

IAP NEWS



IAP
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
PROSECUTORS

#95, January 2025



The 30th Annual
Conference and
General
Meeting of the
IAP

Singapore

07 - 10
September 2025

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Regional
Conference
Reports 2024

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Malta 2024



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THEME ARTICLES: THE PROSECUTION OF MONEY
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IAP CYBERCRIME SPECIALIST NETWORK

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to wish you all a very happy and fulfilling new year. I hope you were able to enjoy the festive season with friends and loved ones, rejoicing in the promise of new beginnings and possibilities.



Pondering on my expectations for 2025, I realize 2024 has, in many ways, set the bar quite high. Our main event of the year, the Annual Conference and General Meeting that took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, was a great success. On top of an impeccable organisation and the quality and depth of the presentations and exchanges among colleagues, the city was incredibly welcoming and our hosts truly worked their magic.

We had two other important events in 2024: the Regional Conferences in Malta and Hong Kong. Both conferences were very well attended, once again proving the importance of these encounters to promote enriching discussions between colleagues and specialists, exchange of experiences and, of course, networking opportunities. I highly recommend that you keep track of this year's event calendar.

The IAP has also been very active in 2024 in expanding its training activities, with very satisfying results. During 2024, thanks to the efforts of our General Counsel and with the collaboration of our strategic partners, the IAP has offered almost 20 webinars on many different areas of interest, covering topics such as the prosecution of transnational drug trafficking, the evidentiary use of intelligence material, the investigation of radiological and nuclear crimes, racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism (REMVE), and how to investigate wildlife crimes as transnational organized crimes, among many others. The IAP will continue working to offer many training experiences in 2025, so make sure to check the website regularly so you don't miss any of them.

Now, I'm looking forward to what 2025 has in store with great excitement. 2024 has certainly paved the way for that, and this year finds us more enthusiastic and committed than ever to keep leading the world's conversation on prosecutorial standards.

As you may know, our Executive Committee meets twice a year: once during the northern spring, and once on the days before the Annual Conference in September. So, on a more personal note, I am very honoured that the Executive Committee has entrusted the organisational member I lead, the Public Prosecution Service of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (MPF CABA), to host the 2025 Northern Spring Meeting next April.

Which brings me back to this year's Annual Conference and General Meeting that will take place in Singapore from 7-10 September. The theme of the conference is "The versatile prosecutor and the administration of criminal justice", and it will explore topics and tools aimed at facilitating our work with the flexibility required to face the difficulties the current context presents and to test responses for the challenges ahead in the near future. I invite you all to mark your calendars for what promises to be an unforgettable event and I myself can't wait to attend and meet you there.

I wish you all the best for the coming months, and may 2025 find us all moving forward towards our goals and dreams.

Warm regards,



Juan Bautista Mahiques

IAP President

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EDITORIAL

Digitalisation – Tomorrow starts today

Last November at the very successful 11th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference in Hong Kong we had a very interesting session on the digital transformation of the court and the prosecution office. Digital systems in our personal and professional lives are evolving at a rapid pace. From easy-to-use mobile apps to AI-assisted business software, these tools

have tremendous potential to improve the quality of our work. However, a paradox emerges: while new systems are being developed that are becoming more and more complicated and also offer more and more possibilities, many of us fail to make the most of the systems we already have.

We often prioritize bringing in and experimenting with the latest technologies over fully mastering the existing systems. We should not underestimate the effect of this: not using functions, less efficient work processes and not delivering the quality that is possible based on the current system. For example, studies have shown that office workers often use less than half of the features in the most commonly used software, not because they are irrelevant, but because users are unaware of their existence or unsure how to apply them effectively.

Training to work with our current systems is not only a catch-up but also a strategic necessity. Of course, with training, you learn to make better use of the existing possibilities and will therefore improve the efficiency and quality of the work, but above all, you lay a foundation to implement the new techniques of tomorrow better. After all, new techniques are often a continuation of existing technology. If you are not able to use the existing system optimally, it will also be more difficult to keep up with future developments.

It, therefore, pays to invest not only in new innovative techniques but also in training programs to ensure that everyone is able to use the existing systems optimally. By prioritizing training today, we ensure that we are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

Roel Dona

IAP Secretary-General



THEME ARTICLES: THE PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENCES

THE PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENCES: THE SINGAPOREAN EXPERIENCE

*By Ivan Chua Boon Chwee, Deputy Chief Prosecutor,
and Magdalene Huang, Deputy Public Prosecutor,
Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore*



This article considers two measures that have been implemented in Singapore to tackle the increase in cyber-enabled fraud and transnational money laundering, namely legislative amendments and robust prosecutions.

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MONACO PROSECUTORS RESOLUTELY COMMITTED AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

*By Samuel Vuelta Simon, Secretary of State for Justice,
Chairman of the Council of State, Directorate of Judicial
Services of the Principality of Monaco*

This article outlines the steps that are being taken in Monaco to tackle money laundering, including legislative reform, enhanced training and the creation of a specialised unit relating to economic, financial and anti-corruption matters.



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THE LEGAL DILEMMA OF “TAX CRIMES AS THE MAIN ACT FOR LAUNDERING CRIMINAL PROCEEDS” AND THE LATEST CASE LAW OF THE ALBANIAN SUPREME COURT

By Ylli Pjeternikaj, Prosecution Office at First Instance Court of Tirana, Republic of Albania

The article analyses recent developments in the Albanian Supreme Court regarding whether tax crimes can be used as the main predicate offence for laundering the proceeds of crime.



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MONEY LAUNDERING IN ARMENIA: HOW MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES BROUGHT TO A CHANGE OF JUDICIAL PRECEDENT

By Anna Vardapetyan, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia

This article examines the changes in prosecution practices in Armenia that have been introduced to tackle the growing number of money laundering cases, and will consider the impact of those changes on the detection and examination of money laundering crimes.

CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING - INDIRECT EVIDENCE-BASED

By Marcelo Batlouni Mendroni, São Paulo State Criminal Prosecutor/Brazil - Court of Appeal; Ministério Público do Estado de São Paulo

This article underscores the importance of indirect / circumstantial evidence in the investigation and prosecution of corruption and money laundering offences, and how such evidence can be effectively used.



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THE PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENCES

By Ahmad Reshad Sayeedi, Prosecutor, Attorney General's Office of Afghanistan

This article provides an overview of the challenges encountered in prosecuting money laundering, and outlines how money laundering offences can be combatted through enhanced international cooperation, the use of technology and effective regulatory frameworks.

PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENCES IN BULGARIA

By Biserca Stoyanova, Investigative Magistrate, National Investigation Service, National Member for Bulgaria at Eurojust

This article examines developments in the case law, legislative framework and procedures regarding the prosecution of money laundering offences in Bulgaria, and the approach taken to establishing a predicate offence.



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THE PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENCES: A DETAILED OVERVIEW

By Bashir Ahmad Khatir, Prosecutor, Attorney General's Office of Afghanistan

This article considers the challenges in prosecuting money laundering offences and identifies strategies that can be adopted to enhance prosecution.

COMBATTING ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS IN THE NETHERLANDS: NAVIGATING CHALLENGES IN CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

by T.R.van Roomen LLM, Senior Public Prosecutor, and N.Boere MSc, LLB, Senior Policy Advisor, Dutch National Public Prosecutors' Office for serious fraud, environmental crime and illicit financial flows

This article analyses the legal framework relating to money laundering offences in the Netherlands, and examines specific trends in money laundering investigations.

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SPECIAL ARTICLE: INTEGRAL SECURITY POLICY OF THE MINISTERIO PÚBLICO DE CHILE

Ensuring the security of prosecutorial entities is a cornerstone of preserving the rule of law and protecting the members and officials of the Ministerio Público de Chile. Between 2020 and 2023, the escalating number of direct threats against public prosecutors underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to mitigate these risks. In response, National Prosecutor Ángel Valencia Vásquez spearheaded the creation of the Integral Security Policy for the Public Prosecutor's Office. This policy outlines a clear framework to safeguard institutional members, resulting in the establishment of the Security Unit on April 12, 2024.



This unit, with a nationwide mandate, began by conducting a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation to develop a robust security management system. Its efforts focus on two key areas: ensuring the safety of individuals and protecting infrastructure. Achieving these objectives involves enhancing operational processes, integrating advanced technological tools, training specialized personnel, and coordinating resources efficiently.

The Role of the Security Unit

The Security Unit adopts a proactive and dynamic approach to managing risks, emphasizing prevention as a central strategy. It prioritizes the protection of prosecutors and institutional staff, especially those who have faced threats in their professional roles. Additionally, it works to secure facilities by creating safe environments conducive to professional activities.

This approach integrates technological solutions, tailored protocols, and close collaboration with law enforcement and public security agencies. Such coordination ensures that protective measures are both comprehensive and adaptable to the evolving nature of security challenges.

An Interdisciplinary and Transnational Perspective

The Integral Security Policy embraces a multidisciplinary outlook and emphasizes international cooperation. This perspective is exemplified through partnerships with initiatives such as the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (AIAMP), which fosters collaboration and solidarity to address issues like organized crime and the protection of victims and witnesses. Similarly, engagement with the Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance Against Transnational Organised Crime (EL PAcCTO), an EU-funded initiative, strengthens efforts to combat transnational organized crime and enhance security and justice across Latin America.

Strategic and Collaborative Action

The Security Unit's strategy involves thorough threat analysis and risk assessment to develop tailored responses. By strengthening coordination mechanisms both within the institution and across agencies, the unit ensures that security measures are holistic and context-sensitive. A focus on proactive management enables the anticipation and prevention of emerging threats, while resource optimization ensures the effective allocation of institutional capabilities.

This policy promotes shared responsibility among stakeholders, fostering a culture of active participation and commitment. By reinforcing institutional resilience, the Public Prosecutor's Office aims to establish a secure and efficient environment capable of adapting to both current and future challenges.

By Emilio Rodríguez
Head of Security Detail
Fiscalía de Chile

SPECIAL ARTICLE: INTERVENTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWER IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY IN BULGARIA - VICIOUS PRACTICES

The fundamental separation of powers principle, which is the cornerstone of any democratic system, is regulated in Art. 8 of the Constitution of Republic of Bulgaria, according to which: "The power of the State shall be divided between legislative, executive and judicial branches".

In accordance with the provisions of the Bulgarian Constitution (Art. 130, para 1-3 and Art 130a, para 3-4) and the Judicial System Act (Chapter II, Section I and Ia) the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) shall be composed of 25 members, 11 of which (6 judges, 4 prosecutors and 1 investigating magistrate) are determined by the vote of the General Assemblies of judges, prosecutors and investigating magistrates, who directly elect their representatives by means of rules determined by the Plenum of SJC.



Mentioned rules settle the chronology and manner of conducting the elections (submission of proposals, verification of admissibility, formation of election commissions, hearing of candidates, participation of observers, conduct of the election itself, announcement of its results, etc.). The General assemblies for the election of members of the SJC from the professional quota must be convened no earlier than eight months and no later than six months before the expiration of the mandate of the relevant Supreme Judicial Council [1]. Bulgarian magistrates, strictly fulfilling their constitutional and legal obligations, within the statutory period (4th of June - 9th of July 2022) held a direct election for their 11 representatives in the future Ninth panel of the SJC. The selection of the six members of the judges' quota and the member of the investigators' quota was challenged before the court. Pursuant to court decisions [2] five-member mixed panels of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court confirmed the election. The selection of the four members of the prosecutors' quota was not challenged before the court.

