

POLICE  
LIFE

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE  
2017 / ISSUE 8

# All About ASEANAPOL

Transcending Borders  
Through Policing



37<sup>th</sup> ASEANAPOL  
CONFERENCE

SINGAPORE 2017



**Powered by Innovation  
Strengthened by Partnerships**



## Note from the Team

After a decade, the annual ASEAN National Police (ASEANAPOL) Conference finally returns to our sunny island of Singapore this year. The Singapore Police Force is honoured to host the event, which aims to foster stronger policing cooperation within the region and promote lasting friendships among police officers from the member countries.

In this special issue of *Police Life*, we take you through the history of ASEANAPOL and how it has contributed to fighting transnational crime in this part of the world. Also, be inspired by our very own musical talents who shared their thoughts on composing a repertoire of songs especially for this momentous event.

Have a pleasant read!

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BRUNEI



CAMBODIA



LAOS

# What is ASEANAPOL

The ASEAN National Police, or ASEANAPOL, is a regional police organisation that deals with inter-agency cooperation and serves as a knowledge sharing hub.



VIETNAM



INDONESIA




THAILAND



MALAYSIA



PHILIPPINES



SINGAPORE



MYANMAR



## MOTTO

TOGETHER WE KEEP THIS REGION SAFE

## OBJECTIVES

### Enhance

police professionalism

### Forge

stronger regional cooperation in policing

### Promote

lasting friendship amongst police officers of member countries

**Three Steps on Top of Pillar**  
It represents the three mottos upheld by 10 countries' police forces - Fight Crime, Love Humanity and Help Delinquents

**Shield**  
It symbolises community protection

**Black**  
It represents the firm determination of ASEANAPOL

**Spray of Rice and Cotton**  
It symbolises prosperity



**Flags**  
It represents the 10 member countries

**Yellow**  
It symbolises the colour of honesty

**10 Steps at the Bottom of Pillar**  
It represents the 10 ASEAN countries that make up ASEANAPOL

## ALL ABOUT

By: International Cooperation Department

## TIMELINE OF ASEANAPOL

**1981**

Inaugural meeting between the chiefs of Police of the five founding member countries (Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines)

**1984**

Singapore hosts the 5th ASEANAPOL Conference for the first time

**2000**

By 2000, the police forces of all 10 current ASEAN countries became members of ASEANAPOL

**1991**

Inaugural Joint ASEAN Senior Police Officer Course

**2001**

ASEANAPOL Database System Technical Committee was tasked to explore new solutions for a shared database

**2007**

ASEANAPOL signs database sharing agreement with INTERPOL

**2006**

Official launch of electronic ASEANAPOL Database System (e-ADS)

**2010**

First ASEANAPOL Police Training Cooperation Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam

**2015**

Formalisation of the ASEAN Police Forensic Science Network

**2017**

37th ASEANAPOL Conference hosted by Singapore on 12 to 14 Sept 2017. Launch of e-ADS 2.0

# ASEANAPOL



# Fighting Transnational Crime

By Hadi Hafidz  
(Photo: International Cooperation Department)

With the evolvement of increasingly complex and sophisticated criminal tactics, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) has been working hand-in-hand with their ASEAN counterparts to fight transnational crime. Read on to find out how our officers collaborated with their ASEAN counterparts to neutralise these cross-border syndicates.

## Illegal Gambling Syndicate

Having been in the service for 10 years, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Wong Ping Foong of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), currently leads a team of investigators in conducting operations and investigations into syndicated illegal gambling cases. Just as how such syndicates constantly seek new ways to avoid detection, DSP Wong and his team of officers are also beating them at their own game by keeping abreast of their developments and enhancing investigation capabilities against cross-border illegal gambling syndicates.

In 2016, a regional operation involving Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam took down a Malaysian-based syndicate. DSP Wong was actively involved in the management of information exchange amongst the participating countries, which was crucial to the successful planning of the operation. He also played a part in devising the plan for the enforcement raids and assisted in the investigations.

The operation saw the SPF effecting 39 arrests, seizing about S\$1.5 million, several laptops and mobile phones from the suspects involved.

*"This was a challenging operation due to the complexity involved in sorting out the evidence and determining the roles of the syndicate members involved in each operation. But we managed to overcome all the challenges, owing to the strong teamwork between the SPF and our foreign counterparts,"* shared DSP Wong.

