

Eastern Horizons

News on the fight against drugs and crime
in East Asia and the Pacific

No. 5
March 2001



Drug injecting is now the main mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS in East Asia and the Pacific

UN ESCAP and UN Interagency project starts a series of "Brown bag lunches" to promote human security

Towards a drug-free Singapore

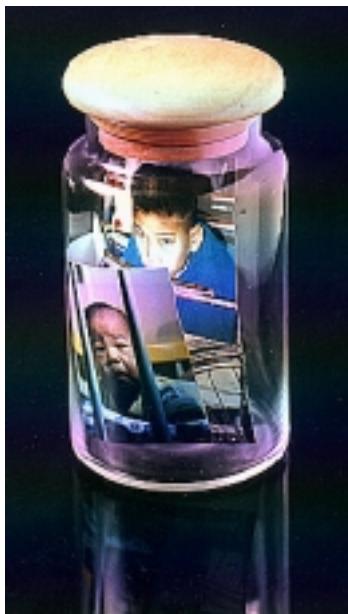
Mutual legal assistance takes off

Going Against the Stream

Tackling the injecting drug use connection with HIV/AIDS in China

Orphaned and afraid, Namkang is struggling to cope with the pain of Aids.
—Photo courtesy of Bangkok Post

DRUG INJECTING IS NOW THE MAIN MODE OF TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



—Photo courtesy of Bangkok Post

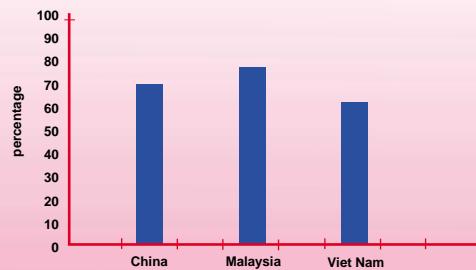
At the UNAIDS Asia Pacific Workshop held in Bangkok in February 2000, Dr. Anindya Chatterjee exposed the frightening growth of HIV/AIDS infection among injecting drug users. UNDCP and UNAIDS have submitted the re-

quired appropriate and urgent measures of response to the international community, but unfortunately no grants have been obtained so far.

Therefore, the forecast that South East Asia will have 10 million adults with HIV/AIDS (the largest number in the world) by 2010 might be over optimistic, if the rapid growth in 1999-2000 is maintained.

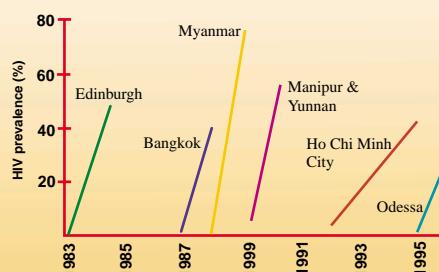
Private donations can be made by check payable to "UNDP Representative (Baht) Account", mail to: UNDCP Representative, UN Building (14th floor), Rajdamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200. A receipt will be given for each contribution.

Proportion of all new HIV/AIDS infections that are injecting drug users, selected countries, 1998-1999



Source: National AIDS Programmes

Growth of HIV/AIDS prevalence among drug injectors is extremely rapid.
Prevalence quickly rising to 40% or more



Get Ready for HONLEA 2001 in Sydney

Australia has announced its will to host the 25th meeting of Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies for Asia and Pacific in 2001. The meeting will take place October 15-19, 2001.

—Photo courtesy of Peter Lik Image Library, Sydney



DEMAND REDUCTION EFFORTS off the Beaten Track

One of UNDCP's demand reduction projects is pioneering new approaches in dealing with urban youth. The Subregional Development of Institutional Capacity for Demand Reduction among High Risk Groups is devising an innovative package of tools for preventing and controlling drug use among urban youth in the MOU Region.

Belgian Project Manager, Marc Morival brings years of experience in the European Union as well as a good awareness of conditions in East Asia to productive use in this project. From his Vientiane office, Morival explained that the project, as part of the Subregional Action Plan on Drug Control, is the first demand reduction project to work with urban youth. Recognizing that the use of new drugs, such as ATS, was emerging in the region's big cities, this project responded to risks this posed for the urban young. High risk groups were identified in each country that broadly included so-called captive populations, such as school students, and non-captive populations, such as out of school youth.

This approach resulted in the project entering areas entirely new to UNDCP. In China, for example, as drug use spreads out of Yunnan throughout the country, the National Narcotics Control Commission encouraged this project to start work in diverse areas. These have included Urumqi and Yili in Xinjiang Province on the old Silk Road, Bao Tou in Inner Mongolia, Nanning in Guangxi, on China's southern border with Vietnam, and Xiamen, a major trading port on the coast just north of Hong Kong. Similarly, in

Myanmar, this is the first UNDCP project to work in Yangon. Despite the appeal of these exotic names, the ominous fact is that drug use is spreading rapidly in the region.

To respond appropriately to needs of these populations, largely new to drug use, the project was designed to work with the national drug agencies in each country. In the eighteen months following the project's inception in January 1999, workshops and training activities were organised for drug control officials and their assessment teams. Assessment methodologies were devised that both were appropriate to the unique conditions in each country as well as allowing for the sharing of data between countries. The immediate objective of the project is to improve the capacity of government and non-government institutions to identify and resolve emerging drug abuse problems among high risk groups.

To create sustainability after the completion of the project, Morival envisions that the established project network will be an effective means for continuing other demand reduction activities. Besides linking the region's drug control agencies and the UNDCP offices, the network is creating ties with NGOs, other UN agencies, and interested individuals in the region and beyond. Besides creating new opportunities for demand reduction officials in the region to consult with each other, the network will enable these officials to obtain help and information in a timely and effective manner.

— *By Ms. Myint Myint Kyi, Assistant Project Manager*

GIANT SEIZURE due to International Cooperation

At 1 p.m. on 7 January 2001, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), in cooperation with the Royal Thai Navy and the Royal Thai Army, searched two trawlers named Chokethawatchai 4 and Chokethawatchai 5 sailing in the Andaman Sea, 82 miles from South Surin Island. Their efforts resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of drugs and the detention of two skippers for further questioning.

Two hundred and fifty-four heroin blocks equalling approximately 116 kg were hidden in the 200 litre fuel tank placed on the prow of the Chokethawatchai 5. Methamphetamine pills (7,798,000)

equalling approximately 779 kg were also found hidden in folded brown wax paper in five fuel tanks located at the bow and in 10 plastic tanks located in the tonnage of Chokethawatchai 5.

The seizure reflects the successful cooperation and investigation efforts of law enforcement officers in Thailand, United States of America, Myanmar and Malaysia. Presently, it is the largest heroin seizure of 2001 and the biggest methamphetamine seizure ever in Thailand, breaking the previous record of 4,354,000 pills.

UN ESCAP and UN Interagency project starts a series of “BROWN BAG LUNCHES” to promote human security

The growing commitment among the international community to promote the concept of human security was illustrated by the overwhelming attendance for the first discussion of a series of brown bag lunches jointly organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) Human Resource Development (HRD) Section and the UN Interagency Project to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children. Seventy-nine people from the UN system, embassies, law enforcement agencies, and non-governmental organizations attended to hear a presentation given by Sandro Calvani, United Nations Representative for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in East Asia and the Pacific, on the role of law enforcement in combating drug and human trafficking.

In his speech, Calvani pointed out that the growth in the scope, intensity, and sophistication of crime threatens the very foundation of civil society and hampers the social, cultural, and economic development of countries worldwide. Poverty, displacement of people, internal strife, armed political conflict, and economic marginalization are great enabling environments for drugs and human trafficking to grow stronger.

Turning his focus to the law enforcement role in fighting drug and human trafficking, Calvani remarked that the term ‘law enforcement’ is often misunderstood. He stated that a common bias on the concept is that it is solely the job of the police. Instead, in a healthy and well-governed society it is a much broader undertaking and although the police may play an important role, civil society and other law enforcement agencies including the judiciary, are also key players and facilitators.

Recognizing that most countries do not have adequate policies and national legal frameworks to deal with trafficking of hu-



Members of the Foreign Anti-Narcotic Community in Bangkok discuss with the guest speaker.

mans and drugs, he stressed that the single most important weapon in the fight against drug and human trafficking is international cooperation.

Calvani also introduced the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two Protocols as concrete instruments that maintain a carefully crafted balance between law enforcement and the protection of victims. To conclude the discussion, he reiterated the need for strategic and cooperative efforts that promote the rule of law and human security. The international community must lead by example and prove that human rights are protected first and foremost by the law. It can be done, it must be done.

The next speaker in the series will be Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, UNDCP Representative in Myanmar.



UN and Embassy staff crowded the UN/ESCAP committee room

ILO Launches Regional Training for DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

A regional training programme on addiction rehabilitation and workplace prevention will be launched during the first half of the year. The programme will provide an opportunity to improve treatment and rehabilitation skills in many Asian countries.

The project will employ standardised introductory courses of two weeks duration, a training of trainers offering, as well as a number of specialised courses concerning workplace prevention, relapse prevention, vocational rehabilitation, programme management and therapeutic communities.

In addition to conventional training techniques, onsite of the University Sains Malaysia at Penang, distance learning methodologies will be established for the delivery of both the introductory course and the special course on workplace prevention over a six month duration.

The project is a collaborative effort of UNDCP, ILO, the Malaysian Ministry of Edu-

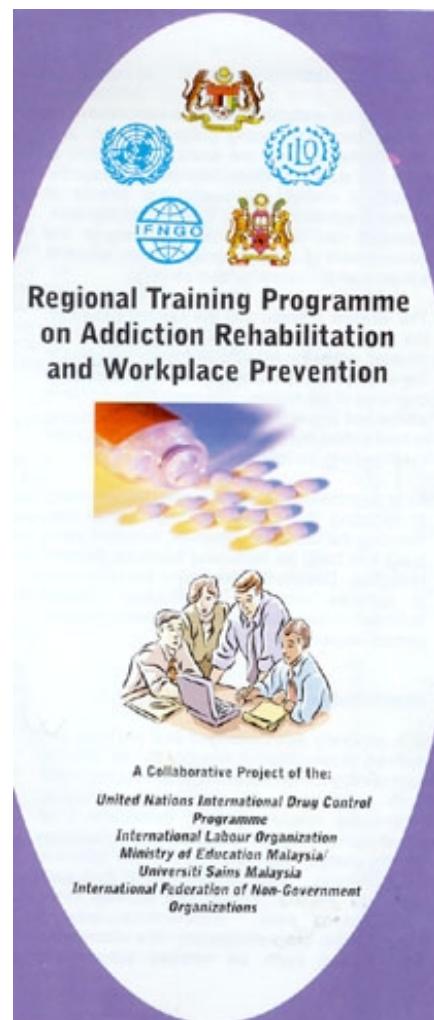
cation through University Sains Malaysia and the International Federation of Non-government Organizations and will run for four years. Some funding is available to course participants, with requests for sponsorship considered on a case by case basis.