The National Assembly (NA) was obliged to elect 11 members of the SJC (6 for the Judicial Chamber and five for the Prosecutorial Chamber) no later than one month before the expiration of the mandate of the eighth panel of the SJC (namely no later than September 3, 2022), and the nominations for candidates had to be made two months earlier (i.e. until July 3, 2022). As of July 3, 2022, the 47th Ordinary National Assembly was active.

[1] After the expiry of the SJC's mandate on 4 October 2022 its composition was not renewed until today

[2] Cases No. 18/2022 and 20/2022

However, the members of the NA did not fulfil its obligation to start the procedure for electing members of the SJC from the parliamentary quota. The following four National Assemblies - the 48th (19.10.2022 – 02.02.2023), the 49th (12.04.2023 - 18.06.2024), the 50th (19.06.2024 – 11.11.2024) and the current 51st did not fulfil this obligation (even with a serious delay). Thus, the legislature deliberately abdicated its constitutional obligation to fill the composition of the supreme administrative body of the judiciary, thereby putting its legal functioning at serious risk. For the first time after the adoption of the new Bulgarian Constitution in 1991 there is such a crisis situation, where the members of the SJC are not elected from the parliamentary quota, which leads to many practical problems regarding the work of this institution, as well as serious doubts about the legitimacy of the decisions taken by it [3].

Unfortunately, this is not the end of the story - apart from failing to fulfil its obligation to elect members of the SJC from its quota, the Bulgarian Parliament practically cancelled the election of the members from the professional quota. By amending the transitional and final provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, which regulates the procedure for conducting criminal proceedings, therefore is absolutely distinct from the Judicial System Act (where the status and method of selection of members of the SJC is regulated) [4], the legislative body practically usurped the functions of the judicial power and appeared as some kind of extraordinary judicial instance, which allows itself not only to disregard, but to cancel stable judicial acts. **In the European Commission's Rule of Law Report 2023 the cancellation of the election of the judicial quota in the SJC by the National Assembly was assessed as negative in terms of infringing the independence of the judiciary from the legislature [5].** The paradox is that the violator of the law, misusing its power, punishes the magistrates who have strictly, lawfully and on time fulfilled their obligation to fill their quota in the supreme administrative body of the judiciary, **thus hindering the normal functioning of the SJC and the judiciary as a whole.**

By Teodora Todorova,
Prosecutor, Sofia Regional Prosecutor's Office
and member of the Association of Prosecutors, Bulgaria

[3] A similar situation with non-election of members of the Judicial Council by the Parliament occurred in 2018 and 2019 and in the Kingdom of Spain. It has been subject to consideration by the European Court of Human Rights. The ECtHR case ended on June 22, 2023 with a decision, by virtue of which the Kingdom of Spain was convicted of a violation of Art. 6 § 1 of the ECHR for not considering the applications in a timely manner and not choosing members of the Judicial Council of the Kingdom - the institution, which is responsible for the administration of the judicial power in the country ("Lorenzo Bragado and others against Spain" case).

[4] According to § 41, par. 1 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code, adopted on 26 May 2023, within three months from the entry into force of this law, the NA and the bodies of the judiciary shall initiate a procedure for new election of members of the SJC.

[5] "It should be recalled that if such a termination through the law of a mandate is not supported by safeguards, such as judicial review, then there could be repercussions as regards the judicial independence of the members of the SJC as well as the independence of the judiciary as a whole, since the SJC's main function is to preserve judicial independence".

THE 58TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE IAP, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, SEPTEMBER 2024

The 58th Executive Committee Meeting of the IAP took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 28 September 2024. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Kamran Aliyev, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Amongst other issues, the Executive Committee considered and discussed the following matters:

- Formal adoption of the minutes of the 57th Executive Committee Meeting, held in Macao SAR of the PRC in April 2024
- Elections for vacancies on IAP committees and sub-committees
- Observer status for the African Prosecutors Association
- Amendment to the Senate Rules of Procedure
- Change of format to the IAP Award Ceremonies
- Report on the activities of the IAP Secretariat
- Report on complaints and pending cases
- IAP Granting Programme
- Network expansion and membership
- Staff succession planning
- Development and implementation of the new website and online membership system
- Professional Working Programme of the IAP
- Current and future potential partner projects
- Update on the Prosecutors Exchange Programme
- Review of the IAP Protocols
- IAP finances
- Recognition of prosecutors who have died in the line of duty
- Regional Offices update
- Forthcoming annual and regional conferences
- Future Executive Committee meeting locations

The IAP would like to thank the Prosecutor General and the Local Organising Committee for their hospitality and cooperation, and for all of the hard work that was put into ensuring that the Executive Committee meeting was both successful and productive.

The 59th Executive Committee Meeting of the IAP will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in April 2025.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM THE IAP MEMBERSHIP

The Executive Committee will hold its 59th meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between 07-09 April 2025. One of the items on the agenda is the nomination of candidates for the Executive Committee for election at the next IAP General Meeting, which will be hosted on 09 September 2025 in Singapore.

With the aim of further involving the IAP members in this important process, the Executive Committee is inviting members to nominate candidates for ordinary membership of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is the managing and administrative body responsible for providing leadership and direction to the Association and governing the affairs of the Association on behalf of the members. The powers and duties of the Executive Committee members are set out in Article 8.2 of the IAP Constitution.

The Constitution requires that the membership of the Executive Committee shall reflect, as far as is reasonably possible, the regions of the world in which the Association has members. This year there are five Vice-President vacancies and five vacancies for Ordinary Members.

