

Registered Traveler Forum in Amsterdam: perfect timing and overwhelming success of the second edition of the event

On May 22 and 23, the 2008 global summit on increasing security while facilitating travel took place in Amsterdam, with over 40 international speakers from government, transportation and the security industry creating the premium conference program. The second Registered Traveler Forum went live under the patronage of Minister E.M.H. Hirsch Ballin, who addressed the audience with a speech only three days after signing the first transatlantic deal with the American government for an international RT program.

Milan, May 28, 2008 – Wise Media's Registered Traveler Forum opened its doors with the endorsement of the European Commission and the Dutch Ministry of Justice on May 22 and May 23 in Amsterdam. The event welcomed an array of world-class panelists to discuss how to improve passenger clearance procedures carried out in airports world-wide with the objective of increasing security while facilitating travel. The conference attracted 165 high-profile delegates from 5 continents for an extensive exchange of know-how with the key decision makers behind today's RT programs.

During the opening session of the Registered Traveler Forum conference, Minister E.M.H. Hirsch Ballin and John P. Wagner, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, addressed the audience to illustrate the details of the deal signed only three days prior to the event on May 19, by the U.S. and Dutch governments, for the first transatlantic Registered Traveler program. The first day of the conference discussed the big picture surrounding RT programs today and the point of view of the different stakeholders involved, with major airport authorities and system integrators from different continents sharing their experiences. The day closed with a panel discussing Entry/Exit systems in Europe and in U.S., involving Troy D. Potter, International Biometrics Manager, US-VISIT Program, and Pasi Nokelainen, DG JLS, European Commission. The second day offered seven breakout sessions focusing on passenger clearance processes from both government and transportation industry perspectives, describing how global trends today lead towards automated border control and automated airport operations.

The Registered Traveler conference saw the active contribution of a significant number of high-profile delegates from organizations such as the U.S. Government Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the European Commission, the Dutch Ministry of Justice, the UK Home Office, the German Federal Ministry of Interior, Lufthansa, Air France, Swissport International, Ben Gurion Airport, Schiphol Airport, IATA and SITA.

“Perfect organization, excellent agenda with high-level speakers. Just the right environment for profitable networking,” commented Alessandra Girardo of Unisys, one of the sponsors of the event. Among the speakers, Peter Went of WCC Smart Search & Match added “It was a very successful event; very interesting presentations, great audience and many good networking opportunities. And as always, a flawless organization! I have already booked my flight to Milan for November.” A satisfied G. William, Australian Customs and Registered Traveler Forum delegate commented, “Very thought-provoking; good breadth of material, well organized and good value. Well done!”

Produced by Wise Media, this year’s event was the second Registered Traveler Forum, following last year’s successful launch in Paris.

The Registered Traveler Forum was sponsored by IBM, Thales, Unisys and Dartagnan. Among the exhibitors and vendors participating at the event were 3M, AOptix Technologies, Daon, Dermalog Identification Systems, GenKey, IBM, KSW Microtec, Laser Memory Card, LG Electronics, Lumidigm, Sagem Sécurité, Thales, TST Biometrics, Unisys and Vision-Box.

In the 2008 calendar of ID WORLD events, the Registered Traveler Forum is the second appointment following February’s Citizen ID Forum held in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of the Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates, H.H. Sheik Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The third appointment of the year will be ID WORLD 2008, the seventh annual summit on automatic identification.

The valuable discussions that took place in Amsterdam at the Registered Traveler Forum will continue at the next Transportation Security Forum, which opens its doors at the ID WORLD International Congress, the annual world summit on automatic identification, in Milan on November 18 - 20, 2008 (www.idworldonline.com).

Photo caption, from right to left:

E.M.H. Hirsch Ballin, Minister of Justice - The Netherlands; Sophie B. de la Giroday, President, Wise Media; John Wagner, Director, Trusted Traveler Programs, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Prof. Gerlach J. Cerfontaine, President & CEO, Schiphol Group; Gert Versluis, General Director INS, The Dutch Ministry of Justice.

About ID WORLD Events

ID WORLD is the first global technology-agnostic initiative on automatic identification addressing all vertical markets. Organized by Wise Media, ID WORLD events focus on segments in which automatic identification expresses its revolutionary potential. Alongside the annual world summit ID WORLD International Congress, Wise Media organizes the following vertical forums: Electronic Passport Forum, Citizen ID Forum, Global Security Forum, Asset Tracking Forum, Registered Traveler Forum and Transportation Security Forum. For further information visit: www.idworldonline.com

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