



Study Tour Report **South-South Cooperation**

Myanmar

March 2007

South-South Cooperation

The notion of international cooperation came to existence with the UN charter, which pledges to “employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social development of all people.” The ‘north-south cooperation’ and technology transfer from the north to south was considered as the bridge to fill the technological competence gulf between the developed and the developing countries. Over the years, it was realized that within the group of developing countries also there were marked differences. This made people to think of cooperation among the developing countries themselves thus giving rise to the concept of ‘south-south cooperation’

The concept of South-South cooperation was developed in the 1970s focusing on the significance of mutual cooperation among developing countries. The cooperation entails an equal relationship between the South and the South. The countries in the south generally share certain commonalities such as similar developmental experience and are also faced with common challenges such as high population pressure, poverty, hunger, disease, environmental deterioration, etc.

The UN has continually been supporting various activities to promote South-South Cooperation in the form of policy support and capacity-building activities among others. In 2003, the UN General Assembly decided to declare 19 December, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. The assembly urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation, and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical, and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives.

Since 2002, facing a concentrated HIV epidemic among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and in Prisons I.R. of Iran has implemented extensive measures for controlling the epidemic, which has made Iran a pioneer country in the region and also among Islamic countries in the provision of comprehensive services to IDUs and in prisons.

In this context and in frame South-South Cooperation, UNODC Iran has adopted the development of more collaboration between south countries as a major policy during recent two years. Improvement of the regional HIV and drug control programmes and measures among the mentioned groups, through exchange of experiences have been the pivot of this initiation.

With facilitating study tours to Iran from countries of the region, UNODC Iran has supported interested countries in developing HIV/AIDS and drug prevention and care programmes in the community and in prison settings.

This report is trying to present a global picture of joint activities between UNODC Iran and other UNODC offices in the wider region during 2007 in the frame of South-South Cooperation by providing brief information of study tours to Iran from Myanmar, Malaysia, China, Vietnam, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.

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Study Tour
Myanmar Delegation
March 2007 - Iran



The Delegation from Myanmar Visiting UNODC Premises in Iran

Study Tour Report

1. Participants:

	Name	Position
2. 2.	CCDAC	
	Pol. Col. Tin Mg Mg	Director (International Relations) CCDAC
	Pol. Col. Kan Hliang	Police Commander, Lashio State Police Force
	Pol. Col. Tin Thein Han	Police Commander, Mon State Police Force
	Pol. Col. Kyaw Htay	Deputy Head of Police Training Center, Pyin Oo Lwin
	Pol. Lt. Col. Win Naing	District Commander, Tachileik District Police Force
	Pol. Maj. Khin Mg Lwin	Supervisor, Taunggyi ANTF
	Pol. Capt. Shwe Nyar Mg	Supervisor, Bamaw ANTF
	U Soe Tint	Deputy Director of Prisons, Insein
	U Zaw Sit Aung	Staff Officer, Prisons, Insein
	Health	
	Dr. Tin Win Mg	Director General Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Mental Health Hospital, Yangon
	Dr. Aung Thaw	
	INGO	
	Willy de Maere	Country Representative, AHRN
	Siddharth Singh	Outreach Expert, AHRN
	Mr. Shariq RAZA	UNODC Country Representative
	Olivier Lermet	International Coordinator, TCU
	Paul Htay	Technical Assistant, TCU

Place visited: Tehran / Isfahan, I.R. of Iran

3. Date: 04 – 11 March 2007

4. Coordinator: UNODC Iran

5. Purpose of the visit:

To expose Myanmar Government representatives, from both Health and Law Enforcement, to first hand examples of best practices in relation to Drug Use and HIV (especially as it relates to prison settings).

6. Outcomes:

The exposure and experiences of the attendees are intended to promote improved understanding concerning the importance of such initiatives, how such initiatives can relate to the Myanmar context and the importance of the involvement of their respective sectors the HIV response. It will also facilitate the development of relationships between Government representatives and UN/NGO staff attending, as well as between Government attendees from different Ministries. It is also hoped to build upon regional networks in relation to the response to Drug Use and HIV

7. Report:

The delegation was initially acquainted with the background and structure of UNODC office in Islamic Republic of Iran and its finalized and ongoing programs within the three main areas of function as follows:

- I. Drug Supply Reduction/Law Enforcement
- II. Drug Demand Reduction, and
- III. Rule of Law

In a visit to HIV Positive Club the delegation was introduced to the club's therapeutic, psychological, and harm reduction services provided to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Iran like free of charge Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) and Needle Exchange, Condom promotion, and advocacy as well as variety of activities and classes hold by the club such as:

- English learning class, Music, Computer, Yoga, Meditation etc.
- Trips for patients – such as for picnics or football matches
- Trains counselors from other provinces so that to enable them to return to their provinces and implement similar activities.

