FACILITATION (FAL) DIVISION — TWELFTH SESSION

Cairo, Egypt, 22 March to 2 April 2004

Agenda Item 2: **Facilitation and security of travel documents and border control formalities**
Agenda Item 4: **Controlling travel document fraud and illegal migration**

TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROGRESSED IMMIGRATION SERVICE (TIPIS)

(Presented by the Republic of Korea)

SUMMARY

This report briefly introduces "the Technologic Infrastructure for Progressed Immigration Service (TIPIS) Project" which Immigration Bureau of Republic of Korea has promoted for simplification and improvement of immigration procedures and services.

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   It is necessary to simplify immigration procedures and provide enhanced services to foreigners complying with Korean laws. At the same time, it is also necessary to come up with advanced immigration systems and accompanying infrastructure for strict law enforcement against those foreigners not complying with Korean laws.

1.1.1   The Korean government is considering differentiating clearance procedures at airports for visitors carrying Machine Readable Passports and whether a visitor's biometric information is provided for immigration purposes. Visitors meeting the requirements will be provided simpler immigration services such as automated clearance or clearance at specially designated lines as well as being exempted from filling out Embarkation/Disembarkation cards.

1.1.2   To cope more effectively with international crimes, Korea will enhance visa issuance procedures and strengthen law enforcement against illegal activities by international terrorists, foreigners carrying improper documents, smugglers, and human traffickers.

1.2   Korea devised a new plan of "Technologic Infrastructure for Progressed Immigration Service (TIPIS)" which will enable integration of variety of immigration procedures/processes and provision of best services for foreigners residing in Korea. TIPIS consolidates all information obtained via automated immigration clearance systems such as Advanced passenger Information System (APIS), Machine Readable Passport (MRP) reading system, I-PAS (Immigration-Process Accelerated Service)

card issuance, and visas issued at Korean embassies and legations overseas. It will also be linked with information systems of other related organizations for much improved services.

2.   **CONCEPT OF TIPIS**

2.1   **Introduction of Advance Passenger Information System (APIS)**

2.1.1   In 2001, concurrently with the opening of the Incheon International Airport, Korea introduced APIS for customs services. In the year 2004, Korea will revise the immigration laws and regulations to expand APIS to include immigration services. The information from APIS will be processed to provide the foreigners residing in Korea with better services after being used as a means of identifying passengers in conjunction with some other important information like the registration information of Korean citizenship, passport issuance information, Visa issuance information, etc.

2.2   **MRTD Reading System Implementation**

2.2.1   With the implementation of MRTD Reading System, the following goals will be accomplished: 1) accurate MRZ reading; 2) interlocking with the information analyzed by APIS; 3) saving passport data pages in image forms; and 4) saving immigration records automatically by interlocking with the multiple search system. When these goals are achieved, it is expected that Korea will be able to phase out the use of Embarkation/Disembarkation cards and further simplify immigration formalities.

2.3   **Issuance of I-PAS (Immigration-Process Accelerated Service) Card**

2.3.1   Korea will further facilitate the flow of passengers at international ports of entry and exit by issuing I-PAS cards to frequent visitors, those who visit Korea more than five times a year, and visitors volunteering their biometric information (e.g. fingerprint, facial images, etc.). The I-PAS cards will be issued only to persons voluntarily applying for the cards.

2.3.2   I-PAS Card holders will no longer have to submit Embarkation/ Disembarkation cards at entry & exit checkpoints. Furthermore, internet immigration services will be available to I-PAS card holders once the Immigration Electronic Service System is completed. For example, a foreigner may apply for an extension of stay period using services available on the internet.

2.4   **Real-time multi-modal biometric identification/verification system**

2.4.1   The Real-time Multi-modal Biometric Identification/Verification System that will be established on the basis of information consolidated from various sources including entry/stay/departure will pave a way to better services at all agencies concerned by enabling reproduction of the system's information in interface with real-time multiple search.

2.4.2   The use of I-PAS cards and biometrics technologies is expected to enable Korean Immigration to distinguish mala-fide foreigners from bona-fide foreigners, more rapidly and easily. Accordingly, foreigners with good records will get benefits of up-graded high-speed services from Korean Immigration.

2.5   **Implementation of Integrated Administrative Service
         System for foreigners**

2.5.1   Korea is making improvements to immigration services to suit the internet and digital environment, thereby building system that provide transparent and accelerated administrative services to foreigners at central and local government agencies.

2.5.2   The Republic of Korea also plans to set up an around-the-clock one-stop/non-stop service, which would provide one-stop administrative services (e.g. immigrant registration, medical insurance, children's education, etc.) to foreigners in person, via internet, telephone, fax, etc.

3.   **ACTION BY THE DIVISION**

3.1   The Division is invited to:

         a)   recommend simplification of immigration procedures in Contracting States, exchange of information related to development of policies, designation of contacts points for exchange of information among treaty-concluded states; and

         b)   recognize the urgent need for an internationally coordinated approach to API & PNR.

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