



# NEWSLETTER



*DECEMBER*  
.....  
*2016*



**Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood**  
Chair APMLA

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# *Dear Colleagues*

As those who were there know, we had a very productive Annual General Meeting at the INPALMS Conference in Bali, Indonesia in September this year. The AGM Minutes are included in this edition of the newsletter for your reference.

I welcome the return of existing APMLA Management Committee Members, Dr Iino, Dr Woharndee, Dr Castilani, Dr Kalougivaki, Professor Woodford and Dr Tennakoon, and the election of new Committee Member, Dr Kumar. I would also like to thank retiring Committee Member, Dr Vina Vaswani for her contribution.

At the meeting we received reports from the Working Groups. I would like to particularly commend the Management of Fragmented Human Remains Work Group, which under the leadership of Dr Jayanie Weeratna produced a detailed draft Guideline for feedback.

Two new working groups were proposed and approved. The first, which will have a geographic focus on the island nations of the Pacific region, was instigated by Dr James Kalougivaki from Fiji. The other will focus on the contribution that forensic medicine and science can make to the identification of deceased migrants in the region. This group was proposed by Dr Triyarith Temahivong and Dr Panjai Woharndee from the central Institute of Forensic Science in Thailand.

We are making great headway with producing tangible outcomes through the collaborative efforts of APMLA members. At the

September meeting we were able to form a group to provide feedback to Dr Jodie Ledtischke from the VIFM, who is developing Guidelines for Temporary Mortuaries for the ICRC.

The APMLA will also play a role in a project funded by the Australia-ASEAN Council to develop and trial training in Dead Body Management training for Police First Responders in ASEAN nations which will be coordinated by the VIFM and involve the ICRC and input from two APMLA member institutions.

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## *APMLA Newsletter*

The newsletter continues to be an important mechanism for sharing information between members in between our face to face meetings and I encourage you to share relevant information about your in-country activities and other relevant news. On that note I would like to congratulate the new Director of the Vietnam National Institute of Forensic Medicine, Dr Nguyen Duc Nhu on his appointment.

## *Next APMLA Meeting*

We are grateful to the Central Institute of Forensic Science in Bangkok, Thailand which has offered to host the 2017 APMLA Annual General Meeting in 2017 in conjunction with an ICRC workshop on Management of the Dead in Emergencies and a CIFS Workshop on Regional Databases for Missing Migrants. We will provide updates on this in the New Year.

**Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood**  
Chair APMLA

# MINUTES

## *APMLA* *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*



From left:  
**John Coldrey, Dr Anton Castliani and Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood**

## APMLA AGM INPALMS Conference Legian, Denpasar Indonesia

## APMLA Meeting Agenda Monday 19 September 1-5pm

Welcome	APMLA Chair Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood
Apologies	1. Dr Nak-Eun Chung Chef Medical Examiner and Director Korea DVI, National Forensic Service, South Korea 2. Dr Mao Heng, Deputy Director, Phnom Penh Health Department Cambodia
In attendance	Dr M.S. Mahmood; Dr M. Iino; Dr T. Temahivong; Dr A. Castilano; Dr J. Kalougivaki; Dr P. Golpak; Dr R. Shrestha; Dr A. Kumar; Dr V. Vaswami; Dr A. Tennakoon; Prof. N. Woodford; Dr A. Edivisinghe; Dr Jacklyn Joseph; Professor Stephen Cordner; A. Patino (ICRC); Dr P. Woharndee; Cheryl Katzmarzyk; Dato' Dr Z. Noor, Dr J. Leditschke, Dr L. Manning, J. Coldrey, Professor R. Fernando.
Correspondence	1. Letter from IALMS re Venice meeting 2. Letter from ASEANAPOL approving cooperation with the APMLA.
Minutes of the last APMLA AGM meeting	Copies of the previous meeting's Minutes were distributed to attendees.
APMLA Working Group Report	Copy of APMLA Working Group Report was distributed to attendees
Business arising from Minutes	APMLA Membership Certificates have been distributed
Endorsement of New members by Management Committee	No new applications
Election of Management Committee Committee Members: Chair: Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood (Malaysia) Deputy Chair: Dr Morio Iino (Japan) Secretary /Newsletter Editor: Dr Panjai Woharndee (Thailand) Members Dr Anton Castilani (Indonesia) Dr James Kalougivaki (Fiji) Dr Vina Vishkanya (India) Professor Noel Woodford (Australia) Dr Ajith Tennakoon (Sri Lanka) Dr Nak Eun-Chung (Korea -special	Half of Management Committee members retired as required by rotation at each AGM. Management Committees who retired (but were also eligible to stand again) at the 2016 meeting were as follows: Dr Anton Castilani Dr Vina Vaswani Dr James Kalougivaki Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood
Appointment as Web Site Master) for web site	
The Hon. John Coldrey acted as Returning Officer Dr M.S. Mahmood was nominated and elected as Chair unopposed. Dr J. Kalougivaki was elected to the Committee. Dr A. Castilani was elected to the Committee. Dr A. Kumar was elected to the Committee.	The new APMLA Management Committee is as follows: Chair: Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood (Malaysia) Deputy Chair: Dr Morio Iino (Japan) Secretary /Newsletter Editor: Dr Panjai Woharndee (Thailand) Members Dr Anton Castilani (Indonesia) Dr James Kalougivaki (Fiji) Dr Adarsh Kumar (India) Professor Noel Woodford (Australia) Dr Ajith Tennakoon (Sri Lanka) Dr Nak Eun-Chung (Korea -special appointment as Web Site Master) for web site
Discussion	Other business * Draft Guidelines for Mortuary set up in challenging conditions (disaster response) * APMLA Communication – web site and newsletter; responsibility and cost * Newsletter (more participation)
	* Dead Body Management Project with ASEANAPOL * Working Groups Update
Next Meeting	Final remarks, group photo



## Other Business

Draft Guidelines for Mortuary set up in Challenging Conditions: VIFM Mortuary Manager, Dr Jodie Leditschke (Australia) provided a brief overview on the project to draft Guidelines for the ICRC and asked for a small group of volunteers to provide feedback on her draft document. Andres Patino; Dr Rijen Shrestha; Dr James Kalougivaki; Dr Philip Golpak; Dr Jacklyn Joseph and Dr Adarsh Kumar agreed to provide feedback.