For further information contact;

Prof. V. Navaratnam
Project Director
University Sains Malaysia
118 Minden, Penang, Malaysia

Tel: 6 04 655 2829
Fax: 6 04 6577957

Application forms are also available through the UNDCP Regional Centre, Bangkok



Bridge-building in Southeast Asia

Society turns to the judicial system when it feels threatened by traffickers. For this reason it is crucial that law enforcement officials, including the judiciary, fully understand the problem of drug trafficking to conduct effective searches, obtain evidence, and prosecute offenders.

Because the drug trade is borderless, the single most important weapon in the fight against drug trafficking is international cooperation. Better effectiveness of law enforcement personnel leads to the greater protection of citizens which in turn weakens the grip of organized crime on society.

"Strengthening the Judicial and Prosecutorial Drug Control Capacity in East Asia" is one UNDCP Regional Centre project that aims to improve communication, cooperation, and understanding of drug control matters and legislation, resulting in a more effective application of the law.

Two main activities of project C74 that highlight the benefits of increased cooperation have been documented in separate reports that are available at the Regional Centre. The first report highlights the six week fellowship programme held in Malaysia and was extensively covered in the last issue of Eastern Horizons.

The second report documents the first

annual meeting of the Mutual Legal Assistance Advisory Committee (MLAAC) that took place in Bangkok from November 13-17, 2000.

The rationale behind the meeting was to assemble a group of senior legal and law enforcement officials from each MOU country to recommend the ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and suggest the adoption of regional instruments and new legislation to facilitate cooperation.

Please contact Khun May for more information: (+66-2) 288 2096.

Lao PDR gears up FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

With an estimated opium production of 167 metric tons in 2000, Lao PDR is the world's third largest producer of opium.

Opium is produced in 10 out of 17 provinces, with 80% concentrated in the eight remote northern mountain provinces where access is difficult.

In May 1999, the Lao Government and UNDCP reached an agreement to implement an accelerated alternative development programme in the major opium districts with the goal to eliminate opium production by 2006. The interventions aim to reduce opium dependency by increasing income from alternative sources, improve market access, and establish community based drug demand reduction strategies.

Awareness of the illicit nature of opium cultivation will be raised and issues concerning law enforcement addressed. The drug control system in Lao PDR is progressing,

but more needs to be done to strengthen drug legislation and law enforcement capacity.

The Government has made it clear that the fight against drugs will be intensified. On 28 November 2000, Lao Prime Minister, Sisavath Keobounphanh, issued a comprehensive order to strengthen the elimination of opium poppy cultivation and reduce the abuse and trafficking of all other drugs. It specifically commands all provinces to eliminate opium by 2006 and mandates the education of farmers, soldiers, business people, traders, students, and ethnic groups.

The order also declares all Government authorities at every level to be responsible for applying laws and regulations geared to the elimination of opium production. The Government will strictly supervise each locality on a regular basis and evaluate the effectiveness of the leaders at each administrative level in the implementation. Ac-

cording to the new strategy, problems related to drugs will be attacked from all sides: law enforcement, education, health care, and mass media campaigns. The Prime Minister's order is a change of pace for Lao PDR in its fight against drugs.

As efforts are accelerated and a tougher approach against opium cultivation is encouraged, Government institutions will be locked into ownership of its national drug control programme. Such strategies will also move the country towards compliance with the requirements of national drug control conventions and staunch the expansion of transborder crimes, promoting security in the country.

The Prime Minister's plan will require a lot of expertise, resources, and financial support. With the help of the international community and the support of ASEAN, the country stands a good chance to eliminate opium production and meet the vision of a drug-free ASEAN in 2015. Drug control has never before been such a high priority for the Lao Government.

—Information provided by UNDCP Country Office Lao PDR

SEIZURE CONFIRMS METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING from China to Australia

Anti-narcotics officials believed that two drug seizures indicated a major link between Burmese drug makers and Chinese drug traffickers with connections also to Hong Kong. Police from Australia, Hong Kong, and a Joint ASEAN Crime Group intercepted two separate large shipments of heroin and methamphetamine bound for Australia. The 185 kg of heroin that had originated in Myanmar was seized by the joint task force when smugglers tried to transport the shipment from China into Hong Kong en route to Sydney.

Australian police also raided a ship that had originated from China, resulting in the seizure of 79 kg of methamphetamine and the arrest of two alleged traffickers. Australian Justice Minister, Ms. Amanda Vanstone, said it was the first time the country had intercepted a large shipment of crystal methamphetamine, also known as ice.

SUCCESSFUL P AND MANAGEM Held in Yangon

Fifteen participants attended the training of trainer's workshop on project design and management training that was held in Yangon from 13-15 December 2000. Mr. Sanong Chinnanom and Ms. Soe Yee Saing, RC were the resource persons.

A national PDM workshop was also held in Yangon 18-22 December, where 7 out of 15 of the above trainees participated as resource persons, and six as facilitators. Ms. Soe Yee Saing acted as coordinator/facili-

PACIFIC REGIONAL TRANSNATIONAL CRIME SEMINAR held in Brisbane

Thirty senior officials from 18 Pacific countries attended the Pacific Regional Transnational Crime Seminar from 3 to 8 December 2000 under the auspices of the Australian Law Enforcement Cooperation Programme.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat co-hosted the seminar that aimed to generate awareness of transnational crime trends and issues that are frequently addressed by Pacific region operational police and customs officials.

Presentations were made by representatives from Australian Federal Police (AFP), Queensland Police, New Zealand Police,

cooperation constituted the main themes of the presentations.

It was noted at the seminar that the Pacific is playing a rapidly increasing role as a transit region for the trafficking of drugs, particularly heroin and cocaine. A very large seizure—354 kg of heroin—that was intercepted in Suva, Fiji in October 2000 was discussed. The heroin originated in Myanmar and was shipped via China to Fiji

The seminar aimed to generate awareness of transnational crime trends and issues that are frequently addressed by Pacific region operational police and customs officials.

Australian Customs, New Zealand Customs, National Crime Authority of Australia, Oceania Customs Organization, US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok. Money laundering, illicit drug trafficking, transnational crime, trafficking in humans, corruption, and regional law enforcement

en route to Australia. The investigation was carried out by the Fiji Police in close cooperation with AFP.

Because the heroin had been stockpiled in Fiji over a long period, it is believed that this was only one of several similar shipments, suggesting that new routes for il-

legal drug shipments could be emerging. Several delegates were surprised by the findings.

The seminar also highlighted significant seizures of cocaine bound for Australia that were shipped via the Pacific Islands from South America. Seizures of methamphetamine hydrochloride (ICE) that originated in the Philippines and carried a street price as high as US\$500 per gram were also reported by Palau and Guam. Authorities in Palau have reportedly seized between 3 to 7 kg of ICE per year since 1991, which is considered significant in relation to the size of the island.

Delegates expressed their concern about the lack of modern legislation in the field of drug control and emphasized the need for basic drug law enforcement training. Not surprisingly, the UNDCP computer based training programme that was presented at the seminar was well received by many of the islands. The Pacific Island Forum also recognized the training programme as a valuable law enforcement training tool and expressed the intention to expand its cooperation with UNDCP.

PROJECT DESIGN ENT TRAINING

tator. Forty-three participants from various ministries and NGOs attended.

The Myanmar Government funded the workshop with a small amount of financial assistance from UNDCP. The participants later expressed great satisfaction with the workshop and the participants acknowledged that they all had acquired new skills, which they could apply in their future drug control efforts.



TOWARDS A DRUG-Singapore

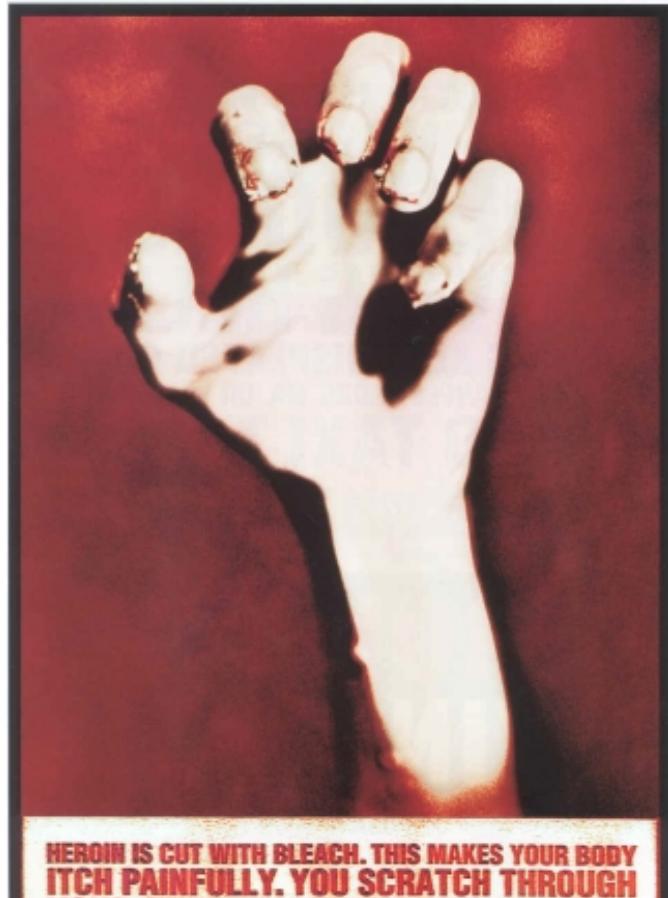
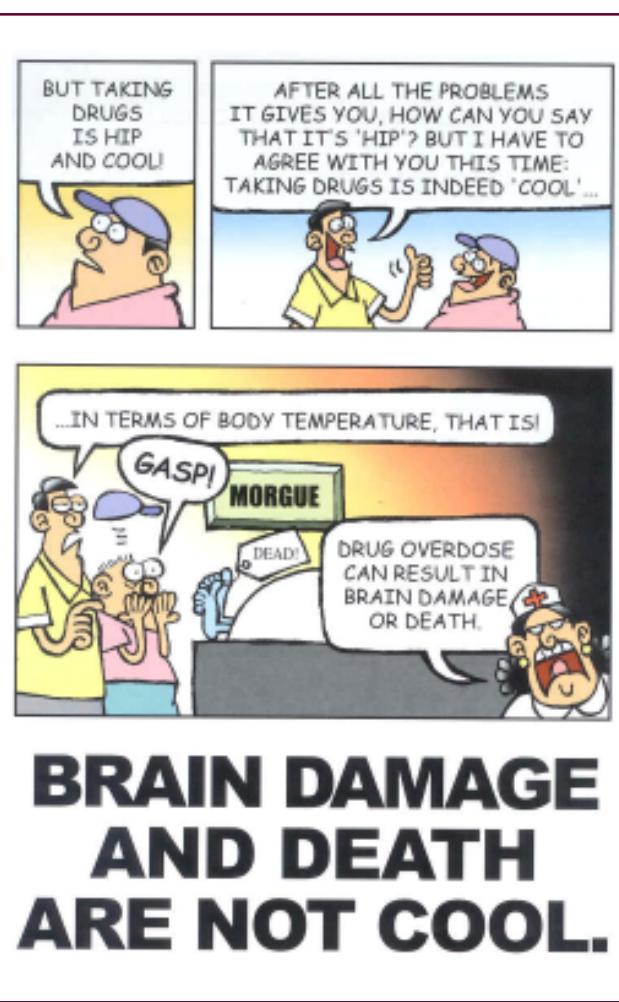
Singapore is known for its tough drug laws and strict law enforcement. However, Singapore experienced a surge in drug-related problems, including an increased number of addicts and drug law violations in the early- and mid-90's.

