

UNODC IN SOUTH ASIA: 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: Promoting safe and regular migration in Tamil Nadu



UNODC visited a district situated 80 kilometers from Chennai, India, to learn about community initiatives on prevention of smuggling of migrants. Despite the establishment of the Kalpakam atomic power station, many of the traditional fisher folk are forced to seek work abroad. Both men and women in the age group of 20 to 35, head mostly for the Middle East and Southeast Asia to work as domestic help, masons, sweepers, tailors, welders and construction workers, sometimes as long as for three years.

Arunodhaya Migrant Initiatives (AMI), a non-governmental organization in Tamil Nadu works with UNODC to spread awareness on safe migration and the prevention of smuggling of migrants, - through street theatre targeting future migrants, returnees, youth and children. Every Saturday at 5 pm, young volunteers beat drums and call the people out to assemble at the community centre. Through interactive street theatre and folk songs, AMI volunteers and returnees illustrate the realities and vulnerabilities of families that can lead to unsafe migration and inform them about safe migration. AMI carries out community based re-integration initiatives, promotes and participates in the village level watchdog committee and sets up women self help groups. Another aspect that AMI is planning to address is 'reverse migration'. According to AMI, the global economic recession forced over 200,000 Indian workers to return to Tamil Nadu, who were left stranded with no job opportunities.

India: UNODC & AIIMS to support feasibility study on methadone

The Government of India has now permitted the use of methadone in oral substitution treatment for recovering drug users. UNODC supports a feasibility study on methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) that will be carried out by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, India.



The study will include five participating centers that are placed either in medical colleges or civil hospitals. The first preparatory workshop on MMT took place at the UNODC office in New Delhi, India on 22 April 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to provide background information on methadone, its efficacy, share best practices where maintenance treatment has worked, how such treatment can be useful in India and its implementation process in clinics.

Bhutan: Training law enforcement officers in special investigation techniques

Organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption are intertwined and threaten regional and global security. The effects of drug trafficking on security can have devastating effects. Efficient law enforcement capacities are a must to tackle drug trafficking. To strengthen these, UNODC with the Government of Bhutan, recently organized a three day training workshop from 11 to 13 May 2010 for law enforcement officers on surveillance of drug traffickers and special investigation techniques, in Paro, Bhutan. Twenty five officers from the Royal Bhutan Police, Customs, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority, Immigration, Drug Regulatory Authority, Education department and Royal Bhutan Army, participated. Specific sessions on "surveillance of drug traffickers", "case initiation and raid operations" and "busting of clandestine labs and safe handling of chemicals" were carried out. In addition, the participants were sensitized on how to identify suspects, profile passengers and cargo at Paro airport and learn typical behavior traits of "swallowers" who carry drugs in their body and identify drug trafficking routes. As a response to this, the Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency has proposed to establish a coordination mechanism at the Paro airport to strengthen controls for drug trafficking.

South Asia: Combating illegal wildlife trade



The first South Asian Expert meeting on illegal wildlife trade hosted by the Government of Nepal (GoN) kicked off in Kathmandu, Nepal on 17 May 2010. The three days meeting was attended by experts from Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as by "Traffic", the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), World Customs Organization, Interpol, UNODC, USAID and the US State Department. South Asia accounts for 15 per cent of biodiversity, including iconic species such as the tiger and other big cats. Poaching and illegal trade have contributed to bring some of these species on the brink of extinction making more effective law enforcement a must. With this aim and based on the good practices of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement network, South Asian experts decided to set up a regional wildlife law enforcement network in South Asia, including the location of a regional coordinating unit.

Environmental crime: a new form of organized crime

Environmental crime is often transnational in nature and involves organized criminal groups. In 2007, the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted the resolution "International cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources". This resolution calls upon Member States to cooperate at bilateral, regional and international level to prevent and control environmental crime by fully implementing the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the *United Nations Convention against Corruption*, of which UNODC is a guardian.

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER

UNODC Maldives: with two new staff from Maldives, Mr. Abdul Malik and Ms. Aishath Arufa, UNODC has now a project office in Maldives! Mr. Malik and Ms. Arufa have joined UNODC working for the project - "strengthening the national response to combat drug abuse in the Maldives". Mr. Malik is a Technical Officer and in this capacity, provides technical guidance and policy advice implementing the technical activities. Ms. Arufa, as the Programme and Finance Assistant, provides administrative and financial support.



UNODC bids farewell to Mr. Jayant Chopra who has been working with the office since 2003 providing administrative and financial support to UNODC projects on prevention of drug use, anti human trafficking and drug law enforcement. He shares, "my long

stay with UNODC was an invaluable learning experience for me. I think UNODC mandates are unique and impact directly the lives of people. I take with me seven years of experience and a wealth of information as I move on to my new assignment with UNDP in New Delhi, India."