*Action: Dr Leditschke to circulate the draft guidelines to the volunteer group for feedback.*

## Proposal for APMLA Melanesian Working Group

Dr James Kalougivaki (Fiji) proposed the establishment of a working group to encourage collaboration, capacity development and strengthening cooperation between Melanesian nations in the Pacific Region. This was agreed with Dr Kalougivaki to lead the initiative.

*Action: Dr Kalougivaki to contact exiting APMLA members in the Pacific and other potential institutional members in the region.*

## Proposal for APMLA alliance with the Asian Forensic Science Network (AFSN)

Dr Panjai Woharndee (Thailand) proposed that the APMLA should form an alliance with the AFSN. The Central Institute of Forensic Science (CIFS) in Bangkok recently hosted the AFSN meeting

and Dr Woharndee said that there was merit in the organisations, which have many similar interests, establishing communication and perhaps holding annual meetings at the same time. It was agreed that formal contact should be made with the AFSN to explore opportunities for cooperation.

*Action: Dr Woharndee to draft a letter from Dr Mohd Shah to the Chair of the AFSN which provides background on the APMLA and seeks interest in representatives from the two organisations having a formal meeting at an agreed date in the future to explore opportunities for cooperation.*

## Proposal for a Working Group to be established with a focus on Anthropology/ Missing Person Identification

Dr Panjai Woharndee proposed the establishment of a new working group with a focus on Forensic Anthropology and the identification of the missing. She further proposed that this might be an initiative that could be a joint APMLA/AFSN working group. In discussion it was agreed that this is an important issue for many member institutions. Professor Cordner supported the proposal particularly in relation to migration-related deaths. Dr Z.Noor spoke about the need to establish a basic shared database of missing persons. Dr Mohd Shah suggested involving ASEANAPOL and the ASEAN Disaster Office in Jakarta in a Round Table discussion with (initially) APMLA members from Malaysia and Thailand.

Andres Patino (ICRC) welcomed this proposal and said that it was important to have a regional understanding of the issue

which involves many cross border challenges for example between Thailand and Malaysia. He said that there should be a mechanism for sharing information from different databases. He volunteered to be a WG member.

Dr Shrestha advised that the CIFS recently hosted a workshop on Administrative Databases for Missing Person and Unidentified Bodies workshop in Bangkok. He said that many organisations particularly those in China had shown good capacity and databases in this field. There was discussion about cooperation at an institution to institution level, with the Missing Persons Group acting as a contact point for PM data and DNA profiles that could be used for identification. Prof. Cordner suggested that the group should come up with small, achievable piece of work in a short period of time. Within two months the group should be able to give contact points for the missing person data in each country.

It was agreed that the new Working Group should work on the development of agreed processes for cooperation in identification of the missing that can be shared with ASEANAPOL to encourage cooperation identification of the missing between national police forces, relevant forensic medical organisations and humanitarian organisations. Dr Triarith Temahivong (Thailand) agreed to be the Working Group Leader.

*Action: Dr Temahivong to develop and distribute draft and circulate goals and objectives for a Working Group on Identification of the Missing and to finalise WG membership.*

## Working Group for Quality Assurance in Forensic Medicine

Dr T. Temahivong proposed the establishment of a new working group with a quality assurance focus for peer review and external audits. There was some discussion that many of the existing working groups were already addressing the development of standards and guidelines in relation to particular aspects of forensic medicine and this may therefore be duplicating work. It was noted that with the formation of the Melanesian and the Missing Persons Identification Working Groups that there are now 10 working groups which may already stretch an organisation that has only 20 institutional members. It was decided that there was not at this stage sufficient support for this working group. It was noted however that some working groups will have finite objectives after which they will disband or take on another priority.

## Dead Body Management for ASEANAPOL First Responders

The VIFM has been successful in securing Australian Government support for the development and trial of training in Dead Body Management for ASEANAPOL first responders. The VIFM will work with the ICRC, ASEANAPOL, National Institutes of Forensic Medicine in Malaysia and Vietnam and liaise with the APMLA in this project which will commence in 2017.

## APMLA Website and Newsletter

Web Site: Dr Panjai Woharndee advised that the APMLA web site which is currently hosted in South

Korea was not being updated and asked for assistance and suggestions from members in how best to address having a site where members can share and access information. Dr L.Manning proposed that the Management Committee should contact Dr Nak-Eun Chung to determine if the Korean NFS can continue to maintain the APMLA web site.

It was agreed that a website is an important platform for information sharing and profile for the organisation, but as the APMLA does not as yet charge a membership fee and does not have funds it is difficult to maintain a web site on a voluntary basis. Dr R.Shrestha suggested creating a closed group Facebook site for the APMLA as an interim measure which is free, easy to access and can also facilitate information sharing and offered to be the administrator.

