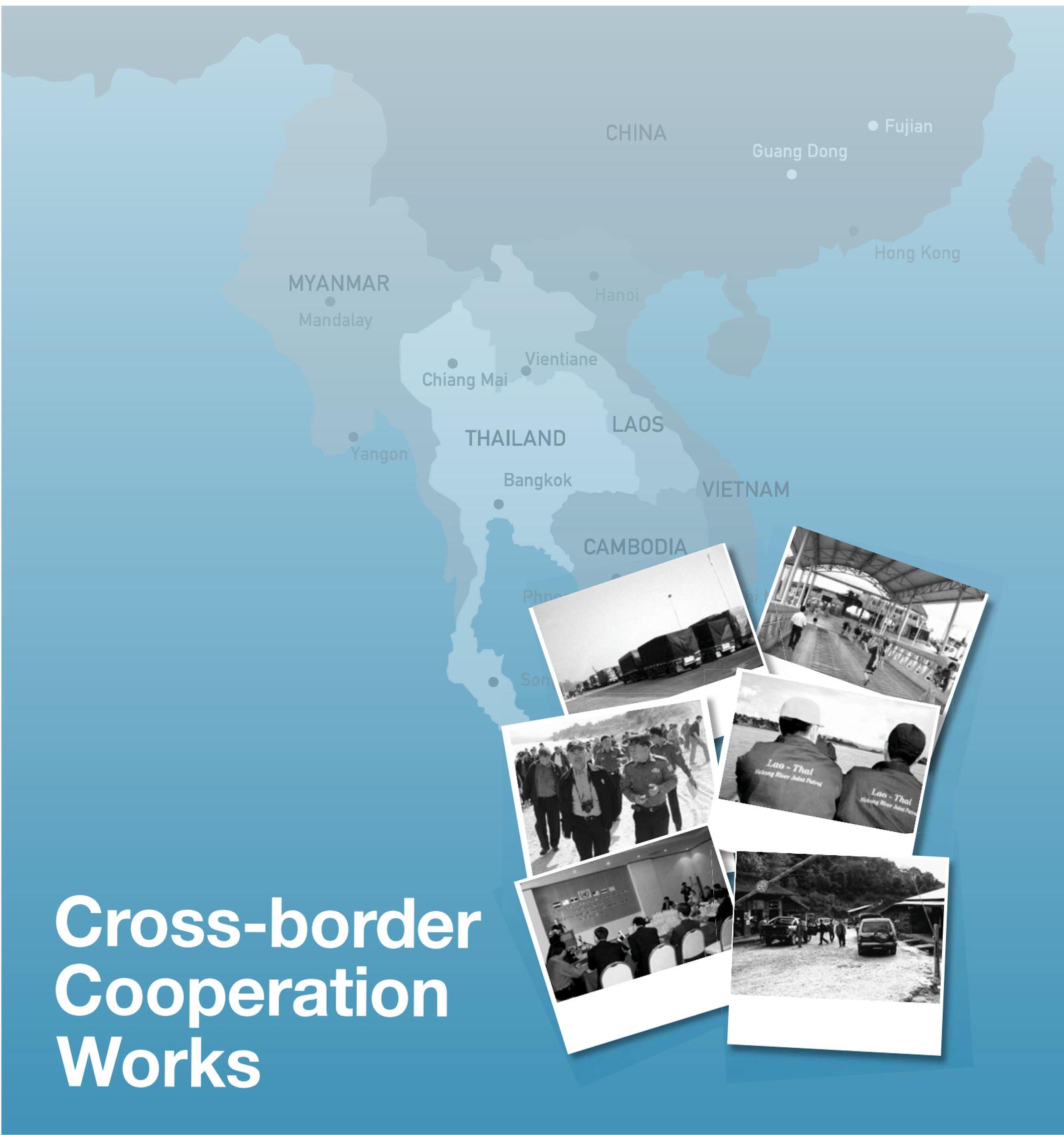




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Eastern Horizons

WINTER 2005



Cross-border Cooperation Works

Table of Contents

3 From the Representative

Cross-border Cooperation

- 4 New Challenges Warrant Further Advocacy Efforts
- 6 Regional Cooperation Works
- 8 Extraditing a Person: A Case of Cross-border Cooperation
- 9 Youth Beyond Borders
- 10 Close Cooperation Enhances Cross-border Law Enforcement

Demand Reduction

- 12 Drug Supply Reduction and Demand Reduction in China
- 13 Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation System in China
- 14 Integrating Law Enforcement, and Health and Education for Effective Demand Reduction

Criminal Justice System

- 16 The United Nations Convention against Corruption
- 18 Towards a New Platform for International Cooperation against Corruption
- 19 Viet Nam Hosts 29th HONLEA Asia and the Pacific Meeting
- 20 UNODC and World Bank Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

HIV/AIDS

- 22 UNODC Reiterates Support for HIV Prevention among Drug Injectors
- 24 Making Prisons Safe for Everyone
- 25 Drug Use, Prison Setting, and Trafficking in Persons

Features

- 26 Helping Street Children in Drugs
- 29 Cross-border Cooperation for Secure Trade

Capacity Building

- 31 Improving Capacities for Drug Control Reporting
- 32 Online Information Sharing Software Supports Regional Fight Against Drug Abuse
- 33 UNODC Holds Regional Training for National Programme Officers

ACCORD

- 34 ACCORD Second International Congress Reconfirms Regional Response Towards Illicit Drugs
- 36 Beijing Declaration
- 38 Regional Joint Action against ATS-related Crime among ACCORD Countries