## Love Scams

Another officer who has had his share of experience working with foreign counterparts to fight transnational crime is DSP Ho Ban Hsiung from the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD). DSP Ho is a veteran Police officer with 25 years of service and had previously served in the Commercial Crime Division (CCD) of CID. DSP Ho now leads a team of CAD officers responsible for conducting investigations related to transnational fraud.

In the first ever joint operation which occurred from 6 to 8 February 2017 between the SPF and the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) to crackdown on the Love Scam syndicate, DSP Ho shared that he was part of the planning team working closely with the RMP's Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID) to plan the operations. By providing timely information to CCID, the team enabled the CCID investigators to establish the identities of the suspects behind the scams.

*"Despite the challenges involved, we worked hard together with our RMP colleagues, motivated by the goal of taking down those involved in the crime and to send a strong message to such criminals that they will not get away with their crimes,"* said DSP Ho with intense conviction.

Their persistence ultimately paid off, with 27 arrests made in both Singapore and Malaysia. These culprits were believed to be involved in 13 cases of internet love scam reported in Singapore and 65 cases reported in Malaysia, siphoning a total amount of about S\$7 million from the victims. In addition, items used in the commission of the crime, including computers and ATM cards, were also seized during the operations.

## Transnational Money-Laundering

Another successful collaboration with foreign counterparts in tackling transnational crime involved CAD's officers working with the Vietnamese Police to crackdown a transnational money-laundering case. Public funds were allegedly embezzled from a Vietnamese state-owned company and the Vietnamese Police sought Singapore's assistance to trace the money that had already been laundered into Singapore. With the support from the Vietnamese Police, CAD officer Mr Wong Kean Yong and his team was able to carry out swift investigations which eventually led to the successful seizure of assets worth over S\$4 million in cash, private properties and financial securities.

*"Undeterred by any geographical and language barriers, we worked closely with our Vietnamese counterparts to secure the suspected illicit monies. As Singapore is a major financial hub, we strive to take swift and decisive action to prevent any criminal exploitation of our financial systems and will continue to work together with each and every one of our foreign counterparts to fulfil CAD's mission in preventing, deterring and detecting financial crime,"* said Mr Wong.

In the ongoing fight against transnational crime, the SPF will continue to work with our foreign counterparts to effectively crackdown on these crimes. With utmost dedication to their duties, these officers continue to forge ahead and strive hard towards ensuring that such criminals are not able to tuck beneath national borders and continue to commit crime overseas undetected.



# Transcending Borders Through Policing

By Syam Roslan  
(Photographer: Kenneth Tan)

As transnational crime becomes more prevalent in this day and age, it has become a necessity for police agencies around the world to cooperate with one another in order to eliminate threats that can be detrimental to the public interest. That is a responsibility that Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Chua Chee Wai takes earnestly as the Director of International Cooperation Department (ICD) in the Singapore Police Force (SPF). Despite the gravitas of his role, DAC Chua continues to show his commitment to his job as he allows his affable and outspoken personality to naturally take centre stage in this interview.

## Effect of Globalisation on Crime Today

The fast pace of globalisation and technological advancements have allowed ideas to flow much freer across the internet and other broadcast media, which have been embraced by the masses. There is also the rise of low cost travelling via air, land and sea, which have increasingly allowed more people in recent years the affordability to travel to other countries and embrace new ideas.

These developments have significantly improved the standard of living today and brought about great convenience for all of us. However, criminals have also taken advantage of the same technology to more readily commit transnational crime, such as cyber-crime, human trafficking and terrorism, which affects more victims across many countries.

*"Crime is now borderless, and can now take place in two different places at once,"* DAC Chua explained, which emphasises the need for law enforcement agencies (LEA) to form steadfast relations with one another in their collective fight against transnational crime. This vital role of forming steadfast relations is overseen by the ICD, who acts as the gateway to international policing cooperation between the SPF and its international counterparts.

*"No state can defeat a criminal threat that is generated from outside its jurisdiction without developing sound working relations and cooperation with its neighbouring countries,"* DAC Chua emphasised with conviction.

## Looking Past the Differences

However, it is no easy feat to develop effective working relations with other countries stemming from the complexities that may arise due to geopolitical issues such as the differences in legal system, protocols, culture and language. While these issues may appear daunting to some, DAC Chua remains focussed on working towards a common mission with his foreign counterparts to transcend these boundaries.

*"We must recognise and respect each other's differences. Once we look past the differences, we can focus on the consensus in the fight against crime,"* affirmed DAC Chua, who also stressed the need for forging trust, reciprocity and sharing common missions and principles amongst partners.

