

## Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN)

Vienna, 22 October 2008

A Forerunner Group of representatives from six forensic science institutes in Southeast Asia met in Singapore last week to lay the basis for an Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN). The meeting was co-hosted by UNODC, Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and the Department of Chemistry, Malaysia (KIMIA Malaysia).

In his opening address, Dr. John Lim, CEO, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore, emphasized the benefits derived from a regional forensic network by enabling coordination and collaboration across Asian nations to advance forensic services to a higher level.

Among the significant groundwork carried out by the group was the elaboration and adoption of a working constitution and code of conduct. A six-member interim Board, presided by Dr. Paul Chui of HSA Singapore and Mr. Primulapathi Jaya of KIMIA Malaysia, has been appointed with the main responsibility of coordinating and advancing actions for the AFSN inaugural meeting to be held next year. It is anticipated that AFSN will cover members from Southeast and East Asian nations thus serving as a collective representation of forensic science expertise in that region.

The formation of AFSN will give a voice to the Asian region in the international forensic community alongside the *American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD)*, the *Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories (SMANZFL)*, the *European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)* and the *Iberoamerican Academy of Forensic Sciences (Academia Iberoamericana De Criminalistica Y Estudios Forenses, or AICEF)*.

Collectively, these associations contribute to the advancement of forensic sciences and the availability of sustainable and quality forensic science services in support of criminal justice systems worldwide.

Formation of and support to new associations is one of the priorities of the UNODC, through its Laboratory and Scientific Section.

