



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

South Asia: Regional Computer Based Training (CBT) program for drug law enforcement



The first regional CBT program was conducted at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN), Faridabad, India from 22 – 25 November 2010. 20 participants from Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka representing different law enforcement agencies such as the customs, police, excise and coast guard attended the training. For the first time, the participants got an opportunity to learn on the interactive CBT environment developed by UNODC, instead of conventional class room sessions. Each trainee officer had nearly 20 hours learning on various aspects of drug law enforcement such as interdiction techniques at airports/seaports/land controls, intelligence collection and analysis, special investigative techniques and precursor chemical control. Most of the trainees preferred the CBT to regular class room

excellent. UNODC conducted an assessment of the impact of the learning process of the program and found the overall class average increase was 83.78%. In India, four national level CBT programs have been conducted so far at NACEN's regional training institutes in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mumbai. 60 customs officers trained in these programs also expressed similar views. Additionally, they also felt that a customized version in Indian context would create better understanding of the subject.

UNODC will conduct two more regional training programs and 14 national level training programs in India in 2011. It also plans to expand the program to the countries in the region in a phased manner.

Bangladesh: Countering the financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering

From 21 to 25 November 2010, the Bangladesh Police and the UNODC Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML) held the first of four workshops designed to develop in-country expertise to deliver ongoing training for countering financing of terrorism and anti money laundering (CFT/AML) in Bangladesh. The programme, which is designed and developed by GPML and funded by the Canadian Government's Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Program, will not only prepare future national trainers in Bangladesh, but also provide country specific curriculum and training modules for the Bangladesh Police, Detective Training School and the Judicial Administration Training Institute.

Designed in the 'Training of Trainers' format, the workshop centered on development of training and presentation skills of 21 trainees who were drawn from the Criminal Investigation Department of the Bangladesh Police, the Anti Corruption Commission, The Office of the Attorney General and the Anti Money Laundering Department of Bangladesh Bank. It included sessions on topics like fundamentals of training design, training delivery, managing the audience and using effective visual aids. Towards the end, the students delivered a 20 minute training session on a topic of their choice, which was assessed using pre-decided assessment criteria.

The next phase of this programme will focus on identification and investigation of financing of terrorism and money laundering. The blend of the presentation skills training and the technical training, as well as the handover of course modules, will equip the Bangladeshi Government with personnel and training materials to continue effective training on CFT/AML topics in the future.



Maldives: Strengthening national capacities to address drug use



A sensitization meeting for parliamentarians on "Understanding the challenges related to drug use in Maldives" was held on 28 November 2010 in Male. The meeting was organized by civil society partners - Society for Women Against Drugs (SWAD) and Journey.

Representatives from the UN and EU along with civil society partners held discussions with the Parliamentarians on a human rights based approach to drug treatment and drug law enforcement. This was preceded by a health camp on 27 November 2010 in the remote Fenfushi Island in the Alif Dhall Atoll of the Maldives, which was organized by the NGOs SWAD, Journey and Fenfushi Zuvaanunge Dhirun, a local youth NGO. The health camp, through games, discussions and individual interactions, aimed to create awareness amongst the community on various aspects of drug use and the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation options available in Maldives. Both the events were conducted in association with UNODC with support from the European Union as part of the project "Strengthening the National Response to Combat Drug Abuse in the Maldives"



India: Harnessing collective action to address corruption



On 9 December 2010, International Anti Corruption Day, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in India organized a seminar on 'Empowering Citizens to Combat Corruption' in New Delhi in association with the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and UNODC. The CVC is an apex anti-corruption statutory body, which is mandated to address corruption and ensure integrity in public life. The seminar brought together panelists from Government institutions, the private sector, civil society, media and international agencies to discuss ways of moving from a punitive and reactive vigilance regime towards a more proactive, preventive and predictive vigilance framework that involves all stakeholders.

South Asia: World Aids Day Celebrations



Nepal: World AIDS Day was celebrated in Nepal under the leadership of National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Ministry of Health Population. One such event was a friendly cricket match amongst people who are living with HIV, Government officials, international development partners and corporate houses.

