



BTM&C **7TH** BORDER MANAGEMENT & IDENTITY CONFERENCE ON
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Hosted by:  **IOM**
UN MIGRATION

Organised by: **APSCA**

The Future of Borders and Borders of the Future:
Accelerating Seamless and Secure Cross-Border Travel and Trade with Technological Solutions and Re-engineered Identity Management Processes

About the Conference

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and APSCA will host the 7th Conference on Technical Cooperation & Capacity Building for Border Management and Identity (7th BMIC), together with an exhibition of the latest border and identity management solutions, on 11-13 December 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The theme of this 7th edition is “The Future of Borders and Borders of the Future: Accelerating Seamless and Secure Cross-Border Travel and Trade with Technological Solutions and Re-engineered Identity Management Processes”

Since the first BMIC in 2010, this international event has become the largest gathering of national Government authorities specializing in Immigration, Home Affairs, Border Control, Civil Registration, Customs, Population Management, Justice, Health, Public Security and other agencies with responsibilities in the area of Migration, Border and Identity Management.



OBJECTIVES

The biennial conference and exhibition were founded by IOM and APSCA to contribute to advancing global efforts in ensuring effective, efficient and modern border and identity management. Originating with a focus on the Asia and the Pacific region, the event has evolved to span across six continents over the years. It aims to foster border and identity governance through closer consultation and cooperation between key stakeholders in the sphere of identity management, including:

- Government authorities responsible for border and identity management
- International partner organizations and development agencies
- Leading providers of identity solutions
- Subject matter experts

BMIC is an opportunity for stakeholders to share information on the latest developments and continue to define the border and identity management agenda.

The conference includes a unique international stage to exhibit the latest solutions and technologies designed to facilitate cross-border movements while strengthening national security, to ultimately enable Government authorities to advance border and identity management processes and international partner organizations to prioritize support.

Theme

THE FUTURE OF BORDERS AND BORDERS OF THE FUTURE

What will the borders of the future look like?

Frictionless, multi-layered, digital.

These keywords summarize the enablers of human mobility conducive to global socioeconomic development and sustainable progress.

Border management ecosystem must prepare for future scenarios where: checks for compliance will no longer entail long queues and uncertainty; automation and AI-powered algorithms, grounded on reliable and bias-free data and analytics, will optimize border operations in full compliance with data protection, privacy, and fundamental rights imperatives; border control functions could be safely carried out in the cloud.

These technology, policy, and operational innovations are pivotal in making existing pathways for regular migration and mobility fully available to all migrants, who would enjoy smooth, accessible and transparent mobility experience thanks to borders that function as bridges, rather than as barriers to migration.

Yet, while the future of borders is in the making, migrants are confronted with a challenging reality.

In the world, and Asia and the Pacific is not an exception, States are still recovering from the global pandemic while dealing with the untamed consequences of climate change, natural disasters, and conflicts. These include displacement of people who may not have the opportunity for resettlement while at the same time unable to return home nor to access the income-generating opportunities in their hosting country and actively contribute to socioeconomic development. These challenges are slowing down the pace to recovery and sketching new scenarios that redefine the landscape of human migration.

The border and travel restrictions enacted to mitigate the spread of the pandemic have been unprecedented in human history. Border agencies have demonstrated remarkable adaptiveness, as they have improved and expanded their services while fulfilling their security and facilitation missions amid disruptions and increased cyberattacks, despite resource constraints.



"We must prioritize creating safe and regular pathways for cross-border movements to unlock opportunities for progress and prosperity."

Amy Pope, IOM Director General

Theme

Despite the expected slow-down effect on human mobility brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the scale of international migration has remained unchanged, with the number of international migrants estimated to be almost 281 million globally or 3.6% of the world's population in 2020. Against the increasing demand for mobility services, border agencies must adopt a pragmatic approach and embark on a transformation journey.

Governments worldwide have adopted innovative solutions to resume and facilitate the movement of people and trade across borders. The introduction of digital travel credentials, paperless proof of identity, preauthorization and screening for travel and landing permissions before the journey begins are all measures that have proven successful in fostering seamless travel experience, while positioning governments to adapt to the rapid pace of technological advancements and innovation.

