

Electronic Passport Forum: fifth global summit on eID documents revels in outstanding success in Istanbul

Wise Media's Electronic Passport Forum and Citizen ID Forum opened its doors in Istanbul on June 21st in the presence of Turkish Minister of Labor and Social Security Murat Basesgioglu. The first edition of the event outside the EU proved to be a great success with 249 high-profile participants attending the 2-day conference and exhibition.

Milan, June 25th, 2007 - With the endorsement of the European Commission, the fifth Electronic Passport Forum took place last week in Istanbul, hosted for the first time by a non-EU member state. Once again the event proved to be the platform of choice for experts from government, border control and law enforcement, as well as technology vendors, to discuss and learn more about the key issues relating to the introduction of digital citizen identity credentials.

Murat Basesgioglu, Turkish Minister of Labor and Social Security, opened the event by discussing the technology shift that the Turkish government has spearheaded since 2003, aimed at providing citizens with access to a variety of eGovernment services in the fields of customs, social security, education and justice. The Minister also announced the beginning of the electronic ID and social security card project in pilot areas as of July 2007.

"This year we expanded the scope of the discussions from travel documents and border control to include national ID programs and eGovernment," said Sophie B. de la Giroday, President of Wise Media. "In Istanbul we launched the Citizen ID Forum, the initiative that addresses the second wave of the revolution represented by the digitalization of citizen ID documents. The Citizen ID Forum highlights how the objectives that governments strive to meet via the digitalization of ID documents go far beyond homeland security. They are much more related to creating a means of delivering better services to both national and non-national residents."

Carlos Goncalves, Deputy Director, Aliens and Borders Services (SEF) with the Portuguese Ministry of the Interior commented: "Now that electronic passport projects have gone live in so many countries, we can finally expect to see the real impact of the transition to machine readable travel documents. As the new automated border control and passenger screening infrastructure based on ePassports is put in place, travelers will see enhanced service levels at airports and shorter queues, while airports and airlines will be able to reduce the costs related to security procedures by reducing human resources."

Ali M. Al Khouri, Assistant Director General for Central Operations with the United Arab Emirates Identity Authority commented: "Effective identity management in the context of national ID programs is a tool to fight against the growing tide of identity theft - a significant threat to both homeland security and the personal and financial security of citizens. Another strategic goal of ID management schemes is to provide of a range of services not only to citizens, but also to entities such as banks, hospitals and government ministries."

The Electronic Passport Forum and Citizen ID Forum welcomed an array of world-class panelists to review the status of the progressive digitalization of Passports, as well as National IDs, Driver's Licenses, Health Cards, Visas and Green Cards worldwide. These included representatives of Malaysian National Registration Department, the Belgian Ministry of the Interior, US Department of Homeland Security the Dutch Ministry of Justice, Frontex, the Estonian National Certification Authority the German BSI Federal Office for Information Security, the Polish Ministry of Interior, the Belgian FEDICT Public Federal Service, the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, UK Border & Immigration Agency and the Italian Ministry of the Interior.

The Electronic Passport Forum and Citizen ID Forum were sponsored by Thales, 3M, vps ID Systeme and Infineon Technologies AG.

The valuable discussions that took place in Istanbul will continue at the Electronic Passport Forum conference at the ID WORLD International Congress, the annual world summit on automatic identification, in Milan on November 26-28, 2007.

About the Electronic Passport Forum

The Electronic Passport Forum is a vertical event of the ID WORLD International Congress, focusing on the evolution of government-driven citizen ID programs. After the success of the events in Berlin and Rome (2005), Paris and Milan (2006), endorsed by the European Commission, the French Ministry of the Interior, the German Ministry of the Interior and the Italian Ministry of the Interior, the fifth Electronic Passport Forum took place for the first time outside the European Union in Istanbul in June 2007. The next Electronic Passport Forum will be held at the ID WORLD International Congress in Milan in November 2007.

For further information visit:

www.electronic-passport.com

www.idworldonline.com

About ID WORLD Events

ID WORLD is the first global technology-agnostic initiative on automatic identification addressing all vertical markets of RFID and AIC systems, biometrics and smart cards. 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 Transport Security Forum.

For further information on the annual world summit visit:

www.idworldonline.com

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