

# Symbolic lion dancing to bring good fortune to Guangzhou office

**A traditional Chinese good luck ceremony marked the opening of the AFP's Guangzhou office in China on 2 November.**

The 'Hoi Gong', known as the eye dotting ceremony, and the lion dance were performed in the opening ceremony to symbolise a new beginning and bring good luck and fortune to the AFP Guangzhou office.

The AFP's International network has grown from a handful of international posts it inherited in 1979 to a presence in 2007 of 86 officers in 33 cities in 27 countries. National Manager for Border and International Tim Morris explained the importance of the International Network and its expansion around the world.

"The shifting focus of transnational crime has created new demands of the AFP's law enforcement activities," Assistant Commissioner Morris said. "Combating narcotics and economic crime in Guangzhou and the southern provinces of China have been identified as priority criminal activities which need to be addressed collaboratively between Chinese law enforcement agencies and the AFP."

In November, Commissioner Mick Keelty, Assistant Commissioner Morris, Australian Consul General Sean Kelly and key AFP staff joined the Deputy Director General of the Guangdong Public Security Bureau, Zheng Dong, in the opening of the office. In the Hoi Gong ceremony, Commissioner Keelty and Mr Zheng painted the eyes of the lion before



Above: AFP Commissioner Keelty with Mr Zheng Dong unveiling the commemorative plaque.

the start of the lion dance, in order to awaken its spirit. The lion is considered in many Asian countries as a guardian figure and the owner of the premises is usually assigned to perform the eye-dotting. The dancing, accompanied by music, represented the arrival of good luck and fortune to the new office.

In addition to opening the Guangzhou office, Commissioner Keelty also attended a meeting with Ministry of Public Service (MPS) Vice Minister Meng Hongwei in Beijing and opened the first International Management of Serious Crime (IMOSC) with senior members of the MPS and the Zhejiang Police.

## **Strengthening bilateral relations**

Assistant Commissioner Morris and Australian Ambassador to China Dr Geoff Raby joined Commissioner Keelty and Vice Minister Meng Hongwei in identifying strategies to further

strengthen bilateral relations between the AFP and MPS.

"Four priority areas of cooperation were discussed including economic crime, narcotics, preparations for the Beijing Olympics and law enforcement training," Assistant Commissioner Morris said.

The benefits of international cooperation were also highlighted in two recent activities. Firstly, the presentation of a cheque for almost \$3.4 million of proceeds of crime returned to the MPS for providing Australia with extensive assistance in the investigation of a Chinese national wanted for misappropriation and embezzlement.

Secondly, ACT Policing working with the MPS and the Dalian Public Security Bureau investigating the murder of Chinese student Zhang Hong Jie in Canberra in 2005. In July 2007, ACT Policing provided a briefing including

evidence and physical exhibits to a visiting Chinese delegation concerning a male Chinese currently awaiting trial in China in relation to this investigation.

Commissioner Keelty also announced training initiatives to be held in 2008 including a hazardous chemicals course for Chinese anti-narcotic police, sponsorship of three scholarships for MPS members in the University of Wollongong's Masters of Transnational Crime Prevention program and a second IMOSC course in China for MPS officers.

### IMOSC program

On the second day of the visit, Commissioner Keelty opened the IMOSC program at the Hangzhou State Guesthouse. The program provides a forum for senior Chinese police to share ideas and enhance knowledge and skills in investigations management.

The AFP MOSC training team, in cooperation with members of the Zhejiang Police College in Hangzhou, conducted the course from late October to mid-November. Eighteen participants representing nine provinces attended. They heard from various presenters from Australia, the United Kingdom and China.

Since 1991, nearly 900 policing members domestically and overseas have benefited from participating in the MOSC program (including IMOSC). The benefits to the AFP are the strong regional ties and practical working relationships which have developed over the years between international police services and law enforcement agencies.



“Our meeting provided an excellent opportunity to further strengthen bilateral relations between the AFP and MPS”  
Commissioner Mick Keelty

Left: AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty with MPS Vice Minister Meng Hongwei. Right: Commissioner Keelty with Australian Consul-General Sean Kelly and performers. Middle: Commissioner Keelty and Assistant Commissioner Tim Morris at the police museum, Zhejiang Police College. Bottom: IMOSC participants.