Yet despite these innovations, security and risk management remains a moving target. In the pursuit of frictionless and contactless border management, sophisticated and fast-evolving techniques for fraud, identity theft, impersonation, and broken travel routes, are placing the established trust between States and travellers at serious risk. Data governance struggling with the need to make data available against the imperative to protect privacy, and competition between States authorities to control information, are among the aspects that make the use of data suboptimal despite the panoply of data collection tools deployed by Governments today.

Seamless movement of people is indispensable for States to achieve full recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while coping with scenarios that include future disruptions. Such scenarios are also creating uncertainty in the economic environment, with global travel and trade becoming more volatile. Now, more than ever before, the continuous improvement and adaptation of evolving technologies will play a vital role in expediting human mobility and benefiting cross-border trade and economic development.



Points to Address

In an increasingly digital and interconnected world, border agencies will be at the core of the policy making, to set the technology development agenda and serve the needs of all travellers, from businesspeople to refugees. Government agencies will need to collaborate at all levels to increase the predictability of human mobility patterns. A strong partnership between Government, industry, civil society and the expert community will be key to guiding innovation that effectively responds to diverse human mobility scenarios and unique contexts of border agencies. The following are the key points to address:

- Border management agencies need to cope with the provision of increased and varied human mobility services amidst resource constraints, while navigating unpredictable scenarios driven by the impacts of climate change, conflicts and potential future pandemics.
- Automation of border processes is contingent upon security screenings. Acquisition of technology needs to be guided by States' clear vision and policies related to promoting and facilitating human mobility.
- With an increasing number of travel routes available, all countries depend on mutual collaboration to prevent the unauthorized movement of people across borders. Technological solutions need to serve States with both substantial and limited resources.
- Airports, land border control posts and maritime ports need to be equally equipped with adequate technology to mitigate risks, detect, and respond to the misuse of infrastructure by criminal actors for illicit activities.
- Backlogs in immigration and visa-related procedures need to be addressed to facilitate secure, timely and coordinated processing, while enabling access to regular mobility pathways, such as the continuation of temporary, circular, and long-term migration programs, among other admission schemes.
- Long-stay arrivals, including labour migrants and refugees, require a whole-of-government approach, including integrated national identity management systems to facilitate access to Government and social services.
- The imperative to uphold human rights and preserve privacy via a responsible and ethical use of biometric and biographic data, as well as AI, should not be seen as an obstacle to innovation but as a State's responsibility towards all travellers.
- For persons: management of identities must be secured in order to protect citizens and international migrants, and particularly people in vulnerable situations, including refugees, asylum seekers, women and children, from the threats posed by transnational organized crime and terrorism.
- For goods: safeguarding the supply chain from contraband and fraudsters and ensuring protection of citizens from phytosanitary risks and unauthorized goods remain significant concerns.

Conference Topics

Border management strategies and facilitation schemes that aim to enhance visitor experiences, while maximizing the development benefits from trade, tourism, talent and labor mobility

Undisrupted or backup solutions and systems to assist Government authorities responsible for customs and trade management in automating core processes for import, export and transit of goods

Introduction of Digital Travel Credentials and other latest developments impacting the range of identity documents, which Government authorities need to issue to citizens, non-residents, travellers, migrants, refugees and stateless persons

Existing innovative approaches for identity management, including distributed ledger technology, with the objective of providing enhanced trust and control over legacy approaches

New solutions for eVisa management and new strategies for Government authorities to implement predictive intel-led border control processes based on trend analysis of passports and visa fraud

Appropriate management, responsible use of biometrics and data privacy requirements for Personally Identifiable Information (PII), such as biographical and biometric data used in identity data storage and transactions

Use of mobile devices, digital identity and document-less identity schemes for citizens and travellers as innovative methods for border and identity authorities to facilitate secure travel and identity management

Collaborative government-industry approaches for the introduction of smart and resilient technologies to transform border management operations at airports, land ports and seaports

eGovernance solutions and strategies to re-engineer the identity management business processes and operations at the core of the border management modernization efforts

Format of the Conference

The 7th BMIC CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION provides a unique platform for exchange of information, experiences and latest developments in border and identity management for representatives of all stakeholder groups over a full three-day period.

