Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Deputy Commissioner
Federal Policing

Sous-commissaire
Police fédérale

July 18, 2018

Police Colonel Kenechanh Phommachack
Executive Director
ASEANAPOL
Level 13, Tower 2
Bank Rakyat Twin Tower
No 33, Jalan rakyat
50470 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

REF: Request for consideration for the accreditation of observer status of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to ASEANAPOL 2018

Dear Police Colonel Phommachack,

Greetings from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) – Federal Policing.

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated June 8, 2018 regarding the above subject. Thank you for your consideration of our application.

In this constantly evolving and interconnected world, ASEAN countries are increasingly vital partners for the RCMP. Our organization seeks to understand our partners' context and challenges by building stronger relationships and collaboration. With that improved understanding, we will be in a position to develop and refine operational plans. Currently, our key focus in the region is on information sharing, operational effectiveness and capacity building.

The RCMP maintains a strong presence in Southeast Asia through a variety of initiatives. For example, through its International Network of Liaison Officers and Analysts Deployed Overseas, the RCMP engages in bilateral partnerships with ASEAN countries to advance operational matters through close coordination and information-sharing. Our Regional Manager Liaison Officer in Bangkok, Thailand oversees the work of our International Network in the region and ensures that RCMP and partner needs continue to be met.

The RCMP also regularly delivers capacity building projects in the region and has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to deliver several new courses through the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. In 2018-2019, these will include 10-day Counter-Terrorism Surveillance Training, a 15-day Regional Counter-Terrorism Investigations Management Course, and a 10-day course on Countering Violent Extremism. Other training activities in Southeast Asia for the coming two years are currently in development.

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Finally, through its participation in INTERPOL, the RCMP supports a number of Government of Canada-funded activities in Southeast Asia. Some of these are outlined below:

Project Sunbird I (2014-2018) supports increased investigative resources, specialized forensic capabilities, and improved information-sharing among ASEAN-member law enforcement agencies.

The Chemical Anti-smuggling Enforcement to South East Asia (CHASE) Project (2015-2018) seeks to enhance the capacity of selected ASEAN member states (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand) to work both within and across their borders to target illegal movement of chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, and explosive precursor chemicals in Southeast Asia regions.

The INTERPOL (ASEAN-IRAQ) Bioterrorism Evidence Exploitation Workshop and Operation (2016-2018) supports activities that will enhance the capabilities of the Governments of Iraq and select countries in Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand) to better prepare for, detect and respond to BioTerrorism threats.

The Capacity Building Programme to Counter Migrant Smuggling in Southeast Asia and South Asia through strengthened integrated Border Management (2017-2019) aims to dismantle migrant smuggling syndicates in South and Southeast Asia through training and development, improving systems and processes, and providing facilities and equipment. The project also contributes to the overall security sector reform process in the region by enhancing international policing of transnational crime which is perpetuated by migrant smuggling.

The Inter-Regional Project on Countering Terrorism and Related Transnational Crime in South and Southeast Asia (2017-2020) aims to deliver technical assistance and training in investigative and analytical skills, capacity building of criminal justice systems and officials, promoting regional and international co-operation between states and assisting in the implementation of international obligations and standards in a holistic manner. A focus is placed on the interconnected thematic areas of terrorism and transnational crime as well as on practical training in underlying foundational skills.

Project Sunbird II (2017-2021) aims to strengthen regional counter-terrorism capacity by leveraging the skillsets of key police forces engaged in combatting terrorism and organized criminal activity in ASEAN member states. INTERPOL Project SUNBIRD II makes use of a multi-phased structure to deliver a sustainable training model for enhancing counter-terrorism efforts through different capacity building activities.

The INTERPOL Capacity Building Programme To Reinforce ASEAN Counter-Terrorism Capacity and Expertise (TRACE) (2017-2021) aims to enhance the capacity of the ASEAN member states to identify and track terrorists and violent extremists, including foreign fighters moving to and coming back from conflict areas, by providing dedicated

counter-terrorism and relevant units with the tools, knowledge and skills needed to collect, analyze, and share intelligence.
The project provides targeted training and specialized equipment in order to effectively develop the capability of investigators and intelligence officers to gather, exploit and analyze information online.

As you can see, the RCMP is committed to positively and proactively engaging with ASEAN and its strategic partners in the region, which I reiterate are integral to Canadian interests. By acting as an observer to the upcoming ASEANAPOL Conference in Brunei and engaging with ASEANAPOL members to exchange best practices and explore new ways to work together to advance operations, we hope to build upon the strong foundation of cooperation which we have already established with our ASEAN partners.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.
Thank you once again for your consideration and we look forward to working with you.

Best regards,

Gilles Michaud O.O.M.
Deputy Commissionner
Federal Policing