

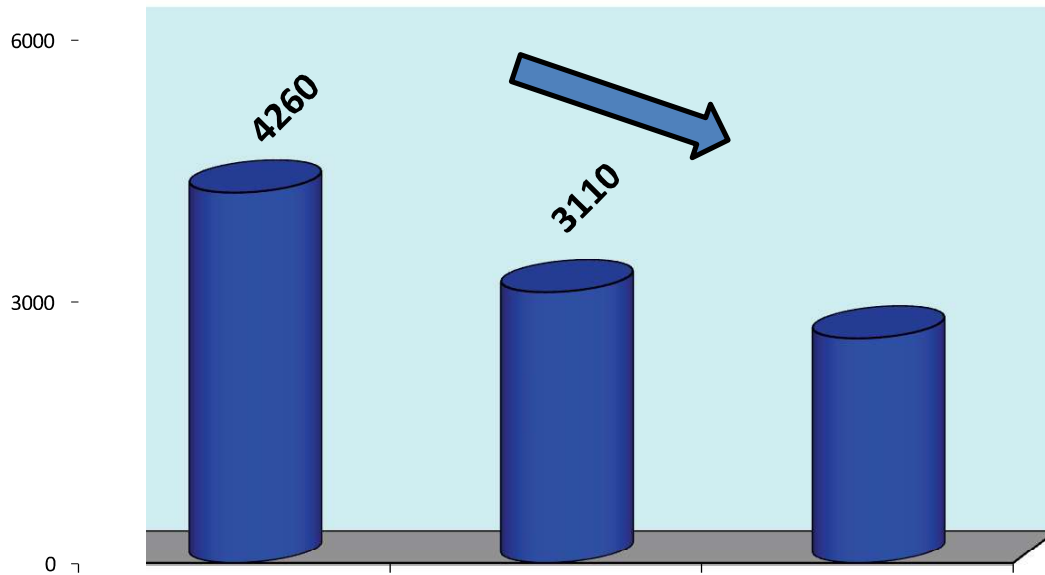
ICA Year Book 2012

Published on
5 February
2013

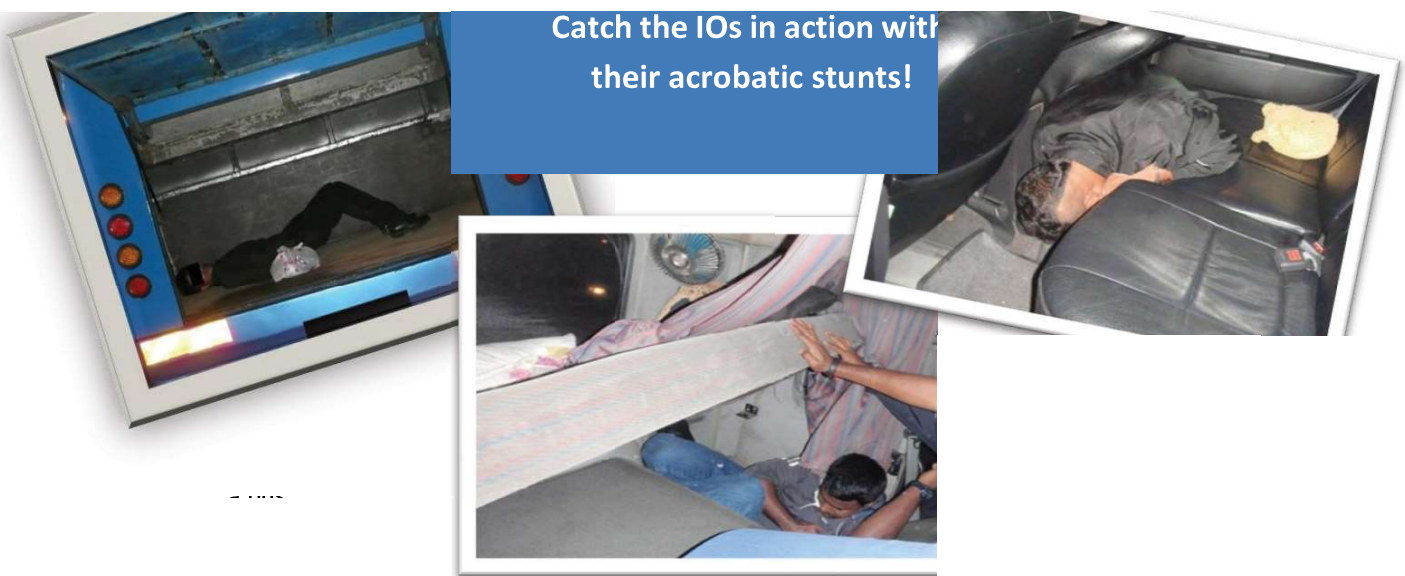


ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT
IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE IN ALL

NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION OFFENDERS ARRESTED CONTINUES TO DECLINE



The number of immigration offenders¹ (IOs) arrested continues to decline since 2001. In comparison with 2011, the number of IOs arrested has dropped from 3,110 to 2,580. This is due to the deterrent effect of the tightened measures such as thorough examinations and tightened security at the entry points to sieve out IOs.



Year	Total no. of illegal immigrants arrested	Total no. of overstayers arrested
2012	690	1,890
2011	930	2,180
2010	1,430	2,830

2. The number of illegal immigrants² and overstayers arrested has been declining steadily. For 2012, 690 illegal immigrants and 1,890 overstayers were arrested, registering a fall of 25.8% and 13.3% respectively compared to the same period last year.

Year	Total no. of harbourers of IOs arrested	Total no. of employers of IOs arrested
2012	77	41
2011	40	23
2010	77	26

3. The number of harbourers of IOs arrested almost doubled from 40 in 2011 to 77 in 2012. Similarly, the number of employers of IOs arrested also increased from 23 to 41. Although the numbers of harbourers and employers arrested are higher than 2011, they are still within the range of the previous years. The Harbours/Employer (H/E) situation remains contained due to successful and extensive public education efforts to raise public awareness of the offences associated with H/E.

