



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 – INHOPE Global General Assembly - Madrid, Spain

## **Slovenia and Japan join the International fight against Cyber Crime.**

Today the INHOPE Global General Assembly brought together 50 experts from over 30 states. International and national police forces, Government representatives, hotlines, child protection agencies and IT industry experts shared success stories whilst addressing internet safety issues.

The global agenda included breakout sessions where Internet specialists discussed preventative measures to deal with the immediate danger of online predators. Recent high profile paedophile ring smashes were applauded. Cormac Callanan, CEO INHOPE said “The cooperation and sharing of information between the hotlines and relevant parties has resulted in a triumph against Child Pornography. Nevertheless in order to stop the clear and present online danger, parents need to be alerted to the dangers.”

A special session welcomed two new members from Slovenia and Japan to join the successful INHOPE network. The Spletno-oko hotline in Slovenia was established in September 2006. The organisation is a consortium of 3 partners and is funded by the European Commission and its consortium partners. The IAJ hotline in Tokyo, Japan was established in June 2006. Akio Kokubu explained “The IAJ is delighted to become members of INHOPE. We believe that our fight against illegal content will be greatly enhanced by this increased international cooperation”

When illegal content such as child pornography is reported to a hotline it is not unusual for it to transcend traditional national boundaries. [www.inhope.org](http://www.inhope.org) is the only centralised portal where the public can report illegal and harmful use of the Internet. Katarina Krapez of the Slovenian hotline “welcomed the sharing of information globally between INHOPE Members”. There are now 29 member hotlines in 26 countries worldwide.

### **Highlights of the INHOPE General Assembly:**

- 30 states represented by 50 experts with Key note speakers from Europe, the USA and Asia and the Pacific.
- Focus groups discussed detailed topics about new internet criminal trends
- Received illegal reports doubled to 850,000 in 2006.
- A comprehensive training course for hotlines was launched.
- Strategies shared between relevant stakeholders such as Industry partners.
- New sectors and issues explored in Internet Safety in the global agenda

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## **Background information on INHOPE**

The INHOPE Association of Internet Hotlines, co-ordinated from Ireland, was founded in 1999. Hotlines monitor the internet and it is where the general public can report illegal internet content such as child pornography. The hotline confidentially then reviews each report, referring illegal material onto law enforcement agencies, such as the Police, or Internet Service Providers for further action.

INHOPE is part funded by the EC as part of the European Commission Safer Internet Action Programme and Microsoft.

New hotline contact details:

**Spletno-okno hotline** - [www.spletno-okno.si](http://www.spletno-okno.si)

**IAJ hotline** - [www.iajapan.org](http://www.iajapan.org)

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