

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: Sikkim and Assam welcome the initiative on safe and honorable tourism



Two state level consultations on 'Safe and Honorable Tourism' were held in the north-eastern states of Sikkim and Assam on 22nd and 24th of February, 2011 respectively. The consultations were organized by the Impulse NGO network in collaboration with UNODC, with support from the UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (UNGIFT). The consultations were aimed at engaging with stakeholders at the state level to sensitize them about the National Code of Conduct for Safe and Honorable Tourism, which was launched on 1st July 2010, by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. The Code lays down a set of guidelines for the travel and tourism industry to ensure that all tourism activities in India protect the dignity, safety and right to freedom from exploitation of both tourists and the local population. It was jointly drafted by the Ministry of Tourism along with UNODC, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and Save the Children, India with support from UNGIFT. North east

India, a popular tourist destination, is showing an increasing evidence of human trafficking and vulnerability to sex tourism. In the light of this, UNODC emphasized on the need for initiatives to address issues like sex tourism, human trafficking, drug use and sexual assaults in tourism. The consultations brought together senior level Government officials, namely the Union Minister of State for Rural Development, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in Sikkim, and officials from the Departments of Tourism, Social Welfare, Health, Culture, Human Resource Development and Law enforcement. Representatives from the tourism industry, NGOs and the media were also present. The consultations were well received by the stakeholders, who expressed their full commitment to the initiative and agreed that the Code needs to evolve into a legislation for greater impact. UNODC will be working closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to develop state level interventions on safe and honorable tourism in the coming months.

India: Refresher training on OST conducted for Tihar prison staff



To address the needs of drug dependent individuals in prisons, UNODC in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) initiated an Oral Substitution Therapy (OST) program at the Tihar prisons in India in 2008. To educate the newly joined staff about OST and also take stock of the progress made so far, a sensitization cum refresher training

workshop was held for the Tihar prison staff on 18th February 2011 in New Delhi. In his opening remarks, Dr. Rajat Ray, Chief of National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, spoke about the efficacy of OST to treat drug dependence and the need to sustain and scale up the initiative in prisons across the country. Mr Neeraj Kumar, Director General, Tihar Prisons explained the benefits of OST program for both drug dependent prisoners and the prison staff. The participants, including doctors, nurses, counsellors, lab personnel and members of the prison administration, were apprised about the best practices, potential pitfalls and safeguards in the implementation of OST. They also discussed ways to further strengthen the program and decided on the follow up actions to be taken.

Bangladesh: Countering financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering

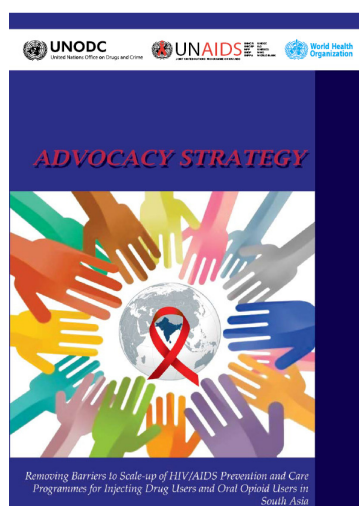


A training workshop on "Financial Investigation to Counter Financing of Terrorism and Combat Money Laundering" was held in Dhaka from 6 -10 February 2011. The training was organized by the UNODC Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML) in

Partnership with the Bangladesh Police and was supported by the Canadian Government's Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Program. The participants included personnel from the Bangladesh Police, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Anti Money Laundering Department of the Bangladesh Bank. UNODC experts were involved as resource persons. The Ambassador of Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh was invited for the closing session of the training.

The event was part of a long-term initiative to build capacities of law enforcement training institutions and subject matter experts in Bangladesh to further impart financial investigation trainings to police and prosecutors in the country.

South Asia: Regional advocacy strategy released



An advocacy strategy for South Asia, developed by UNODC, UNAIDS and WHO under the project "Prevention of transmission of HIV among drug users in SAARC Countries," was released during the meeting of the UN Regional Task Force on Injecting Drug Use and HIV/AIDS for Asia and the Pacific on 10 February 2011 in India. The objective of this initiative is to strengthen advocacy to address the barriers that hinder the access to and scale up of the comprehensive package of services for HIV prevention amongst drug users and their sex partners. Under this activity, country specific advocacy strategies for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have been developed. In addition, a regional advocacy strategy which complements the national strategies has also been developed.

Removing Barriers to Scale-up of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Programmes for Injecting Drug Users and Oral Opium Users in South Asia

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER

Our Office bids farewell to two of our colleagues – Laetitia Jones Mukhim and Tania Fernando.



Laetitia joined UNODC's field office in Shillong, North East India, in September 2000. She started as a secretary and moved through various projects to become an Administration and Finance Assistant. Through her tenure, she always went beyond her job responsibilities to get a pulse of the various programs on the ground. Laetitia now moves to her new assignment with UNICEF, Bhopal as Assistant Program Officer.



Tania joined UNODC as a UN Volunteer in Sri Lanka in 2006. As a project officer in Sri Lanka, she was responsible for the coordination of UNODC's regional projects in Sri Lanka. She was also involved in liaising the government, partner organizations and other agencies to advocate for a broader response to prevention of HIV and drug use in Sri Lanka. Tania soon moves with her family to Australia, where she wishes to study further.

We thank both Laetitia and Tania for their dedicated service at UNODC and wish them the very best for their new lives!