On behalf of the IAP Executive Committee, the Secretary-General invites organisational and individual members to nominate suitable candidates for the Executive Committee to be considered during the Northern Spring Meeting of the Committee in April 2025.

Nominations must be made in writing to the Vice-President of the region where the candidate is located and copied to the IAP Secretary-General and Executive Director (sg@iap-association.org; ed@iap-association.org). Before proceeding, candidates are encouraged to consult with their Vice-President about potential applications. The nomination should explain how the candidate meets the criteria outlined in the Executive Committee Protocol in no more than 500 words.

Contact details of IAP Vice-Presidents

Kamran Aliyev (Eastern Europe and Central Asia), Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan, N. Rafibeyli 7, 1001 Baku, Azerbaijan. Email: ksskaliyev10@yahoo.com

Lloyd Babb (Asia and Pacific), Director of Public Prosecutions, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, Level 6, Old Admiralty Tower, 68 The Esplanade, GPO Box 3321, Darwin Northern Territory 0800, Australia. Email: lloyd.babb@nt.gov.au.

Shamila Batohi (Africa and Indian Ocean), National Director of Public Prosecutions, National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa, Private Bag X752, 0001 Pretoria, South Africa. Email: sbatohi@npa.gov.za.

Manuel Pinheiro Freitas (Latin America), Director General of the Superior Law School of the Public Prosecution, Brazil. Email: mpfreitas1@gmail.com.

Giorgi Gogadze (Eastern Europe and Central Asia), Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Office of the Chief Prosecutor, 24 Gorgasali Str. 0114 Tbilisi Georgia. Email: ggogadze@pog.gov.ge

Michael Leitner (Europe), Deputy Procurator General, Procurator General's Office, Schmerlingplatz 11, 1010 Vienna, Austria. Email: michael.leitner@justiz.gv.at

Nayef Mahmood (Middle East and Northern Africa), Senior Advocate General, Public Prosecutions, P.O. Box 207, Bahrain. Email: n.mahmood@ppb.gov.bh

Kathleen Roussel (North America and the Caribbean), Former Director of Public Prosecutions and Deputy Attorney General, Ottawa, Canada. Email: Kathleen.Roussel@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Tong Jianming (Asia and Pacific), First Deputy Prosecutor General, Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China, 147 Beiheyuan Street, Dongcheng District 100726, Beijing, China. Email: caohua1974@hotmail.com.

According to Article 8.6 of the IAP Constitution, any candidate nominated by the membership will be presented to the Executive Committee. The deadline for submitting candidates to the Vice-Presidents is **Friday 14 March 2025**.

This Call for Nominations does not preclude organisations and individuals from nominating candidates later this year in accordance with Article 8.6A of the Constitution.

Please be aware that every member of the Executive Committee is expected to make a valid and substantial contribution to the Association's work and should be able to devote sufficient time, interest, and commitment to fulfilling their role to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. As a result, the Secretary-General strongly advises prospective committee members to carefully consider their motivations and availability before submitting a nomination.

While all candidates will be considered, the Executive Committee will give preference to nominations supported by other Association members.

For more information, please contact Janne Holst Hübner, Executive Director of the IAP (ed@iap-association.org).

The IAP General Counsel visited Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in July 2024, where she had the honour of participating in the 3rd Meeting of the Council of General Prosecutors of the Organization of Turkic States. During the meeting, the General Counsel delivered a presentation on the importance of strengthening cooperation between prosecutorial authorities as an effective response to contemporary global challenges. She also had the opportunity to meet with the Prosecutor General of Kyrgyzstan to discuss ongoing engagement between his office and the IAP.

THE IAP GENERAL COUNSEL PARTICIPATED IN THE 3RD MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF GENERAL PROSECUTORS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES

THE IAP GENERAL COUNSEL PARTICIPATED IN THE 12TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME



By virtue of the IAP's ECOSOC consultative status, the IAP were invited to participate in the 12th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, held at the Vienna International Centre, Austria, from 14-18 October 2024.

The conference brought together over 1,400 participants, including more than 770 government representatives from 131 State Parties and over 500 representatives from 212 civil society organisations. Sessions at the Conference included a review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols on the Trafficking in Persons, the Smuggling of Migrants, and the Manufacture and Trafficking in Firearms. Two substantive resolutions were adopted on firearms and crimes that affect the environment.

As well as participating in a side-event examining some of the challenges to the operational workings of the UNTOC from a prosecutorial perspective and an assessment of potential solutions, the General Counsel also participated in multiple meetings with stakeholders including Wildlife Justice Commission and the UNODC, as well as delivered an intervention in the session on international cooperation.

VISIT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE IAP SECRETARIAT



On 28 October 2024, the IAP Secretariat were delighted to welcome H.E. Dr Mutlaq bin Majid Al Qahtani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to our office in the Hague. During the meeting, an overview of the objectives and activities of the IAP was provided to the Ambassador, and there was a very productive discussion about enhanced engagement between the IAP and the Public Prosecutions of the State of Qatar going forward.

On 05 November 2024, the IAP General Counsel participated remotely in a table-top exercise that was being delivered for judges, investigators and prosecutors in Moldova on 'Strengthening the CBRN investigation, prosecution and adjudication capabilities of Moldova'. Her participation build on the IAP's previous engagement with UNICRI in the development of two guides for

prosecutors on the investigation and prosecution of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear crimes, which are available in multiple languages on the IAP website. The General Counsel delivered two presentations for delegates on international cooperation, and on human rights considerations in prosecuting CBRN cases. As part of those presentations, she highlighted the importance of the principles established in the IAP Standards of Professional Responsibility and Statement of the Essential Duties and Rights of Prosecutors.

