

India: HIV awareness for faith based organizations



According to the HIV Sentinel Surveillance 2010 – 2011, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Mizoram is one of the five states in the country with the highest prevalence of HIV among injecting drug users (IDUs). According to the Mizoram State AIDS Control Society there are about 10,750 regular IDUs in Mizoram. In response to these rising challenges, UNODC with support from World Vision, India conducted a conference in Aizawl, Mizoram for members of the church in order to facilitate their response towards emerging problems of drugs and HIV/AIDS in the state. The conference addressed issues like youth and drug abuse, social consequences of drug abuse and reducing stigma and discrimination. At the end of the conference it was decided that an apex body of all church denominations will be set up in the state to respond to drug abuse and HIV/AIDS within the community.

Farewell



UNODC hosted a farewell for Dr. Rajat Ray who retired from the post of Professor and Chief, National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India. Dr. Ray has made tremendous contribution in the field of drug treatment and care both in India and internationally. We look back fondly at his long standing and committed partnership with UNODC and look forward to further collaboration post his retirement.

India: 33rd APCCA hosted in New Delhi



Prisons across the global are moving away from punitive prison policies to a rights based approach. Prisoners are now being viewed as members of society, who if counseled correctly, can make valuable contribution. More and more prisons are focusing on 'Correction-Transformation-Reintegration', which was also the theme of the 33rd Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators (APCCA) hosted in New Delhi, India. Countries from the region exchanged good practices and challenges faced by them in corrections. Country presentations highlighted the current scenario in various prisons and correctional facilities across the region. Delegates also debated on important issues like (i) challenges posed by high risk offenders, (ii) alternatives to imprisonment and (iii) measuring recidivism. UNODC participated in the conference, shared experiences and good practices during the breakout sessions, and delivered a working group summary at the plenary.

Nepal: Youth Friendly Harm Reduction Services



According to the Central Bureau of Statistic, Government of Nepal, there are 91,534 current hard drug users in Nepal, out of which 33.2 percent fall between the ages of 20-24 years. It is therefore essential to have interventions and services tailored to the needs of young drug users. To this end, UNODC organized a 'Training of trainers on 'Enhancing Youth Friendly Harm Reduction Services in Nepal'. The training aimed at building knowledge and skills of program and health related personnel and addressed the changing patterns of drug use among adolescents. Based on a toolkit developed by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales and Access Quality International, the training included methods of modifying existing services for inclusion of young drug users. It will be replicated across Nepal to enhance youth friendly services.

Bangladesh: HIV prevention in prisons



HIV prevention in prisons is not only a matter of concern to prison authorities but is also a public health concern. When HIV infected prisoners are released, they are at risk of spreading the infection to the community at large. In order to move closer to reducing HIV infections in Bangladesh, UNODC's implementing partner KMSS organized a workshop titled, "Advocacy Workshop with Relevant Ministries & Stakeholders". The workshop aimed at highlighting the importance of including components of prison interventions into the National AIDS & STD Control Program (NASP) and providing the much needed impetus to collaborate, integrate and coordinate activities within the different ministries and stakeholders. It was attended by Representatives from the District AIDS Committee, Jessore and the media.

UNODC internal news corner



The Office would like to welcome on board **Dr Chengappa M.N.** who joins the regional project on drugs and HIV/AIDS as the Technical Officer. He has been working in the field of drug use and HIV prevention for the past seven years and has authored several research articles.



We also welcome **Mr. Nimesh Jani** who joins us as the Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser. He has over 20 years of experience in criminal law, advocacy and justice sector reform and has also worked on anti-corruption reform issues in many countries.