Now it seems that the tide has turned, with the help of increased efforts and a new, effective master plan aimed at curbing the problem.

In 1994, the Government of Singapore launched a comprehensive new master plan, which involved coordinated efforts under four main strategies: Preventive Drug Education (PDE), Enforcement, Treatment and Rehabilitation and After-

care Support. A new agency, National Council Against Drug Abuse was formed to advise the Government on drug related matters.

The master plan also intensified cooperation between various existing agencies, especially Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) for Preventive Drug Education and Enforcement, Prisons Department for Treatment and Rehabilitation, and



Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) for Aftercare and Continued Rehabilitation.

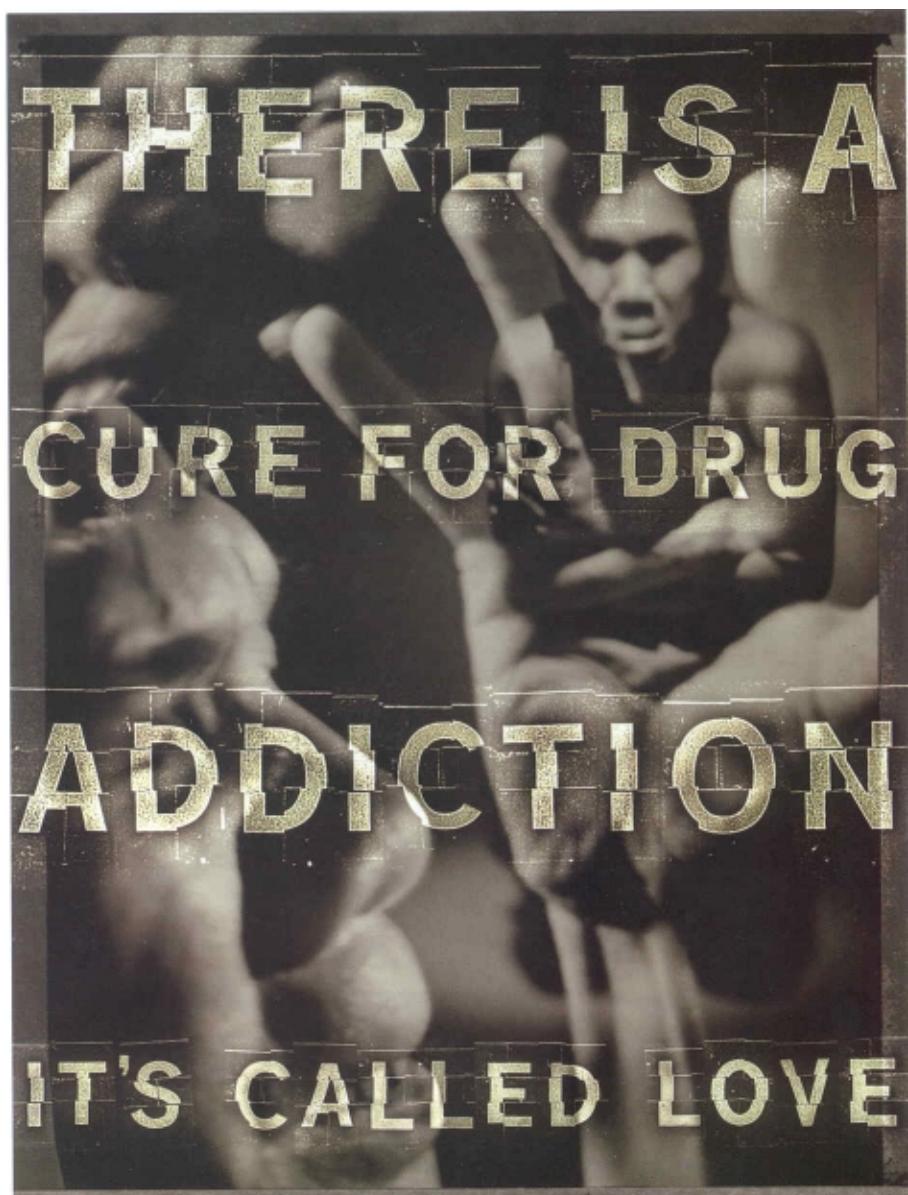
CNB is responsible for Preventive Drug Education, in co-operation with voluntary welfare organizations. CNB organizes annual anti-drug campaigns and special attention is given to high-risk groups such as school dropouts. Moreover,

CNB also works with schools in order to identify high-risk students so that they can be counseled.

On the law enforcement side, CNB mounts frequent operations against drug traffickers and addicts. Known drug offenders can also be detained without trial, if deemed necessary. Treatment and rehabilitation are based on classification

FREE apore

Singaporean authorities use many kinds of posters and comics in their fight against drugs. Campaigns are directed at young people, making them aware of the dangers of drug abuse and simultaneously pleading for support to drug addicts.



system, through which new addicts are separated from hardcore addicts.

Amenable addicts are subjected to more rehabilitative efforts and counseling, whereas hardcore addicts are detained progressively longer, and face penal features, such as longer lock-up periods.

Hardcore addicts can also be sentenced to jail from 5 to 13 years and they will also be given between 3 and 12 strokes of cane, if repeated stays at drug rehabilitation centres do not produce the hoped result. The Government is also ex-

panding the use of Naltrexone, a medicine which blocks the euphoric effects of heroin.

Aftercare includes extensive counseling, involving individuals, groups and even family members. Halfway houses are used to provide residential care for recovering addicts. Measures are also taken to ensure that addicts are able to reintegrate into the work force through vocational training, job placement and corporate adoption schemes.

As a result of new methods, the number of drug addicts and drug related crime has de-

creased significantly. In 1994, the average number of addicts in drug rehabilitation centres was 8,700, an all-time high. The number has continued to drop, reaching an all-time low in 1997 with 6,160 addicts being retained in centres.

Also the relapse rate has dropped significantly (calculated as the percentage of rehabilitated addicts who were arrested for consumption of drugs within the two-year supervision period). In 1994 the relapse rate was 81.4 per cent, but in 1997 the rate reached 65.9 per cent, an all-time low.

With the words of Mr. Wong Kan Seng, Minister for Home Affairs: "Singapore may not be completely free of drugs now. But, looking at the drug scene today, I think the situation is well under control."

We do not see black areas or grey areas where people will come to you and say: "Would you like to buy this?" With the continued tough enforcement, intensive preventive drug education efforts and effective rehabilitative and aftercare programmes, the drug problem in Singapore will always be kept under control."



MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The first annual Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Advisory Committee (MLAAC) meeting was held at the Landmark Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand from November 13-17, 2000 as a component of project "Strengthening the Judicial and Prosecutorial Drug Control Capacity in East Asia".

In attendance were judges, prosecutors, and other legal personnel from the six MOU-countries (Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Union of Myanmar, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam). Also in attendance were six international consultants, two national (Thai) consultants, four representatives from UNDCP Headquarters and field offices,

and the C74 project staff.

The rationale behind the MLAAC-meeting was to assemble a group of senior Judiciary, Law Enforcement and other legal officials from each MOU-country to discuss and identify issues concerning MLA with a view toward adopting Recommendations.

These Recommendations should be based on whatever common ground could

Take off

be identified during the deliberations; there was, as such, a draft set of Recommendations, but it was not known at the offset how far that particular text could be accepted by the delegations. Furthermore, it was thought that the delegates should be as close to the operational level as possible, which was more or less achieved.

The official opening of the meeting was attended by Mr. Kitti Limchaikit, Secretary-



General Evaluation:

A great amount of work was laid down in discussing many of the issues beforehand and in preparing several alternative scenarios, in case the meeting took a totally different direction to what could reasonably be anticipated. The final decision of the preparatory meeting of the experts, which took place before the MLAAC meeting and lasted for two days, was to take one day at a time and meet at the end of each day in order to review the situation. Thus, the team of experts held meetings at the end of the discussions every day, most of which proved to be useful.

The essence of the adopted Recommendations is a) to urge the MOU-countries to designate central authorities for MLA prior to the second annual MLAAC-meeting; and b) to propose a set of rules which adequately reflects the system proposed both by the 1988 Convention and the new TOC Convention. We should be aware, however, that the achievement of the above will not be an easy matter in practice. Selection and/or formation of central authorities, for example, are in many cases a matter of new legislation.