THE IAP GENERAL COUNSEL PARTICIPATED IN A UNICRI TABLE-TOP EXERCISE ON THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CBRN CRIMES

THE 3RD IAP ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The 3rd IAP Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop took place in Seoul, South Korea, from 03-05 December 2024. The workshop was hosted by the Supreme Prosecutors' Office of the Republic of Korea, and took place at the Institute of Justice Centre in Yongin and at the Supreme Prosecutors' Office in Seoul. The objectives of the workshop were to enable prosecutors to (i) exchange best practices and practical experiences in the investigation and prosecution of offences (ii) develop a knowledge and understanding of specific themes and crime typologies and (iii) build and foster networks among operational prosecutors in the region. The workshop was attended by prosecutors from fifteen countries - Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Turkiye, and Vietnam. Each prosecutor delivered a comprehensive and practical presentation on one of five topics - drug crime, cybercrime, international cooperation, cryptocurrency, and scam crimes - and there was then the opportunity for the delegates to discuss best practices, ask questions, and share ideas. There was an open discussion about the investigative powers of prosecutors in various jurisdictions, and the General Counsel also delivered a presentation on the IAP Standards and the IAP Professional Programme. Delegates also enjoyed a tour of the Supreme Prosecutors' Office and of the Hyundai Motor Studios.

The workshop was an extremely successful event, giving delegates a wonderful opportunity to share their experiences and expertise, and to develop professional relationships with colleagues from around the region. The IAP would like to extend their sincere thanks to the Supreme Prosecutors' Office - and particularly to Mr Jinho Kim, Mr Sangkyoo Im and Ms Hyeonjeong Bang - for their hospitality and for all the hard work, professionalism, planning and organisation that went into the delivery of this very productive and enjoyable event.



18TH EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE MALTA



The 18th IAP Regional Conference for the Europe Region, hosted by the Attorney General's Office of Malta, took place from 06 - 08 November 2024 in St Julian's, Malta.

The conference theme was 'Emerging Crime Trends in Europe', with plenary sessions on hate crime, terrorism, and financial crime. There was also a special session organised by UNESCO on the challenges and lessons learned in investigating and prosecuting crimes against journalists. In addition, the IAP delivered a training session for local prosecutors on trauma-informed advocacy, practical considerations when dealing with victims and witnesses, and ethical considerations in prosecuting financial crimes.

The conference brought together 65 participants from 22 different countries and 4 international organisations, enabling delegates to share their perspectives, expertise and best practice on critical topics that impact on the security of each of our jurisdictions.

The IAP would like to extend our thanks to all delegates for their active participation in the conference. We would also like to reiterate our thanks to the Attorney-General of Malta and to the Local Organising Committee, headed by Mario Spiteri, whose hard work, dedication, hospitality and professionalism ensured that we all benefitted from both the social and the professional programme and from our time together on the beautiful island of Malta.



11TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION HONG KONG



The 11th IAP Regional Conference for the Asia and Pacific Region, hosted by the Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, took place in Hong Kong from 27 - 29 November 2024.

The conference theme was 'Effective Prosecution Service in the Technological Age', with plenary sessions on law reform to combat technology crime, the challenges of decentralisation, the obtaining and handling of digital evidence in the prosecution of cyber offences, and digital transformation of the courts and prosecution offices. There was also a special plenary session on strengthening international cooperation through mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. In addition, the IAP delivered a training session for local prosecutors on empowering prosecutors to support vulnerable witnesses.

The conference brought together 135 participants from 228 different countries and 4 international organisations, enabling delegates to share their experience and expertise, to learn from each other, and to foster professional networks.

The IAP would like to extend our thanks to all delegates for their active participation in the conference. We would also like to reiterate our thanks to the DPP, to the Department of Justice and to the Local Organising Committee, for their professionalism, hard work, good humour and hospitality which led to the delivery of such a successful and enjoyable event in the vibrant city of Hong Kong.





The 30th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the IAP will take place in Singapore from 07 - 10 September 2025. It will be hosted by the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore, in conjunction with the IAP.

The overall theme for the conference will be "The Versatile Prosecutor", looking at the specialist expertise and cross-cutting capabilities that prosecutors need to cultivate in response to the constantly evolving criminal justice landscape. In addition, plenary sessions and workshops will explore the use of new technology in the commission and prosecution of crimes, legal education and training, mental wellness and resilience, international cooperation and asset tracing/seizing. There will also be a series of Specialist Network Sessions and Special Interest Sessions on a diverse range of topics.

"I am pleased to welcome IAP members to Singapore for the 30th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the IAP from 7 - 10 September 2025.

The criminal justice landscape today is constantly evolving and prosecuting authorities around the world will need to adapt and build new capabilities to stay relevant. For this reason, we have chosen the Conference theme "The Versatile Prosecutor". My officers look forward to hosting all of you in Singapore and they are working hard to ensure that you will have a memorable and enjoyable experience at the Conference in Singapore."

Mr Lucien Wong
Attorney-General
Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

The website for the Annual Conference in Singapore will be launched in the first quarter of 2025.



Call for IAP Awards

The IAP Executive Committee will consider new recipients for IAP Awards and Honorary Memberships during its 59th Executive Committee Meeting, scheduled for 07-09 April 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Any member of the IAP may make recommendations for the granting of an IAP award or decoration pursuant to the IAP Awards and Decorations Policy and for the granting of Honorary Membership pursuant to the Honorary Membership Policy. Both policies can be found on the IAP website.

Recommendations should be addressed to the Secretary-General via pcm@iap-association.org by **01 March 2025**, with a brief written statement in support of the nomination, explaining how the nomination meets the criteria established in the IAP policies.

Call for IAP Granting Programme

The Granting Programme supports suitably experienced representatives of prosecution services and associations of prosecutors from low-and middle-income countries to attend the IAP Annual Conference.

