Regional Seminar on MRDT, Biometrics and Identification Management

Department for Effective Public Management
Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas ("PUICA")

July 2013
Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity”

1. Adopted in June 2008 by OAS Member States

2. Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA)

3. Objectives

- Universal and accessible;
- Institutional strengthening;
- Public awareness;
- Identification of best practices; and
- International and regional cooperation.
The Achilles’ Heel of the Identity Generation Chain: Regional Perspectives of Civil Registry and Birth Certificates

1. Decentralized systems
3. Vulnerable to political pressure
4. Bureaucratic culture
International Civil Aviation Organization

Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs)

Towards Better Practice in National Identification Management

April 30, 2013
The threat of an individual presenting a genuine passport that was issued on the basis of false evidence is very real.

The international community is calling for a global focus on this problem.
ICAO Framework in Identification Management

**FIGURE 1**

1. **Identity Exists**
   - **Objective A**
     To determine that the identity exists (i.e. that the identity is not fictitious)
   - **Objective B**
     To determine that it is a living identity

2. **Person Links to Identity**
   - **Objective C**
     To determine that the applicant links to the identity
   - **Objective D**
     To provide confidence that the applicant is the sole claimant of the identity

3. **Person Uses Identity**
   - **Objective E**
     To provide confidence of the applicant’s use of the identity
Technological Advances

- Digitalization of birth certificate and input of the information into the data system (Paraguay, Bolivia)
- Connectivity among the civil registry offices (Honduras)
- Incorporation of biometric data (Mexico)
- Security measures for the identity document (security paper, optically variable ink, holograms, etc.)
Hezbollah Terrorist with Belizean Passport

September 14, 2012 – Rafic Mohammad Labbon was apprehended in Yucatan using a Belizian driver’s license and Belizian passport. He was able to acquire birth certificate, passport, and driver’s license in only two days under the name of Wilhem Dick (deceased 1967).
EDITORIAL - Careful with fingerprints

published: Monday | February 26, 2007

We repeat our reservation, if not yet disquiet, at the suggestion that the fingerprint database now in the control of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) should be made available to the police as part of their crime-fighting arsenal.

The latest proposition has come from Deputy Commissioner of Police Charles Scarlett, who suggested in a speech last week that access to the more than one million fingerprints the EOJ has on file would significantly enhance the constabulary's capacity to fight crime.
TOWARD BETTER PRACTICE IN IDENTIFICATION MANAGEMENT

- Provide quality service to citizens
- Train officials, registration authorities and community leaders
- Implement technologies and systems in civil registry operations
- Harmonize civil registry legislation
- Integrate civil registration with other state agencies & social programs
- Strengthen security of records and systems of communication between their units

Modernizing Civil Registries
The civil registries of beneficiary countries in the Caribbean will be modernized with uniform databases which can be used to:

- Provide for on-line birth registration in hospitals
- Facilitate travel-document information sharing among OECS states
- Link with social security and other databases to avoid fraud

PUICA OBJECTIVES IN CARIBBEAN REGION AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Hospital Birth Registration and Public Awareness Campaign in Central America will:

- Improve the accuracy of the information in the databases
- Ensure that births are registered the moment they take place
- 56% coverage in El Salvador and 73% coverage in Guatemala
- 86% of births in Honduras take place in Hospitals according to UNICEF and IDB 2011-2012.
Universal Civil Identity Project of the Americas (PUICA)

Secretariat for Political Affairs

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