- Official opening of the conference and a plenary session
- Four workshops
- 3-Day exhibition of border and identity management systems, equipment and document security solutions
- A forum for networking and information exchange

Workshop 1

*Credible Evidence of identity:
Striking a balance between trust and truth*

Progress towards global adoption of eMRTDs is fast paced and runs in parallel with development of Digital Travel Credentials (DTC) solutions, blockchain-based identity management and storage of identity credentials in digital wallets. This workshop will delve into policies, strategies and practices to enhance security of travel documents and DTC. It will discuss the steps for efficient and secure reading and verification of eMRTDs and DTC, as well as the instruments to establish credible evidence of identity, enhance security of breeder documents, acquire technologies to verify identity attributes stored in civil registry systems involving the tracing, linkage and verification of identity, and ensure standardization and interoperability across borders.

Workshop 2

*API-iAPI/PNR:
Solutions for interoperable applications*

In addition to being a requirement under multiple UN Security Council Resolutions on countering terrorism, API and PNR have a key role in expediting pre-arrival travel authorization, and for intelligence purposes. They contribute to anticipating the border, before a travel journey begins, and reducing uncertainty for border agencies and travellers regarding the outcomes of the border control process. This workshop will discuss good practices, and challenges, in the adoption of API/iAPI and PNR, including progress towards the establishment of maritime API, and will delve into the intricacies of privacy, ethics and responsible use of data in border management.

Workshop 3

Beyond Human Mobility Facilitation at Airports: Strengthening border control at land and maritime frontiers

Increased connectivity embeds data and information feeds from all types of border crossing. Notably, current border security technologies tend to prioritize air borders, while the significant adverse impact of emerging threats on migrants and States is equally present at land and sea borders as well. This workshop aims to develop a vision for the future of land and maritime borders, including how technologies, information, targeting, infrastructure, and staffing could reconfigure operations, to promote facilitation, humanitarian responses and ensure that an external threat to a sovereign country does not become an internal problem.

Workshop 4

Information Sharing and International Cooperation: Overcoming the boundaries of border management ecosystems

While technology progresses at fast pace to meet the opportunities offered by increased connectivity, cloud-based data systems, blockchain, AI, and information technology, Governments are still bound into rigid regulatory frameworks, resource limitations and anachronistic silos. This workshop will discuss innovative solutions for increasing collaboration and exchange of sensitive information within border agencies and across the borders, as well as the advantages, and challenges, for regional cooperation and mutualized solutions for border management.

Leading in excellence since 2010

6th BMIC edition of 2022 in numbers



424

Participants



36%

Government
Agencies

18%

International
Organisations



45%

Private Companies



71

Global Markets



55 Governments Represented at the 6th BMIC



What people said about the 6th BMIC



BMIC is also a great opportunity for young professionals to expose themselves to the development of new technology as well as to what the Border Management solutions are around the world.

Huruwati Diana, Directorate General of Immigration, Indonesia



Very useful event bringing together practitioners and industry representatives to discuss common issues.

Shanty Joeng, IXLA

Excellent conference with high value content, interesting exhibition and senior participants.

Lindalva Fernandes, Migration Service, Timor Leste

This edition of BMIC marked again a major highlight of the year, with many deep discussions on topics that often are neglected. I feel educated, empowered and appreciated.

Stephan D. Hofstetter, SECOIA Executive Consultants

It was also very good to hear the Governments share about their programs/solutions/learnings on border management which I could use as guiding principles in setting up a biometric solution for my specific use case. The technology exhibitions were also very helpful in making sure implementers are up to speed to the latest technology and solutions.

Janet Hatsiere, Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Authority

No other event could arrange such capacity with so many new technology providers and professionals, and Government officials from so many countries to join and share their insight together.

Althay Cheng, ITS Hong Kong





Download the report from the 6th BMIC:
<https://cb4ibm.iom.int/bmic7/assets/documents/6thBMC-Report.pdf>

To take part in the 7th BMIC, please contact us at:

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