Applications are now open for the IAP Granting Programme 2025 to support attendance at the 30th Annual Conference in Singapore from 07-10 September 2025. Attendance at an Annual Conference enables prosecutors to share their experiences, expertise and best practice, and to network with fellow prosecutors from around the world.

The criteria for applications is set out in the IAP Granting Programme Policy, available on the IAP website.

If you are interested in applying for the IAP Granting Programme 2025, please send your CV and a letter in support of your application, outlining your motivation to apply for a grant and explaining the benefits for the IAP and your own prosecution service or association of your attendance at the conference to pcm@iap-association.org. Please also include proof of the support/approval of the relevant organisational member. All applications must be submitted by **11 April 2025**.

Please note that we normally receive more applications than we can support financially each year. If you have any questions about the Granting Programme or your eligibility for it, then please contact the Executive Administration Manager at pcm@iap-association.org.



A Message from The Cybercrime Network

Prosecuting cybercrime cases comes with many challenges and opportunities as we all know. In a world of rapidly developing technology where perpetrators use numerous jurisdictions in order to make victims all over the world, we need to up our game.



NETHERLANDS
PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE

However, let us not forget what we, as public prosecutors, have already achieved by working together and how we have improved over the last 15 years. At that time we regularly sent out letters of request to various countries, without much of a result. Five years later we witnessed a huge improvement, when almost 20 countries around the globe cooperated in a global action (Operation Blackshades) against a malware that infected half a million computers worldwide and made it possible to access computers, take over webcams, conduct ransomware campaigns and so on. From Chile to Finland, police and judicial authorities worked together, successfully acquiring evidence and arresting suspects worldwide.

In the years that followed even more countries cooperated and – next to that – involved not only law enforcement and judicial authorities but also the private sector and academia in the fight against cybercrime. If we dive into the cybercrime investigations we conduct nowadays, it is immediately apparent that they consist of a comprehensive, more holistic approach than they did 15 years ago. Not only do we aim to arrest and prosecute perpetrators - at the same time we disrupt their infrastructure, notify victims, prevent other perpetrators from committing future crimes and so on. A good example of such an approach is Operation Endgame and I would truly recommend that everybody interested in fighting cybercrime attends the IAP Webinar that will be held on the 20th February 2025 with the title "Operation Endgame: A comprehensive approach in the fight against cybercrime".

What will the future bring? For sure new threats, powered by AI or quantum computers. But I am confident we can fight them when working together. By actively cooperating worldwide in a comprehensive way, by exchanging operational knowledge and best practices, facilitated by a global cybercrime network. People say I am a dreamer. But I am not the only one. Dreams can come true.

Naomi Mohamed,
IAP Cybercrime Network Advisor

The IAP Cybercrime Network

In the fall of 2024 the Dutch Public Prosecution Service agreed to facilitate and chair the IAP Cybercrime Network. With a clear focus and an intoxicating drive Esther Baars, Koen Hermans and Naomi Mohamed have commenced their new role.



Ambition

The Cybercrime Network aims to promote the transnational fight against cybercrime by increasing its effectiveness and geographic reach. To achieve these aims, it brings together operational prosecutors located in different jurisdictions. It offers a platform to its members to engage in active exchanges of operational knowledge as well as thematic discussions. It further aspires to act as a catalyst for joint cross-national cybercrime operations.

The first step: Re-launching the IAP Cybercrime Network

To re-launch the IAP Cybercrime Network and reach out to colleagues in the Asia and Pacific region, Esther, Koen and Naomi attended the 11th IAP Asia & Pacific Regional Conference (27-29 November) titled "Effective Prosecution Service in the Technological Age". Their presentations during several plenary sessions firmly conveyed the message that global cooperation is crucial for a comprehensive and successful fight against cybercrime.

Participating representatives from not only within the Asia and Pacific region, but also Africa and South America welcomed the initiative for the re-launch of the Cybercrime Network and committed to an active contribution through membership.

Call for operational representatives to join the Cybercrime Network

Representatives from each jurisdiction are invited to join the Cybercrime Network. For the operational success of the Network it is essential to have global coverage. The ideal candidates should:

- (i) have a genuine interest and commitment to combatting cybercrime; and
- (ii) see the value of working together with peers from other countries.

Experience levels may vary, however this will not be a barrier to participation. The key is a willingness to engage and contribute to collective efforts in fighting cybercrime.

Registration for the Cybercrime Network

To register for the IAP Cybercrime Network please inform us of your interest via: cybercrimenetwork@iap-association.org. As soon as the new IAP website is launched, formal registration will be possible via the Cybercrime Network webpage or via PICP. All those who have made their intention to join the Network known will be kept informed of any updates (e.g. webinars or formal registration).

What's in store for 2025?

To fight cybercrime effectively a shift in our approach as prosecutors is demanded. Investigation and prosecution remains necessary, but a much more extensive impact is possible if combined with additional measures such as taking down the used infrastructure, listings and perpetrator prevention. To achieve this, closer cooperation with both the private sector as well as with international counterparts are key.

For this reason the Cybercrime Network aims to facilitate the following online meetings to further meaningful exchanges of operational knowledge and thematic discussions:

Q1 | A Cybercrime Webinar will be held on Operation Endgame on 20 February 2025. For more information on this webinar please check out the IAP website.

[Register now](#)



Q2 & Q4 | Two more Cybercrime Webinars will be organised.

Q3 | An online session for discussion on a cybercrime-specific dilemma will be held.

Q3 | At the annual IAP Conference in Singapore (7 - 10 September 2025) a live Cybercrime Session will take place.

Webinars are open to all IAP members, regardless of whether you are a member of the Cybercrime Network.

