



Asia/Pacific Group  
on Money Laundering

**Title:** Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering Secretariat

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## Background

The APG Secretariat is the focal point for the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) which currently comprises twenty members<sup>1</sup>. There are also seven observer jurisdictions<sup>2</sup> and thirteen observer international and regional organisations<sup>3</sup>.

The purpose of the APG is to ensure the adoption, implementation and enforcement of internationally accepted anti-money laundering standards as set out in the 40 Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This includes the enactment of laws to deal with proceeds of crime, mutual legal assistance, confiscation and forfeiture and extradition as well the reporting and investigation of suspicious transactions and the establishment of financial intelligence units.

The responsibilities of the Secretariat include:

- Providing secretariat services to the APG;
- Providing expertise and material concerning money laundering to member jurisdictions and other interested parties;
- Organising and conducting the APG's annual and other meetings;
- Preparing, conducting and chairing specialist law enforcement typology workshops (methods, trends and case studies on money laundering);

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Fiji Islands, Hong Kong, China, Japan, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America, Vanuatu.

<sup>2</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cook Islands, Macau, China, Nepal, Union of Myanmar, Vietnam.

<sup>3</sup> Asean Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units of the World, Financial Action Task Force Secretariat, IDLI, International Monetary Fund, Interpol, Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors, South Pacific Forum Secretariat, United Nations Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention, World Bank, World Customs.



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- Reporting to and advising the APG Plenary meeting and Working Groups and the Financial Action Task Force of the OECD.
- Providing advice and information to and linkages between foreign agencies, (especially financial, legal and law enforcement agencies), on anti-money laundering matters;
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with relevant international and regional organisations in order to advance the APG's work and its regional strategy.
- Implementing the APG's technical assistance and training strategy including improvements to information exchange mechanisms and financial investigation skills.
- Preparing assessment mechanisms and conducting evaluations of the anti-money laundering systems in jurisdictions in the Asia/Pacific region.

The FATF began "awareness raising" in the Asia/Pacific region several years ago as part of its global strategy. In order to achieve more concrete results Australia agreed to set up a Secretariat with the aim of getting regional commitment and establishing a regional group with practical objectives.

As a result agreement was reached in Bangkok in 1997 for the establishment of the APG. The first annual meeting was held in Tokyo in 1998, the second in Manila 1999 and recently the third annual meeting was held in Sydney this year.

Substantial progress has been made including:

- Enactment of legislation in many countries in the region;
- Agreement by APG members to participate in mutual evaluations;
- Better understanding of and action against money laundering methods through the typologies workshops conducted in the last three years;
- Direct benefit to law enforcement by increased information exchange.

The APG's mission is to *provide a cooperative regional solution to the global problem of money laundering.*