The SPF hosted the 27th ASEANAPOL Conference 10 years ago. We will host the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference this year, which is another milestone for the SPF that DAC Chua expressed with pride and gratitude for having been given the opportunity to oversee the event.

The annual ASEANAPOL conference is a testament to the firm commitment from ASEAN member countries to come together to share ideas, foster ties, anticipate challenges and develop strategies to combat crime within the Southeast Asia region. Through this platform, the SPF is able to learn and leverage on other LEA's experiences and technology to further enhance the operational capability of policing in Singapore.



In addition, DAC Chua revealed that the enhanced electronic ASEANAPOL Database System or e-ADS 2.0 will be launched at the conference this year. This system will have faster connectivity and increased scope to allow for sharing of best practices and crime trends.

Apart from platforms such as the ASEANAPOL conference, the ICD also regularly holds liaison meetings and visits, participates in capacity building and exchange programmes, as well as partake in Memorandum of Understanding to establish a formal working relationship with its foreign counterparts. On the social front, the ICD organises an annual Liaison Night to foster closer bonds and friendships with our foreign counterparts to form stronger bonds and ties through an informal platform. In addition, the SPF organises regular inter-forces games with other police forces to further strengthen the close working relationships through sports.

## Future of International Police Cooperation

International police cooperation will continue to evolve because of the dynamic nature of globalisation and the international criminal landscape. As a result, DAC Chua had observed that more LEAs now recognise the importance of adopting multilateral action in fighting transnational crime. LEAs also acknowledge the need to establish more international police cooperation platforms and programmes, which includes establishing official channels for information sharing, joint enforcement operations and sharing of policing strategies.

*"Taking precedence from this, international police cooperation in the near future can be geared towards a more holistic, multi-pronged approach, where increasingly more links are being drawn to connect the local with the global, to tackle emerging transnational crime threats,"* shared DAC Chua.

## Keeping the Passion Alive

Away from international cooperation matters, DAC Chua also shared his past experiences in the SPF, including stints in the Traffic Police and the Public Affairs Department, where he reminisces some of his most memorable postings in the Force.

Through his vivid personal stories, it is clear that DAC Chua is meant for a career in the Police Force, as he fondly recalls watching Hong Kong police dramas during his younger days as the turning points in his career choices. With over 26 years of experience in the Force, it is entirely possible for someone with that length of tenure to fall into the pits of complacency. But not for DAC Chua, who is still burning with the same passion that has carried him throughout his journey in the SPF.

As the interview came to a close, DAC Chua left a short but sweet parting message to inspire the next generation of officers. *"Love your job. In order to sustain the job that you do, keep the passion alive,"* DAC Chua said.



# Success is in the Details

By Muhd Falliq  
(Photographer: Hasif Mohd Ismail and Ridhwan Ismail)

**Police Life** met with the team behind this year's ASEANAPOL Conference, giving you the inside scoop of the preparations behind this landmark event.

## Planning for Success

If someone mentions that they are going overseas, it is most natural for many of us to assume they are going on a holiday. However, this was not the case for Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Royston Ho from the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) International Cooperation Department, who was one of the officers organising the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference.

ASP Ho was part of a dedicated team of officers from various units working together to ensure the success of the conference. This year, the SPF hosted the conference from 12 to 14 September at the Resorts World Sentosa Convention Centre. The ASEANAPOL Conference is an annual event that is hosted on a rotational basis among member countries, who come together to discuss various law enforcement and criminal matters within the region.

In order to plan a productive conference programme as well as to create an enjoyable experience for our foreign counterparts, ASP Ho had to work closely with the ASEANAPOL Secretariat to cover all the macro and micro details.

*"While emails are generally the current form of communication, it is not always the most effective channel for some countries. There are times when we are required to make overseas trips to discuss issues face-to-face and obtain specific information. Therefore, it is very important to understand their work culture and their customs so that we can overcome language differences, cultural diversity and work-style dissimilarities to ensure that ideas and opinions are clearly articulated and understood,"* shared ASP Ho.

Being part of the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference planning team, ASP Ho played a pivotal role in the early planning stage, from brainstorming for innovative ideas to organising and participating in countless discussions and meetings.



