



Press Release

11th Annual General Meeting of ARIN-AP Concludes in New Delhi; India Hands Over Presidency to Singapore



1. The 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asset Recovery Interagency Network, Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP), hosted by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) under India's Presidency of the Network for 2026, concluded in New Delhi on 30 September 2026. ARIN-AP is an informal network of law enforcement and judicial contact points engaged in all aspects of recovering the proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region. Launched in Korea in November 2013 and modelled on the CARIN network of Europe, it facilitates the direct and rapid exchange of information and good practice among its 32 member jurisdictions and 10 observers. Over three days, the meeting brought together prosecutors, investigators, asset managers, financial intelligence officers and policy practitioners from member jurisdictions and observer organisations, along with special invitees from partner agencies and representatives of Indian agencies. The closing session was addressed by the Director, Directorate of Enforcement, and marked the symbolic handing over of the ARIN-AP Presidency from India to Singapore, which will lead the Network in 2027.

Closing the Loop: From Tracing to Return

2. In his closing remarks, the Director recalled that the theme of the meeting, "Closing the Loop: From Tracing to Return", was chosen to follow the life of an asset recovery case from its first lead to its final outcome. He observed that asset recovery is often discussed in fragments: the investigator sees the tracing, the prosecutor the confiscation order, the asset

manager the custody, and the victim, too often, nothing at all. The meeting was designed to bring these stages together so that no participant left with only one part of the picture.

3. Reviewing the sessions on tracing, the Director noted the discussions on how the speed of virtual asset movement calls for equally fast engagement with service providers and blockchain analytics, the organisation of cross-border tracing by the foreign counterpart agencies and the early experience of the INTERPOL Silver Notice. He highlighted a practical lesson from the panel on moving from intelligence to evidence: informal cooperation delivers most when it is planned together with the formal request that must follow it.

4. On non-conviction based confiscation, the Director observed that, while the legal tool is now widely available across the region, its value is tested in appellate courts, where questions of standard of proof, reverse onus and proportionality decide whether an order holds and whether years of investigative effort result in recovery. On asset management, he noted that recovery can be undone by poor custody, as an asset that loses its value between restraint and confiscation is a recovery in name only, and that this stage requires planning from the very start of a case.

5. On the return of assets, which is the purpose of all that precedes it, the meeting discussed restitution to victims, return to the exchequer and the social reuse of confiscated assets. India shared its experience of restoring assets to victims at scale under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The Director described this as the measure by which the public judges law enforcement institutions.



6. The Director thanked the special invitees who shared their case experience with the meeting, namely the Financial Conduct Authority and HM Revenue and Customs of the United Kingdom, IRS Criminal Investigation of the United States, the Guardia di Finanza of Italy, ARMA of Ukraine, and Asset Reality. He noted that case studies such as Operation Coriander and the cryptocurrency tracing and seizure case presented by IRS-CI gave the meeting the practical grounding that practitioners value most.

7. The Director also thanked the sister networks CARIN and ARIN-MENA, observing that the contacts built across networks can be as decisive as those built within them, and the participating agencies from member jurisdictions and from India, including the Financial Intelligence Unit-India and the Central Bureau of Investigation. He emphasised that asset recovery depends on financial intelligence, law enforcement cooperation, prosecution, courts and asset management working in sequence, and expressed the hope that every participant would leave with a fuller understanding of the entire asset recovery process.

8. Referring to the revisions to FATF Recommendations 4 and 38, the Director noted that these will shape how confiscation regimes are assessed in the next round of mutual evaluations, and that the exchanges at the meeting should help members prepare for it with the benefit of each other's experience.

Handing Over of the Presidency



9. The Director stated that it had been an honour for India to hold the Presidency of ARIN-AP in 2026, and thanked the member jurisdictions and observers for their confidence and the ARIN-AP Secretariat at the Supreme Prosecutors' Office of the Republic of Korea for its steady support throughout the year. Following the symbolic handing over of the Presidency, he congratulated Singapore, noting its strong record of international cooperation, and assured Singapore of India's full cooperation in 2027 and beyond.

10. Mr. David Chew, Chief Prosecutor for International Engagement at the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore, who received the Presidency on behalf of Singapore, emphasised that trust among members is fundamental to the success of the Network and committed to continue building on it during Singapore's Presidency.

11. Concluding his remarks, the Director observed that the value of a meeting such as this lies in what follows it, and expressed the hope that when a request next reaches another member of the Network, the practitioner will already know whom to call, and the call will be answered by someone met in New Delhi.