General of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, and Dr. Sandro Calvani, Representative of the United Nations Drug Control Programme in Bangkok. After their initial presentation, the delegations broke into groups to discuss their country's policies and position. The experts were available to assist the delegations if any clarifications or assistance was required. Such assistance was solicited and offered on innumerable occasions.

After intensive deliberations, the Committee reconvened to address the Recommendations as a whole. Afterwards, the delegations were led through the Recommendations article by article in order for changes to be proposed and either adopted or rejected by the Committee. Several substantial alterations were made over course of three days, but the Recommendations were eventually adopted on the afternoon of Friday, November 17, 2000.

Some of the delegates made invaluable contributions during these deliberations. Particularly, the Thai delegation should be mentioned, as well as Hon. U May Din, a Myanmar delegate (from the Attorney General's Office), who had scrutinized the text and helped eliminate a good number of inconsistencies and shortcomings.

On the afternoon of November 16, 2000, the MLAAC visited the Criminal Court and the International Affairs Department of the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand. The group was welcomed by the Deputy Chief Justice of the Criminal Court and the Director General of the International Affairs Department. Although time was pressed, both visits facilitated informative question and answer periods and provided valuable insight into the Thai judicial system.

The Thai delegation proposed that the second annual meeting of the MLA Advisory Committee be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in either May or June of 2001. The Vietnamese delegation accepted, and the Chair approved the proposal.

During the closing ceremony, Dr. Fourlanos, on behalf of UNDCP, expressed his most sincere appreciation to all delegations for their constructive co-operation and discussions during the meeting. Small gifts were provided to the delegates as a token of appreciation by UNDCP and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board.

—By Dr. Gerassimos Fourlanos, Project Coordinator

Mafia gangs spreading IN SOUTHERN CHINA

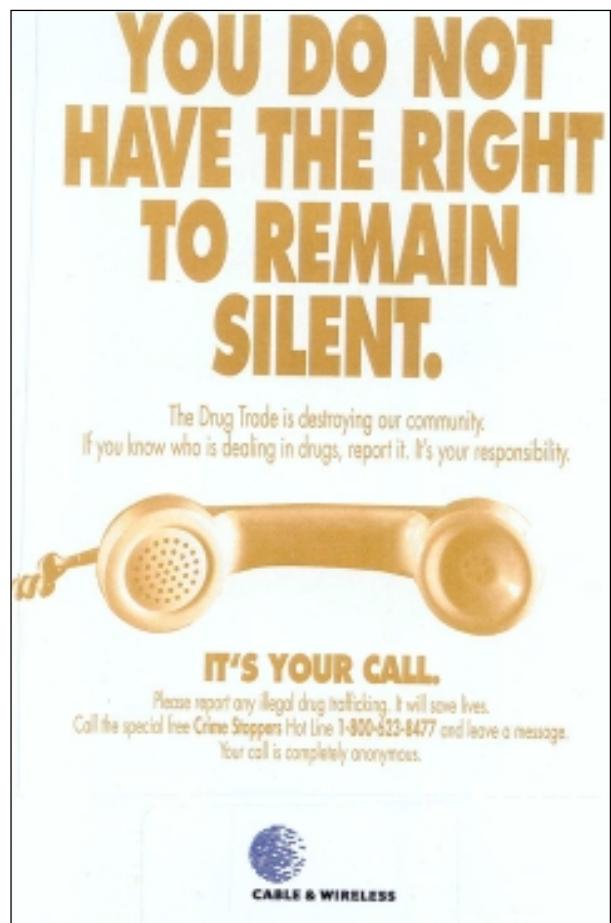
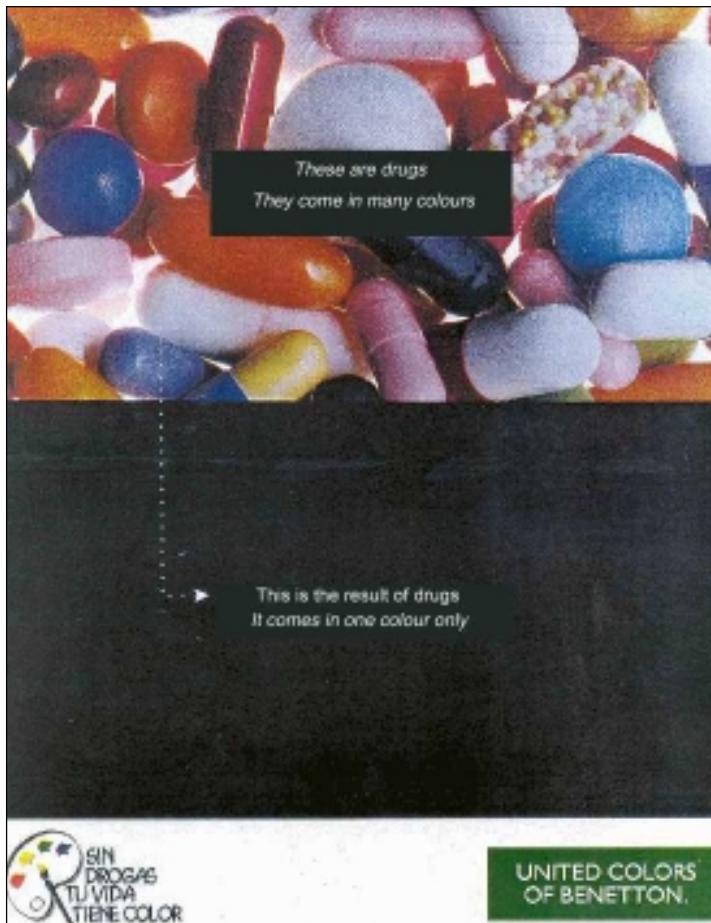
Despite efforts by authorities including a recent campaign against crime, mafia-style criminal gangs are gaining ground in southern China.

According to the police chief of Guangdong province, Mr. Liang Guoju, more than two hundred of the eight thousand criminal gangs discovered over a five-month period had mafia-type structures. Another of China's top law and order officials, Mr. Luo Gan, has warned that public security at the grassroots level has seriously eroded.

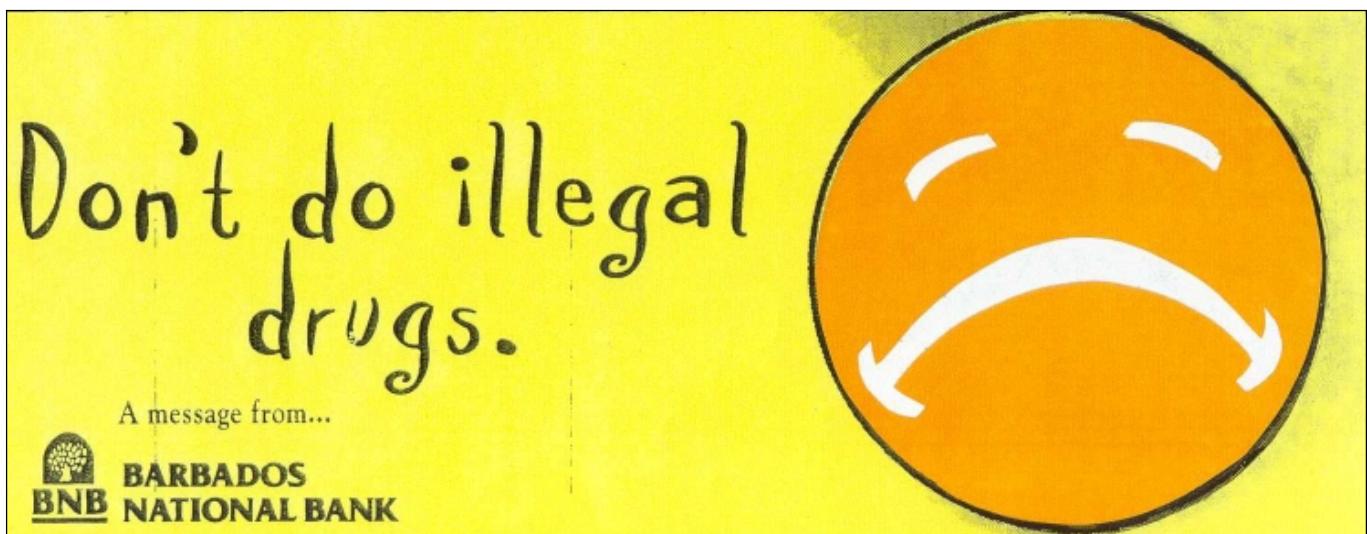
As a result, local villagers have taken matters into their own hands. For example in areas outside Guangzhou, the provincial capital, local villagers have organized their own private

security forces, which refuse to yield to the authority of the police.

At the same time, drug traffickers have kept the police busy. Guangdong police forces unveiled 735 drug cases between September and November in 2000, arresting 518 suspects and seizing 235.5 kg of heroin, 11.4 kg of "ice", 90,000 granules of amphetamines, and seven tons of drug-making chemicals, according to Zheng Dong, director of the Guangdong Provincial Police Bureau.

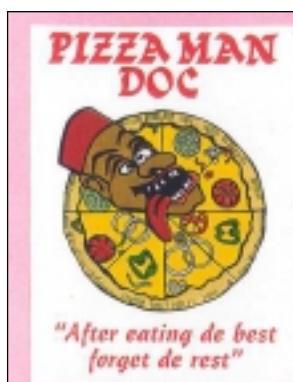


UN-PRIVATE SECTOR Cooperation



These anti-drug and anti-crime advertisements were part of a joint private sector-UNDP public awareness campaign to mobilize society in the prevention and reduction of drug abuse in various countries.

Simple messages like Benetton's "Without drugs your life has colors" or Coca Cola's "Together we form a barrier against drugs" show that the UN and civil society can work together towards the achievement of common goals.

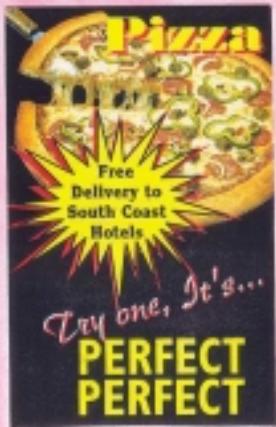


Positive influences Positive values

Learn to cultivate the ability to choose from

Right and Wrong.

The right choice leads
to a successful future



U N I D O S

formando una barrera contra las drogas

Como una gran familia. Defendiendo altos valores. Apoyando esfuerzos nobles para la construcción de una sociedad de bien y provecho. Siempre junto a ti. Siempre Coca-Cola.