## Achieving the Balance

No event is complete without extensive security preparations. For this year's ASEANAPOL Conference, the responsibility of ensuring the safety of all the delegates falls upon the shoulders of Station Inspector (SI) Adeline Soo and her team from Clementi Division. SI Soo and her team were responsible for the security arrangements for various aspects, ranging from the accommodation of the delegates to the Gala Dinner. Being involved in the planning of the security deployment for this conference is one of the biggest challenges that SI Soo has faced in her career.

*"The pressure is definitely there! I have worked with other government agencies and private organisers on security planning and deployment before. However, this is the first time I am working on an event that involves so many of our foreign police counterparts. The SPF hosted the ASEANAPOL conference 10 years ago and it is of utmost importance we do a good job once more, and make the SPF proud,"* SI Soo emphasised.

Whilst security was of paramount importance, SI Soo and her team were also mindful of the need to strike a balance between the experience for our visitors vis-à-vis security. The changes that were made during the event proved quite a challenge. But by keeping themselves abreast of the changes as well as understanding their needs, SI Soo and her team were able to achieve that fine balance.

## Enhancing the Experience

Music sets the atmosphere of an event and none other than ASP Lau Lifeng from the SPF Band knew this better. Apart from the chaser music that she had arranged to enrich the ambience for key events at the conference, ASP Lau also felt honoured to compose a piece of music that everyone could identify it with the event. Titled 'ASEANAPOL Overture 2017', the tune is based on this year's theme song 'Voice of a Million', which was written by ASP Lau's colleagues.

Besides working behind the scenes, ASP Lau will also be the band conductor for both the opening and closing ceremonies. *"As a conductor, it is important to constantly rehearse to familiarise myself with the pieces and to hone my conducting skills,"* said ASP Lau. *"To ensure that the band serenade our guests with good music, I recorded the rehearsals so that the musicians can listen to their own playback and improve on the areas that may require more attention and practice. I have also tried recording my own performance so that I can review and improve on my conducting style,"* she elaborated.

When everyone works selflessly together as a team, there can only be success. The good work done by the SPF Band for the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference bore testimony to that.





# Forging Ties of Camaraderie

By Darwisyah Daud  
(Photos: International Cooperation Department)

As a regional platform for police cooperation, the chiefs of ASEAN National Police recognise the need to look within and beyond their domestic efforts to foster and enhance cooperation with regional as well as international partners. In addition to the annual ASEANAPOL Conference, member countries have been working closely with one another by actively participating in platforms which facilitate inter-agency learning, capacity building and joint operations. Below are some of these notable platforms that help to strengthen cooperation among member countries to keep the region safe.

## Koban Seminar

- Started in 1995 and conducted annually by the Singapore Police Force (SPF).
- Initially part of the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme to share accounts of the Japanese Koban System and Singapore's adaptation of the Neighbourhood Police Post System.
- Evolved to share with participants the current and emerging crime trends, as well as their implications on the community policing strategies in both Singapore and Japan.
- The 2016 Koban Seminar was conducted from 10 to 14 October 2016 and was attended by 18 countries, including all ASEAN member countries.



## ASEAN Workshop for International Economic Crime

- Started in 2013 and organised by the SPF's Commercial Affairs Department.
- As a platform for discussion on future action plan of ASEAN's cooperation in combating international economic crime, the 2nd ASEAN Workshop for International Economic Crime (IEC) was held from 14 to 16 November 2016. It built on the success of the first workshop and included topics such as international scams, credit card and payment systems fraud, and anti-money laundering matters.
- The 2nd ASEAN Workshop for IEC was attended by all the ASEAN member states as well as the Republic of Korea.



## Singapore-United States Third Country Training Programme Workshop on Cybercrime

- Started in 2015.
- The Singapore-United States Third Country Training Programme Workshop on Cybercrime was brought together by law enforcement representatives from all ASEAN member states to share their knowledge and exchange experiences, as well as being trained in cybercrime investigation, computer forensic techniques as well as legislation governing cybercrime by experts from the United States, Australia and Singapore. Besides helping to improve members' investigation and forensic capabilities, it also served to enhance competencies in the prosecution of cybercrime.
- Held from 3 to 6 May 2016 at the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI), the 2nd Singapore-United States Third Country Training Programme/INTERPOL Southeast Asian Workshop on Cybercrime had its scope expanded to include the participation of prosecutors, investigators, forensic examiners and policy makers as well as having a more hands-on method of instruction.
- The 2nd Singapore-United States Third Country Training Programme was attended by the Cybercrime Units, Prosecution Authority and Central Authority of Brunei, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## ASEAN Plus Three Cybercrime Workshop