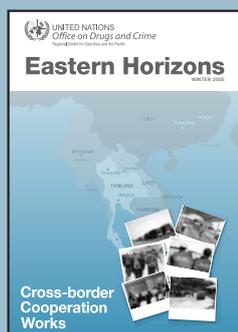
News Briefs

- 40 High-Level Seminar on the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- 40 First ASEM Prosecutors-General Conference
- 41 Regional Directors' Forum on HIV and AIDS
- 41 Initiative Workshop for the Regional Joint Action against ATS-related Crimes among ACCORD Countries
- 42 National Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development for Illicit Cannabis Plant Cultivation
- 43 Staff Updates
- 43 Innovative Measures for the Treatment of Drug Abusers
- 44 Opium Poppy Cultivation in Myanmar Falls Again in 2005
- 44 YCAB CEO Named One of Young Global Leaders 2006
- 45 Thailand Marks International Anti-Corruption Day

Moments of Light

- 45 Working with an NGO in Cambodia
- 46 Stories from the Past- Series V

Cover text by Olivia Sylvania Inciong
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Cross-border Cooperation Works

The notion that there are links between drugs and crime is not a new one. Human trafficking, corruption, terrorism, and money laundering are no longer the concerns of one nation.

Drug traffickers and criminal groups employ more complex

networks to promote their interests. Cross-border cooperation is necessary in the areas of intelligence and real-time information sharing, best practices, and technical assistance to effectively implement regional and international mechanisms. No state, no matter how powerful, can by its own efforts alone make itself invulnerable to illicit drugs and crime – both impediments to development.

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In a number of cases, investigations independently carried out by different countries led to the same target criminals, pointing to the transnational nature of the clandestine ATS manufacture and trafficking. Investigations in one country further revealed, for instance, traffickers' plan to set up labs in another country.

The workshop provided a further timely opportunity for real-time information exchange on those operational findings.

Having closely examined the case findings, the workshop established joint "Target Cases" and a "Fugitive List", on which the concerned parties will collectively work. As individual and joint operations proceed, closed case meetings will be held for the concerned parties, as appropriate. Findings and discussions from such case meetings will be fed back to all relevant law enforcement authorities in the region, and beyond.

The UNODC Regional Centre plays a role as a hub in this collective regional initiative. It will: (i) keep abreast of the findings of individual and joint operations; (ii) provide linkages between authorities of different countries, if and when required by those operations; and (iii) assist in organizing future operational case meetings and workshops, as needed.

This initiative will have an impact, in the light of the recent changes in patterns of illicit drug manufacture and trafficking observed in the region, especially relocations of clandestine laboratories and subsequent changes in trafficking routes.

This collective regional initiative is also significant, as drug trafficking has many interlocking issues. Almost always, it involves transnational organized crime. It involves corruption. It could involve terrorism. A comprehensive drug control strategy for the region needs to address these links with other forms of crime. This regional initiative effectively provides grounds for collective actions in the criminal justice areas.

The Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Anti-Corruption Convention offer new tools in the fight against transnational organized crime. They complement the existing drug control Conventions. They offer common definitions of criminal acts, tools for joint investigations, confiscation and forfeiture of assets, mutual legal assistance and extradition, and victim protection. Effective countermeasures require a readiness by drug control agencies to integrate these new challenging issues into their agenda.

All those events that took place in 2005, when linked together, will provide the region with collective strength in dealing with drug control and criminal justice areas. We intend to extend the linkages further beyond this region, extending our horizons. ■

Akira Fujino
Representative
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok

A Unique Regional Initiative

In 2005, the region witnessed a series of important events, which the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific helped organize. In April, the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took place in Bangkok, Thailand. The Congress adopted the Bangkok declaration at a momentous time with the entry into force of major international instruments, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its accompanying Protocols. In May, the Ministerial level meeting was held in Siemreap, Cambodia, for the six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, which are parties to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on drug control signed in 1993. It adopted the Siemreap declaration to enhance further regional cooperation in drug control. These events have been covered in earlier issues of Eastern Horizons. Finally, in October, the Second ACCORD (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs) International Congress was organized in Beijing, China, and it took the ACCORD Plan of Action into its new phase.

The ACCORD Congress launched an important initiative, "The Regional Joint Action against ATS-related Crime", involving a regional joint law enforcement operation on amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), the first of its kind in the world. We took the initiative a step further in December 2005, when law enforcement agencies of all the ACCORD countries met in a workshop in Guangzhou, China, to establish the Standard Operating Procedures.

The workshop discussed the findings and the current status of ongoing cases, including the most recent investigations on the large clandestine laboratory, dismantled outside Jakarta in November 2005. The lab had been making methamphetamine and MDMA (ecstasy), and diverting ketamine, a substance not yet under international control but widely abused in the region, from licit sources into illicit traffic. The authorities concerned had conducted very extensive investigations and surveillance on such various cases.

The case presentations revealed that the same targets were often sought after by different countries.

New Challenges Warrant Further



UNODC Photo/ Songsatt Kittikhunwachana

When drug trafficking patterns and routes change, abuse follows. The recent patterns in drug trafficking warrant further advocacy efforts in all countries in the region. Collective actions must be taken, involving all concerned: governmental and non-governmental; regional and international.

Over these years, law enforcement agencies in this region achieved tangible results through practical partnerships. Border Liaison Offices (BLOs), now totaling over 40, have been established through a cross-border cooperation project, with more than 240 Border Liaison Officers working at high risk border zones at the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The BLO mechanism now ensures real-time information and intelligence exchange, and resulted in seizures of different kinds of illicit drugs, arrests of traffickers and some top level criminals, and the investigation of over 500 cases.

Yet, recent changes in patterns of clandestine manufacture and trafficking routes of drugs, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) have been reported. How did these happen? As a result of tightened controls and law enforcement actions in, for instance, Thailand, and more recently China and Myanmar, traffickers are being forced to relocate their clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. Such changes require a further network of intelligence exchange and joint operations.