***Action: Management Committee to contact Dr Nak-Eun Chung to ask if the NFS is able to continue to maintain the APMLA web site. Dr R. Shrestha to liaise with Dr Woharndee and Dr Mohd Shah in establishing a Facebook site for the APMLA, with notice of the site to be circulated to members when it is ready.***

## APMLA Newsletter

Dr P.Woharndee said that contributions from members were increasing. She encouraged APMLA members to contribute news and organisation profiles.

## Calendar of Medico-Legal Events

International Association of Forensic Sciences IAFS

Meeting 21-25 August 2017 Toronto, Canada. See <http://iafstoronto2017.com/> for details.

2/ 8th International Conference on Legal Medicine, Medical Negligence and Litigation in Medical Practice; Forensic Sciences; Forensic medicine and Toxicology 29 September- 1 October 2017 Agra India. See <http://www.iamleconf.in/> for details

## APMLA Work Groups

Each Working Group reported on progress in their particular arena. Some Work Groups have made significant progress with the Work Group on Management of Fragmentary Human Remains in Disasters circulating a draft Guideline. As this was subject to a separate written Working Group Progress Report circulated earlier to members this will not be repeated in the Minutes. APMLA Working Groups were also encouraged to meet off line at the INPALMS Conference. There was also some discussion about the development of an improved mechanism for circulating draft Working Group documents which should be provided to the Management Committee for comment before being circulated to all members.

## Next Annual APMLA Meeting

It was agreed that the APMLA Management Committee would consider options for the next meeting which will include a proposal for it to coincide with an ICRC Workshop that will be hosted by the CIFS in Bangkok in 201. APMLA Chair, Dr Mohd Shah Mahmood thanked attendees and Dr Vina Vaswani in particular, for her work as a Committee Member and closed the meeting.

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# ***Disaster Dead Body Management for ASEAN Police First Responders***

The Asia Pacific region is the world's most disaster prone with significant weather events such as floods, landslides, typhoons and tsunamis that cause major loss of life. Other mass casualty events in the region can include ferries sinking, plane crashes and terrorist events.

In the aftermath of these disasters there is a need to undertake the orderly recovery, transport, storage and management of the dead in ways that support identification and repatriation to families for funeral ceremonies. Police are often the first responders to these scenes and are also responsible for site command and control. Training police first responders significantly increases the ability of forensic doctors and dentists to undertake disaster victim identification.

The Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia-ASEAN Council will support the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) to develop and trial training in this field for ASEAN police first responders. The VIFM has a long history of forensic medical capacity development work in the Asia Pacific region, Africa and the Middle East. VIFM teams have also been involved in major DVI responses in Asia and the Pacific.

This project will be undertaken in liaison with ASEANAPOL, the ICRC, the Asia Pacific Medico-Legal Agencies (APMLA) Network, Royal Malaysia Police, Republic

of Vietnam Police and National Institutes of Forensic Medicine in Malaysia and Vietnam.

Training Program curriculum for a three day Dead Body Management (DBM) Workshop will be developed by the VIFM in liaison with the ICRC and the Malaysian National Institute of Forensic Medicine, Royal Malaysia Police and ASEANAPOL.

The curriculum will be trialled with 20-30 attendees (ideal number of attendees yet to be finalised) from the Royal Malaysia Police in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in late April 2017 with the participation of the ICRC, and the Red Crescent Society and observers from the ASEANAPOL Secretariat. Training content will be refined by the VIFM based on workshop feedback and will then be trialled and evaluated for a second time in Hanoi Vietnam in October 2017. Workshop attendees will be provided with Certificates of Attendance.

Training content including power point presentations; exercises ; course manuals; resource check lists; outlines for training presenters; contacts for forensic doctors able to provide the content on human identification processes and feedback forms will be provided to ASEANAPOL for distribution to ASEAN member police forces for localisation and national delivery.



**VICTORIAN INSTITUTE  
OF FORENSIC MEDICINE**



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# ***African Society of Forensic Medicine (ASFM) 2017 Conference***

**6-10 March Bloemfontein South Africa**



**Invitation from the Chairman of the ASFM 2017  
Conference Organising Committee**

<http://asfm2017.com/>

## ***Dear Colleagues,***

On behalf of the African Society of Forensic Medicine (ASFM), I would like to invite you to attend the 6th ASFM CONFERENCE 2017, to be held in Bloemfontein on 6-10 March 2017.

The Theme of the conference is Conflicts in Africa: The role of Forensic Medicine and Science towards better public health.

Since the formation of the society, the annual conferences have served as premier forums for exchange of ideas, networking and gathering of information on the status of the specialty in the continent. Strong focus has been on conflicts, identification and interpersonal violence.

The conference in Bloemfontein hopes to bring a combination of expertise to allow presentations that integrate state of the art Forensic Medicine and science practices. The conference will include informative plenary sessions, workshops and poster sessions. These sessions will focus on current research and practice issues.

The ASFM 2017 conference is organized around the following objectives:

- Professionalism, competence, integrity, training and research.
- Need for collaboration in the application of Forensic Medicine and Science to the judicial system.
- Networking opportunities.
- Workshops and academic sessions chaired by experts in the field from different parts of the world.
- Autopsy discussions and techniques in the nation's most modern facility.

At the end of a long workday, exciting activities will follow. Rest assured there will be an opportunity to see and know more about Bloemfontein, the "city of flowers" We look forward to seeing you in Bloemfontein, South Africa!



**Dr Robert G Ngude**

Chairman of Local Organizing Committee

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# *The 21st triennial meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS)*

**Toronto, Canada  
August 21-25 2017**

Registration and the call for abstracts has now opened at the IAFS Conference web site

<http://iafstoronto2017.com/>

## **The Conference theme is:**

Inter-Professional Collaboration on Forensic Science with a focus on promoting global best practice through a multi-disciplinary approach to support human rights and justice.