Call for insights into operational trends and approaches to fight cybercrime

To provide meaningful insights and knowledge into operational trends and approaches to fight cybercrime the Network needs input from colleagues around the world. If you are able to provide us and the rest of the Network colleagues with any relevant articles/writers, presentations/speakers and discussion topics on operational and current cybercrime trends, please contact us via: cybercrimenetwork@iap-association.org. The input will be shared with the members of the Cybercrime Network in the most suitable way (webinar, newsletter, website, etc..).

Esther, Koen and Naomi
IAP Cybercrime Network



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL COUNSEL

It was a great pleasure to see so many of you at the Annual Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan last September. For those of you for whom it was your first IAP Annual Conference, I hope that you enjoyed it and that we will see you at future conferences as well!

Thank you to all of our members who attended and participated in the conference - with representatives from almost one hundred countries and jurisdictions, it was a wonderful opportunity to refresh friendships, make new contacts, and to further our professional knowledge and experience on a diverse range of topics.

The last quarter of 2024 also saw three other very successful, productive and enjoyable events - Regional Conferences in Malta and Hong Kong, and a Regional Workshop in South Korea. Attending all three events reminded me again of the importance of sharing best practice and expertise, and of building those critical professional relationships and networks that are so essential to enable us to cooperate across borders more effectively and efficiently to progress our criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Sadly, there's no rest for the IAP team though! We're already working hard on the delivery of the 30th Annual Conference which will take place in the vibrant city of Singapore in just eight months time, and also thinking ahead to planning for the 31st Annual Conference in Saudi Arabia in 2026. A Call for Speakers for the 2025 Annual Conference will be sent out within the next few months, and so please do submit an abstract if you would like to deliver a presentation during the event. It's a great opportunity to update your fellow prosecutors on innovative approaches to common challenges that are taking place in your jurisdiction, as well as to further your own professional experiences.

Please do continue to register and dial into our regular IAP webinars - details are published on the IAP website and our LinkedIn page every few weeks. In the first half of 2025, we've got webinars scheduled on topics including corruption, cybercrime, police corruption, human trafficking, international criminal justice and the protection of cultural property, so there is hopefully something of interest to all of our members!

I wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2025, and I look forward to seeing you at an IAP event - either in person or online - this year!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shenaz Muzaffer'.

Shenaz Muzaffer
IAP General Counsel

IAP GLOBAL TRAINING ACADEMY UPCOMING WEBINARS



Supporting the global fight against grand corruption: An introduction to the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre

Tuesday 28 January 2025, 14:30 hrs CET

*Michael Petkov, Deputy Head, IACCC

*Grace Wood, RCMP embed, IACCC

[Register now](#) →



Prosecuting cases of police corruption

Tuesday 11 February 2025, 09:00 hrs EST / 15:00 hrs CET

*Jeffrey Blumberg, former Federal Prosecutor, US Department of Justice

*Paul Louw, Senior Deputy Director, Investigating Directorate, National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa

[Register now](#) →

Additionally, there are two webinars scheduled in February 2025 on cybercrime, and in March on prosecuting crimes against cultural heritage and human trafficking. Please check the IAP website and emails for more information - registration details are circulated approximately six weeks before each webinar. Webinars are free to attend and are open to all IAP organisational and individual members.

PREVIOUS IAP GLOBAL TRAINING ACADEMY WEBINAR RECORDINGS

All previous IAP webinars from 2023 and 2024 are available to view via the members-only section of the IAP website. Details and links are provided below.

Investigating and prosecuting the destruction, looting and trafficking of cultural heritage y terrorist groups (December 2024): Develop an understanding of the links between cultural heritage smuggling and terrorism, and of the ways in which prosecutors can deliver an improved criminal justice response. Webinar developed in conjunction with the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UN CTED) (not recorded).

The role of the FATF in combatting money laundering and terrorist financing (December 2024): Examine the role of the FATF in combatting money laundering and terrorist financing , and gain perspectives from law enforcement and a prosecutor on working with the FATF. Webinar developed in conjunction with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

[View recording](#)



Violent extremism - the threat environment and impact of technological advancements (November 2024): Develop an understanding of how REMVE actors exploit emerging technology for violent extremism purposes and compare the REMVE threat between Europe and South America. Webinar developed in conjunction with the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJROL).

[View recording](#)



Judicial international cooperation tools in case of emergency (October 2024): Learn about the possible implementation methods for Article 9 and Article 10, and explore potential strategies to implement these provisions. Webinar developed in conjunction with the Council of Europe.

[View recording](#)



PREVIOUS IAP GLOBAL TRAINING ACADEMY WEBINAR RECORDINGS

Prosecuting transnational drug trafficking (September 2024): Develop an understanding of the trends and developments in the fight against cocaine trafficking from both a Latin American and European perspective. Webinar developed in collaboration with the National Prosecutor for Trafficking in Cocaine, National Prosecutor's Office, the Netherlands, and the Assistant Federal Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General for Narcocriminality, Argentina.

[View recording](#)



Enabling the evidential use of intelligence material (September 2024): Develop an understanding of the challenges and solutions to ensure that financial intelligence and other material can be used evidentially. Webinar developed in collaboration with the Technical Assistance and Training Working Group of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

[View recording](#)



Developing an effective case strategy (August 2024): Increase your understanding of the importance of having an effective case strategy and improve your skills to develop one. Webinar developed in conjunction with the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG).

[View recording](#)



The European Court of Human Rights - Interim measures - Legal framework and practical application in extradition cases (August 2024): Learn about the ECtHR, interim measures, the link to Article 2 and 3 rights, and how they relate to extradition / expulsion cases. Webinar developed in conjunction with the European Court of Human Rights.