In the last few years, traffickers attempted to target the Philippines as a new centre for the clandestine methamphetamine manufacture in the region. The Philippine authorities effectively dismantled a large number of methamphetamine laboratories. In April 2004, as a result of a joint operation between China and Malaysia, a major lab was dismantled in Kuala Lumpur. Two months later, a mega methamphetamine lab was found in Fiji. In April 2005, the second large-scale

Challenges Advocacy Efforts

MDMA laboratory was dismantled near Jakarta, following the first one uncovered three years ago.

These suggest smuggling by sea routes and point to the increased need for greater networking of law enforcement agencies for real time information and intelligence exchange and for maritime drug law enforcement cooperation, both for the final products and for precursor chemicals.

Taking comprehensive approaches

When juveniles and young adolescent drug dependents come in conflict with the law, all too often, imprisonment is the only answer. It is important to consider also alternatives to imprisonment, including juvenile justice solutions, treatment services, and counseling.

The link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS requires a comprehensive approach, in addition to emergency measures to prevent HIV infection, through injection or otherwise under the influence of drugs. This approach encompasses treatment and rehabilitation, including relapse treatment, and prevention and education. The challenge is to conduct massive upscaling. There is a need to look into the situation in prisons, or in custodial settings. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on this.

Sustainable alternative development

The farmers in the Golden Triangle must benefit from sustainable alternative development activities. With the loss of opium income, those poor farmers and their families not only lose their coping mechanism to deal with endemic poverty and a chronic food shortage. They are vulnerable to exploitation and misery.

UNODC cannot afford to eradicate illicit opium poppy cultivation at the expense of eradicating communities and displacing families. Assistance must also be structured with agencies, knowing who is doing what, how, where, and when. The Regional Centre urges countries, international bodies, and donors to support sustainable alternative development initiatives. UNODC will serve as a hub in so doing. UNODC will explore possibilities for linking experiences within this region and beyond.



UNODC Photo/ Songseitt Kittikhunwathana

The significant reduction in illicit opium poppy cultivation in this region must be sustainable.

Alternative development efforts should also be extended beyond opium poppy.

Linkages with crime prevention and criminal justice system issues

Drug trafficking has many interlocking issues. Almost always, it involves transnational organized crime, i.e., corruption, terrorism. These links need a comprehensive drug control strategy for the region.

The Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Anti-Corruption Convention offer new tools in the fight against transnational organized crime, complementing existing drug control Conventions. They offer common definitions of criminal acts, tools for joint investigations, confiscation and forfeiture of assets, mutual legal assistance and extradition, and victim protection. Drug control agencies need to integrate these new challenging issues into their agenda.

Steps forward

These recent changes require further networking for all concerned. It requires new types of advocacy. Given the region's diversity in culture, Governments have employed different strategies, resulting in different degrees of impact. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) mechanism provides the opportunity to further share these best practices and enable countries to build on them. It is a multi-sectoral approach that all must take to bridge the gaps and help forge strong regional responses. ■

This article is based on the remarks of Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific at the ACCORD Second International Congress, 18-20 October 2005, Beijing, China.

All these efforts reflect a level of collaboration no one could have imagined a decade ago.

Five years ago, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and the People's Republic of China agreed to work together against common threats—drugs, precursors, money-laundering, organized crime and HIV/AIDS. The goal was the creation of an ASEAN Drug-Free Zone by the year 2015.

It was, and still is an ambitious agenda, one that holds great promise. The ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) mechanism constitutes the primary drug control framework for this region—and governments have been making the most of it. Regional cooperation is not only the way forward; better, it works.

Close and concrete collaboration between China, Myanmar, Thailand and Lao People's Democratic Republic led to a total of 716 kg of heroin (roughly 7 metric tons of opium or 700 hectares of poppy fields) being seized, over 70 suspects arrested, and vehicles, guns and rocket launchers seized.

The operations started in November 2004 with a first seizure of heroin amounting to 220 kg. These peaked in early September 2005 with an additional 496 kg seized, and ended on 22 September 2005 with the arrest in Lao PDR of the leader of the Chinese syndicate operating out of Myanmar. The operations were truly regional in nature and very successful.

Border Liaison Offices are manning high risk border zones, and officers who work in them are exchanging information and intelligence that has already led to major arrests and seizures.

When traffickers tried to set up methamphetamine ("meth") production in the Philippines, the authorities in that country quickly closed them down. Cooperation between China and Malaysia allowed authorities to dismantle one of the biggest meth labs in Kuala Lumpur. China, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Thailand have been collaborating to stem the trafficking of precursors and lab equipment into common border regions where many of these clandestine labs are located. With support from UNODC, Myanmar, China and India have also targeted cross-border smuggling of ephedrine into Myanmar. In China, there has been an increase in precursor seizures of 444 per cent over a five-year period. Seizures in Myanmar have increased by 1,500 per cent.

All of these efforts reflect a level of collaboration no one could have imagined a decade ago. But the threats have shifted as well. Today, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), including methamphetamine, ecstasy, and a growing inventory of "club drugs," are sweeping across Asia, generating new markets, and enriching criminal syndicates. The day could come when cartels realize the advantages of synthetic drugs over plant-based substances—you can make them and sell them in the same market, without importing opium or coca and transporting it across continents and not wait for harvest-time.

Opium poppy cultivation is down by an astonishing 77 per cent in the Golden Triangle, and UNODC is getting ready to declare that

Regional Cooperation

region "drug-free"—an historic accomplishment. But that does not mean that either the ASEAN countries or China have beaten the problem of opium addiction.