Plenary topics are

- Forensic Issues in Human Migration
- Practicing Forensic Science in Challenging Environments: International Perspectives
- Major Case Management showcasing Ontario's successful collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to investigating high-profile and complex homicides

## **Some Travel Assistance Available For Attendees From Low-Middle Income Nations**

[www.iafstoronto2017.com](http://www.iafstoronto2017.com) sets out the criteria and application process for our Travel Assistance Fund.

Applicants must:

- Be from a low or middle income country as defined by The World Bank
- Submit an abstract that has been accepted for presentation (poster or oral)
- Complete the PDF fillable IAFS 2017 Travel Assistance Fund Application
- Submit a letter of intent that outlines how their attending IAFS 2017 will make a difference to their forensic practice
- Provide two letters of recommendation, a CV and a personal photograph ("headshot")

**Deadline to submit completed applications is March 10, 2017 to [IAFS2017@icsevents.com](mailto:IAFS2017@icsevents.com). Applicants should also be aware of visa requirements for travel to Canada. IAFS 2017 can provide letters of support to assist the visa process.**

**Attendees are encouraged to submit abstracts for oral presentations in the following areas of special interest**

1. Miscarriages of justice and wrongful convictions
2. New forensic technologies, digital evidence and cybercrime
3. New drugs, new issues, new doping methods
4. Violence against women and vulnerable persons
5. Terrorism and armed conflict

**In addition to these five areas of interest, other categories will be considered for IAFS 2017**

1. Anthropology
2. Criminalistics
3. Digital and Multi-media sciences
4. Engineering sciences
5. Jurisprudence
6. Odontology
7. Forensic Pathology
8. Biology
9. Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences
10. Questioned Documents
11. Toxicology
12. Clinical Forensic Medicine/Nursing



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Middle East Conference of  
The International Association of Law and Forensic Science (IALFS)

January 17-19, 2017  
Intercontinental City Stars  
Cairo, Egypt

Under The Main Theme  
"World free from abuse, violence and terrorism"



In Collaboration With



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Congress of the  
International Association of Law and Forensic  
Science (IALFS)

NFS  
국립과학수사연구원



[www.2016.ialfs.org](http://www.2016.ialfs.org)

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# *Update Of ICRC Activities In South Asia, South East Asia and The Pacific*



- August- November 2016

By: Cheryl Katzmarzyk, Senem Skulj, Uwom Eze, Jose Pablo Baraybar, Rafael Abreu de Souza and Andres Patino (ICRC Forensic Coordinators-Asia Region)

## **Afghanistan and Pakistan**

During 2016 the ICRC continued to deliver workshops for Afghan Red Crescent disaster managers, volunteers and contracted drivers in the proper and dignified collection and transport of conflict related dead. The workshop on dignified management of the dead with focus on the collection, health and safety, and transport of the dead was delivered to 99 Afghan Red Crescent disaster managers, volunteers and contracted drivers in Central, Southern and Western regions of Afghanistan throughout five separate workshops.

The ICRC is continually collaborating with Forensic Medicine Directorate and Emergency Preparedness and Response Department, on development of the Management of the Dead (MotD) file, advancing standardized approaches, and comprehensive and centralized

data management system. In that light six representatives from aforementioned departments of the Ministry of Public Health were supported to attend to the **1st International Course on the MotD in Emergencies, and 1st South Asia Regional Conference on the MotD: Policy Development and Implementation**, held in Islamabad, Pakistan and Colombo, Sri Lanka. Attendees have developed new skills and appreciation on the complexity of the needed response for proper and dignified management of the dead, and are actively engaged within their area of responsibility to start applying lessons learned and conclusions derived.

As part of the **ICRC's Resource Center of Excellence based in Pakistan, the Islamabad delegation hosted the 1st International Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies from August 1st to 5th**. Twenty-four representatives from Afghanistan, Ecuador, Hong

Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Vietnam participated in the course that brought together those responsible for managing the dead in their respective countries in a multidisciplinary training environment. A combination of presentations, demonstrations, role play, table-top and field exercises were facilitated by experienced course instructors and regional/international presenters from Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland and Tunisia. Course discussions, group work and country presentations also encouraged participants to interactively share their expertise and experiences. Preparations are already in progress for the **2nd International Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies to take place from May 15th to 19th, 2017 in Islamabad.**

### **Sri Lanka and Bangladesh**

Between October 18th and 19th 2016, ICRC Colombo Delegation hosted the **1st South Asian Regional Conference on Management of the Dead in Emergencies.** The meeting attended sixteen representatives from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, India and Afghanistan, counting with the presence of five forensics from ICRCs in Sri Lanka-Bangladesh, Pakistan, India-Nepal and Afghanistan. Discussions on developing policies on proper management of the dead during times of emergency were followed by considerations on practical and emerging issues regarding the subject and considerations on the necessity of providing a platform for representatives of South Asian countries to share their experience and knowledge. On November 12th-

13th, November 15th-16th and November 19th-20th, 2016, it was implemented the **1st Workshop in Forensic Archaeology**, a two days sensitization course in Forensic Archaeology placed in Anuradhapura and Kalutara. The workshop attended twenty-nine JMOs and twenty-eight Police officers from different parts of Sri Lanka. A sequence of theoretical and practical lessons were presented to the participants, focusing on methods and techniques of recovery through fieldwork activities on simulated surface crime scenes and buried skeletonized remains to be excavated and interpreted. The working group environment allowed the participants to share their experiences and expertise, not only between them but with the experienced international facilitators from Mexico and Peru.