4. Since 1 July 2012, all investigative and associated functions involving harbouring and employment cases are now centrally managed by ICA with other immigration related offences. This will create greater synergy and better coordination of enforcement efforts against harbourers and employers. IOs pose potential law and order problem for our society. Everyone has a role to play in ensuring the safety and security of Singapore. Singaporeans should not employ or harbour IOs. Without a job or shelter, these IOs will not find it attractive to come or reside here.

²Illegal immigrants (II) do not necessarily refer to those who have sneaked into the country via concealment methods by sea or land. II could also involve those who used fraudulent travel documents or impersonated others for entry. Some could even have disposed of their legitimate travel documents on entry so that their entry records cannot be traced.

THE COMMUNITY – OUR PARTNERS

5. Engaging the community and encouraging public vigilance continue to be key components of our public education efforts. We are fortunate to have committed volunteers who devote their time to help reach out and convey ICA's key messages.



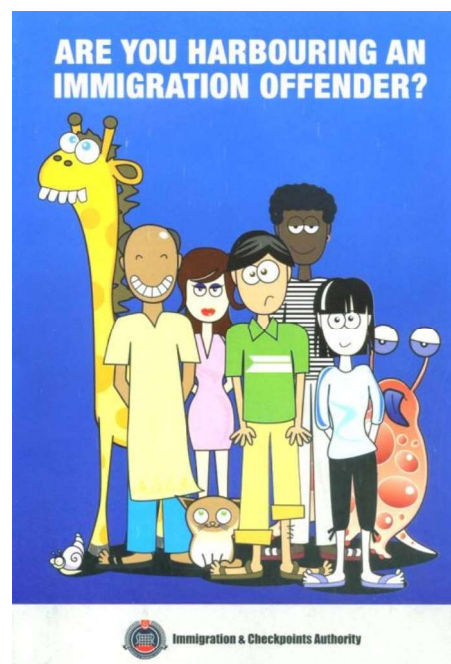
Reaching out to foreign workers

6. In 2012, besides collaborating with other Home Team agencies, ICA's community engagement efforts have expanded to new target groups to further broadcast our key messages. ICA has proactively worked with the Singapore Accredited Estate Agencies (SAEA) to convey the legal requirement in ICA's Homeowners Guide to the property sales persons so that they will conduct due diligence checks before recommending foreign tenants to homeowners.

