

# **South Asia**

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UNODC helps countries and its people to reduce illegal drugs and crime throughout the world and to address justice and human security. It helps Member States with technical assistance, legal advice and research within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the three United Nations Conventions on Drugs.

UNODC South Asia is present in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

## **Bhutan: Counter-Terrorism Workshop**



UNODC in collaboration with the Royal Government of Bhutan conducted a workshop on the 'Legislative requirements of the universal conventions & protocols against terrorism' in Thimpu, Bhutan. The workshop held on

October 29, was dedicated to raising awareness and sensitizing participants from a variety of Government agencies on aspects related to the ratification of the 18 international instruments against terrorism. The workshop included presentations on the prevalent international legal regimes and on Bhutan's status of ratification of the various instruments. The workshop concluded with the suggestion that there was need for analyzing the present domestic legislation in Bhutan to identify gaps vis-à-vis international instruments. The Government stressed that they would appreciate UNODC's assistance for such a gap analysis.

## **Upcoming Events**

#### **November: Opioid Substitution Treatment Induction Training**

UNODC has been providing technical assistance to the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) for the scale up of opioid substitution treatment (OST) in all the eight states of NorthEast India. The technical assistance includes conducting a five-day induction training for all staff appointed for running the OST programme. The training programme will be conducted in close coordination with NACO and the relevant State AIDS Control Societies on the following dates:

November 19-23: Aizwal, Mizoram, India November 26-30: Kohima, Nagaland, India

**November 27, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India:** UNODC is organizing a workshop for investigators on the 'Application of special investigative techniques and technological advancements in investigation of corruption cases'. The workshop aims at enhancing the understanding, capacity and skills of corruption-investigating officers in the course of investigation and detection of corruption case.

# India: Consultation on Anti Human Trafficking



UNODC organized a national consultation in New Delhi, India, to share the key findings of a study on victim support services and criminal justice response to human trafficking in India and to develop recommendations for civil society and criminal justice

system cooperation. Following the presentation of the country assessment, three working groups were constituted within which participants deliberated. The topics for discussion were 'institutional mechanisms for protection', 'rehabilitation mechanisms', and 'prevention of trafficking, missing children, forced labour and unsafe migration'. The recommendations made by the participants will be incorporated into the country assessment and shared with relevant stakeholders. Over 35 participants from the Government of India, donor agencies, NGOs and other UN agencies participated in the consultation. The national consultation held from October 18-19 was possible with the financial support of the European Union.

# **Expert Group Meeting on Anti Corruption**



As the lead UN agency mandated to assist countries in strengthening implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), UNODC under the Siemens Integrity Initiative, has initiated two projects aimed at aligning business practices

to provisions of the UNCAC. These projects have activities at the global level, as well as in India and Mexico. In this context, UNODC and the International Anti Corruption Academy (IACA) organized an expert group meeting from September 24-28 in Laxenburg, Austria to debate the issue of corporate integrity and procurement. India was represented with a high level delegation with members from the Government, private and public sector and civil society. Recommendations of this meeting will contribute to a global guide on legal incentives to corporate integrity and on transparency in public procurement.

# **Bangladesh: Opioid Substitution Treatment Clinic Inaugurated**



UNODC in collaboration with Save the Children, CARE Bangladesh and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), inaugurated a methadone dispensing OST clinic in Bangladesh on October 29. The clinic has

been set up at Chankherpul drop-in centre in Dhaka City, where the concentration of injecting drug users (IDUs) is high. The initiative was supported by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) and the National AIDS and STD Program (NASP), Bangladesh. It is expected that about 150 IDUs will be administered methadone everyday from this centre.

## **Maldives: Training on Drop-in Centre Management**

Under the project "Strengthening the National Response to Combat Drug Abuse in the Maldives", implemented in partnership with the Government of Maldives, funded by the European Union; UNODC organized a training on drop-in centre (DIC) management and the peer education programme from October 15 – 21, for recovering drug users who volunteer with Freedom NGO. After the seven-day training, these volunteers were qualified as peer educators and outreach workers for the Freedom NGO-run DIC. The programme was aimed at empowering volunteers with knowledge on drug abuse and HIV/ AIDS.

#### **Internal News Corner**

# The Office bids farewell to Ms Archana Singh



Ms Archana Singh joined UNODC's Nepal office in November 2010 as a Programme Coordinator. She has now decided to leave UNODC for personal reasons and we wish her the very best for the future.

## The Office would like to congratulate Mr Sapan Barua



Senior Driver, Mr Sapan Barua has completed 20 years of dedicated service at UNODC. We thank Sapan for 20 years of unparalleled commitment.