### **Nepal and India**

In 2016, ICRC Forensic Department in Nepal expanded engagement on Humanitarian Forensic Action (HFA) with interlocutors beyond the Central Development Region, to three other regions in the country: Eastern, Western and Mid-West with only one region remaining, the Far-West. Furthermore, in support of standard forensic practices, ICRC organized the 1st Forensic Presentation Prize held in Kathmandu, to be a regular annual event for trainees in Forensic Medicine and Science, in collaboration with our partner, the Department of Forensic Medicine (DoFM)-Institute of Medicine.

The best three presentations, assessed by a panel of forensic experts, won cash prizes which supported their participation at **All Nepal Medical Association Conference (ANEMECON) 2016** of Nepal Medical Association (NMA), where their abstracts



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were accepted for presentation at the forensic session of the national conference. ICRC worked with our interlocutors, MELESON (Medico-legal Society of Nepal) and DoFM, in planning and actualizing this recognition. ICRC also participated at the forensic session with a presentation on **ICRC HFA and the Role of Forensic Medicine institutions in Nepal** and this was well received by the audience.

The ICRC has organized a Forensic Roundtable on potential forensic needs and imperatives towards clarifying the fate of the missing slated for 7 -8 December 2016 and involving all concerned Ministries, Commissions and organizations in Nepal on the work of the Missing Commission.

The ICRC Forensic Department is also engaged in capacity building by facilitating the forensic module at Postgraduate Diploma Course in Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation at Disaster Management Centre, IRCS, New Delhi; ICRC Policing course at Police Academy ; and engagement with forensic departments and institutions in India on collaborations towards dignified management of the dead including forensic human identification and other forensic issues in relevant contexts within DEL Regional Delegation.

## Indonesia and Timor Leste

The ICRC organized in September, in cooperation with the Hospital Guido Valladares in Dili (Timor Leste) the **Advanced**

**Course in Forensic Medicine;** a two day course facilitated by Dr.Nuno Duarte Vieira of the University of Coimbra (Portugal), and Dr Andres Rodriguez Zorro, ICRC Forensic Advisor for Syria. The course was targeted for medical staff, police investigators from Policia Nacional Timor Leste (PNTL) and the new formed Policia Cientifica de Investigaçaõ Criminal (PCIC) from Timor Leste promote core principles for decedent documentation, the identification process and determination of manner of death. The course will be replicated in 2017 in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine of Timor Leste.

The ICRC also organized in September the **Regional Workshop on the Management of the Dead in Disasters: application of best practices on management and identification of decedent migrants.** Fifty participants from at least 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific, including forensic experts from diverse medico legal agencies and police enforcement attended the workshop. Presentations included experiences from the region and worldwide (including Europe and the Americas) and technical recommendations. It is the first time that this thematic has been presented in a forensic forum in South East Asia. This workshop will take place again in coordination with the Central Institute of Forensic Science (CIFS) of Thailand and the Asia Pacific Medico Legal Agencies in Bangkok (tentatively September 2017).

## The Philippines

The ICRC organized the **Short Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies** with the Philippines Red Cross (PRC) for 25 participants including first responders and emergency teams from NS branches based in Manila, Samar, Leyte, Cebu and Mindanao) attended the course; Theoretical presentations (ICRC, Filipino authorities, Police and PRC) and practical exercises (top table and simulations) were included. The course will be replicated in December 2016.

The ICRC is working in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the making of the field manual for the management of the dead and missing during disasters, on the framework of the new national guidelines on the same subject. A first draft was already shared for approval DILG Director General and dissemination with the main agencies involved on the Management of the Dead and Missing sub-cluster under DILG.



ICRC 1st Workshop in Forensic Archaeology, Anuradhapura and Kalutara (Sri Lanka) November 2016

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## *ICRC workshop in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh*

- Vietnam - 2016

With support from the ICRC, the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, Vietnam held workshops on “Management of the dead in emergencies and humanitarian forensic action”, in Hanoi in March and Ho Chi Minh City in April this year.

The workshops included the participation of 60 forensic doctors from the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, the Military Institute of Forensic Medicine,

the Forensic Medicine Center (Police) and regional forensic centers. The Lecturer was ICRC Forensic Advisor, Mr Pierre Marie Michel Guyomarc’h. The workshop covered Management of the Dead principles; Recovery and collection of bodies; transport, storage, and coordination and multidisciplinary forensic identification.





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# *Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters*

- New edition - A Field Manual for First Responders

Proper and dignified management of the dead in disasters is one of the three key pillars of humanitarian response and a fundamental factor in facilitating identification of the deceased and helping families discover the fate of their loved ones.

This second and updated edition of this hugely successful manual provides practical and easy-to-follow guidelines on the recovery, documentation and storage of the remains of individuals who have died in disasters, helping first responders ensure that the dead are treated with respect and that information crucial for their subsequent identification is recorded.

