



Study Tour Report **South-South Cooperation**

China

July 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

Asian Regional HIV Project (Guangxi Province, China) Delegation

July 2007 – Iran



The Delegation from Asian Regional HIV Project (Guangxi Province, China) Visiting UNODC Premises in Iran

Study Tour Report

1. Participants:

Name	Position
Huang Ling	Guangxi Project Coordinator, Team Leader
Liu KangMai	Vice Director, National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Wang Changhe	Assistant researcher, National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Xu Zhigao	Deputy Team Leader, of Narcotic Control Team General of GX Public Security
Chen Shibiao	Deputy section chief, of Narcotic Control Section of GX Public Security
Bai Lan	Deputy section Chief, International Economy Co-operation Division Department of Commerce of Guangxi, ARHP counterpart
Xie Yonghong	Director of Guangxi Ethic Centre, ARHP GX local expert panel member HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention Section, GX CDC
Liu Yuzhang	Docror,ARHP GX local expert panel member Guangxi Prison Hospital, Guangxi Public Security Departme

2. Place visited: Tehran, I.R. of Iran

3. Date: 22 – 26 July 2007

4. Coordinator: UNODC Iran

5. Purpose of the visit:

Increasing multi-sectoral cooperation in HIV prevention among IDUs

6. Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Project (ARHP) background

The 5-year \$14.5 million Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Project (ARHP) commenced in July 2002 and operates in Vietnam, Myanmar and China (Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region). ARHP aims to progress the adoption of harm reduction approaches to HIV prevention in Asia.

Project activities target regional action to strengthen the capacity of countries to take a more strategic and evidence-based approach to policy making, planning and programming for HIV and IDU. ARHP is an Australian Government initiative managed by Cardno-ACIL in partnership with the Burnet Institute's Centre for Harm Reduction.

The important elements of successful HIV prevention among injecting drug users are the support from governments and multi-sectoral cooperation, such as cooperation with health section and law enforcement. With the emergence of NSP and MMT in China, and the quasi-legal status afforded drug users who are MMT clients, Chinese government has realized the importance of implementation of harm reduction and effective approaches in China.

ARHP support 15 “Effective Approaches Projects” (EAPs) providing NSP, peer based outreach, drop in centers, across Burma and China. Each of the EAPs is supported by a multi-sectoral local level steering committee. 6 of these EAPs are in Guangxi.

This study tour was an opportunity to provide Guangxi provincial high level leader (including members from GX provincial government, health department and law enforcement) with Iranian experience and lessons learned in harm reduction in Iran.

Some Data on Guangxi HIV situation:

- Guangxi Province is located in south of China neighboring Vietnam and Myanmar.
- The total population: 45,000,000
- Recorded drug users: 70,000
- Recorded HIV Positive People: 30,000

7. Report:

The delegation had several meeting with Iranian counterparts including:

- DCHQ
- Revolutionary Court of Tehran
- Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies
- CDC, Ministry of Health
- Iranian AIDS Research Center
- Azadi and Persepolis DICs
- Positive Life and Rebirth NGOs
- UNAIDS

The delegation pointed out the most significant results of their mission as follows:

- The delegation was impressed by the contribution of different sectors in drugs and HIV control programs such as Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), Ministry of Health, State Welfare Organization, Ministry of Justice, etc.
- The most impressive point for them was the structure of DCHQ with the presence of President as the head of this organization that was mentioned is much different from similar structures in China and could be followed by China’s authorities as a good model.
- The delegation mentioned that despite the social and cultural differences between China and Iran, both countries are encountering similar challenges and difficulties and economic and social threats of HIV to both countries stay the same. They both aim to tackle similar contexts in HIV/AIDS

prevention although their HIV prevalence pattern might be different (for example transmission from mother to child is more considerable in China).

- Regarding National Strategic Plan both countries have passed their first NSP and in the second version they tackled similar targets such as advocacy, education, treatment, monitoring, surveillance, etc.
- Taking Iran's useful example, China would consider more appropriate measures to overcome current challenges. The study tour was considered as the opening of a new way for exchanging experiences and regional cooperation between two countries.

Annex I

Agenda

Sunday 22 July, 2007	
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome meeting at UNODC-IRAN
11:00 – 12:00	Meeting with Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Meeting with Judiciary Representatives
Monday 23 July, 2007	
08:30 – 09:30	AIDS Research Center and meeting with Ms. Dr. Mohraz
10:30 – 12:30	Visit to Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies (INCAS)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Visit to Persepolis DIC
Tuesday 24 July, 2007	
09:30 – 11:30	Visit to Rebirth NGO
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
15:00 – 16:30	Meeting with Arya NGO, Dr. Afshar and Dr. Kasraee
Wednesday 25 July, 2007	
08:15 – 09:15	Meeting with Dr. Gouya, Head of CDC Ministry of Health
10:15 – 12:00	Visit to West Triangular Clinic
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:30	Visit to Positive Life Non Governmental Organization
Thursday 26 July, 2007	
09:00 – 10:00	Visit to Azadi Drop In Centre (DIC)
11:00 – 12:30	Meeting with UNAIDS, “Sharing Lessons” presentation given by Guangxi delegates
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break

Annex II

Pictures



Meeting with the Prisons Organization's Authorities



Meeting with the Head of Diseases Control Center



Meeting with DCHQ Authorities



Visit to INCAS



Visit to AIDS Research Center



Visit from Iranian Positive Life NGO



Visit to Arya NGO



Meeting with Judiciary's Representatives