Another event was an art exhibition and a theatrical performance titled "Expression of Repression". The theme was nudity as the ultimate form of expression. This was the very first time in Nepal where art was used as a medium of expression to create awareness on the issue of HIV/AIDS. The models included PLHAs, sex workers, IDUs, MSMs and migrants. UNODC supported both these events.



Mizoram, India: The celebrations in the female ward of the Central Jail started with a discussion on the theme for World AIDS Day 2010 'Universal Access and Human Rights'. This was followed by a quiz on HIV/AIDS. 90% of the questions were answered correctly by the inmates. Three prominent singers of Mizoram were also invited for the day and they kept the inmates, including the children dancing on their feet.



Bangladesh: A discussion on HIV/AIDS was conducted with the staff of the Gazipur Prison. They were also given stickers, leaflets and other IEC material for distribution amongst the inmates. UNODC's prison intervention project was represented in a stall under the National

Project where visitors got information on HIV/AIDS through discussions and distribution of IEC material.

United Nations Bhutan: Partners for Happiness

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Bhutan is a self starter for UN Delivering As One and has committed itself to plan and coordinate collectively its mandated work under one umbrella, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Bhutan's UNDAF has six priority areas, including (i) poverty reduction, (ii) health, (iii) education, (iv) governance, (v) environment/energy and disaster risk management as well as (vi) gender.

On 7 December 2010, UNODC became a member to the UNDAF Bhutan (2008-2012). UNODC will be collaborating under the theme group of health (on drug use and HIV prevention) as well as on governance (anti-corruption). Other UNDAF members are UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, FAO, IFAD, OCHA, UNCDF, UNEP UNESCO, UNIFEM, UNCTAD, UNV, UNFPA and WFP.

The UNDAF is co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan. Also all six theme groups are co-chaired by the respective UN agencies and the line Ministry. During the annual country programme board meeting, the results of the mid-term evaluation of the UNDAF, the process for the end-cycle and the new UNDAF planning were presented and discussed. After the meeting, a signing ceremony took place for UNODC to become a member to UNDAF.

Although Bhutan has made important progress in reaching or even exceeding the MDGs, there remain important challenges for the Government to reach out with services to remote rural areas and to focus on quality of services, especially, in health and education. Drug use is an emerging issue especially amongst the youth, although prevalence rates are low. The same is true for crime. This should not be a reason for complacency, but an incentive to keep them low, a key reason why UNODC is keen to engage more in Bhutan.

Asia: Improving evidence-based knowledge on migrant smuggling

An inter-regional workshop on improving evidence-based knowledge on migrant smuggling from, through and within South-East Asia was conducted in Bangkok from 8-10 December 2010. The workshop was organized by the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific (RCEAP). Being the first of a series, the workshop brought together senior law enforcement experts from South-East Asia, West Asia, South Asia, Australia, North America and Europe in order to map out the current migrant smuggling crime challenges and discuss ways on how to improve evidence-based knowledge with regard to migrant smuggling from, through and within South-East Asia. It also gave an opportunity to discuss UNODC's efforts to set up a mechanism to collect and analyse data on migrant smuggling from, through and within South-East Asia with the objective of regularly producing strategic reports on migrant smuggling. Ms Suruchi Pant, Deputy Representative, UNODC ROSA represented the Office at the workshop. The workshop presented a useful platform to share and discuss the trends of smuggling of migrants in South Asia with key stakeholders.

Long Service Awards

Three colleagues from the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia recently received 'Long Service' awards from UNODC, in recognition of their dedicated service to promoting social development and human security.

Ms Poonam Bhambri, Programme Associate, received the award for 20 years of service while Mr Sapan Barua, senior driver, received the award for 15 years of service. Mr Chand Kaushil, Team Leader, Global Field Office Support, ITS, received the award for 10 years of service in the organisation.

Congratulations to all of them on this commendable achievement and best wishes for the coming years.



UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER



Our office welcomes Ms. Archana Singh, Programme Coordinator for our office in Nepal. Archana brings a wealth of experience with her from her previous assignments with ILO on HIV issues and elimination of child labor, with EHP-USAID on environmental health and as a community development officer on Gender and HIV/AIDS with GTZ. Archana is responsible for the overall management UNODC's activities in the area of HIV prevention among drug users and in prisons in

Nepal and also identifying of new areas of UNODC cooperation, in collaboration with the concerned ROSA colleagues.