

THAILAND

The 31st Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Agenda 5 (morning session): Thematic Discussion on Strengthening the Use of Digital Evidence in Criminal Justice

*Delivered by Pol.Maj.Gen. Khemmarin Hassiri
Commander of Foreign Affairs Division
Royal Thai Police*

Mr. Chair,

With the inevitable wave of numerous electronic information and sources, Thailand has initiated many approaches to expedite the pace of law enforcement development to cope with the digital era. In Thailand, the role of digital evidence has dramatically increased with regard to investigations and prosecutions.

Thailand and UNODC have jointly underlined the significance of digital evidence, and its use to pursue criminals under the criminal justice framework. In this connection, understanding how to identify, extract, preserve and analyze such digital data could be accomplished through networking and sharing information throughout the criminal justice process. Corresponding mechanisms include strengthening forms of litigation, skill-building capacities for law enforcement officers and agglomerate implementations.

More significantly, cybercrime is borderless. Electronic devices, the Internet and applications have led to the rise in cases, including transnational organized crimes. Furthermore, we must not allow terrorists and violent-extremist groups to utilize cyber platforms to perpetrate and get away with their crimes.

In this context, the robust cooperation among states, through such channels of mutual legal assistance or INTERPOL operation projects, is crucial to ensure law enforcement agencies can obtain digital evidence from other jurisdictions. Thailand stands ready to provide full assistance and support at all levels of criminal justice procedure and coordination.

From Thailand's practical perspective, a prerequisite tool of digital evidence is the technical software of digital forensic science. This investigative tool is key to efficiently trace, collect and provide adequate digital evidence during legal proceedings to prove crimes have been committed unquestionably.

As more crimes occur, frontier officers are confronted with more perplexing digital challenges. Thai authorities are today better-equipped to tackle digital advancements, by adapting best practices from other countries and lessons-learned from self-enhancements. However, more capacity-building to increase knowledge, expertise and skills is always welcome and needed.

Thank you.