Coca-Cola

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On 31 January 1999, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed that a new partnership be built between the United Nations and business leaders. An initiative called *Global Compact* in his view should encompass nine principles of collaboration towards the achievement of United Nations goals. In January 2000, in the Asia Pacific Region Under Secretary-General Kim Hak Su applied Mr. Annan's ideas to an area of United Nations activities where Asian private sector cooperation might make a significant difference.

In cooperation with UNDCP, Mr. Kim, a newly appointed Executive

Secretary of UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), supported the proposal to establish an Asia/ Pacific Human Security Foundation and facilitate a network to promote the *Global Compact* on the continent. Various initiatives would soon be designed to enhance the private sector participation as a protagonist in the achievement of Asian People's freedom from fear.

In the high speed globalization era, governments have been accused by media and civil society of creating too

much red-tape and bureaucratic inertia. Private business, instead, has a very well-known characteristic of being extremely practical and result oriented. Examples of such collaboration have been successful in other parts of the world.

These are the reasons why *Eastern Horizons* is very glad to bring to readers the news of a horizon of hope for the fight against drug and crime in Asia with private sector taking a leading role.

For more information please visit,
<http://www.undcp.un.or.th/Business/>

CONTINUED EFFORTS in the Wa Area

The Wa Alternative Development Project (WADP) remains one of UNDCP's most challenging projects. Executed in a remote area in the heart of the golden triangle, the project aims to substantially reduce opium poppy cultivation in the Southern Wa region of Myanmar.

UNDCP has been active in this region for almost 10 years with various alternative development projects; the WADP was started in 1998. It provides significant inputs to assist hill tribe communities to develop relevant social and economic infrastructure and service capabilities in health, water, and education as well as alternative income earning activities in livestock, agriculture, and agro-forestry.

In June 2000, a team of international experts evaluated the project and strongly recommended its continuation based on

standing on which the project could resume. The message of the Wa authorities was clear: there is a need for the project to increase the food production in the region and to continue activities in health and education.

In line with the evaluation team's recommendations, the coordinator redesigned the project, resulting in less ambiguity. The new design also accommodated the outcome of the discussion with the Wa authorities and accounted for an unforeseen reduction in funding for the following year.

to cultivate the crops. These remote, poverty stricken regions are the places where UNDCP chooses to intervene. The Wa authorities have accepted UNDCP to intervene in their territory as an honest broker to bring development to this isolated area which, after suffering some 40 years of war, has finally enjoyed a decade of peace.

UNDCP is the first international organization to work with the Wa and help them to fulfill the political commitment they made in their five year plan to eradicate opium cultivation by 2005.

The Wa authorities have accepted UNDCP to intervene in their territory as an honest broker to bring development to this isolated area which, after suffering some 40 years of war, has finally enjoyed a decade of peace.

the results achieved. However, it was also recommended that the project be redesigned to be less ambitious and focus on a more limited number of activities. Coincidentally, around this time there were misunderstandings with the Wa authorities in the region which, in October 2000, suddenly resulted in the closure of most of the project's activities.

In November 2000, UNDCP decided a change in management was required and a new project coordinator was assigned. The most challenging task at this time was to hold a series of discussions with the Wa leaders in a bid to resolve the differences and establish a solid foundation of under-

The project, with a total proposed budget of \$15 million (USD) for a five year period, invested US\$7 million for the first two years of activities but has only secured US\$ 600,000 for 2001.

Raising funds for an alternative development project in the Wa region is not an easy task. Skepticism lies amongst the donor community regarding the sincerity of the Wa authorities and the ability of UNDCP to achieve real reductions in opium production given the environment.

Illicit drugs are often produced in remote and unstable regions with poverty playing a key role in the decision of poor farmers

Experience shows that with political commitment, alternative development programmes can considerably reduce illicit crop cultivation or completely eradicate it. Pakistan, Thailand, and Lebanon are good examples of countries where alternative development projects have been successful. Adjacent to the project site is Special Region No. 4, administered by the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA). This was the site of UNDCP's previous project in the region.

Resulting from the combined efforts of the GOUM, NDAA, and UNDCP, this area was declared opium free in 1997. The Wa authorities have now committed themselves to making the entire Wa region opium free by the year 2005. Over the next four years, UNDCP will continue to support alternative development activities in the region in order to provide poor farmers with sustainable alternative means of livelihood. This goal can become a reality.

—By Mr. Xavier Bouan, Project Coordinator WADP.

Successful workshop on CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Under the framework of the UNDCP Regional Centre project "Development of Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia", five national workshops relating to cross-border cooperation were arranged in China (Mengla, Dongxing), Laos (Luang Nam Tha), Myanmar (Mandalay), and Viet Nam (Halong Bay) between September and October of last year.

Each workshop had 20-40 participants comprised of drug representatives from provincial and national law enforcement units in the targeted border zones.

The workshops had various objectives: awareness of the findings of Needs Analysis (initial situation and problem assessment by UNDCP), improving the knowledge of cross-border cooperation, understanding the roles of Border Liaison Officers/Offices (BLO), and knowing how the BLO system works (including man power, management, communication needs, equipment for BLO operation etc.).

The workshops were highly successful and the signing of an agreement to support cross border drug law enforcement cooperation reflected the participants' strong commitment.

Four subsequent workshops on cross-border cooperation were also arranged: two workshops between Myanmar (Muse) and China (Ruili), one workshop between China and Viet Nam (Mong Cai), and one between China (Mengla) and Laos.

Forty-eight delegates attended the workshops that took place between November 2000 and mid-January 2001 and represented another step in the establish-

ment of a strong cross-border cooperation structure.

Overall, the workshops achieved three main goals. First, the BLO mechanism and its network were officially recognized for future cross-border cooperation in drug related matters.

Second, the meeting schedule and channels of communication were agreed upon and the names and contact information of BLO designated persons were exchanged. Last, China and Viet Nam exchanged a draft proposal called "Future Cross-Border Cooperation Plan between Cross-Border Liaison Offices of China and Vietnam".

The overall impact of the project has been very encouraging. The participating countries have shown a strong commitment to cross-border cooperation and many countries are interested in implementing similar project activities in other identified high risk areas.

Eight BLOs have been established in the border zones of China-Laos, China-Myanmar, and China-Viet Nam. Reports from the countries indicate that a higher number of cases are solved and more arrests and seizures have been made as a result of better operational cross-border cooperation, especially in the border areas of China-Laos and China-Myanmar.

China, Laos, and Myanmar have also replicated the BLO mechanism in other border areas outside the UNDCP project areas. The project is now moving ahead with transportation, communication, and office equipment procurement that will take place in February and March along with computer based training.

SHORT NEWS FROM THE REGION

Australia

Huge Ecstasy Haul

An Australian and a Briton were charged with importing 217,000 ecstasy tablets worth A\$13.5 million (310 million Baht) into Sydney.

British Virgin Islands

No Longer a Safe Haven

The British Virgin Islands have passed a measure allowing foreign regulators access to information from the islands' offshore banking centre in certain investigations. Although, the legislation will allow the island's offshore regulatory officials powers discretion to co-operate, it will also give investigators the legal grounds to take their request for information to the court if necessary.

China

Triad Gangs Busted

In the biggest assault on organised crime in China, police in Henan province destroyed 800 gangs and arrested 3,343 gang members this year.

Fiji

Authorities Confirms Existence of People Smuggling Ring

Immigration officials in Fiji have apprehended a number of Asians with fake passports, suggesting that a vibrant human-smuggling ring is operating in the area. Recent arrests across the region indicated that Fiji and other pacific states like Nauru and Kiribati, are increasingly being used as transit points by people smugglers.

Myanmar

Junta Admits Epidemic

For the first time, a senior military leader in Myanmar has publicly acknowledged that HIV/AIDS poses a threat to his country. "HIV/AIDS is a national cause. If we ignore it, it will be the scourge that will destroy entire nations," said Lt-General Khin Nyunt, first secretary of the junta, in a published article. While the UNAIDS programme estimated that more than 440,000 people in Myanmar have the virus, the government's estimate was closer to 25,000.

New Zealand

Kava Drink Ruled as Drug

A court in New Zealand ruled that Kava, an ancient ceremonial drink in the Pacific region, is a drug.

GOING AGAINST THE STREAM

The UNDCP Regional Centre conducted its annual field trip from 1 to 6 December 2000 and gave the group an opportunity to explore drug trafficking regions of China and Myanmar. The trip began in

Kumming and ended in Mandalay, passing through the cities of Ruli, Muse, and Lashio. Some of the highlights are shared with you below.

Mukang Inland Drug Checkpoint

The Mukang Inland Drug Checkpoint was impressive and demonstrated the quality and dedication of the Chinese drug control efforts.

The checkpoint was well equipped (it was a model unit) with video surveillance of the entire area, x-ray equipment dimensioned for commercially crated goods, drug test kits, and density testing equipment used to search for concealed compartments.

A briefing was given by the checkpoint's commanding officer, Mr. Zhao Yuebin, providing a glimpse into the checkpoint's activities that included a single seizure of 400 kilograms of heroin.



The Mukang Inland Drug Checkpoint receives the UNDCP Regional Centre's staff."



The Police Officer who detected the record seizure of 400 kilograms of heroin and selected staff from the Regional Centre—a very lucky man.

Headquarters of Muse Anti-Narcotics Task Force



"The staff of the Regional Centre and some of the officers who briefed us in Muse"



"The Headquarters of Muse Anti-Narcotics Task Force"

During the trip, the group from the Regional Centre crossed over the Chinese-Myanmar border between the two cities Ruli and Muse.

They were invited to the Headquarters of Muse Anti-Narcotics Task Force for a briefing conducted by the commanding officer, Police Captain Win Naing. After the informative session, a shocking video was shown that featured the surgical removal of heroin capsules from the bodies of drug traffickers who had attempted to smuggle heroin across the border into China.

According to the anti-narcotics task force, the operations were successful and the traffickers were currently serving their time at a local prison.

SHORT NEWS FROM THE REGION

Thailand

Narcotics in refugee camps?

Representatives of the Karen Refugees Committee have requested aid from UNHCR Thailand to assess narcotic consumption and other drug related problems in the camps. In turn, UNHCR has appealed to the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok for additional assistance. To date, the appropriate authorities have not granted access to the camps.

