

VISIT OF SHRI RONALD K. NOBLE, SECRETARY GENERAL

WELCOME ADDRESS OF DCBI

1. It is a great honour for me to welcome Mr. Ronald K. Noble, Secretary General, Interpol to CBI Headquarters. He is the youngest Secretary General in Interpol's history when elected for the first time on 3rd November 2000. After completing his second mandate successfully, he was re-elected by an overwhelming majority to serve a third five- year term in 2010. Since becoming Secretary General, Mr. Noble has visited 150 member countries to interact with the Heads of NCBs as well as senior Government and Police officials. He has overseen a period of unprecedented growth at Interpol. He is a visionary and an institution in himself, who has taken Interpol to new heights by his untiring efforts in forging strategic and operational partnership with other international stakeholders to work with them to tackle the growing scourge of international crimes. The Interpol family has grown by leaps and bounds and its membership has reached to 190 countries, which is indeed a positive development for global police cooperation. All these have been made possible because of his belief and vision of connecting law enforcement agencies with all other stakeholders for a safer world.

2. We are encouraged by Secretary General's willingness to visit India for sharing experiences and challenges. This augurs well for our future endeavors. The complex web of crime worldwide can be combated only through joint efforts in the rapidly changing scenario.

3. The Central Bureau of Investigation traces its origin as Special Police Establishment which was set up in 1941 by Government of India to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the War and Supply Department of India during World War- II. Over the years, this agency has become the premier investigating agency of the country which enjoys confidence of the Government, Judiciary as well as public at large. India is a federal country having 28 States and 7 Union Territories. Law and order and Police are State subjects as per our Constitution.

4. NCB- India has created a network of coordination and cooperation with various law enforcement agencies of the States and UTs through Interpol Liaison Officers for sharing of crime related information and rendering assistance to the requesting NCBs of various countries.

5. The CBI has initiated a project to improve coordination amongst different domestic law enforcement agencies of India. The project aims to provide an institutional mechanism for coordination amongst various LEAs. An important component of the project would be to provide a secure 24/7 channel for exchange of information and access to various databases. This is being planned on the lines of I-24x7 system of Interpol. In this regard, we would seek Interpol's help in replicating this system in India.

6. With the changing crime scenario, law enforcement agencies are also required to gear up with measures to combat the crime. Cyber crime has become a global phenomenon and is the biggest menace today for society at large. Keeping in view the gravity of the crime, CBI intends to establish a Research and Innovation Centre for investigation and prevention of cyber crime in partnership with Interpol, research / academic institutions and private sector. This will involve participation of experts for research from Interpol member countries. It is also proposed that this Centre would also conduct training programs at CBI Academy for law enforcement personnel from Interpol member countries.

7. It will not be out of the context to mention that there is an immense need for having an institutional mechanism for ensuring expeditious exchange of information in our fight against cyber crime. It is proposed that an Interpol project may be initiated to link all IT intermediaries for exchange of information including telecom companies, email service providers, cloud computing service providers, etc. from willing member countries. This would help in easy exchange of information at informal level as a first step towards carrying out multi- jurisdictional investigations. At present, most of the countries where email / application servers are located, insist for sending a Letter Rogatory under Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which is a very time consuming process. This normally results in loss of evidence. There is need to standardize procedures / priorities for such informal exchange of information through a centralized interface with IT intermediaries by a nodal agency. In our view, no agency, other than Interpol, can execute this project.

8. Interpol could contribute in crime fighting efforts in Asian region by further developing the use of technology for the purpose of information exchange and investigative support. The recent initiative of setting up Interpol Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore is a positive step towards enhancing the capability of law enforcement agencies to tackle the crime threats of the 21st century and to strengthen international policing worldwide by innovative research and development. This will lead to enhancement of forensics and database capabilities, particularly in the identification of crimes and criminals and also enhancing the capacity to provide 24/7 operational support to police across time zones and distances with greater mobility. The programme launched by Interpol will create a continuous learning and operational platform for all officials.

9. I am sure that the Secretary General will take this Organization forward to even greater heights.