



Asia/Pacific Group
on Money Laundering

APG TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Updated at Manila, Philippines, July 2006)

APG TERMS OF REFERENCE*

RECOGNISING IN BANGKOK ON 27 FEBRUARY 1997 THAT:

- Money laundering is a significant international issue which requires global action;
- The Asia/Pacific region needs to address this issue as part of the global response;
- The capacity of individual jurisdictions to deal with the issue is limited because of its nature, complexity and international scope;
- Close co-operation between jurisdictions is necessary and much can be gained by increasing understanding of the problem and its solutions;
- There are accepted international standards (the Financial Action Task Force's 40 Recommendations) but the best way to apply the standards within the region needs to be reviewed;
- There is an increasing risk of vulnerability to money laundering in the Asia/Pacific region as other regions introduce anti-money laundering measures; and
- A plan of action should be developed to address regional co-operation, the adoption of standards and to provide assistance to jurisdictions in tackling the problem,

JURISDICTIONS ESTABLISHED THE ASIA/PACIFIC GROUP ON MONEY LAUNDERING.

NOTING THAT:

The Working Party, established by the APG met in Beijing 7-9 July 1997 and agreed that:

The 40 Recommendations are the guiding principles for action for the creation of an effective anti-money laundering framework. Member jurisdictions will implement the 40 Recommendations according to their particular cultural values and constitutional frameworks thus allowing them a measure of flexibility rather than prescribing every detail.

RECOGNISING THAT:

- The United Nations Security Council has adopted a number of Resolutions dealing with terrorist financing; and
- The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering has adopted Eight Special

* The Terms of Reference for the APG were agreed and adopted in 1997. The Terms of Reference have been revised and approved at each of the APG's annual meetings – Tokyo, March 1998, Manila, August 1999, Sydney, June 2000, Kuala Lumpur, May 2001 and Brisbane, June 2002 and Manila 2006.

Recommendations on Terrorist Financing; and

NOTING THAT:

- APG member jurisdictions adopted a new APG Strategic Plan 2001 – 2004 which included a commitment to combat terrorist financing

THE ASIA/PACIFIC GROUP ON MONEY LAUNDERING AGREED IN JUNE 2002 THAT:

- All member jurisdictions will implement in accordance with their own constitutional arrangements the United Nations Security Council Resolutions dealing with terrorist financing; and
- All member jurisdictions will implement in accordance with their own constitutional arrangements the Eight FATF Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing.

NOTING THAT:

- On 22 October 2004, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering adopted a Ninth Special Recommendation in relation to cash couriers;
- APG member jurisdictions have been assessed against this Special Recommendation since early 2006 as part of APG mutual evaluations; and
- APG member jurisdictions are implementing Special Recommendation IX in accordance with their own constitutional arrangements

THE ASIA/PACIFIC GROUP ON MONEY LAUNDERING AGREED IN JULY 2006 TO FORMALLY ENDORSE FATF SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION IX.

PURPOSE

The APG:

1. Provides a focus for co-operative anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing efforts in the region;
2. Provides a forum in which:
 - (a) regional issues can be discussed and experiences shared,
 - (b) operational co-operation among member jurisdictions is encouraged;
3. Facilitates the adoption and implementation by member jurisdictions of internationally accepted anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing measures;
4. Enables regional and jurisdictional factors to be taken into account in the implementation of international anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing measures;
5. Encourages jurisdictions to implement anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing initiatives including more effective mutual legal assistance; and
6. Co-ordinates and provides practical support, where possible, to member and observer jurisdictions in the region which request it.

NATURE

The APG is voluntary and co-operative in nature. The APG is established by agreement

among its members and is autonomous. It does not derive from an international treaty. It is not part of any international organisation. However, it will need to keep itself informed of action taken or formal agreements made by relevant international and regional organisations or bodies in order to promote a consistent global response to money laundering and terrorist financing.

The work to be done by the APG and its procedures will be decided by consensus agreement among its members.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the APG is open to any jurisdiction within the Asia/Pacific region which:

1. Recognises the need for action to be taken to combat money laundering and terrorist financing;
2. Recognises the benefits to be obtained by sharing knowledge and experience;
3. Has taken or is actively taking steps to develop, pass and implement anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing legislation and other measures based on accepted international standards;
4. Subject to its domestic laws, commits itself to implementing the decisions made by the APG;
5. Commits itself to participation in the mutual evaluation programme;
6. Contributes to the APG budget in accordance with arrangements agreed by the APG.

It is not a precondition for participation in the APG that anti-money laundering or anti-terrorist financing laws are already enacted.