Methamphetamines Eliminates Constituency

Few constituents of Ban Ahee will cast votes in the upcoming election. Over 100 villagers are in jail and approximately 20 to 30 have been killed or have disappeared after becoming involved in the trafficking of methamphetamines.

Opium Production Doubles

The poppy-growing region of northern Thailand, a major production base for opium and heroin, has doubled to 14,168 rai over the past year.

Thailand Declares War on Global Mafias

By signing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Thailand has firmly aligned itself with global efforts to suppress such crimes as the trafficking in women and drugs.

Golden Triangle Role for U.S. Army

The Thai and U.S. armies are joining hands for the first time to combat drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle. The Thai military will form a special task force to counter the increased flow of methamphetamines and heroin into the country from Myanmar while the U.S. army will offer training and equipment.

Vietnam:

Over 100,000 drug addicts in Viet Nam

The Standing Office of Drug Control (Ministry of Public Security) held a meeting on 19 October, 2000 to review the drug control programme. According to a report, registered drug addicts total 100,293 (of which 1,609 are students) in Viet Nam indicating a decrease of 27.3% when compared to the following year. The total estimated area currently under opium poppy cultivation had also decreased by 116 ha in comparison with last year to a total of 428 ha.

Headquarters of Lashio Anti-Narcotics Task Force



"The Headquarters of Lashio Anti-Narcotics Task Force"



"4,486,000 ATS tablets weighing 403 403.74 kilograms together with five offenders seized by Lashio Anti-Narcotics Task Force on 29 June 2000."

Photo, courtesy of Lashio Anti-Narcotics Task Force"

At the Headquarters of Lashio Anti-Narcotics Task Force, the Regional Centre received a briefing from Police Captain Myint Thein concerning the local drug control situation. The seizures made by the unit had been substantial given their limited resources. For example, officers had made a number of seizures, totalling more than four million ATS tablets.

—By Peter Lundsgaard, Programme Officer, UNDP, Bangkok

DRUG CONTROL AUTHORITIES

Visit Australia

Under the leadership and guidance of UNDCP project Coordinator, Mr. Brion Duncan, a study visit to Australia was conducted as a component of project C46 "Enhancement of Drug Law Enforcement Training in East Asia".

Twelve senior narcotics police officers from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam visited several Australian agencies from the 19 to 29 November 2000.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM), National Crime Authority (NCA), Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI), AFP Forensic Services, AFP College, and Australian Customs Service were some of the agencies that provided briefings to the participants on vari-

ous aspects of intelligence functions relating to narcotics and law enforcement.

Much of the information received was connected to the Asian region, which provided useful linkages for the participants to their own working environment. Information was shared on controlled deliveries, undercover work, informant management, legal considerations, and costs and risks relating to intelligence.

In addition to the briefings, the participants were given demon-

strations through the use of case studies and the help of different equipment. Actual cases were revisited starting from the investigation and collection of information to the seizures and arrests. Participants were also given chances for questions and discussion, and a lot of resource material to take home.

The Australian hosts were very helpful and hospitable, disclosing lots of information in order to provide the most useful training to the participants. This approach proved successful as the participants returned home with many new ideas on

how to adapt the lessons learned to their own work and with the conviction that intelligence is indeed the lifeblood of drug enforcement.

Unfortunately not even law enforcement officers are protected from criminal activities. As a grim reminder of the prevalence of crime in any society, a laptop computer and a camera were stolen from a hotel room of a Chinese participant.

Most likely the thieves are currently enrolled in a Chinese language programme... hopefully in prison.

DAPC GRANT PROGRAMME – “RESPONSE TO DRUG USE AND HIV IN MONGOLIA”

BY NATIONAL AIDS FOUNDATION (NAF)

Since 1994, the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre (DAPC) in Japan has provided grants to UNDCP to support drug abuse prevention and education projects run by NGOs in developing countries.

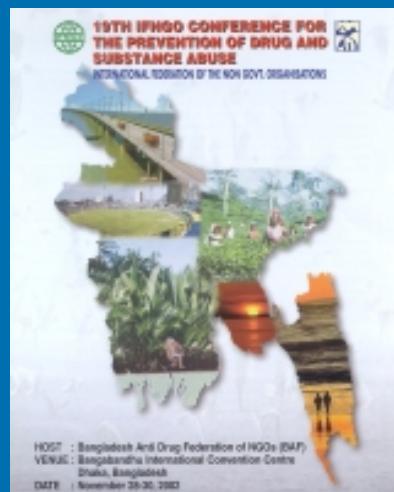
In 2000, an NGO in Mongolia—the National AIDS Foundation (NAF)—was selected by UNDCP for a DAPC Grant to implement the project entitled “Response to Drug Use and HIV in Mongolia”. It is the first time UNDCP has sponsored drug prevention activities in Mongolia.

Started in January 2001, the project is expected to run for 12 months and aims to prevent the spread of HIV by intravenous drug injection. Proposed activities include a Rapid Situation Assessment (RSA), support for policy dialogue based on the results from the RSA, a pilot programme that addresses sexually transmitted infection, and HIV preventative education for drug users.

IFNGO Conference FOR THE PREVENTION OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The 19th IFNGO Conference for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 28-30, 2002.

For more information or registration, please contact the host: Bangladesh Anti Drug Federation of NGOs (BAF), House No. 8, Road No. SW1, Gulshan, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Phone: (+88-02) 988 0799 or (+88-02) 882 3355, Fax (+88-02) 881 43 58



Tackling the injecting drug use connection with HIV/AIDS in China

In recent years, opium smoking has been largely replaced by heroin injection among drug users in China. It is estimated that injecting is currently the method of choice in approximately two thirds of the heroin using population. The registered number of drug users has steadily risen since 1990 with a current official estimate in year 2000 of approximately 681,000 within a total population of approximately 1.2 billion. Other unofficial estimates have placed the number of drug users several times higher.

At present, injecting drug use appears to be the major vector for the spread of HIV and AIDS. The national sentinel surveillance data has shown that injecting drug users (IDUs) cumulatively account for 72.4 percent of reported HIV in the country. This high incidence of HIV transmission has apparently resulted from needle flushing practice, that is drawing blood into the syringe and then re-injecting it, and needle sharing among IDUs. Needle flushing is evident in almost 100 percent of identified cases and sharing of equipment is on average occurring among 60 percent of the sampled user group.

Yunnan Province, which has more drug addicts than most of the other areas in China, also has the highest number of HIV

infections and as of September 1998, accounted for 51 percent of all such infections in China. At one stage in recent years, 89 percent of the persons identified to have HIV/AIDS in Yunnan province were IDUs.

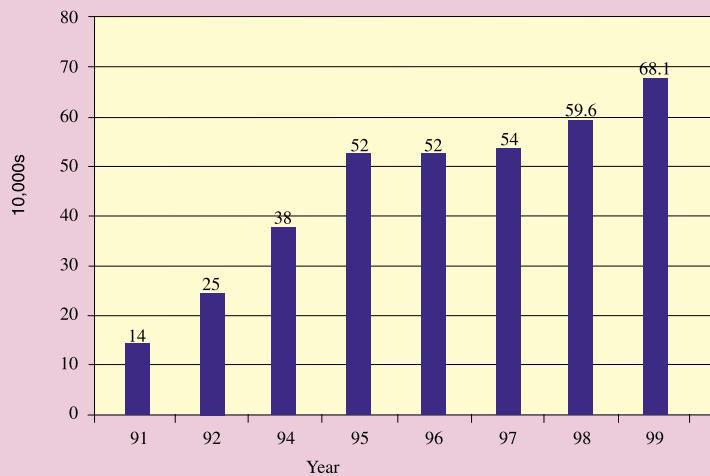
The government of China has realized that the current projects/programmes have not slowed down the spread of HIV infection nor the risk behaviors related to HIV infection among injecting drug users. The need for innovative interventions is high and urgent. The activities and the focus of the proposed interventions include demand reduction capacity in drug peer education, pilot outreach services, drug substitution and sterile use of syringes, and greater participation of drug injectors in the process of programme development and delivery.

—By Shogo Kanamori, Programme Officer, UNDCP, Bangkok

CHINA IN 1999

681,000 registered drug users
80% are youth
2,033 out of 2,143 counties have reported drug problems
140 counties have more than 1000 registered users

Number of Registered Drug Users in China



SHORT NEWS FROM THE REGION

Vietnam:

Anti-drug Campaign Launched From 30 October 2000 to 30 January 2001

The National Committee of AIDS, Drugs, and Prostitution Control launched a three-month anti-drug campaign from October 2000 to January 2001. According to a 2000 Government report, the results to date are as follows:

- Counter-Narcotic Police offices were set up in 42 provinces / cities and in 469 districts;
- the national drug control programme 2001-2005 was established;
- a draft law on drug control was designed;
- the guidelines for the use of the drug control fund and the protocol on drug control cooperation between the Police, Customs, Border Army and Marine Police were elaborated and submitted to the Government and the National Assembly.

In 2000, authorities discovered 8,925 cases involving 16,276 drug offenders. Total seizures for 2001 include 50.46 kg of heroin; 455 kg of opium; 2,071 kg of cannabis; 112,414 ampoules of psychotropic substances; 66,192 doses of heroin; 6,783 tablets of synthetic drugs (ATS); VND 569,120,000 in cash; USD 1,244 in cash; and other evidence. The People's Court has handled 4,433 cases involving 5,679 drug offenders. Forty-one death sentences were handed down and 37 people were sentenced to life imprisonment.

ATS Control Remains an Urgent Task

Working with Lam Dong province administration on 25 October 2000, Deputy PM Pham Gia Khiem warned against the spread ATS use among drug users, especially students. Taking into account the lessons learned in Thailand, he stressed that urgent measures must be undertaken to bring the ATS risk under control.