7. ICA also engaged private companies, schools such as Manjusri Secondary School and grassroots constituency such as Canberra constituency to conduct crime prevention talks. At these talks, foreign workers, students, senior citizens were reminded of the dire consequences of illegal entry and overstaying. In addition, information on controlled and prohibited goods was shared to educate them not to bring back such goods from their trips overseas.



ICA officer sharing the "dos" and "don'ts" to foreign workers on India's Independence Day



HOME TEAM PARTNERSHIP – HOME TEAM CENTRIC

8. As part of our continuous efforts to enhance inter-agency cooperation for operational synergies, ICA regularly collaborates with fellow Home Team agencies in joint operations, raids and checks. ICA's operations with Police and CNB have resulted in many successful detection of illegal activities and substantial illicit drugs both inland and at the checkpoints. Information is also regularly shared and leads actively pursued with other law enforcement agencies leading to many good arrests.



IOs arrested in one of the joint operations conducted in April 2012

DEVELOPING OFFICERS' CAPABILITIES TO STAY AHEAD AT ALL TIMES

9. Developing and strengthening officers' capabilities remain as a strategic focus for ICA. In line with our focus on continuous learning, a new forensic document gallery was set up in the ICA Building in March 2012. The objective is to promote ICA officers' competency in forgery detection and document examination by providing a one-stop interactive and effective learning experience for them to learn more about security features and forgeries of travel and identity documents. ICA officers are kept abreast of the changes in forgery trends and latest security features around the world.



A peek into the new forensic document gallery

BUILDING CAPACITY BY LEVERAGING ON INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

10. As ICA moves forward, our leverage on technology continues to be pivotal to our operational success. In 2012, we successfully harnessed technology to roll out new solutions to beef up our screening capabilities.



Traveller going through checks with the Puffer

11. **Puffer Portal** is a full-body walk through system deployed at our checkpoints to detect, analyse and identify explosives and narcotics particles. The Puffer Portal dislodges any explosives/narcotics particles from a person in a non-intrusive way through gentle puffs of air from head to the toes for real-time analysis. The portal is capable of detecting traffickers with even trace amounts of drugs/explosives on their bodies. With effect from April 2012, the Puffer Portal has been progressively deployed at various checkpoints.

12. In April 2012, ICA officers implemented **MAVIS** (Mobile Automated Verification and Identification System) that allows officers to perform fingerprint and facial screenings on persons to ascertain their true identity and validity of their immigration pass in Singapore, anytime, anywhere. The device is connected to ICA's backend biometric database to perform real time biometrics screening and verification through a secure network. It can also conduct screening against a database that is stored locally within the device.