Each jurisdiction will decide on the particular steps it will take to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The response by individual jurisdictions will, however, be significantly assisted by participation in the APG.

The APG will welcome new members from the Asia/Pacific region. Smaller jurisdictions whose direct involvement may be difficult may wish to participate in the APG through an appropriate sub-regional forum. To those jurisdictions not yet ready to assume all the requirements of full membership, the APG offers a form of participation in its activities through observer status.

OBSERVER STATUS

The APG recognises that there are significant benefits for member jurisdictions from continuing contact with non-member jurisdictions. As such, the meetings of the APG will also serve to provide opportunities for regular consultation with non-member jurisdictions from within and outside the region who could be invited to attend as observers.

The APG also recognises that many international organisations have a strong interest in anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing initiatives. The APG welcomes the support and co-operation from international organisations and other, non-member jurisdictions that may be willing to provide resources to assist the work of the APG.

Observers are:

- (i) jurisdictions which are considering membership of the APG and which are prepared to meet the first three requirements for membership of the APG;

- (ii) organisations which actively support or otherwise are interested in the objectives of the APG;
- (iii) any other jurisdiction or organisation invited by the Co-Chairs and to which no APG member objects.

In addition to the FATF, the organisations which attended the inaugural meeting (ASEAN Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Organisation of Securities Commissions, INTERPOL, Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors, United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, United Nations International Drug Control Programme and World Customs Organisation) and any other international organisation with an interest in effectively combating money laundering will be encouraged to participate in future meetings of the APG as observers.

The participation (and the nature of such participation) of non-member jurisdictions and international organisations will be determined by the APG on a case-by-case basis.

MEETINGS

The APG will meet at least once each year. At APG meetings decisions will be made. All APG member jurisdictions should ensure that their delegations to APG meetings have full instructions to participate in the meetings. All decisions at APG meetings shall be by consensus.

Meetings will normally be held in member jurisdictions. In addition to an annual meeting of the APG, meetings may be conducted to coincide with money laundering methods meetings. Some meetings may be limited to APG member jurisdictions only.

Invitations to the annual meeting may be extended to non-member jurisdictions to attend as observers.

While meetings will generally be open to observers some parts of a meeting may be limited to member jurisdictions only to enable the APG to conduct formal consideration of issues which require the agreement of its members.

To ensure a global approach to anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing, member jurisdictions of the APG will work closely with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other FATF-style regional bodies. The FATF President and FATF Secretariat will attend APG meetings on the same basis that the APG Co-Chairs and Secretariat attend FATF meetings.

Meetings should be held at the same time each year.

STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUSINESS PLAN

Consistent with these Terms of Reference, the APG will:

- develop a Strategic Plan every three years, to be endorsed by all members, which will set out the APG's mission and goals for each three year period; and
- develop an annual Business Plan, to be endorsed by all members, which will set out in greater detail the work programme of the APG.

SECRETARIAT

Secretariat services will be provided by the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering

Secretariat. The APG Secretariat is located in Sydney, Australia. The APG Secretariat will provide a similar service to that provided by Secretariats of other anti-money laundering bodies.

WORKING PARTIES

To enable the work of the APG to be addressed between meetings, Working Parties may be formed. Member jurisdictions may participate in all APG Working Parties, Typologies Workshops and ad hoc committees established in response to specific issues.

CHAIRING OF THE APG

There will be two co-chairs of the APG. During the formative stage of the APG, one co-chair position will be held by Australia which will host the annual meeting in alternate years. The other co-chair position will be rotated every two years amongst member jurisdictions. The rotating co-chair position will be decided every second year at an annual meeting and will carry with it the responsibility of hosting the following annual meeting.

RESOURCES

The APG recognises that the ongoing work of the APG, and in particular the capacity of the Secretariat to assist jurisdictions, will depend on the resources available to it. APG member jurisdictions will determine the budget required for the APG to carry out its work programme on an annual basis according to a fair and equitable budget formula which will be revised and agreed from time to time.

CONTACT POINTS

Each member jurisdiction is required to nominate a person to act as the central contact point for the APG Secretariat. In addition, each member will nominate an appropriate contact point for the three relevant money laundering sectors: legal, financial and law enforcement.

Non-member jurisdictions and organisations will be requested to nominate a person or persons who will be the central point of contact in relation to money laundering matters and the work of the APG.

ENDORSED BY:

Australia
Bangladesh
Chinese Taipei
Hong Kong, China
Japan

New Zealand
People's Republic of China
Philippines
Singapore
Sri Lanka

Thailand
United States of America
Vanuatu

**BANGKOK, THAILAND
27 FEBRUARY 1997**

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