- Started in 2016.
- Hosted in Singapore at the Interpol Global Complex for Innovation from 18 to 19 July 2016 by the SPF and the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL), the first ASEAN Plus Three Cybercrime Workshop was an initiative with the ASEAN Plus Three dialogue partners (China, Korea and Japan).
- Themed 'Combating Cybercrime Today! ASEAN and beyond, for a Safer Global Community', it encapsulated the need for ASEAN to work together in a coordinated approach to curtail the impact of cybercrime on ASEAN and beyond.
- INTERPOL, the SPF, and the ASEAN Plus Three dialogue partners shared best practices between countries and across regions, and forged effective operational links to tackle cybercrime.
- Attended by heads of cybercrime unit and cybercrime practitioners from the 10 ASEAN member states, and from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.



## ASEAN Police Forensic Science Network Meeting

- Started in 2017.
- The 1st ASEAN Police Forensic Science Network (APFSN) Meeting was held at the Royal Malaysia Police College, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15 to 17 February 2017, consisting of participants from police forensic units.
- Participants presented their country papers on criminal forensic, and exchange information and intelligence on all matters relating to Crime Scene Investigation (CSI), as well as shared and discussed new initiatives to improve networking in forensic science among all ASEAN Police Forces.
- The 1st APFSN Meeting was attended by representatives from all ASEANAPOL member countries, except the Myanmar Police Force.

## Trafficking-In-Persons (TIP) Workshop

- Started in 2013.
- The 1st Trafficking-In-Persons (TIP) Workshop was organised by the SPF's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from 8 - 10 Oct 2013 in Singapore. The workshop aims to enhance the capabilities of ASEAN member states in combating TIP, increasing the capabilities of investigators to leverage the use of internet and other tools when handling child exploitation cases, as well as providing insights on the use of latest technologies for evidence and information gathering through the use of platforms such as websites, chat rooms and peer-to-peer communication nodes. The workshop also enabled participants to share their views, lessons learnt and best practices in combating child exploitation crimes.
- Attended by officers from CID and various law enforcement agencies from all ASEAN member states, as well as three trainers from the Royal Canadian



Through these platforms, national police forces from various countries can learn from each other's best practices. These partnerships are not only a reflection of the warm relationships between our regional and international partners, but they also provide practical platforms for inter-agency sharing. In turn, this will help to ensure a safe and secure environment for the continued progress and prosperity of the ASEAN region and beyond.



# ASEANAPOL 2007: Working as One

By  
Reproduction from  
Police Life June 2007



*"We have stayed true to our objectives during the Conference, and witnessed the embodiment of the ASEANAPOL spirit throughout the various events held over the past few days. I am heartened that ASEANAPOL remains united, spirited and dedicated to progress as one regional policing partners, and this will help to ensure a safe and secure environment for the continued progress and prosperity of ASEAN,"* said Commissioner of Police (CP) Khoo Boon Hui.

**27th ASEANAPOL Conference Opening Ceremony**  
The 27th ASEANAPOL Conference commenced officially on 4 June 2007 at the Shangri-la Hotel with Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, Professor S Jayakumar as Guest-of-Honour. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Professor S Jayakumar observed that *"the ASEANAPOL community faces the twin threats of transnational crime and terrorism."*

After a decade, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) once again played host to the ASEAN National Police (ASEANAPOL) Conference in Singapore. Held from 2 to 7 June 2007, the 27th ASEANAPOL Conference saw the 10 ASEAN police chiefs, deputy chiefs and their delegates, as well as delegates from the other observer countries such as Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand convening at the Shangri-la Hotel to discuss on issues such as transnational crime and regional security.

## Special Guests at the Police Day Parade

The arrival of the ASEAN police chiefs and delegates coincided with the annual Police Day Parade, which was SPF's most important parade of the year. It was an honour for SPF officers to have the ASEAN police chiefs and delegates joining them at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on 3 June 2007, while they re-dedicated themselves to the service of the nation and the Force at the parade.

To mark this special occasion, the SPF Band and the various ASEAN police bands came together to present a combined musical extravaganza for the spectators at the end of the Parade.

The ASEAN police chiefs also had the opportunity to meet up with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the post-parade reception before their official welcome reception by Guest-of-Honour, Speaker of Parliament, Mr Abdullah Tarmugi at the Parliament House.

The Police Day Parade was indeed a fitting prelude to the start of the 27th ASEANAPOL Conference.

