

Interpol approves new hi-tech crime centre in Singapore

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Interpol President Khoo Boon Hui addresses the opening of the 79th session of the Interpol General Assembly in Doha on November 8. The global police organisation Interpol approved at its general assembly in Qatar on Tuesday the creation of a new Singapore-based anti-crime centre.

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The so-called Global Complex reflects "the continuation of our culture of innovation and is the next step in the organisation's evolution," said the organisation's secretary general, Ronald Noble.

"It will help all law enforcement raise their game in tackling the threats of the 21st century, particularly cybercrime," Noble said.

The former American prosecutor was re-elected earlier on Tuesday to a third five-year term at the head of the organisation.

The centre is intended to complement the agency's existing general secretariat in Lyons, France, and is planned to go into full operation in late 2013 or early 2014.

It will provide innovative forensics and database research and enhance the organisation's ability to provide round-the-clock support to national [police](#) forces across time zones, the [Interpol](#) website says.

Jean-Michel Louboutin, executive director of police affairs told AFP, the "centre will also have a regional vocation to enable us to deploy more rapidly crises cells in case of terrorist attacks, (natural) catastrophes or huge narcotics cases for example."

Gas-rich Qatar, which is hosting this year's annual general assembly, has already pledged two million dollars (1.4 million euros) for the new hi-tech centre, which will be financed by Singapore.

Singapore will provide the land for the centre, as well as construction and equipment.

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