A visit was also paid to *Rebirth Society*, a charity organization with 33 treatment/rehabilitation centers in different provinces of Iran founded in 1999 by recovered drug users, which aims to establish suitable grounds for behavior change and recovery of drug users and their families by operating in different areas of Drug Demand Reduction, such as:

- Primary Prevention: Drug prevention education in schools and community
- Secondary Prevention: Successful medication-free detoxification and rehabilitation of drug users together with counseling and referral services
- Tertiary Prevention: Provision of care and support as well as prevention of collateral damage of drug use

During a visit to the Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS), currently affiliated with Tehran Medical University, the delegation got familiar with the programs and achievements of the center especially in Methadone Maintenance Program, as well as services provided to the addicts including:

- Detoxification
- Agonist maintenance therapy
- Counseling: Individual, Group, Family.
- Relapse prevention
- Self help groups
- Psychotherapy

Other part of the study tour was focused on the measures taken in prisons and services provided in this field; the delegation paid visits and participated in several meetings and Q&A sessions with respective authorities and officials in: Prisons Organization, Inmates After Release Care & Consultation Center of Tehran prisons, Qezel Hesar Prison, Isfahan Prison, and Drop-In-Center in Isfahan in which they were informed of Iranian prisons system, Harm Reduction and HIV prevention services besides vocational trainings provided in prisons, Triangular Clinic & Rehabilitation Centers' activities, after care services, and outcomes and statistics of the conducted programs.

In another meeting with Dr. Fada Hossein Maaleki, Secretary General of the Drug Control Headquarters, the two sides shared their experiences and similar problems related to drug abuse in the two countries and discussed fields of mutual cooperation in DDR section.

The delegation was introduced to the structure of the DCHQ and its ways of interaction with ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Prisons Organization, Police, and Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

In the following of the study tour, a meeting was organized in UNAIDS office during which Dr. Hamidreza Setayesh gave a presentation on situation of HIV/AIDS in Iran, attitudes of the Government and clergymen in this regard, and measures taken.

At the end, a wrap up meeting was held at the UNODC IR office as a follow up for the Iran study tour, for raising any concerns or questions related to Harm Reduction and HIV information discussed. For the Myanmar delegation, this meeting served as an opportunity to discuss a bilateral committee between Iran - Myanmar governments and also UNODC Iran - UNODC Myanmar.

Annex I

Agenda

Mon 5th March, 2007	
Arrival in Tehran W555044 (Mahan Air) at 01:00 AM	
Accommodation at Ferdousi Grand Hotel	
09:35	Pick up from Ferdousi Grand Hotel
10:00-10:30	UNODC Welcoming
10:30 – 11:00	Visit to the HIV/AIDS Club
11:45-13:00	Visit of Rebirth Organization Drug Treatment Camp
14:00-16:00	Visit to Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS)
16:30	Back to Ferdousi Grand Hotel
Tue 6th March, 2007	
07:30	Pick up from Ferdousi Grand Hotel
08:00-16:30	Visit of Prison After Care Service in Tehran
	Visit to Qezel Hesar Prison in Tehran Province
	Visit to Rajae Shahr Prison in Tehran Province
16:30	Back to Ferdousi Grand Hotel
Wed 7th March, 2007	
08:00	Pick up from Ferdousi Grand Hotel
08:30-09:30	Meeting with Dr. Fada Hossein Maaleki, Secretary General, Drug Control Headquarters, I.R of Iran
10:30-12:00	Meeting with Brg. General Hossein Abadi, Anti Narcotic Police
14:00-16:00	Meeting with Head of the Iranian Prison Organisation
16:30	Back to Ferdousi Grand Hotel
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner Reception at Ferdousi Grand Hotel
Thu 8th March, 2007	
04:00	Pick up from Ferdousi Grand Hotel to Mehr Abad Air Port
Flight to Isfehan at IR 237 Tehran _ Isfehan 06:25	
Arrival in Isfehan at 07:25 A.M.	
07:25	Pick up from Isfehan Air Port
08:30-14:00	Visit of Isfehan Central Prison
14:30-17:00	Visit of Treatment Facilities of NGOs in Isfehan
17:30	Back to Mellal Hotel in Isfehan
Friday 9th March, 2007 (Public Holiday)	
Flight from Isfehan IR 252 Isfehan _ Tehran 22:00	
Arrival in Tehran Friday 9th March 23:00	
23:00	Pick up from Air port to Ferdousi Grand Hotel
Saturday 10th March, 2007	
Sunday 11th March 2007	
(Departure from Tehran W555045 (Mahan Air) to Bangkok 07:00)	
03:30	Pick up from Ferdousi Grand Hotel to Air Port

Annex II

Pictures



Visit to Isfahan Prison



Meeting with Deputy to the Representative of UNODC Iran



Visit to Rajae Shar Prison



Visit to Rebirth NGO Drug Treatment Camp



Visit to prisons Organization



Visit to HIV/AIDS Club



Meeting with the DCHQ Authorities