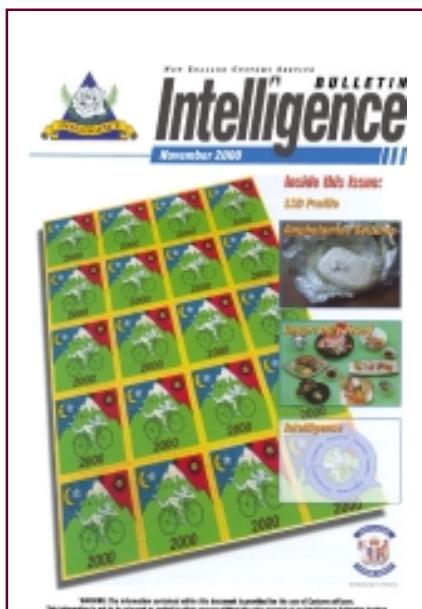
Opening access to remote Lao Provinces MAY CURB OPIUM PRODUCTION

The Asian Development bank recently approved a loan for US \$25 million that will allow greater access to some of Lao PDR's remote provinces. The Rural Access Roads Project will link farming communities to market centres and increase job and income-earning which consequently, could result in a reduction of opium poppy production.

The project will improve the standard of living for over 6,000 households in 70 communities. Most of villagers are ethnic minorities living in some of the country's most disadvantaged districts where high

levels of mortality, illiteracy, and malnutrition are found. It will also contribute to the national drug control and opium substitution programme.

By increasing agricultural production and crop diversification, the dependency on poppy cultivation will be scaled down, especially in Houaphan Province. The project will upgrade 220 km of national and provincial roads and 100 km of feeder roads in the province of Houaphan that were identified with community assistance by UNDCP. The project is due for completion by end 31 October 2004.



Kiwis on Alert!

For up to date information on a wide range of drug control issues, check out the newsletter "Intelligence Bulletin" published by New Zealand Customs Service.

New information on amphetamine trafficking from Eastern Europe to New Zealand and a feature on LSD were some of the previous highlights from the past issue.

Comments and requests can be sent to New Zealand Customs Service, Intelligence, The Customhouse, Anzac Avenue, Box 29, Auckland, New Zealand, Phone: (+64-9) 359 6655, Fax: (+64-9) 359 6691

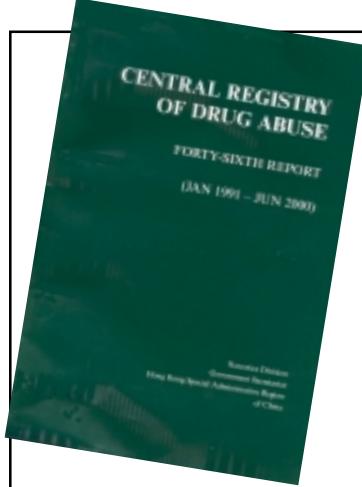
THAI VOLUNTEER WINS UN CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD



Ms. Ameena Beedillae, president of the Association of Volunteers Against Drugs of Thailand, was one of two people who won the 2001 UN Civil Society award, presented by United Nations Office for Drugs Control and Crime Prevention (UN/ODCCP).

As an outstanding candidate, Ms. Beedillae was awarded for her devoted role in the prevention of drug problems and other crimes in Thai communities and society. She was nominated by the Duang Prateep Foundation, which is known for its dedicated work especially in the infamous Klong Toey area of Bangkok.

Mr. Roger Lewis of Great Britain, who has researched extensively the drug market and the links between drugs and organised crime, also won the award.



Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA): Forty-sixth Report, Hong Kong: Narcotics Division Government Secretariat, 2000. The annual report from CRDA carefully documents the latest drug abuse trends and developments in Hong Kong. Among the more disturbing developments reported is the

increase in the number of new people experimenting with drugs. This trend is partially due to the increase of ecstasy abuse which rose approximately 400 percent. Ecstasy is now the preferred drug among youth (it is the drug of choice for 51.5% of the registered users under 21); however, for the remainder of the population, heroin is still the most popular drug (78.9%) followed by ecstasy (10.9%). The report is available from the Narcotics Division Government Secretariat, Queensway Government Offices, High Block, 30th Floor, 66 Queensway, Honk Kong, China. Phone: (+852) 2867 1079, Fax: (+852) 2537 2575.

Drug Net Asia, Singapore: Narcotics Laboratory, Department of Scientific Services. The increased pressure among drug testing laboratories across Southeast Asia for improved networking and cooperation has resulted in the development of a newsletter.

Produced for the purpose of collating and disseminating information, the newsletter is composed of contributions from regional drug testing laboratories participating in regional drug control cooperation initiatives.

Edited in Singapore, it publishes information from all participating laboratories. The newsletter is available from Drug Net Asia, Narcotics Laboratory, Department of Scientific Services, 11 Outram Road, Singapore 169078, Phone: (+65) 22 90 731, Fax: (+65) 22 90 749.

A regional newsletter for participating laboratories in Southeast Asia. It is the first issue of DrugNetAsia, released since the first issue of the newsletter in 1998. It is designed to keep the laboratories in touch with each other and to share information on drug testing. The newsletter is edited by the Narcotics Laboratory, Department of Scientific Services, Singapore. It is published quarterly and aims to promote better cooperation and communication between the laboratories in the region.

The newsletter also contains a section for readers to contribute their own news and information.

Happy reading!



Reviewing Current Practice in Drug-Substitution Treatment in the European Union, Lisbon: EMCDDA, 2000. The book (280 pages) deals intensively with the latest developments in European drug-substitution treatment.

The report states that over the past five years, there has been considerable convergence of drug-service delivery in most European countries, with a major expansion of substitution treatment, mainly using methadone. At the same time, the HIV epidemic among injecting drug users 'appears to have been momentarily contained'.

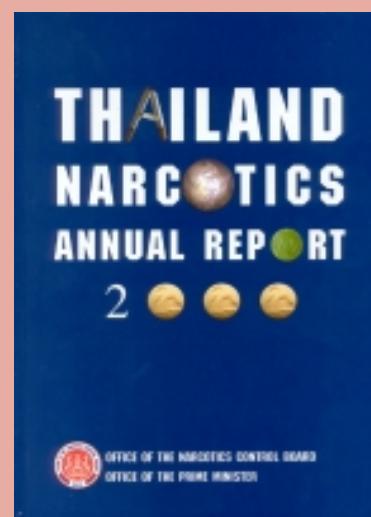
A broad range of accessible substitution-treatment programmes has been developed, with low-threshold programmes now quite widely delivered in

many countries. Countries that have expanded methadone treatment more recently, such as Greece and France, have followed a more specialised high-threshold approach.

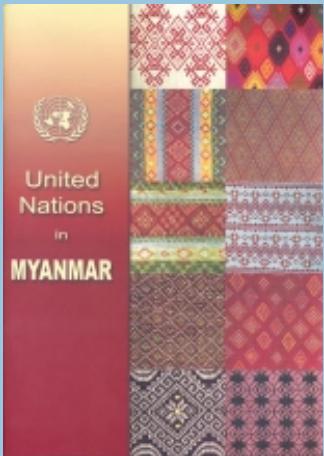
However, in France, prescription of low-threshold buprenorphine by general practitioners runs parallel to a high-threshold methadone service. Some countries, such as Denmark have moved to restrict the overall activity of general practitioners in this field by focussing treatment in specialist centres.

Others, such as Ireland and the UK, have taken significant policy initiatives to involve general practitioners in managing drug dependence. These trends, as well as others, are carefully explained and analysed in the book. The book is available from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Rue da Cruz de Santa Apolonia, 23-25, P-1149-045 Lisbon, Portugal, Phone: (+351) 218 11 30 00, Fax: (+351) 218 13 17 11, E-mail: info@emcdda.org, Website: http://www.emcdda.org

Thailand Narcotics Annual Report 2000, Bangkok: ONCB, 2000. The annual report from Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) examines the Thai drug control scene. Vital drug statistics are published together with the development of Thai drug legislation, the Thai supply reduction strategy, demand reduction strategy, and an interesting chapter on the future drug situation. The report is available from ONCB, Din Daeng Road, Phythai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand, Phone: (+66-2) 247 0901, Fax: (+66-2) 245 9354.



United Nations in Myanmar, Yangon: Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, 2000. This comprehensive report describes the present work of the UN in Myanmar and highlights the problems faced including the illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse, the rapidly spreading HIV/AIDS epidemic, and how the UN can transform concerns about the human rights situation expressed by the UN General Assembly into actions that will lead to concrete improvements. The report is available from the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, No. 6, Natmauk Road, Yangon, Phone: (+95-1) 542 910 through 542 919.



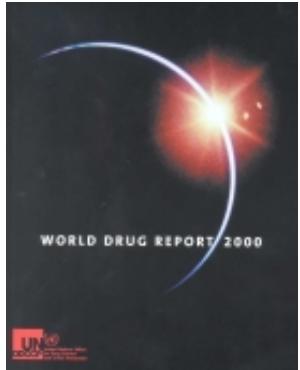
Model Course on the Prevention and Control of Illicit Drug Trafficking on Board Ships, UNDCP & International Maritime Organisation, 2000. The report was developed as a UNDCP project in cooperation with the International Maritime Organisation and provides practical information for commanding officers of commercial ships on how to limit the risk of trafficking illicit drugs along the routes.

MODEL COURSE
on the
PREVENTION and CONTROL
of
ILICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING
ON BOARD SHIPS



The report covers, among other subjects, the current world drug trends, precautions and countermeasures that can be taken by the crew, physical security arrangements, the monitoring of crew and other employees, and the onboard concealment of narcotics.

The report is available from UNDCP Headquarters, please contact Mr. Ian Munro, Phone: (+43-1) 26060 4466, Fax (+43-1) 26060 5827, E-mail: ian.munro@undcp.org or Stefanie Eichhorn, Phone: (+43-1) 26060 5727, E-mail: stefanie.eichhorn@undcp.org



World Drug Report 2000, Vienna: UNODCCP, 2001. The

report offers a comprehensive picture of the complicated world of drug production, trafficking and consumption.

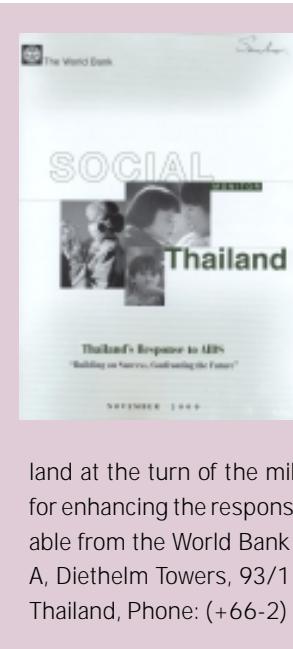
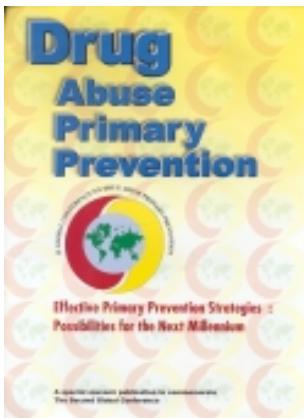
According to the report, a lot of progress has been made during the past decades. For example, coca and opium production has decreased markedly and cocaine and heroin consumption is stagnating or falling in North America and Europe.

