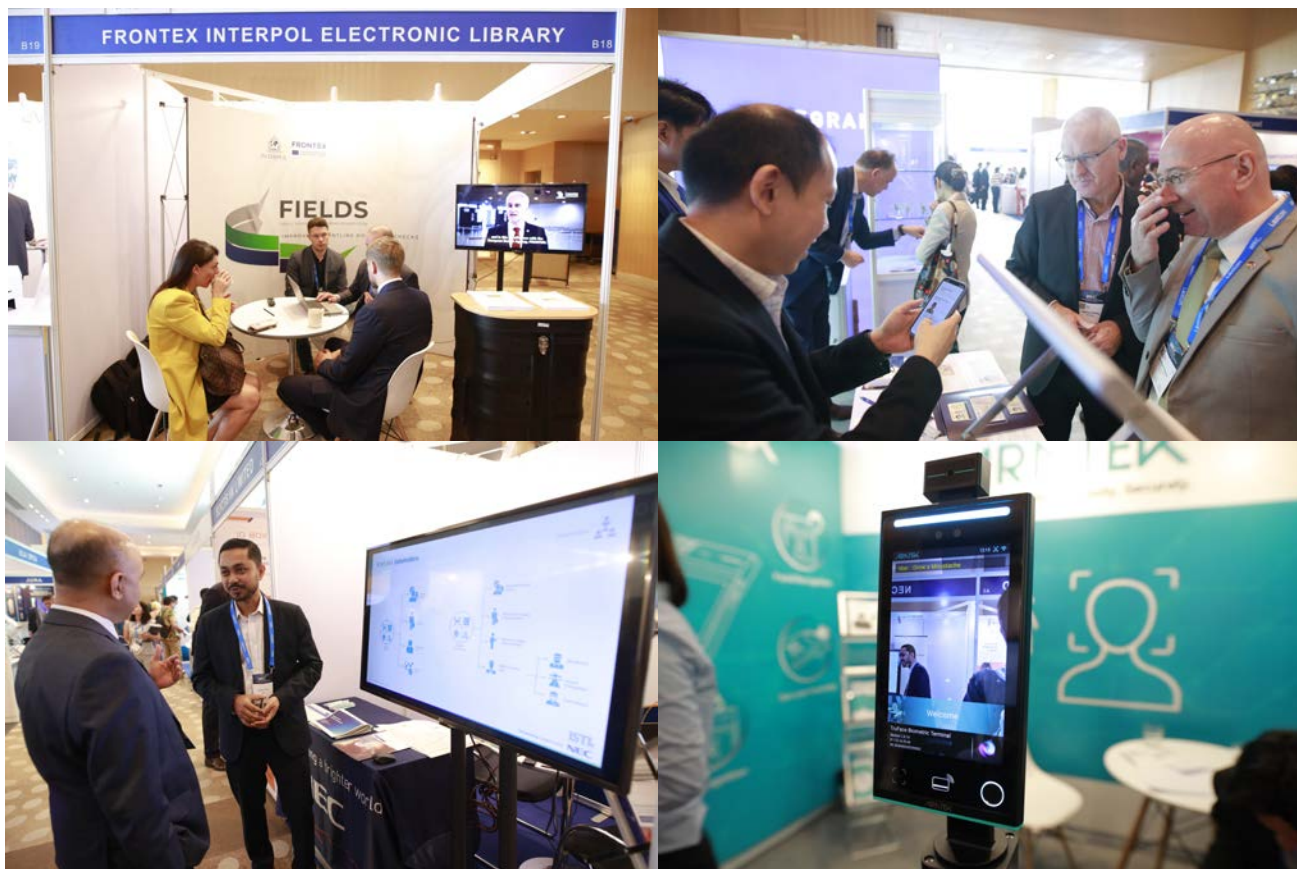
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