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## No money-laundering at casinos so far: CAD director

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NO money-laundering cases have been detected so far at the two casinos in Singapore, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Ong Hian Sun, director of the Commercial Affairs Department, the white-collar crime unit of the Singapore Police Force, told reporters that Singapore had learnt from the experience of other countries such as the United States, United Kingdom and Aus-

tralia, and had put in place strict measures to prevent money-laundering activity.

The Resorts World Sentosa casino opened in February, while the Marina Bay Sands casino started operations in April.

Mr Ong was speaking to reporters at the end of the 13th annual meeting of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering held in Singapore this week, which he co-chaired with Australian Federal Police Commissioner

Tony Negus. Over 300 government officials and policy makers from some 40 countries attended the meeting, which was held behind closed doors at Suntec, organisers said.

The participants discussed the latest developments in money-laundering and terrorist financing activity, and ways to combat it.

"Every country faces money-laundering challenges, though the threats and vulnera-

bilities differ," said APG executive secretary Gordon Hook. Among the issues discussed at this week's meetings were kidnapping for ransom, telemarketing fraud, human trafficking and human smuggling, he said.

Among the biggest challenges

that law-enforcement officials face in fighting money-laundering is the increasing internationalisation of organised crime, Mr Negus said. That makes it vital for governments to co-operate closely to combat such crime, he added.