However, drug consumption is still growing in many regions, notably in Asia with the increased consumption of ATS. Drug trafficking has become a truly global phenomenon as a consequence of globalization and nowadays almost all countries report drug seizures. Progress has been made, but more remains to be done.

The World Drug Report argues that when countries take

the drug problem seriously, generate political will, and dedicate sufficient resources to it, good results can be achieved. The World Drug Report 2000 is available from UNODCCP Headquarters, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43-1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43-1) 26060 5866, E-mail: odccp@odccp.org, Web page: <http://www.odccp.org>

Drug Abuse Primary Prevention: II Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention, Kuala Lumpur: 2000. The report covers extensively the II Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention, which was held in Bangkok 8-12 November, 1999. Copies can be obtained from the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme, 13th Floor of the Bank of Ceylon Merchant Tower, 28, St Michael's Road, Colombo 03, Phone: (+94-1) 564 448, Fax: (+94-1) 564 531, E-mail: cplan@slt.lk Web page <http://www.colombo-plan.org/info.htm>



Social Monitor Thailand: Thailand's Response to AIDS. Bangkok: World Bank, 2000. The report deals with a number of important aspects and lessons learned from Thailand's response to the HIV/AIDS threat. Issues discussed in the report include the evolution of Thailand's AIDS epidemic and the national response, AIDS in Thailand at the turn of the millennium, and strategic priorities for enhancing the response to HIV/AIDS. The report is available from the World Bank Thailand Office, 14th Floor Tower A, Diethelm Towers, 93/1 Wireless Road, Bangkok 10330, Thailand, Phone: (+66-2) 256 7792.

List of documents previously distributed by UNDCP Regional Centre (Bangkok)

1/2000	Summary of the Meeting on the Regional Centre's Strategies for the Pacific Region	28/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, VIII. Leadership & Command
2/2000	Report of the Conference on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in East and South-East Asia, Tokyo, Japan, 24-27 January 2000	29/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, IV. Surveillance
4/2000	Annual Field Report 1999	30/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, II. Controlled Deliveries
5/2000	Eastern Horizons No.1 March 2000	31/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, III. Undercover Operations 1. Policy and Procedure Manual 2. Training Manual
6/2000	Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia: External Sub-regional Appraisal Report	32/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, I. Intelligence - Policy and Training Manual
7/2000	China Country Profile	33/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, V. Mutual Assistance
8/2000	Mission Report on Project Advocacy Mission (B53)	34/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, VI. Asset Tracing and Seizure
9/2000	UNDCP and ASEAN Drug Demand Reduction Strategies	35/2000	Inception Meeting for the Project on Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/98/C96) October 26-27, 2000 at Doi Tung Development Project, Chiang Rai
10/2000	Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia: Project Performance and Evaluation Report, January-December 1999	36/2000	Workplan: Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/98/C96)
11/2000	Status of donor contributions to all projects as of end March 2000	37/2000	Summary Report - International Congress "In pursuit of a drug-free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the vision, leading the change", Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 October 2000
12/2000	Tripartite Review Meeting (Terminal): Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia	38/2000	ACCORD (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs) Plan of Action
13/2000	Press Clippings News on Drug Control and Crime Prevention in East Asia (Nov. 1999 - May 2000)	39/2000	Eastern Horizons No. 4 December 2000
14/2000	Eastern Horizons No.2 June 2000		
15/2000	UNDCP Activities Report in East Asia and the Pacific: Thirty years fighting drugs through leadership and participatory cooperation		
16/2000	Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar on Building Capacities for Fighting Transnational Organized Crime, held in Bangkok on 20 and 21 March 2000		
18/2000	Lights on harm of drug abuse, corruption and violence (press kit), International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June 2000		
19/2000	Sub-regional Workshop for Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91), 4-6 July 2000		
20/2000	Terminal Report for Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building in Yunnan Province, China (AD/RAS/94/714-968)	1/2001	National Workshop for Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91)
21/2000	Terminal Report for Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building between China and Myanmar (AD/RAS/93/713-913)	2/2001	First Annual Meeting of the Mutual Legal Assistance Advisory Committee (MLAAC)-AD/RAS/97/C74
22/2000	Eastern Horizons No. 3 September 2000	3/2001	Fellowship Programme in Malaysia 04 September-10 October 2000 (AD/RAS/97/C74)
23/2000	Report on the Regional Drug Enforcement Strategy Workshop, Shanghai, China, 25-27 July 2000	4/2001	Participants Database: Seminars, Worskops and Meeting for 1 st Phase of Development of Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91) (12 November 1999- 15 January 2001)
24/2000	Good Practices and Lessons Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia	5/2001	Review of High Risk Groups in China - Urumqi and Yining, Xinjiang Autonomous Region (Urumqi-Yining, 15-19 September 2000) (AD/RAS/98/C75)
25/2000	A "World Class" Training Opportunity to Strengthen Drug Control Measures		
26/2000	Press Reports - International Congress "In pursuit of a drug free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the vision, leading the change", Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 October 2000		
27/2000	Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, VII. Crime Scene Examination and Evidence Handling/Presentation		

The above documents can be obtained through the website of UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific (<http://www.undcp.un.or.th>)

Bad News Makes News: IS IT GOOD NEWS?

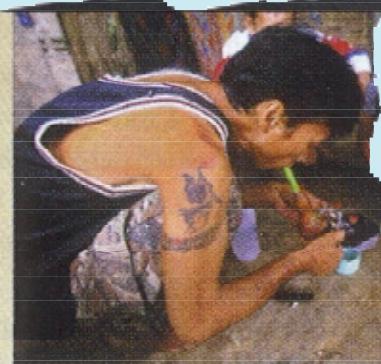
NEWSIRENDS 2001

A New Thai High

The drug designed by the Nazis to keep troops awake is now hooking young people from Bangkok to Britain

THAILAND HASN'T FULLY RECOVERED FROM ITS economic crisis, but its illegal drug business is booming. Spreading uncontrollably through the country is a hallucinogenic drug called *yaba*, first created by German scientists to stimulate Hitler's soldiers round the clock. Dealers are plying the methamphetamine to kids in Thailand's schools, shopping malls and city slums—hoping to hook young pill poppers. Government efforts have been unsuccessful in stopping production at home and in nearby Burma, and the drug is emigrating west. *Yaba* has been seized as far away as Britain, where the highly addictive drug has been touted as the new ecstasy. Side effects range from kidney disorders to psychosis, making this one of the world's most dangerous border-line drugs.

need to stop in its tracks.



CRAZY FOR YABA: One of many addicts in Thailand

Newsweek, "Issues 2001"

CHINA'S YOUNGSTERS ARE TURNING ON, TUNING OUT

XIAOLIAN LOVES IT. THE IMPETUOUS, 19-year-old Shanghai girl has tried cocaine and marijuana, but lately she has come around to the mainland's hottest new drug: ecstasy. Dazzling widely in one of Shanghai's so-called "beating bars," she gulps down a brown-and-white striped pill, just to get my head shaking like my ass," she says. Even in communist China, where more than 50 drug dealers were arrested in the month of June alone, kids still find ways to get high. The number of officially registered drug addicts totalled 541,000 last year, up 41% from 1995. The real number of users—most of whom are young people—is, of course, particularly in megacities like Beijing and Shanghai. A senior U.S. drug official estimates that the total population of drug users in China could be as high as 15 million.

Ecstasy is far and away the most popular drug among the young. Called "gardenia" (shaking pill) in China, it gained a foothold first in Hong Kong four years ago, exploding popularity after raves began



ECSTASY IS ALL THE RAGE, BUT SOME KIDS STILL SMOKE MARIJUANA FROM HOMEMADE BONGS

to dominate the territory's nightlife. More recently, the tritiated pills have become popular as the mainland as well: ecstasy is convenient, big and, perhaps most importantly, relatively inexpensive. One hit generally costs less than \$10. Cheaper pills are produced readily in Hong Kong and neighbouring Shenzhen; stricter laws can come from as far away as the Netherlands.

The old warhorse heroin still plagues an older set of drug users, particularly among the poor in southern Chinese cities and in western Yunnan. Heroin users account for 85% of the addicts registered with the authorities. Produced mostly in Southeast or nearby Burma, heroin usually costs an inexpensive \$15 a gram. It's seen as a less-risky high, more discerning than Ecstasy.

More popular in mainland metropolises—particularly in Beijing, while marijuanna still has its adherents in China and in Hong Kong, where it rules on the street for around \$500 per ounce. LSD has only recently begun to make an appearance at mainland raves, where "ice" or methamphetamine-produced in China—have held sway for the past six years. So far there's no monopoly; Chinese high. The nation's youth are mimicking trends among their countrymen elsewhere in Asia and in the West—getting wired in more ways than one. —By David

In Ng, with reporting by Jennifer Tay

Newsweek Special Edition "Issues 2000", Time magazine, the International Herald Tribune, the Readers' Digest, and numerous Asian papers and magazines have recently stressed the enormous risks of the new boom of ATS in Asia. It can be said that awareness and concerns are appropriately high—that is good news. However, international funding to policies that tackle this grave threat to public health did not follow the statements of policy makers—that is bad news.

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Articles, comments and relevant information with photos or tables attached are welcomed. Submissions should not exceed 500 words. Full name and signature must accompany all letters to the editor. Articles and letters may be edited for purposes of space and clarity.

Editor: Peter Lundsgaard, Tel: (66 2) 288-2537 Email: peter.lundsgaard@undcp.un.or.th **Deputy editor:** Kaija Korpi, Tel: (66 2) 288 1996 Email kaija.korpi@undcp.un.or.th
Contributing editor: Rebecca Miller, Tel: (66 2) 288 2551, E-mail: rebecca.miller@undcp.un.or.th. **For further information, please contact:** UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, 14th Floor, United Nations Building Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand Tel: (+66-2) 288-2083 Fax: (+66-2) 281-2129 Website: <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>

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