

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.

INDIA: UNODC PARTNERS WITH ART OF LIVING



UNODC, together with other UN agencies, joined the *Volunteer for a Better India* initiative organized by the Art of Living, an NGO. The initiative brings together young people from all over India to devote 'one hour to the nation' and contribute towards a better future. As part of this initiative, on February 2, 2013, a

national summit was organized in Delhi, where youth discussed issues around HIV/AIDS, declining child sex ratio, illicit drug use, corruption, girl safety etc. UNODC conducted a workshop on anticorruption, where participants shared experiences of corruption in their lives - like how they bribed their way out of a fine or how they misused authority to get an unfair advantage. The heated debate that followed witnessed participants identifying how they can stand up to corruption by making correct choices, adhering to the law and not turning to bribery to get work done. The summit was followed by a cultural event on February 3, 2013 where approximately 10,000 people gathered to pledge support for a better India.

BHUTAN: UNODC ORGANIZES ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP



In recent years, there have been increasing incidences of organized crime in Bhutan. Although there is not much data regarding domestic and cross-border human trafficking, there have been reports of Bhutanese women and children being trafficked outside the country. To create awareness on the issue, UNODC, in collaboration with the National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan and NEDAN Foundation, an NGO based in Assam, India, conducted a 'National Level Training Workshop on Anti Human Trafficking for

Representatives from law enforcement agencies, judiciary, immigration, customs and other relevant stakeholders' in February 2013 in Phuentsholing, Bhutan. Over 30 participants from Bhutan and India discussed the international, regional and national framework on anti-human trafficking. The workshop also included an exposure visit to an integrated immigration check post and a Woman and Child Protection Unit, Royal Bhutan Police. Key recommendations that emerged during the workshop included (i) development of a standard protocol for investigating trafficking cases by law enforcement agencies (ii) maintaining and promoting cross-border collaboration and information sharing to address trafficking and (iii) establishing transit homes for survivors along border areas and in Thimphu. *The workshop was financially supported by the European Union*.

INDIA: WORKSHOP ON ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

Mumbai, India: UNODC delivered a capacity building session on "International Conventions & Regulations Governing Anti-Money Laundering & Combating the Financing of Terrorism" in a two-day workshop organized by the Multi-Disciplinary School of Economic Intelligence (MDSEI) from January 17-18, 2013. The session focused on UN Conventions on anti-money laundering and their effective implementation and was followed by an interaction with the participants. 82 high-ranking officers from various law enforcement and regulatory agencies in India participated in the workshop.



BANGLADESH: UNODC INITIATES ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT

UNODC started its first country specific anti human trafficking project in Bangladesh titled 'Technical Assistance provided to the Government of Bangladesh in Strengthening the Responses to Human Trafficking'. The project aims at enhancing protection services for adult male trafficking survivors and survivors of forced labour and will promote regional and inter-regional cooperation in preventing cross-border human trafficking. A joint initiative of the UNODC and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, financially supported by the US State Department, the project was formally launched in January 2013 in the presence of relevant stakeholders from the Border Guards, Coast Guards, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Narcotics and the Ministry of Social Welfare.

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS



The Office welcomes on board Ms Kirandeep Kaur who joined UNODC in January 2013 as an intern supporting UNODC's project on HIV prevention among drug users. She holds a dual degree in Biological Sciences from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, Punjab.

With immense sadness we grieve the loss of colleagues from the UNODC Nigeria Country Office - Ms. Sa'adetu Yahaya and Mr. Suleiman Adamu who died in a car accident on February 28, 2013, while on an official trip in Minna, Niger State. Sa'adetu was the Communications Officer and had recently assisted in organizing a study tour to India, while Suleiman had worked with the Country Office as a driver since July 2012.