[View recording](#)



PREVIOUS IAP GLOBAL TRAINING ACADEMY WEBINAR RECORDINGS

The prosecution of radiological and nuclear crimes (July 2024): Develop an increased understanding of the challenges and best practice in the prosecution of radiological and nuclear crimes. Webinar developed in conjunction with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

[View recording](#)

Collaboration between Airbnb and judicial authorities: Strengthening cooperation for a safer community (July 2024): Delve into the principles and practices that guide Airbnb's collaboration with judicial and law enforcement authorities and gain insights into the available cooperation, legal requirements, and the positive impact of establishing strong partnerships.

[View recording](#)

Enhancing international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of transnational corruption crimes; Leveraging the GlobE network for effective collaboration (June 2024): Learn about the GlobE Network, its objectives, its key workstreams, and how prosecutors may be able to link into the network, via Members in their country, to improve the investigation and prosecution of transnational corruption cases. Webinar developed in collaboration with the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE).

[View recording](#)

The prosecution of chemical and biological crimes (June 2024): Develop an increased understanding of the challenges and best practice in the prosecution of chemical and biological crimes. Webinar developed in collaboration with UNICRI.

[View recording](#)

PREVIOUS IAP GLOBAL TRAINING ACADEMY WEBINAR RECORDINGS

Direct cooperation with providers and entities in other Parties: Practical implications of the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime (May 2024): Consider the possible implementation mechanisms for Article 6 (request for domain name registration information), Article 7 and Article 8 (disclosure of subscriber information), the challenges, and explore potential approaches and strategies for implementation. Webinar developed in collaboration with the Council of Europe.

[View recording](#)

How to prosecute wildlife crime as a transnational organised crime (May 2024): Develop an increased understanding of the characteristics of wildlife crime that make it a serious transnational organised crime, and learn about the tools, techniques and best practise in prosecuting wildlife crime cases. Webinar developed in collaboration with Wildlife Justice Commission.

[View recording](#)

Rethinking anti-corruption efforts: Key considerations regarding case selection and victim compensation (April 2024): Explore principles and key considerations regarding alternatives to prosecution, case selection and prioritisation, and victim compensation in the context of the fight against corruption. Webinar developed to discuss outcomes from the Chandler Sessions on Integrity and Corruption.

[View recording](#)

An operational perspective on prosecuting environmental crime (April 2024): Develop an increased understanding of the challenges and best practice in the prosecution of environmental crimes through the sharing of operational examples from around the world. Webinar developed in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme.

[View recording](#)

An introduction to environmental crime (March 2024): Develop an understanding of the challenges related to the prosecution competition manipulation and how these can be mitigated through a recommended framework. Webinar developed in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme.

[View recording](#) →

Rethinking Anti-Corruption Efforts: Developing new strategies to tackle corruption (March 2024): Explore practical proposals for a reset of anti-corruption strategies to increase integrity, accountability and effectiveness in deterrence and prosecution of high-level corruption. Webinar developed to discuss outcomes from the Chandler Sessions on Integrity and Corruption.

[View recording](#) →

The Prosecution of Cases of Competition Manipulation (March 2024): Develop an understanding of the challenges related to the prosecution competition manipulation and how these can be mitigated through a recommended framework. Webinar developed in collaboration with UNODC and the IOC.

[View recording](#) →

Developing a strategic approach to jury selection (January 2024): A webinar aimed at developing an understanding of different models of jury selection and the active role that prosecutors can play in the jury selection process. Webinar developed in collaboration with NAAG.

[View recording](#) →

Cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units and public prosecutors (December 2023): Develop an increased knowledge and awareness of the relationship between financial intelligence units and prosecutors, and how financial intelligence units can assist in investigations and prosecutions. Webinar developed in collaboration with the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

[View recording](#) →

An Introduction to Financial Intelligence Units and the Egmont Group (December 2023): Expand your knowledge of the work of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, ECOFEL, and the work of FIUs in combatting financial crime. Webinar developed in collaboration with the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

[View recording](#)

Webinar on Waste Crime (October 2023): Explore waste crime typologies, their impact, real-life examples of successful investigation and prosecution of such forms of (non-traditional) transnational organised crime, and the IAP Standards for Prosecutors. Webinar developed in collaboration with UNITAR SCYCLE.

[View recording](#)

An Introduction to Wildlife Crime (September 2023): Learn more about how wildlife crimes are committed in practice, their impact, the challenges of investigating and prosecuting such offences, and the importance of international cooperation. Webinar developed in collaboration with Wildlife Justice Commission.

[View recording](#)

The Importance of the Nuremberg Principles (July 2023): A webinar aimed at raising prosecutors' awareness of the mission and activities of the Nuremberg Academy and also of the resources that are available to prosecutors. Webinar developed in collaboration with the International Nuremberg Principles Academy.

[View recording](#)

CALL FOR WEBINAR TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

The IAP Global Training Academy develops and delivers webinars on topics of interest and operational relevance to members. IAP members are invited to submit suggestions for topics / themes for future webinars to the General Counsel at gc@iap-association.org. Members who are interested in presenting at a webinar are also invited to contact the General Counsel with details of the proposed topic of their presentation and a short biography.



CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE QUARTERLY IAP NEWSLETTER



The next IAP newsletter will be published in April 2025. The theme for the substantive articles will be the prosecution of speech crimes/hate crimes. If you wish to submit an article for consideration for publication in the next newsletter, then please look out for the Call for Articles, which will be issued in February 2025.

Also, if you wish to submit articles for the newsletter that highlight casework examples of effective international cooperation, methods of resolving challenges in complex cases, and outlining innovative approaches to delivering justice, please send them to the General Counsel at gc@iap-association.org

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The IAP Secretariat would like to thank the Editorial Board for their valuable input and support:

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