

## **Winning Together the Crime Fight**

Closing remarks at 25th HONLEA Meeting  
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Mr Chairman,

I learned a few lessons during these days here.

When I started to learn English, my teacher insisted that I always read phrases and words backward to be sure that they are properly spelled and that every word mean what I want to say. So let me read the vision of these days backward. Win TOGETHER the Crime Fight ("Fight Crime Together and Win" was the title of the meeting).

Winning,  
is about leadership and vision,  
is about feeling that defeat is not acceptable to our peoples and to our Asian values,  
is about overcoming our many difficulties and weakness,  
is about courage to look beyond our fears, including the fear to change,  
is about engaging with overwhelming and smart force.

Together,  
is mainly about an attitude.  
The best image of a work done together is a family, the body language is hugging.  
Sometimes some members of the family will let you down.  
Some youth mistake, some old people mistake.  
Nevertheless we must feel united even when mistakes are made.

In a way HONLEA is the "United Nations of the rule of law" in Asia and Pacific.  
We call ourselves the law enforcement "community".  
The word community comes from latin: it is made of two words com and munio.  
The first part 'com' means "with" or "jointly" or together. The second part 'munio' means to provide, to supply, to exchange commodities, information, and human resources.  
The word ammunition is a good example of provision of essential support ("munio").  
So "together" is the most important character of this group working style and the area where we can make a difference.

The crime fight.

We have exchanged our views and the criminals' modus operandi "the way they do it" in order to make sure that we know very well the way to undo it.  
We have agreed that while we are the frontline, the success of the fight depends also on the policies behind it, the appropriate funding and the cooperative political attitude to international partnership.

Back home let us then be guided by our culture and experiences. A Chinese say advises that "I can defend myself from a gun in front of me. I cannot defend myself from an arrow which comes from the back". When we realise that we live now in a global village, we must understand the enormous importance of intelligence sharing if we wish to avoid it to become a global pillage.

Another good advise, from the Islamic Republic of Iran, is an old Persian say. "The fish just fished is always fresh".It means that it is never too late to do something right.

We are going to face an unprecedented challenge in Central Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific.The threats of global predators will make our job more and more difficult, but also more and more essential to make our communities safe and secure.

Human security in Asia Pacific is a changing concept but it always about defending human lives. While facing a diverse threat it is never too late to do something right.

Finally, Mr Chairman, thanks to yourself, your staff and the support of other administration of the Commonwealth of Australia, we spent a great week in Sydney. The arrangement made for our stay were memorable for many of us.

You can be sure that when back home many of us will feel and report that Australia and Australian colleagues are not "down under". Rather they are up and here in our heart.

It has been also an historical meeting of HONLEA for Asia and Pacific. We represent 55% of the world population. The five largest law enforcement agencies of the world are all our members. The United Nations Regional Centre in Bangkok is the oldest UN presence in the world fighting drugs. HONLEA was actually born there 25 years ago. A few of the oldest and therefore most experienced police forces in the world are also our members. But one of the youngest, the Australian Federal Police, has demonstrated that young age is also an asset.

Mr Chairman, 25 years of HONLEA have been celebrated very well in Sydney. We are all committed that after 25 years one enter a new more adult phase of our law enforcement cooperative strategies.

We look forward to another 25 years of effective, adult cooperation.

Thank you.