Interestingly, even though prevalence levels are way down, most of the demand for treatment in Southeast Asia and China is a result of heroin addiction. Tens of thousands of drug abusers are still smoking opium, while a growing number are also choosing to shoot heroin. And the demand for treatment is still much greater than its availability.

UNODC mandate to assist

Under the ACCORD Plan of Action, UNODC has assumed oversight for monitoring the progress of governments, and helping them with implementation, in four key areas: i) civic awareness, ii) demand reduction, iii) law enforcement, and iv) alternative development.

What works, and what does not? Most of those "lessons learned" come from governments, countries that took the lead, broke down old barriers, and went to work inventing collective solutions to common threats.

Pillar One: Civic Awareness

Promoting public awareness about the dangers of drugs sounds like a simple task, but it isn't. What is public awareness? And is it created by posters? Video clips on television? School programs? Media campaigns? Football tournaments? All of the above can in fact succeed if the efforts are part of a larger commitment to changing social and cultural attitudes about drug use and addiction. But the message being sent out must be clear: 1) that illegal drug use is a culturally unacceptable behaviour; and 2) that individuals who have fallen victim to drug addiction are sick, not evil—our responsibility is to offer them treatment and opportunities to re-enter society.

When it comes to counter drug efforts, public awareness is a vital and necessary complement to law enforcement. It is not the police, it is not intelligence, and it is not the judiciary that will defeat drugs, as crucial as they all are in the larger campaign to protect our citizens against this devastating scourge.

By themselves the instruments of law enforcement are not sufficient. It is the community as a whole - the schools, the places of faith, the sport facilities, the factories and the offices—that is where a climate of general awareness and a collective aversion to drugs can be created by working together.

There is a need to create a coalition against drugs, one that cuts across every stratum of society, and whose message is that drugs kill, physically and mentally.

In Europe, the risk of becoming an addict is eight to ten times higher for those young people who know nothing about the dangers of drugs than it is for young people who have been exposed to awareness campaigns. Similar differentials are found in other countries, including the ASEAN nations.

eration Works

Pillar Two: Reducing Demand

The second pillar requires the 10 ASEAN countries and China to work cooperatively to reduce drug demand.

ATS constitute a very big problem in this part of the world, and heroin addiction continues to have a disproportionate impact.

Heroin trafficking depends on and feeds a larger universe of corruption, spawning an array of other drug-related crimes. In addition, heroin abuse typically involves needle sharing, and injecting drug users remain a key source of HIV/AIDS infection. It is estimated that half of all injecting drug users in Southeast Asia share their contaminated injecting equipment with other addicts, while only 5 per cent of injecting drug users have access to HIV prevention services in Asia today. In Southeast Asia the figures are even lower—1 per cent. Demand for ATS treatment is also on the rise, but it may well outpace the ability to provide it. In many cases, this is a result of the absence of data needed to create a coherent picture of each country's needs.

UNODC is working with countries in this region to develop a computerized system for collecting and analyzing relevant information in ways that support good policymaking.

Pillar Three: Law Enforcement

The UNODC 2005 World Drug Report estimates that there are about 34 million abusers of ATS worldwide. Almost two-thirds of them are in Asia.

Authorities in the ASEAN countries and China continue to make life difficult for ATS traffickers and manufacturers, as evidenced by lab relocations and smugglers changing their routes to evade law enforcement. But traffickers invent new smuggling methods and adapt quickly to new environments when authorities get close. This means law enforcement has to respond in kind, with better networking, information-sharing, and intelligence exchange. National law enforcement agencies must be part of a regional coalition against drugs.

It is also time for every government to criminalize money-laundering, and to enact laws that allow for the seizure and return of illicit funds.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is remarkable for its focus on money-laundering and for the inclusion of a mechanism that force nations to cooperate in the area of asset recovery.

Pillar Four: Alternative Development

One of the major challenges this Congress faces is the provision of alternative development to farmers who abandon illegal drug crop cultivation and move into the national economy. It is urgent to provide this kind of assistance in the short-term, and to ensure that it remains sustainable.

The situation in the Golden Triangle is similar to that in Afghanistan and the Andean countries: some of the poorest people are being affected by a drastic loss of income as drug crop cultivation

The idea of a regional community united on security issues has gained ground with astonishing speed and effect.

declines. Thus, the international community must have the wisdom to fight drugs and poverty simultaneously, and to eliminate both the causes and effects of these twin afflictions. Right now, governments and aid partners need to ensure that food security and income generation programmes remain in place to support farmers' decisions not to plant opium poppy. Enforcement measures to eradicate the opium poppy that is still under cultivation need to remain as well.

Bilateral assistance supporting alternative development is coming from China and Thailand. Myanmar and Thailand are working through the ACCORD mechanism to support alternative development products. The problem of cannabis cultivation in this region need to be addressed, as does the question of how to provide growers with alternatives to that crop. Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines are already interested and want to work with authorities here, using best practices gained in other places.

The Golden Triangle could face these challenges with support from the international community. Current development assistance needs to be maintained in the years to come, and in some places, it should be increased.

Solutions and successes

There are other facts we must face: donor countries that are major destinations for illegal drugs need to develop a commensurate response. Europe is the destination for the bulk of Afghan heroin—so it needs to become more engaged in the campaign to eliminate opium cultivation and to give farming communities alternatives to drug crops.

In this region, source countries for precursor chemicals—whether used to manufacture ATS, including methamphetamine and ecstasy, or to produce heroin in Afghanistan—need to confront that challenge and lead the fight to control the millions of tons of chemicals whose only purpose is to facilitate the production of illegal drugs.

China and Myanmar in particular are taking the lead in this area, and have demonstrated the strength of strategic alliances in the fight against illegal drugs. This kind of coordination is pivotal to future success.

