



NCA Chairperson Tom Sherman welcoming delegates to the Multinational Asian Organised Crime conference.

## NCA/AFP Asian organised crime conference attracts world-wide interest

By Terry Browne, Public Affairs Branch

**T**he three-day 1994 Multinational Asian Organised Crime

Conference held in Sydney in November last year attracted delegates from the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, Canada, India, Pakistan, Africa, England and Europe.

Following the conferences held in San Francisco in 1991 and Tokyo in 1993, the Sydney conference concentrated on three themes — the nature and extent of Asian organised crime, more effective investigation of Asian organised crime, and multinational cooperation in dealing with Asian organised crime.

Tom Sherman, Chairperson of the National Crime Authority (NCA) welcomed the 162 delegates from 21 countries. A total of 34 international and 28 national agencies were represented.

The program involved 12 sessions over three days with speakers from a variety of countries exposing delegates to a diversity of approaches and experiences.

The conference was concerned with:

- identifying the major current and emerging forms of criminality involving Asian organised crime;
- identifying effective investigative strategies and methods, and overcoming the particular problems encountered in investigations involving organised Asian criminal groups;
- focusing upon investigating the financial transactions which relate

to organised criminal activity, the profits derived from it and money laundering;

- overcoming cultural difficulties encountered when investigating organised crime within or against Asian cultural groups and the benefits derived from cooperative arrangements between countries;
- the need to expand mutual assistance arrangements; and
- the implementation of an Asia/Pacific money laundering strategy.

Mr Sherman said that it was clearly recognised now that organised crime was a global problem and was becoming increasingly internationalised. He said it was the international dimension and the growth in the economic power base of organised criminal groups which made this conference so valuable.

AFP speakers at the conference included John McFarlane and Commander David Schramm. Mr McFarlane spoke on the current and emerging forms of criminality involving organised crime in the Asia-Pacific Region while Commander Schramm spoke on international cooperative arrangements.

Other speakers included: David Hodson of the Royal Hong Kong Police; Shoichiro Ishikawa of the National Police Agency, Japan; Paul Coffey of the Department of Justice, USA; Harold Lierly, Drug Enforcement Administration, USA; Bill Coad, Austrac; and Chris Meaney, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.