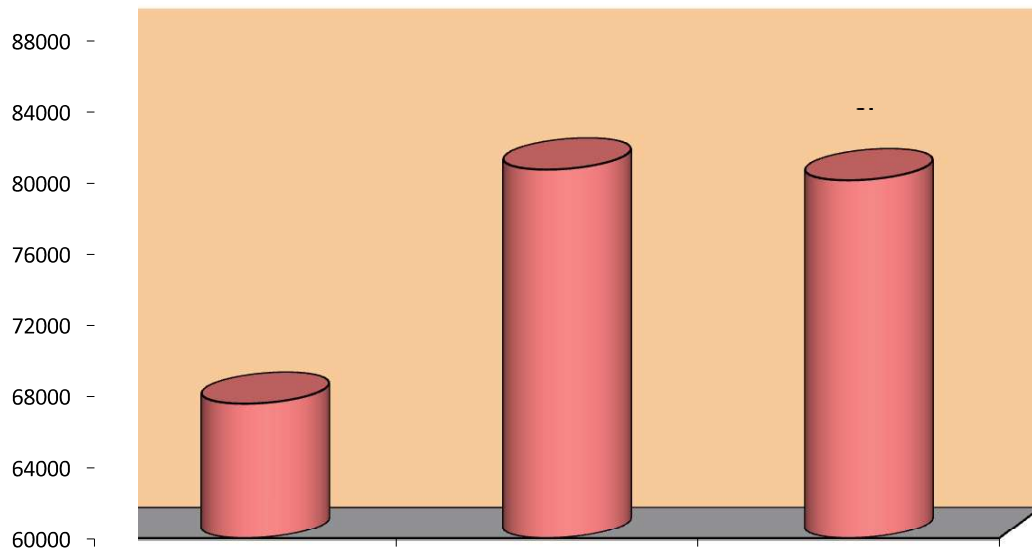
MAVIS

Marvelling ICA's MAVIS

Amid intense competition involving 266 other participants and following two rounds of stringent evaluation process by judges from the infocomm industry, ICA's efforts were rewarded when MAVIS was conferred the Merit Award at the National Infocomm Awards 2012 Gala Dinner on October 23, 2012.

This achievement is a reflection of ICA's continuous efforts to push the reach of technology by applying innovative solutions to achieve our mission of keeping Singapore safe and secure.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING CASES REMAIN HIGH



13. Since the formation of ICA in April 2003, the number of contraband cases detected has been on an upward trend, with the peak of 80,800 cases detected in 2011. For 2012, the number registered a slight dip of 600 cases or less than 1% decrease from 80,800 last year to 80,200. This can be attributed to more rigorous and robust border and inland checks, synergies between enforcement agencies such as Singapore Customs, coupled with extensive publicity to create public awareness. While the modus operandi used by smugglers are constantly evolving, results have shown that ICA continues to foil their attempts without any let-up.



THE SAME METHODS OF CONCEALMENT USED BY contraband smugglers may be used by terrorists to smuggle arms and explosives to carry out more sinister attacks on Singapore.



Some of the contraband detected at the checkpoints

(from clockwise: Artillery made of empty cartridge, live hamsters and bullet proof vests & kelvar helmets)

MODUS OPERANDI (MO) FOR 2012...

14. An interesting MO for 2012 would be the use of a large variety of goods to disguise the contraband. Extracted from our case files, read on to find out how some smugglers use this MO.

On 3 August 2012, a Malaysia-registered lorry was carrying a declared consignment of garbage bags, lantern centerliser, desks and clothes hangers had arrived at the Woodlands Checkpoint. Upon physical inspection, officers found 2,432 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden inside 32 drums.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes sealed meticulously with garbage bags

On 6 September 2012, a 20-footer container sought arrival clearance at the Jurong Scanning Station. The container had a declared consignment of 10.57 ton of 'Mangrove Wood Charcoal'. Officers noticed anomalies in the scanned images and directed the container for further checks. Upon opening up the container, officers found duty-unpaid cigarettes. In a follow-up investigation by Singapore Customs, more contraband cigarettes were uncovered in a warehouse in MacPherson. A total of 2,499 cartons and 21 packets of contraband cigarettes were seized.



Contraband cigarettes hidden amongst a consignment of 'Charcoal'

COMMON MODUS OPERANDI (MO)

15. Concealing contraband amongst luggage and bags or placed amongst goods declared in the permit or the luggage of the smugglers continued to be the common MO last year.



16. In years to come, ICA will continue to rise above our challenges and meet public expectations. As Commissioner Mr Clarence Yeo puts across aptly:

“Statistical figures are not just a numbers game. It serves to remind each and every one of us on the importance of stringent border checks to thwart unlawful attempts to harm our country. I seek the cooperation and the understanding of members of the public when they go through the security process and checks at the checkpoints so that ICA can continue to be effective in fulfilling our mission. Together, we can keep Singapore safe and secure.

Even though we constantly face the challenges of a dynamic operating landscape and an evolving security climate, our officers will do their level best to keep Singapore safe and secure with the support of our Home Team as well as our other partners, especially the co-operation of the community.”

Authors

Ms Brenda Tham
Senior Public & Internal Communications Executive
Corporate Communications Division
6391 6187 | 97552286
brenda_tham@ica.gov.sg

Ms Serene Wong
Deputy Head, Public & Internal Communications
Corporate Communications Division
6391 6544 | 97552092
serene_wong@ica.gov.sg

IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
<http://www.ica.gov.sg>