Fragmentation—of efforts, resources, or even the attitudes towards these challenges—does not work in a world where criminals coordinate and cooperate so closely. ASEAN countries continue to hold fast to their cultural and political distinctions. The idea of a regional community united on security issues has gained ground with astonishing speed and effect—testimony to an insight on the part of governments in the region that it is only by working together against drugs and crime that any single player can hope to win. ■

This article is based on the speech of Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, UNODC during the Ministerial Meeting of the ACCORD Second International Congress, Beijing, China, 18-20 October 2005.

Extraditing a Person: A Case of Cross-border Cooperation

By Clarence Paul V. Oaminal
Legal Consultant, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
Region 7, Philippines

On the evening of 24 September 2004, the people of Cebu Province, Philippines jubilated with the announcement of the successful raid of a clandestine shabu laboratory at Caps R Us Warehouse, Brgy. Umapad, Mandaue City, Cebu. The factory, camouflaged as a garments manufacturer was raided by elements of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Region 7 led by P/Supt. Amado E. Marquez, Jr., Regional Director of PDEA.

The day after the raid, Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo inspected the shabu laboratory aptly baptized as mega shabu lab with 1.1 tons of methamphetamine hydrochloride seized.

Eleven persons were arrested during the raid, nine of whom were foreign nationals. The President was accompanied by Rep. Antonio V. Cuenco, Principal Sponsor of Republic Act 9165 (The Philippines' Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Dangerous Drugs of the House of Representatives.

In time

On 29 September 2004, the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department arrested Calvin Tan also known as Lin Chui Wi, or Joey Ng, or Joey Lin, when he was about to depart for Macau SAR, where the Philippines has no extradition treaty. At the time of his arrest, Tan was in possession of assorted drugs, eight bank books for accounts in Macau SAR, China, and Hong Kong SAR and cash in various denominations comprising of USD 90,000, HKD124,189, Macau Pacatas 1,835 and RMB 17.

On 30 September 2004, Rep. Roque R. Ablan, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Dangerous Drugs together with Rep. Antonio V. Cuenco came to visit the 11 persons arrested at the Mega Shabu Lab, including Joseph Yu.

Joseph Yu confessed that Calvin Tan is their financier having deposited in his bank account not less than five million pesos to set up the laboratory.

Subsequently, Calvin Tan was indicted as co-accused of the case for Violation of Section 8, Article II of Republic Act 9165 or Manufacturing of Dangerous Drugs. A warrant of arrest was issued against him on 2 October 2004.

Calvin Tan proposed to post a bail considering that under the Hong Kong SAR Penal law, he is entitled to bail. It was then that the Philippine Consulate to Hong Kong SAR interceded upon the request of Rep. Cuenco to plea before the Hong Kong SAR Magistrate to deny the motion of Calvin Tan who earlier was issued a warrant of arrest by the Philippine Court.

The Hong Kong SAR Magistrate denied the motion of Calvin Tan.

Bringing the indicted under Philippine jurisdiction

The surrender of fugitive offenders between the Hong Kong SAR and the Philippines is made in time in pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Government of Hong Kong SAR and the Government of the Philippines for the SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS signed 30 January 1995, which took into effect on 20 June 1997.

The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Justice formally filed a request for the surrender of Calvin Tan under its jurisdiction. The petition was made under the auspices of Hon. Ernesto L. Pineda, Undersecretary of the Department of Justice.

The Authority to Proceed was issued by Hon. Tung Chee Hwa, then Chief Executive of the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong on 14 January 2005.

The Republic of the Philippines, was ably represented by Wayne Walsh, Deputy Principal Government Counsel of Hong Kong SAR.



Photo by Gary Cabotaje, Sun Star Daily (Cebu) Philippines



On 19 July 2005, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR Donald Tsang formally surrendered Calvin Tan to the authorities of the Republic of the Philippines.

The requesting party state was represented by USEC Ernesto L. Pineda, Cong. Cuenco, and two marshalls of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Calvin Tan was ordered committed on 21 July 2005 by Hon. Marilyn Lagura-Yap of Branch 28, Regional Trial Court of Mandaue City, Cebu, the presiding judge who is trying the case against the 11 persons arrested during the raid and the two owners of the warehouse used as shabu laboratory.

As of December 2005, Calvin Tan is detained at the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Centre, Cebu City, in a maximum security cell.

Calvin Tan would have left Philippine jurisdiction without permission, were it not for the executive agreement. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) must be proactive and not wait for fugitives seeking succor in their nation. ■

Necessity of Extradition

The Philippine Government now realize the necessity of entering into an executive agreement or treaty for the extradition of fugitives particularly on drug trafficking. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Committee on Dangerous Drugs of the House of Representatives have seen the transnational connection of the drug business and extradition.

Editor's Note:

The author has been designated by the Secretary of Justice, Republic of the Philippines as Consultant of Calvin Tan's case before Branch 28, Regional Trial Court, Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines for Violation of Sec. 8, Article II, of Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Youth Beyond Borders

By Andrew Carruth
Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa
Indonesia

The problems of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS are global and not bound by geographical or political boundaries. Solutions are not also bound by borders. This philosophy is evident with the Global Youth Network (GYN) - a project initiated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and now being implemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across the world.

Under the GYN, each regional network is composed of a group of NGOs working together on various projects and sharing information. The Asia Pacific Network (APGYN) for example, coordinated by Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (YCAB) in Indonesia, compiles and distributes a monthly newsletter by email to serve as a forum for information exchange, further promoting a cohesive network and disseminating information on regional best practices. The APGYN members have met in Jakarta for training on networking.