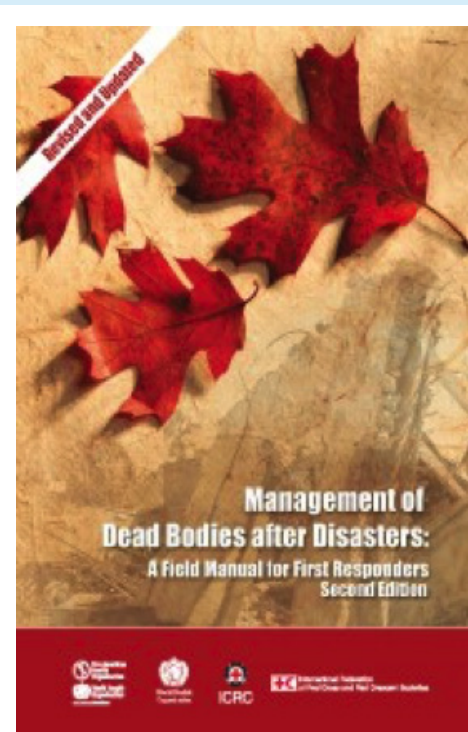
This revised edition incorporates experience gained in recent catastrophes, such as the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, the 2014/15 Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. It also contains a number of annexes, which cover such topics as handling the bodies of people who

died from an infectious disease, burial planning and using DNA analysis in mass fatality events.

This manual is not only a go-to guide for lay personnel who have to provide the first response in the aftermath of a catastrophe but also a useful resource for disaster preparedness in countries with well-developed forensic services.

This publication is the result of a joint effort involving the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Free PDF version of the manual is available from the link below.  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/0880-management-dead-bodies-after-disasters-field-manual-first-responders>



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# *DVI Indonesia An Overview*

- Police Senior Superintendent, Dr. Anton Castilani, MD, MSc, DFM -



## **Dr Anton Castliani**

Police Senior Superintendent  
Chief of Police Medical Department  
Indonesian National Police

Executive Director of Indonesian  
National DVI Committee

Acting President of ICFMO  
(Islamic Countries Forensic  
Medicine Organization)

Board Member of APMLA (Asia Pacific  
Medico Legal Association)

Interpol DVI Steering Group Member

Board Member of AFSN  
(Asia Forensic Science Network)

DVI or Disaster Victim Identification is a key role undertaken by the Indonesian National Police (INP) in disaster events. This process is managed through the Indonesian DVI Committee which responds to both national and international disaster events.

DVI is the identification process used to identify the dead in the aftermath a disaster. INTERPOL has developed an internationally recognised sequence of activities and related forms over many decades. The first INTERPOL DVI Guideline was published in 1984 with the most recent revision released in 2014. The Guideline recognises the human rights of the victim and next of kin, the role the police investigation, and the importance of a legally defensible and scientifically accountable identification process that is crucial for families for repatriation of remains for burial and clarifying related insurance, inheritance and marital status matters. The process has been tested in large scale disasters in many regions across the world. The process provides a reliable approach to matching victim data in the form of 'post-mortem information' with 'missing person data'. As INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble stated at an international conference

"experience had shown that field deployments are complex and require a uniform response when providing onsite support following a disaster, whether natural or man-made..." (INTERPOL Media Release, 2013). DVI is a formal process for identifying the deceased victims of disasters such as bus and plane crashes, the collapse of a building, fires, marine vessel accidents, acts of terrorism and natural disasters. Identification is achieved through the application of scientifically proven techniques in accordance with INTERPOL DVI Guidelines.

## **History In Indonesia**

The Indonesian National DVI Committee was formed following the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on the the Handling of the Dead Victims in a Mass Disaster between the Chief of the INP and the Ministry of Health on 27th July 2003. The DVI Committee includes representatives from the National Police (Police Medicine and Health Centre), the Ministry of Health, the Faculty of Medicine, forensic experts from the Police Forensic Laboratory and the INAFIS), and the Disaster Management Team (Firefighters, and SAR). The organizational structure of the National Committee of DVI Indonesia



includes national, provincial and regional representation to shorten the chain of command required for prompt and effective response in the event of a disaster. The 32 provincial DVI areas are divided into four regions; the First West DVI Region covers Aceh, North Sumatera, Riau, Riau Islands, Jambi and West Sumatera; the Second West DVI Region covers South Sumatra, Bangka Belitung, Bengkulu, Lampung, Jakarta, West Java and Middle Java, Yogyakarta, Banten, West Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan; the Central DVI Region covers East Java, South Kalimantan, Bali, West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara; and the East DVI Region, covers Sulawesi, Maluku, Papua and West Papua.

The identification process can take a long time, with some bodies remaining unidentified because of a lack of reference information from the family, or the condition of the body. However DVI teams are committed to correct identification and do their best to repatriate the deceased to their next of kin. Their motto is "Better not to be identified rather than misidentified" and they are committed to respect for the dead.

The need for DVI capacity building in Indonesia was noted at the first Asia Pacific Rim INTERPOL DVI Meeting in Makassar on 25 January 2000. A Diploma of Forensic Medicine (DFM) program was developed with the Groningen University in the Netherlands, and run from for five years from 2000 to 2004. Significant DVI operations undertaken during this time included the International DVI Operation that followed the Bali Bombings in 2002 and the bus accident "Situbondo Tragedy" on 8 October 2003. This was followed by the launch of a sustainable DVI National Program in Jakarta and the establishment in 2016

of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Semarang in collaboration with the Australian Federal Police.

## Major Dvi Events

Indonesian DVI teams have responded to a significant number of major national and international multiple casualty DVI events since the 2002 Bali bombing.