He said, *"The successful suppression of terrorist operation hinges on the timely exchange of intelligence and information, the accurate processing of this information, and coordinated operations between international police forces. The ASEANAPOL Conference provides this platform for the chiefs of police and other key law enforcement officers from all ASEAN countries to meet collectively to formulate operational strategies that will enhance regional cooperation in the security arena."*

As for transnational crime, he added that *"the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) have thus been introduced under the ambit of ASEAN to direct focused attention on our regional cooperation against transnational crime."*

Lastly, Professor S Jayakumar expressed confidence that *"the ASEANAPOL Conference will continue to play an instrumental role in ensuring the safety and security of the ASEAN region,"* with the increasing cooperation and close rapport within the ASEANAPOL community.

*"It was indeed a very spectacular performance. The lights display was very beautiful, and the SPF has a very masterful (parade) choreographer."*

– Police Senior Inspector Wing Sumarno of the Indonesian National Police

*"As it was my first time in attendance at an ASEANAPOL Conference, I have gained a better perspective on the working style of our fellow colleagues from across the region, as well as their operational practices within their own forces."*

– Police Director Albert Geary L Barias, Philippine National Police

*"This ASEANAPOL Conference would be my second visit to Singapore... I've made many new friends and acquaintances so far throughout the visit, especially with ASP Kelvin (liaison officer)."*

– Police Assistant Superintendent Dra Desy Andriane, Indonesian National Police

*"I hope that with this ASEANAPOL, we will continue to build closer ties, move forward, and work cohesively as a team."*

– Police Colonel Manote Tantratrian Royal Thai Police

*"...the ASEANAPOL Conference will continue to play an instrumental role in ensuring the safety and security of the ASEAN region."*

– Professor S Jayakumar  
Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law



# Their Note-able Contributions

By: Muhd Falliq  
(Photographer:  
Hasif Mohd Ismail)

*Police Life* caught up with the team behind this year's 37th ASEANAPOL Conference theme song, unravelling their inspirations and their commitment.

Unlike the mainstream audience who are catching up with the latest pop hits, Sergeant (Sgt) Nurhasyim bin Rostom has his own spin to his music playlist. For an extended period of time, he was tuning in to National Day songs such as 'Where I Belong' and 'We Are Singapore'.

As the composer for the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference theme song, listening to nationalistic music was one of his 'rituals' for cultivating creativity. *"Coincidentally, I was also travelling during that time and I draw inspirations from my trips, which are also helpful in generating ideas,"* recounted Sgt Nurhasyim as he shared about his 'creative-storming' process.

Sgt Nurhasyim was one of the three officers from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) Band behind the theme song for the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference 'Voice of a Million', which was performed at the opening ceremony on 13 September 2017. The theme song seeks to inspire and remind all of us that we are stronger when united.

*"As a regional event that involves various countries, there is a plethora of cultures that could be incorporated into the song,"* shared Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sulaiman Abdul Wahab, the music producer for this project.

*"I want the music to be unique and reflect the rich culture of the ASEAN countries. To achieve that, I experimented with the fusion of multi-ethnic genres and contemporary rhythmic influence,"* said DSP Sulaiman. On top of ensuring that there was a unique ASEAN flavour to the song, DSP Sulaiman also roped in his children to sing parts of the chorus to achieve a harmonic balance.

Apart from the challenge of blending different cultures into the song, there was the other challenge of writing the lyrics, which our very own lyricist Sgt National Service (NS) Lewis Loh, rose to it.

*"Behind every piece of music is a story. With this concept in mind, it helped me write lyrics that reflects the aims of ASEANAPOL,"* elaborated Sgt (NS) Loh.

The dedicated efforts of our three SPF Band members had produced a theme song that not only reflected and bound the common desire of all participants at this year's ASEANAPOL Conference for the continued security of the region, it also displayed SPF's commitment towards working together with ASEAN police forces to fight transnational crime.