Currently, each APGYN member is working on small-scale individual projects. Meanwhile, there are other regional networks in Eastern Africa, Eastern Europe, Mexico and Central America, South America, and South Asia.

Despite being separated by oceans and continents, the network members all agreed on the need to work together, even in the absence of funding, and several ideas were put forth to sustain this project.

One idea that is beginning is a project to profile youths of the world. Thousands of youth worldwide would be asked about HIV/AIDS and prevention efforts and a comparison made.

GYN welcomes any organizations wishing to be involved.

For further information, contact Andy Carruth, YCAB, E-mail: <andy@ycab.org> ■



Close Cooperation Enhances Cross-border Law Enforcement

By Songsatit Kittikhunwatchana
UNODC Regional Centre

The Golden Triangle areas particularly the eastern border of Myanmar has been recognized as one of the world's major heroin and methamphetamine production areas. Recently, large seizures of crystal methamphetamine have been attributed to the same general location. The traditional cultivation of opium poppy and the production of heroin established a base for illicit drug trafficking that has since expanded to include the manufacture of tablet and crystal methamphetamine. Foreign chemists brought into the area by organized crime gangs produce the illicit drugs. These gangs, many of which are based in other parts of China, then arrange for the drugs to be moved through the region to the consumer markets in nearby countries

and elsewhere in the world. The drugs are moved across national borders and it is at these locations that enforcement agencies have an opportunity to detect and seize the drugs and arrest the traffickers.

Prior to 1993, very limited information was exchanged between law enforcement agencies operating in the common border areas of the six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), i.e., China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. It is evident that unless information is shared at the operational level, law enforcement would remain ineffective and limited to chance seizures.

Porous borders and barriers to communication across borders are major handicaps to law enforcement officers.

Through a cross-border project executed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) were established in strategic border crossing locations. UNODC BLOs operate at strategic border crossings in the Golden Triangle area to facilitate information exchange between countries. The BLOs exchange information directly with their cross border counterparts, allowing them a speedy sharing of information rather than relying on national capitals to communicate with one another. A management structure is now in place at lo-



cal and national levels which monitor the BLO operation and address issues. The provision of specific training and equipment further supports the BLO by establishing a common level of expertise and a channel for communication.

As of 2005, a total of 42 BLOs have been established with more than 250 border liaison officers working at high risk areas among the GMS countries. Through the cooperation of BLOs, more than 500 cases with huge seizures of illicit drugs and the arrest of key drug traffickers were handed over among GMS countries.

A key requirement is the development of trust that leads to cooperation.

The enhanced cooperation between and among countries was the result of regular border visit trips for monitoring and needs analyses for new BLO establishment. Informal as well as official contacts and meetings among the BLOs are held. Trust and subsequently working relations among the six GMS countries improved resulting in more flexibility in cross-border cooperation, joint operations, and daily border crossing among the BLOs.



Through joint patrols, drug trafficking and other illegal activities decreased along the Mekong River. Cooperation between Thai and Huai Xai (Lao PDR) BLO with Counter Narcotics Unit officers, broke a case with 21 blocks of heroin weighing 7.35 kg at Muang Mom port along the Mekong River. Sixteen joint patrols between Lao PDR and Thailand BLOs were conducted during 2005. Lao PDR and Thailand agreed to expand the mechanism for further operation in Mekong River under the support of the United States Narcotic Affairs Section.

The BLO mechanism is now being viewed as a benchmark multilateral law enforcement project, both regionally and internationally. It received wide recognition among the international law enforcement community and was often cited as a model project in cross-border cooperation.

Discussions on the utilization of the modality of the BLO mechanism are being made and considered for Central Asia/China, Myanmar/India and for other countries which are members of the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD). ■

Drug Supply Reduction and Demand Reduction in China

By Chen Cunyi
Deputy Secretary General, National Narcotics
Control Commission, People's Republic of China

The past five years has witnessed noticeable changes in drug control in China, with annual growth rate of new drug addicts dropping from 29.3 per cent in the past five years to 8.6 per cent in 2004. A total of 880,000 drug addicts have completed detoxification never returning to drugs for over three years.

Creating Favorable Conditions for Drug Demand Reduction

To reduce drug supply, the following measures have been adopted:

Blocking trafficking, and interception. For China's southwest regions close to the Golden Triangle, a three-tier method of blocking, inspection, and interception has been adopted. Police forces for drug inspection were strengthened at frontier regions. Inspection equipment were installed and sniffer dogs posted at frontier ports, entry-exit passages and airports; fixed or mobile drug enforcement stations were established. With these measures, drug enforcement network and abilities have been greatly strengthened.

Cracking down drug distribution sites and transferring stations. After a comprehensive analysis of the drug situation in China in 1999, 17 influential distribution sites, transferring stations, and key drug-plagued regions were identified by National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC). Tough drug enforcement measures and comprehensive rectification initiatives were enforced. From 2000 to 2004, about 19,000 drug cases were cracked, and 5,866 suspects arrested.

Today, 12 of the 17 key identified rectification regions have seen their improved situations, contributing to the containment of growth of drug trafficking networks and drug supply reduction.

Employing special action for immediate drug problems. The wide land area and regional differences of China necessitates local drug control enforcement departments to tackle drug problems in their regions preemptively while national drug control enforcement forces take unified actions to deal with common problems nationwide. With this arrangement, drug crimes have been effectively cracked down in a short period of time. The past five years witnessed six major drug control campaigns such as special drug source containment action, national drug fighting action, rectification of entertainment places, among others. All proved to be effective.

To create favorable conditions for drug demand reduction, drug smuggling and trafficking must be cracked down intensely and continually and the rise of drug supply must be effectively contained.

Implementing a comprehensive education of drug control and prevention. With the continued growth of drug addicts, containment of new drug addicts is an urgent task. Education is imperative.

