

Media Release

For Immediate Release

17 October 2008

Police Association Hosts International Conference

The New Zealand Police Association next week hosts the biennial conference of the International Council of Police Representative Associations (ICPRA) in Wellington from 19-22 October.

ICPRA is an international organisation representing the interests of more than 1.5 million law enforcement officers around the world. Delegates from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe, North America, Australasia and South Africa are attending the Wellington conference. Greg O'Connor, President of the New Zealand Police Association, currently chairs ICPRA.

"Policing has an increasingly international element. Serious crime such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and child pornography is often trans-national. Threats to national security frequently have international roots. International cooperation and coordination is now a basic requirement of policing these kinds of crimes," Mr O'Connor said.

"At the same time, developed nations like New Zealand are increasingly called on to contribute policing experience and expertise offshore, through UN and other multilateral missions, to places like Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. European ICPRA members are now expected to deploy civilian police into the disputed Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia following the recent withdrawal of Russian troops.

"International requirements are shaping the development of police forces around the world, including in New Zealand, in ways that are only now beginning to be fully understood," Mr O'Connor said.

"Many of the decisions driving internationalisation are made by politicians and career diplomats, for whom police are rapidly becoming simply another tool of foreign policy. ICPRA aims to give police officers an effective voice, to ensure their unique knowledge of policing is taken into account, and their interests are protected.

"The conference theme is 'Advancing ICPRA'. Sessions will explore the drivers of the internationalisation of policing, global trends in restructuring of police forces, and how police associations can respond.

"The conference will also provide an opportunity for associations from around the world to compare experiences on many of the common issues we face, such as Tasers, and the increasing civilianisation of police," Mr O'Connor said.

For further comment contact:

Greg O'Connor, NZ Police Association President

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Overview of conference programme

ICPRA 2008 Conference – Wellington, 19-21 October 2008

Keynote sessions

Monday, 20 October 2008	9.00 a.m: Official opening by Hon Darren Hughes on behalf of Hon Annette King, Minister of Police
	9.30 a.m: Chairman's opening address (Greg O'Connor)
	10.30 a.m: Session 1 – Internationalisation of Policing Dr Beth Greener (Massey), Assistant Commissioner Jon White (NZ), Peter Ibsen (Police Union of Denmark)
	1.15 p.m: Session 2 – International labour representation Mark Rammell (ALPA), Jan Schonkeren (European Confederation of Police), Paul Goulter (NZEI), Graeme Buchanan (ILO)
	3.30 p.m: Session 3 – Parallel development of police forces Commissioner Howard Broad (NZ), Dale Kinnear (Canadian Police Association), Norrie Flowers (Scottish Police Association)
Tuesday, 21 October 2008	8.45 a.m: Session 4 – Two-tier policing Stephen Smith (Police Federation of England and Wales), Superintendent Hamish McCardle (NZ), Mark Burgess (Police Federation of Australia)

Media note: Media interested in attending any of the conference sessions or interviewing any delegates should contact the Police Association's Communications Manager, Luke McMahon, on 027 268 9429 or luke.mcmahon@policeassn.org.nz and arrangements may be made to accommodate specific requests.