*The theme song seeks to inspire and remind all of us that we are stronger when united.*

## Voice of a Million

Song by: Sgt Nurhasyim Bin Rostom  
Lyrics by: Sgt (NS) Lewis Loh

*If we all believe,  
And if we all achieve,  
Then our duty and our mission is done.  
United we stand,  
We are heroes hand in hand,  
Keep our countries safe, together we can.*

*When we all cooperate,  
We give our citizens faith,  
We will make sure that our actions will speak.  
Set our sights up high,  
'Cos when we do it right,  
We'll protect our countries, day and night.*

*We serve with respect,  
We are brave, we'll do our best.  
Our duty and our mission is done.  
They put their trust in us,  
And with our empathy,  
We will make sure that our actions will speak.*

*If we take this hand in hand,  
Then I believe that we can.  
We can achieve, achieve our dreams.*

*We have the voice of a million,  
Where we aspire to be the best.  
We have the strength of a million,  
And carry courage, and pride on our crest.*





# Balancing Art and Science

By Mok Wen Jie  
(Photographer:  
Ridhwan Ismail)

Terrorism and technology-related crimes plagued our world today. Such transnational crimes have led to increasing collaborations and professional knowledge exchanges between law enforcement agencies all over the world. However, before any collaborations and professional exchanges can exist, there must first be positive foundation relationships between the agencies. More than often, how such positive relationships are formed can be affected by how well we observe and practice the 'right' protocols when these agencies interact with each other through various platforms such as official professional exchange visits, meetings and events. In this issue of *Police Life*, we spoke to Inspector (Insp) Gerald Lee, Protocol Officer from the International Cooperation Department (ICD), to better understand the art and science behind the world of diplomacy and protocols.

## Definition of 'Protocol' and Importance of Effective Protocol Management

Protocol is commonly described as a set of international courtesy rules. It is because of these well-established and time-honoured rules which have made it easier for nations and people to live and work together. In addition, protocol has also become a necessary part of social relations, not only in the public and political fields, but also in the business and private spheres. Through efficient and effective protocol management, it will help to string together people and activities seamlessly and create a positive platform for fruitful knowledge sharing and collaborations.

## What Makes a Protocol Officer

With a wealth of experience in handling public and community relations, Insp Lee was prepared to embark on his new posting as a Protocol Officer when he joined the ICD back in 2009. But what he did not expect was the wealth of new skills, knowledge and experience that he would gain in protocol work and how his work contributed to the reputation of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and even Singapore.

*"There is no room for errors in the management of protocols when interacting with people from different countries and organisations. Cultural habits such as a simple hand shake can mean significant differences between two countries, which could even affect bilateral ties,"* emphasised Insp Lee.

As a Protocol Officer, Insp Lee is responsible for managing protocol matters related to official visits from both local and foreign public and private counterparts, government officials, politicians and dignitaries. The objectives of these visits usually revolve around professional knowledge exchanges on topics such as operational best practices, technology applications or even community policing. Apart from work-related topics, some of these visits can be social in nature, such as the yearly inter-forces games which are more geared towards networking and relationship building through sporting events.

Regardless of the type of visits, there are extensive preparations to be done prior to the event. From the planning process onwards, Insp Lee has to acutely understand the macro and micro details of the overall plan, its objectives and the people involved. By knowing all these details, Insp Lee will be able to identify the areas to plan for and apply the appropriate protocols, as well as to provide inputs to what the planning and implementation teams must pay attention to. During the event, Insp Lee will also need to be onsite to ensure that the protocols are carried through accurately but more importantly, to respond promptly to any deviations such as a sudden change in the programme or requests made by our guests that have not been planned for.

Protocol is both an art and also a science. The 'science' part comes from established practices, policies and guidelines. The 'art' part is where the skills of a protocol officer are tested. As the world evolves, protocol work is a continuous learning process. While the 'science' part helps in the planning and provision of the appropriate protocols, it does not necessarily mean that it will always work. Human beings are unique and there will be varied behavioural traits and preferences. This is where the 'art' part comes into play. Through past experiences as well as proactive research, a trained and an effective protocol officer will develop a highly acute sense of observation, the same kind of innate capability that a police officer must have; the ability to translate his observations into practical actions that best serve the needs of the guests, organisation and country in the most diplomatic way. *"Speed is also a critical capability of an effective protocol officer. There will always be situations where there are last minute changes and sometimes, these changes need to be addressed promptly as the speed of response is also a reflection of the efficiency and professionalism of an organisation,"* added Insp Lee.

## The Metaphor of a Protocol Officer

The swan's movement is an ideal metaphor for the work of protocol officers. The graceful movement of the swan on a lake presents a picture of calm and elegance in motion but what you do not see is the flurry of activity beneath the water's surface. We do not see the swan's webbed feet working hard at propelling the graceful motion that we admire.