These have included the Jakarta J.W.Marriot Hotel bombing in 2003, the Australian Embassy Bombing in Jakarta in 2004, the 2004 Tsunami in Aceh, the Mandala Airline crash in Medan in 2005, the 2006 Senopati sea ferry sinking in the Java Sea, a Tsunami in Pangandaran in 2006, the 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake, the Garuda Airline crash in Yogyakarta in 2007, the Indonesian Air Force (IAF) AF Cassa A212-200 plane crash in Bogor in 2008, the 2009 Situ Gintung dam collapse in Tangerang, IAF plane crashes in Bandung and Magetan in 2009, the 2009 'Black Saturday' Victorian bushfire in Australia, the Padang earthquake 2009, the 2009 Jakarta Mega Kuningan bombing, the 2010 Pemalang train collision, the 2010 Warrior flash flood, an earthquake and tsunami in Mentawai in 2010, the 2010 Mount Merapi volcano eruption, the 2010 INP plane crash in Nabire, the 2010 sinking of a ship of illegal migrants in Trenggalek, the Sukhoi plane crash on Mount Salak, Bogor in 2012, an Army helicopter crash in North Kalimantan in 2013, the Malaysian MH17 crash in the Ukraine in 2014, the 2014 Air Asia QZ 8501 crash and the Air Force Hercules plane crash in 2015.

These diverse events have made the Indonesian DVI organisation one of the most experienced in the world.

## The Milestone Event

Across the many DVI responses, the Sukhoi DVI Operation in 2012 was recognized as a milestone event when DVI Indonesia gained public trust through the excellent performance of the Indonesian National Police. A good public understanding of DVI and community cooperation was achieved in this event.

Even though each DVI operation is unique, the MH 17 DVI operation is notable because of the scale of international cooperation that was undertaken at Hilversum in the Netherlands. When Malaysian Airlines Flight MH 17 was first reported missing in the area of Ukraine on July 17th, 2014, DVI Indonesia was in immediate contact with Indonesian embassies in Kuala Lumpur, Kiev and the Hague to commence the collection of data on any Indonesian citizens onboard. A total of 12 Indonesian citizens were among the 298 people on the flight.

Anticipating an eventual joint DVI Operation, the DVI Indonesian team obtained ante-mortem data (medical and dental records and distinguishing physical characteristics) and DNA reference samples from families and fingerprints from Police and Civil Registration, in collaboration with Provincial DVI teams in Jakarta, North Sumatra, Central Java and Bali.

When the crash site in the Ukraine was confirmed the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia immediately asked the Head of Indonesian National Police to deploy an Indonesia DVI team to join the International DVI Operation at Hilversum in the Netherlands.

A six person Indonesian team DVI team carrying antemortem information on the Indonesian citizens on board was deployed to the Netherlands. There they worked with DVI teams from Australia, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Netherlands. The operation was headed by a Dutch DVI Commander using the INTERPOL DVI protocol for one of the world's best international DVI Operations. Good planning and preparedness enabled DVI Indonesia to contribute to the effectiveness of the DVI Operation. The team was praised by INTERPOL, and the families of the Indonesian victims for ensuring accurate identification and fast repatriation of their loved ones.

## **The Future**

As one of the 12 Board Members of the INTERPOL DVI Interpol Steering Group, Indonesia is focused on continuing to grow its DVI capability, creating breakthroughs to improve DVI performance, and providing a model for how developing nations with very limited resources can develop robust DVI capacity.

In 2010 Indonesian DVI commenced the delivery of National and International DVI programs at JCLEC to promote DVI capability development across the Asia Pacific region.

With facilitation from INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL, Indonesia DVI is establishing a hub for DVI training for representatives from medico-legal institutions in Islamic nations and nations in the Asia Pacific and ASEAN regions.

The Indonesian National DVI Committee will establish a new Missing Person and Unidentified

Body (MPUB) Unit which will receive, store and analyse and match data from missing person reports with unidentified dead bodies from across the nation. This will be undertaken through the police medical operational system supported by an online system that can be accessed by law enforcement, medical personnel, and the public through websites, emails, social media, text message and toll free phone numbers.

Reports of missing persons or unidentified bodies will be incorporated into database systems on a national server. There will be a Missing Persons Database with information that can be used by law enforcement officers, the media and the public to report missing persons, and an Unidentified Body Database with information that can be used by law enforcement officers, doctors, and forensic institutions to record details of unidentified bodies using the INTERPOL DVI format. The databases will automatically cross check information on missing persons or unidentified dead bodies as it enters the system for a match or similarity. The results will be sent to the Reconciliation Team for further investigation to assure accountability through scientific proofs and legal checks.

## **Networks**

DVI Operations are multi-dimensional activities that require a range of expertise and collaborations. This can not be accomplished by a single expert or institution. With facilitation and support from ASEANAPOL and INTERPOL we hope to encourage the formation of a new era of international cooperation in DVI to support Humanitarian efforts and Law enforcement across the region.



Let the dead be the dead  
But give them a face  
For them not to be forgotten

Give their living  
their lost ones  
In order to give them a place  
And to remember them

Hilversum, August 4th 2014  
MH17 International DVI Operation

### DVI Operation MH 17 in Hilversum - the Netherlands

Dr. Nguyen Duc Nhu is the Director of the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, Vietnam (2016). He is also the General Secretary of the Vietnam Association of Forensic Medicine. Dr Duc Nhu has a Medical Degree (2001), a Master's Degree (2009) and a PhD in Biomedicine and Genetics from the Hanoi Medical University (2015). After graduating from college, he completed specialist training in forensic medicine. In 2006, he studied forensic DNA at the National Institute of Scientific Investigation in Seoul, South Korea. In 2012 and 2014 Dr Duc Nhu participated in two short courses by the EAAF (Argentinian Forensic Anthropology Team).

Previous roles have included Vice-Director of the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, DNA Laboratory Chief, and Director of the Sub-National Institute of Forensic Institute in Ho Chi Minh City. Dr Duc Nhu has participated in 13 scientific research projects, and published numerous papers in national and international scientific journals. He is a forensic examiner, who provides forensic lectures for students and trainees across the nation.

