



DOCUMENT EXAMINATION SUPPORT CENTER (DESC) INITIATIVE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR 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, Thailand and works in close coordination with document examination experts of immigration authorities across the Asia and Pacific region.

OUR OBJECTIVE

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

DESC ACTIVITIES

1. TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT EXAMINATION AND IDENTITY VERIFICATION

The Document Examination Support Center (DESC) provides resources and support to immigration and other law enforcement officials in the Asia-Pacific region when conducting secondary inspection at border crossing points.



TECHNICAL EXPERTISE ON TRAVEL DOCUMENT EXAMINATION AND IDENTITY VERIFICATION

IOM develops resources and Standard Operating Procedures to facilitate travel document examination and identity verification.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON PASSPORT EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

IOM provides tailored basic, advanced, and specialized trainings and on-site job mentoring for immigration agencies of requesting participating Members.



TRAINING ON DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND PRIVACY

IOM delivers tailored training on data collection, management, and privacy at the request of participating Members. The training is intended to support the dissemination of best practices in data collection and information management.



TRAINING ON RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED APPROACHES TO BORDER MANAGEMENT

IOM developed a training curriculum on rights-based approaches to border management at the request of participating Members, to equip border officials with best practices that align with international standards as it relates to gender equality.

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

The Verifier Travel Document and Bearer (TD&B) secondary inspection system assists immigration and border control officers in the detection of fraudulent travel documents and identities at border control points. The system also has the capacity to generate a report, which can be used according to each immigration agency's procedures and regulations.

Verifier TD&B is now interoperable with INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database. At locations implementing interoperability, when a travel document is checked with Verifier TD&B, the system will automatically check the document against the SLTD database. The results will support border and other law enforcement officials in carrying out investigations. It further enhances cooperation nationally and internationally to better address transnational and cross-jurisdictional crimes involving fraudulent travel documents and false identities.



SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

The in-house software developer maintains and upgrades the software according to the needs of the participating Members. Verifier TD&B is now interoperable with INTERPOL's SLTD database.



INSTALLATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

IOM stands ready to assist with the installation of Verifier TD&B at border crossing points, deliver trainings, and develop tailored Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as requested by participating Members.

3. DATA MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL TRENDS ANALYSIS

The Verifier TD&B system was developed to collect non-sensitive data on gender, age, and travel document used in fraud and imposter cases. The immigration focal point shares quarterly data summaries and specific cases of interest with IOM. Facilitating high-quality data collection and analysis enables DESC to provide timely and accurate trends analysis of document and identity fraud and emerging modus operandi of transnational organized crime in the Asia and Pacific region.



VERIFIER TD&B NEWSLETTER & ONLINE E-DASHBOARDS

IOM compiles and distributes a quarterly Verifier TD&B Newsletter to provide more detailed information on intercepted cases and showcase patterns of travel document and identity frauds in the region. An interactive dashboard, based on Power BI, visualizes these patterns on a secure, user-friendly platform to convey key trends in a timely manner.

4. FACILITATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND REGIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS IRREGULAR MIGRATION

DESC is the Secretariat of the Asian Network for Document Examination (ANDEX) which was established as a regional information-sharing network for experienced senior law enforcement officials. ANDEX is a forum to share best practices in travel document examination and identity verification as well as patterns of frauds. The ANDEX Annual Meeting, organized by IOM and hosted by the Chair of the Network, serves as the primary platform through which Members exchange information to promote regional coordination on curbing irregular migration and combating transnational organized crime.



ANDEX FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS REPORTING SYSTEM (AFDRS)

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



ANDEX ENTRY AND EXIT STAMP SPECIMENS E-LIBRARY

The ANDEX Entry and Exit Stamp Specimens E-Library was launched in January 2024. The ANDEX E-Library serves as a centralized and comprehensive repository for the accessibility of entry and exit stamps from various border checkpoints for relevant authorities on a secure database platform. Authorized personnel including immigration officers, border management officials, and other authorized persons, can efficiently access the reference specimens. The establishment of this E-Library is in response to the request by the ANDEX Network, and it includes stamps from participating ANDEX Members and select Observers.