*"Regardless of the long and irregular hours involved in protocol work, I have always felt a great sense of satisfaction when an event that we have planned is being executed smoothly,"* shared Insp Lee. In doing so, *"it establishes the SPF in the international domain as an organisation that has good decorum, etiquette and cross-cultural respect. These are paramount to SPF's drive in fostering strong relations with our foreign counterparts, which is important to our mission of safeguarding Singapore every day,"* Insp Lee shared in closing.

With protocol officers like Insp Lee working hard in the background to ensure that the SPF is always projected in the best light, SPF's hosting of the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference was indeed an incredible success.



# Leveraging Technology to Combat Crime and Terrorism

By Zachery Ryan Bala  
(Photo: International  
Cooperation Department)

Technology has changed the way we lead our lives. Despite the greater accessibility and convenience that it brings, technology has also made us more vulnerable and susceptible to criminals and terrorists who are increasingly sophisticated in their tactics.

## Powered by Innovation, Strengthened by Partnerships

To keep pace with the new age criminal tactics, it is important for law enforcers to continuously innovate and leverage technology to combat crime and terrorism. Against this backdrop, an enhanced electronic ASEANAPOL Database System 2.0 (e-ADS 2.0) was launched at the 37th ASEANAPOL Conference in Singapore.

## Significance of e-ADS

First launched in 2006 during the 26th ASEANAPOL Conference, the e-ADS is a web-based system which allows the collection, coordination, exchange and dissemination of operational intelligence and information amongst member countries.

One year after its official launch at the 27th ASEANAPOL Conference held in Singapore, ASEANAPOL signed an agreement to share the e-ADS database with law enforcement agencies worldwide through INTERPOL's secure global police communications system. This collaboration enhanced the database as it allows for searches made on e-ADS to run against INTERPOL's repository, expanding the access to a larger and wider pool of information, which has enhanced our crime-fighting capabilities.

## Pushing for Progress

11 years since its official launch, the 34th ASEANAPOL Database System Technical Committee (ADSTC) Meeting was held from 4 to 6 July 2017 in Singapore to discuss the development of e-ADS 2.0.

With speed and vastness of information being key to fighting crime in this day and age, it is necessary to re-evaluate and introduce new features to augment the existing system.

In his opening address, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Policy) Lim Kok Thai announced the completion of phase one of e-ADS 2.0 which included several new features such as a document repository, an announcements section and discussion forums. One of the key features is the ASEANAPOL e-Library where member countries can conveniently access literature and multimedia content shared by member countries with ease.

Prior to the meeting, the Singapore Police Force also conducted a training session for the delegates on the first phase of e-ADS 2.0, where they discussed the scope for phase two and additional new features.

Technology will continue to play a critical role in the future of policing. Through the use of e-ADS 2.0, member countries will be able to share and access information more seamlessly, which will certainly strengthen our capabilities and partnerships to fight transnational crime and terrorism.





## Hi, I am...

Superintendent Lim Han Woon, currently serving with Clementi Division as the Commanding Officer of Bukit Merah West Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC).

## An interesting part of my job...

It is having the opportunity to meet and interact with people from all walks of life. Within the jurisdiction of Bukit Merah West NPC, we oversee the security of residential areas, retail malls and nightlife entertainment venues. Although it is challenging having to deal with varied issues, it gives me a great sense of satisfaction when we are able to solve their problems and at the same time, we uphold the Singapore Police Force's mission of keeping the neighbourhood under our jurisdiction and its people safe and secure. Moreover, I also find it mentally stimulating to work with the various stakeholders on their security concerns and prepare them for contingencies.

## When I am not at work, I enjoy...

Cycling. Whenever time permits, I would seize the opportunity to cycle during the weekends, clocking an average of three hours per session. My favourite cycling destinations are the Merlion Park and Bay East @ Gardens by the Bay. In my opinion, cycling is not just a form of exercise. It is an activity that helps to tune up my alertness, which is essential for my day-to-day policing duties.

## When did you start playing the sport?

I started cycling when I was a teenager and only pursued the sport competitively when I was studying at Singapore Polytechnic. I was the captain of the cycling team as well as the president of the school's cycling interest group in 1993. Being young and foolhardy, I spent most of my school holidays cycling to Desaru and Kota Tinggi in Malaysia. I enjoy the cool breeze while cycling and love the feeling of being free, as well as being able to go wherever my bicycle takes me.

## I believe in...

The saying 'health is wealth'. I often remind myself that we must not take our health for granted. Good health brings benefits not only to your life but also your loved ones. Good health also ensures that we are always ready to perform our policing duties effectively.