A comprehensive drug control education campaign was launched through the mass media to inform the public and keep them away from drugs. The public's awareness of drug prevention has been greatly improved with drug control exhibitions, drug films, TV programmes, advertisements, books, and publications.

Drug control education was introduced in all universities, middle schools, and primary schools, resulting in a decline of drug addicts.

Publications on drug control have been posted at public places such as transport stations, ports and airports. Schools or evening schools for workers have also been used for drug control education.

The annual International Day against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking has enabled the National Narcotics Control Commission to organize local governments at all levels to organize drug control prevention activities.

Developing Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation System

China considers drug addicts as patients and should be treated scientifically. Drug addicts in fact are victims and should be given care instead of being prejudiced. With over 790,000 drug addicts in the country, a "people first and humanitarian approach" to the building of drug treatment and rehabilitation system is a prime consideration for the Government.

Establishing "Drug Free Communities"

A "Drug Free Community" is a comprehensive measure for drug supply and demand reduction measures. In 1999, the NNCC proposed a "Drug Free Community" project nationwide. With support of governments at various level, and the participation of community residents, "Drug Free Communities" in urban and rural areas have been established.

To make "Drug Free Communities" effective, governments at all levels must take measures to push and guide the establishment of "Drug Free Community" and provide policy and capital support. Community residents' awareness of drug control must be raised so that resistance to drugs is strengthened. Grassroots workers, youths' and womens' organizations need to be fully mobilized to organize residents to participate in drug control actions. Community resources should be fully mobilized to elicit specific drug control action for families with drug abusers.

Over the past five years, China has launched a comprehensive nationwide campaign of drug control aiming to contain drug sources, reducing drug harm and new drug addicts through drug control prevention, drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation, drug source blocking and transportation interception, cracking down on drug crimes, rectification of precursor chemicals, stupeficient and psychotropic drugs.

In the next phases, China will continue to observe "equal emphasis on drug supply and demand reduction", and adhere to a balanced and comprehensive drug control strategy, push drug control development, and contribute to regional drug control. ■

Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation System in China

Drug demand reduction methods can be fully implemented with a complete drug treatment and rehabilitation system in place.

Drug treatment in China consists of three parts.

1. Drug abuse monitoring system. Drug control enforcement departments in China keep strict records of drug abusers' illegal activities, identity, drugs used, and abuse history. Such dates are entered into a special database. In addition, the National Drug Abuse Surveillance Center in China has established a drug abuse surveillance network nationwide. An analysis of the country's annual drug abuse is submitted to the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), which also conducts non-regular epidemiology surveys of drug abuse in some regions.

China's drug abuse surveillance system lays the foundation for detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation efforts.

The establishment of a drug abuse monitoring system that is effective and accurate provides an important input for the treatment and rehabilitation of individual drug abusers, the timely analysis and assessment of the current situation and changes of drug abusers and the adjustment of the strategy and methods of detoxification and rehabilitation.

2. Drug treatment and rehabilitation system. Relevant laws in China require compulsory detoxification for all drug addicts. Reeducation-through-labour is for those returning to drugs after compulsory detoxification. There are now about 600 compulsory treatment and rehabilitation centres in the country, which can take 120,000 drug addicts. From 2000 to 2004, 250,000 persons undergo compulsory detoxification annually, out of which 65,000 undergo reeducation-through-labor. Some medical institutions also provide voluntary detoxification for drug addicts.

Detoxification treatment institutions in China have included physiological detoxification in the form of legal education, moral education, AIDS prevention education, occupation training and labor skills training. All these prepare the drug abusers for returning to society.

3. Social follow-up, education and placement system. Drug abusers undergoing detoxification should not engage in other illegal activities. A group comprised of family members, community workers, and a person from his/her working department, police, and volunteers for each drug addict undergoing detoxification has been established to help him/her with life and job problems, develop confidence in detoxification and rehabilitation and self-discipline. Research results have showed that 39.2 per cent of the 46,000 drug addicts completing detoxification never take drugs again for over three years in Gansu Province.■

Integrating Law Enforcement, and Health and Education for Effective Demand Reduction

By Rosanna Ure
Commissioner for Narcotics, Narcotics Division
Security Bureau, Government of Hong Kong SAR



Photo by Narcotics Division, Security Bureau, Government of Hong Kong SAR

Briefing judges on Hong Kong's anti-drug policies and the work of the Narcotics Division, Security Bureau.

Hong Kong SAR, like many places in the world, adopts a balanced approach in the fight against drugs, and emphasizes both suppression of drug supply and decreasing drug demand. This is being carried through a “five-pronged” approach, i.e., legislation and law enforcement, preventive education and publicity, drug treatment and rehabilitation, research, and external cooperation.

Being a multi-dimensional issue, the drug problem requires the concerted efforts of different Government departments. The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police, with forensic support from the Government Laboratory, implement drug supply reduction interventions.

For drug demand reduction, various departments and agencies play an important part in preventive education as well as drug treatment and rehabilitation work. These Government departments/agencies include the Education and Manpower Bureau, Information Services Department, Social Welfare Department, Correctional Services Department, Department of Health, and the Hospital Authority. The Government's policy in planning for supply and demand reduction is underpinned by external cooperation and research which help keep Hong Kong SAR abreast of latest developments and emerging concerns.

The interactive model –some examples

In the past, the different “prongs” operated relatively independently and sometimes, the flow of information and collaboration between different departments and non-government organizations (NGOs) were not always smooth. In recent years, however, cross-disciplinary cooperation and interactions among different “prongs” have become the key features. This is particularly important as drug abuse trends changed rapidly in recent years, with the emergence of psychotropic substances. For many psychotropic drug users not yet showing addictive symptoms and high-risk groups, the delineation between preventive education, early identification and intervention, as well as aftercare support has become blurred. Concerned parties must work with a cross-disciplinary vision to fill in service gaps arising from changing drug abuse patterns.

