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**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME

GOING GLOBAL: THE EVOLUTION, EXPANSION AND IMPACT OF SCAM CENTRES AROUND THE WORLD

SIDE EVENT AT THE 2026 GLOBAL FRAUD SUMMIT

17 March 2026
Time: 09:00 - 10:00

Venue: Room M4, Vienna
International Centre

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Organized by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), supported by Canada, Australia and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)

The 3rd edition of the Global Organized Crime Index once again places financial crime, including fraud, at the top of the global league table of organized crime. Indeed, in recent years, fraud centres and related cyber-scam operations have become one of the most serious manifestations of modern organized crime, with criminal networks scamming billions of US dollars worldwide each year.

This form of crime also has an impact on national and global security: scams and fraud cause psychological harm to victims and communities; threaten freedoms, human rights, peace and security; and damage economies, societies and development.

This side event will examine the various forms that fraud centres take globally, and will include in the presentation of a new global research report from GI-TOC. Drawing on insights from Asia, Europe, Latin America and Africa, participants will discuss the emergence of a global illicit market that thrives on technological innovation, and criminal collaboration. The event will also explore unique local enablers, including geopolitics and political protection, and examine convergences with other types of crime.

Government and civil society experts will provide their perspectives and recommendations on how to strengthen the current international response.

Speakers

- Mark Shaw, Executive Director, GI-TOC
- Yoshimitsu Yamauchi, Director, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)
- H.E. Jane Duke, Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking, Australia
- Kristina Amerhauser, Head of Mekong Observatory, GI-TOC
- Canada representative TBC