



International Forensic Strategic Alliance

A partnership between regional networks of operational forensic laboratories



CURRENT PARTNERS



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS (ASCLD)



THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTES (ENFSI)



THE SENIOR MANAGERS OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FORENSIC LABORATORIES (SMANZFL)



THE ACADEMIA IBEROAMERICANA DE CRIMINALISTICA Y ESTUDIOS FORENSES (AICEF)



THE ASIAN FORENSIC SCIENCES NETWORK (AFSN)

PURPOSE

The International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA) is a partnership between Regional Networks of Operational Forensic Laboratories.

These autonomous networks represent forensic science laboratory management for their specific regions. They have similar roles, functions and objectives and recognise the value to be gained through long-term collaboration and cooperation on strategic issues related to the management of forensic science laboratories and the promotion of forensic science.

VISION

To create opportunities for strategic collaboration across the global forensic science community.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Represent the operational forensic science community.

Develop and execute a rolling agenda for strategic issues related to forensic science. (Issues to be agreed and minuted).

Be a strategic partner to other relevant international organisations and partnerships.

Encourage the exchange of information related to experience, knowledge and skills between the member networks and other operational forensic experts as appropriate.

CREATING THE ALLIANCE



The original alliance was created on October 27, 2007 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Asian Forensic Sciences Network joined the alliance in 2010.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The IFSA memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed by all IFSA partners, is designed to build international cooperation in the science-based fight against crime.

The cooperation will lead to joint research, methodology development and information exchange allowing forensic science facilities within these networks access to the latest crime fighting tools. The networks will also combine to assist forensic science growth in developing countries on the understanding that it is one of the key factors in establishing basic human rights.

IFSA CONTACT INFORMATION

IFSA 2010/2011 Chair
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IFSA POSITION STATEMENTS

Pending Final Review and Adoption by IFSA Partners

Quality Management

IFSA advocates that a quality management program is germane to a reliable, robust forensic science operation. The program should address the three key elements that underpin the forensic sciences product, namely, the provider, the practitioner and the process. International standards such as ISO/IEC 17025 provide confidence and assurance to the justice sector and the broader community by continuously raising standards and standardization across Member networks.

Ethics and Objectivity

IFSA believes the practice of forensic science must be built on a foundation of ethics, objectivity and impartiality. Directors of forensic laboratories must avoid any activity, interest, influence, or association that interferes or appears to interfere with their independent ability to exercise professional judgment either at a technical or a policy level.

Global Support

IFSA encourages and supports opportunities for strategic and open cooperation and collaboration between existing and emerging regional networks and forensic enablers through the free exchange of information and technology that enhance regional experience, knowledge and skills.

Education, Training and Innovation

IFSA believes that forensic practitioners must have a strong grounding in science to ensure appropriate technical competency. Laboratories have a responsibility to build on that education with targeted on-going training. They are also encouraged to engage with the academic community to enhance and accelerate the forensic body of knowledge through informed innovation which should be shared with Member networks.

Leadership

IFSA promotes the creation and support of an advisory infrastructure which includes current and emerging networks aimed at encouraging scientific and managerial excellence in the global forensic community. The IFSA infrastructure is comprised of forensic sciences network laboratory directors who understand the emerging critical issues and the implication of new technologies that have universal relevance and require robust Member communication, cooperation and/or advocacy.