### Dr. Nguyen Duc Nhu is the Director of the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, Vietnam



# APMLA Missing Persons Identification Workgroup

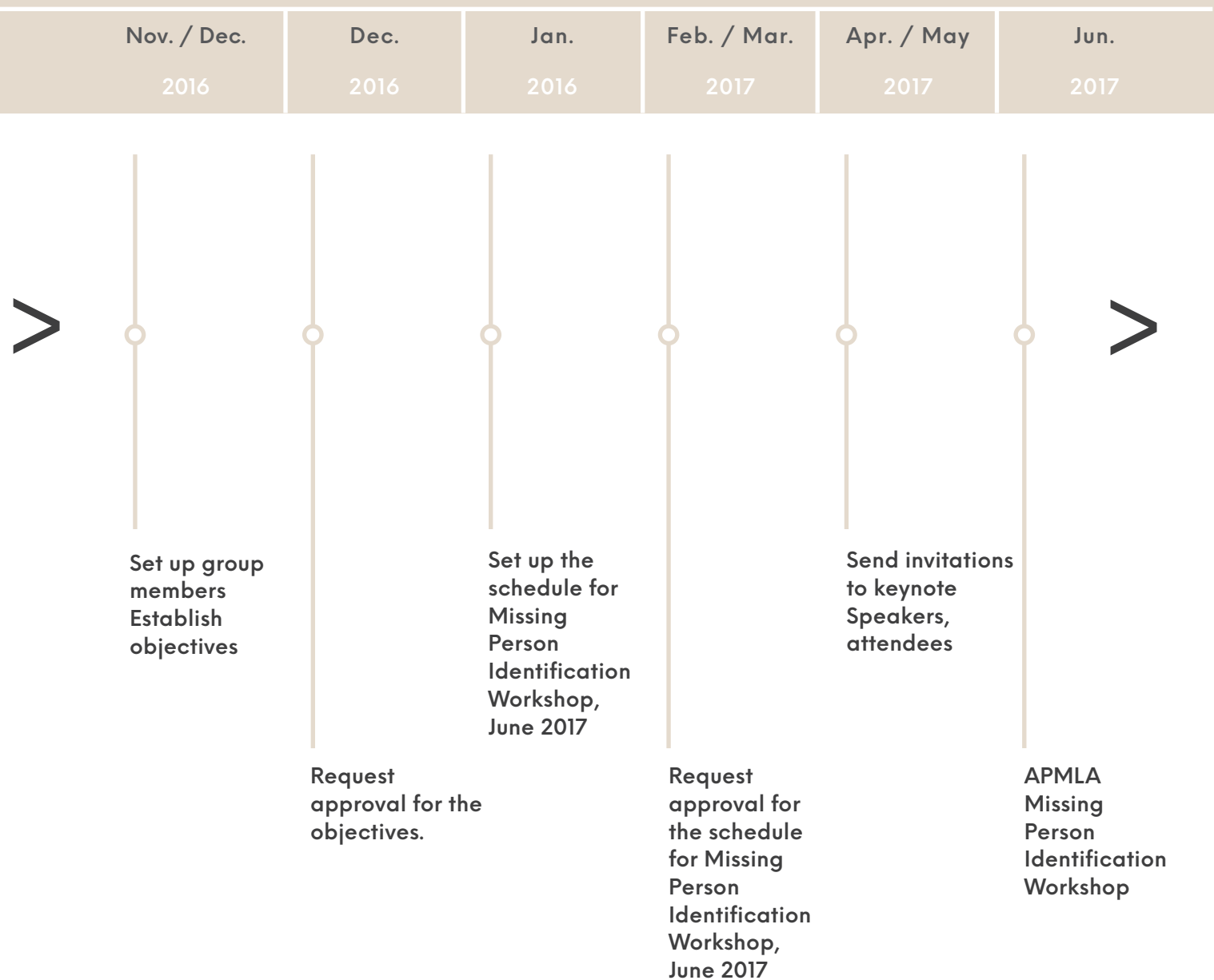
Group members	1. Group Objectives	2. Planned outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr T. Temahivong, Central Institute of Forensic Science, Bangkok, Thailand</li> <li>2. Dr. Rijen Shrestha, Forensic Pathologist, Department of Forensic Medicine, Maharajgunj Medical Campus, Institute of Medicine Kathmandu, Nepal</li> <li>3. Dr. Zahari Noor, Head of Department and Consultant, Department of Forensic Medicine Hospital Pulau, Penang, Malaysia.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Guidelines or Standardization to support the identification of missing and deceased migrants</b></p> <p>To identify forensic issues that relate to human migration in the Asia –Pacific region and to develop a knowledge base and related forensic medical and forensic science practice guidelines to support the identification of missing and deceased migrants.</p> <p><b>Search for missing persons and/or migrants</b></p> <p>In recent years, there has been an increased number of missing persons and unidentified remains related to cross-border migrations. This workgroup is established to facilitate substantial collaborations and cooperation among its members for the purpose of assisting families in the process of searching for their missing loved ones.</p> <p><b>Identified and/or unidentified remains</b></p> <p>There is a significant lack of ante-mortem data for unidentified remains thought to be those of migrants. This work group would propose to liaise with the ICRC's Restoring Family Links global network in relation to the collection of relevant ante-mortem data from the families in source nations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop in June 2017 to Discuss Forensic Issues in Human Migration in the Asia-Pacific</li> <li>• Standardization of practice guidelines</li> <li>• Sharing of databases</li> <li>• Cross border cooperation;</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Partnerships with relevant organisations ( ICRC).</li> </ul>



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## *New APLMA work group*

### 3. Work plan and timeline





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