



DOCUMENT EXAMINATION SUPPORT CENTER (DESC) INITIATIVE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
REGIONAL OFFICE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Established in 2012, the Document Examination Support Center (DESC) is coordinated by IOM's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, with the financial support from the Government of Canada and in close coordination with document examination experts of immigration authorities in Asia and the Pacific.



OUR OBJECTIVE

Assist requesting Governments in curbing transnational organized crime and preventing irregular migration through capacity building to support law enforcement agencies in travel document examination and verification.

DESC ACTIVITIES

1. TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

The Document Examination Support Center (DESC) provides guidance, advice and support to immigration and other law enforcement officials in the Asia-Pacific region when they conduct secondary inspection on questioned travel documents, but do not have enough information to make a decision on their status. The DESC room is equipped with specialized equipment, such as microscope, passport reader, UV light, as well as equipment with sophisticated image capturing capacity and various kinds of light sources to detect covert security features.



TECHNICAL EXPERTISE ON TRAVEL DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Advice in cases of questioned travel document, based on reliable information sources - document examination equipment, specimens of genuine documents and reference sources.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON PASSPORT EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

IOM provides tailored basic, advanced and specialized training and on-site job mentoring for requesting Member States.

2. IN-HOUSE DEVELOPMENT OF VERIFIER TD&B AND RELEVANT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

Verifier TD&B is a stand-alone system for use at secondary inspection to assist immigration and border control officers to detect fraudulent travel documents and imposters. The system also has the capacity to generate a report, which can be used according to each agency's procedures and regulations. No integration to the existing systems or Internet connection is required to perform document verification and imposter detection.



SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

The in-house software developer consistently maintains and upgrades the software according to the needs of the Member States to achieve maximum efficiency and security. Interoperability with other system, such as INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database, can also be achieved to allow automatic check against alert lists.



INSTALLATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

IOM stands ready to install Verifier TD&B workstations in border crossing points, deliver training and develop tailored Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) as requested by the Member States.

3. DATA MANAGEMENT, REGIONAL TRENDS ANALYSIS AND RELEVANT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Verifier TD&B is developed to collect non-sensitive data on gender, age group and travel document used in fraud or imposter cases. The immigration focal point can not only send IOM quarterly data summary but also share specific cases intercepted. By enriching the quality of the data collected, DESC undertakes more solid trends analysis of frauds in Asia and the Pacific as a regional data and information collection mechanism.



ANDEX FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT REPORTING SYSTEM (AFDRS)

AFDRS is a web-based information-sharing platform on the use of fraudulent travel documents, designed to collect non-sensitive data at the border control post. The information collected can be used for trends analysis, intelligence development, and serve as a basis for contextualised capacity building initiatives.



VERIFIER TD&B NEWSLETTER & ONLINE DASHBOARD

IOM compiles and distributes quarterly Newsletter to provide more detailed information of cases intercepted and concrete patterns of travel documents and identity frauds in the region. An interactive dashboard, based on Power BI, is also developed to present these patterns visually on a secure, user-friendly platform to convey key indicators at a glance.



TRAINING ON DATA PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

IOM develops and delivers tailored training module on data management and protection at the requests of Member States. IOM will identify and train focal points in each country that utilizes Verifier TD&B both at Government and IOM country office level on data management, which will further enhance good practices related to information management and privacy.

4. FACILITATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND CONSOLIDATE REGIONAL STRUCTURE TO ADDRESS IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Under DESC, the Asian Network for Document Examination (ANDEX) was formally established in 2013 as the regional platform grouping highly experienced senior law enforcement officials to share information and best practices in travel document examination and verification procedures and patterns of frauds, with the aim of promoting regional coordination to combat irregular migration and transnational organized crime.



ANNUAL ANDEX MEETING

IOM and the Chair of the Network organized annual meetings to facilitate information exchange among Member States and establish operational framework to better consolidate regional structure to address irregular migration.