The Narcotics Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force has set an example in multi-disciplinary work. As a law enforcement agency, the Narcotics Bureau has a primary role of suppressing drug trafficking, manufacturing, and supply.

The Police also play complementary roles in suppression of demand. Through the School Liaison Scheme, schools are

assigned designated police officers who provide support in crime prevention, education and early identification of drug abuse. The Police also organizes a "Junior Police Call" scheme in all districts to foster partnership with youth in the fight against crime and develop a civic-minded culture among its members. The Bureau actively takes part in community-level education activities and supports drug-related research projects. Both Customs and Excise Department and the Police are the main agents with most active external contacts. Both departments actively take part in regional and international meetings, joint operations, exchange of intelligence, and co-operation. Their regular contacts with counterparts in the Mainland China, in particular the southern part, enable Hong Kong SAR to collaborate with them in tackling drug abuse problems with a broader regional perspective.

All drug treatment centres provide drug treatment, rehabilitation and related support services to individuals with drug addiction problems as their core business. In addition, drug treatment centres are partners of drug education units.

As revealed in a recent survey, students found anti-drug messages most effectively delivered to them by former drug abusers. Many drug education groups have been inviting rehabilitated persons to join their work.

Blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users (IDUs) have become a top public health issue for many authorities. In this regard, the Methadone Treatment Programme which covers over 9,000 registered opiate abusers, provides an infrastructure to monitor HIV/AIDS infections among IDUs, e.g., through its universal urine screening services. The clinics provide contact points through which health and preventive messages can be conveyed to active drug abusers. The methadone service in Hong Kong SAR is a major factor that keeps the HIV/AIDS infection rate among opiate drug abusers at a very low level in the past decade.

While the judicial system works independently from the administrative and political arena, it does take into account social changes. Drug-related research studies provide the judges with updated scientific data so that sentences they mete out strike the right balance in the public interests. A recent initiative relates to the communication with the Judiciary a research study on the harmful effects of Ketamine, the most commonly abused psychotropic substance in Hong Kong SAR, for their consideration in determining sentence level of offences involving Ketamine in future cases.

Research studies are not confined to Hong Kong. In view of the problem of young people and young working adults going to Guangdong Province to abuse drugs, a study was

commissioned to investigate factors leading to such social phenomenon and measures to tackle it. Study results have been shared with Guangdong Province for their reference in developing appropriate strategies and facilitate external co-operation.

Partnership with non-government sector

The Government's close partnership with NGOs and the high-level advisory group, the Action Committee against Narcotics (ACAN), which is comprised of experienced professionals in anti-drug field, is notable. In Hong Kong SAR, NGOs are the service deliverers and front-line workers offering treatment and rehabilitation and preventive and education services. They also provide support to a voluntary drug abuse reporting system, Central Registry of Drug Abuse, which helps Hong Kong SAR monitor drug abuse trends. ■



Photo by Narcotics Division, Security Bureau, Government of Hong Kong SAR

Hong Kong local entertainers and artists performing together with the Christian New Being Fellowship Band composed of rehabilitated drug abusers. The event was part of a publicity project jointly organized by the Narcotics Division, Security Bureau and a local radio station targeting young audiences.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption

The Convention is the most comprehensive effort of the international community to address in a decisive manner the far-reaching impact of corruption and the need to develop effective measures against it at both the domestic and international levels. The Convention is the first truly global instrument of its kind.

The Convention was negotiated in less than two years by an Ad Hoc Committee established for that purpose by the General Assembly. It was adopted by the Assembly in October 2003 and opened for signature at the High-level Political Signing Conference held in Merida, Mexico from 9 to 11 December 2003. As at 17 February 2006, the Convention has received 140 signatures and 47 ratifications. On 14 December 2005, the Convention entered into force.

The Convention contains an extensive set of preventive measures for both policies and practices; preventive anti-corruption bodies; specific measures for the public sector, including measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and the funding of political parties; comprehensive measures to ensure the existence of appropriate systems of procurement, based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making; measures related to the judiciary and prosecution services; measures to prevent corruption involving the private sector; participation of society; and measures to prevent money laundering.

The Convention obliges States parties to establish as criminal offenses bribery of national public officials; active bribery of foreign public officials; embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion of property by a public official; money laundering; and obstruction of justice. The Convention includes a number of provisions asking States Parties to consider establishing as criminal offenses such forms of conduct as trading in influence, concealment, abuse of functions, illicit enrichment, or bribery in the private sector.

Under the Convention's provisions in international cooperation, countries agreed to work with each other on all aspects of corruption. This allows for joint police work, cooperation between financial investigators, prosecutors and gathering and transferring evidence to courts.

It includes a comprehensive chapter on asset recovery and measures for the prevention and detection of transfers of illicitly acquired assets; measures for the direct recovery of property; measures for the recovery of property through international cooperation for confiscation; and measures for the return and disposition of assets. Priority consideration is given to the return of confiscated property to the requesting State Party, to the return of such property to the prior legitimate owners or to compensation of the victims of the crime.

A Conference of the State Parties is established to review implementation and facilitate activities required by the Convention. Both civil society and the private sector can help in all of these efforts. The Convention gives a special role to the private sector, calling for the developments of integrity standards and other preventive measures. Civil society, NGOs and community-based organizations are recognized as having a special role in prevention and awareness raising.

Effective action against corruption is the responsibility of Governments. Only through their commitment and determination can tangible results be attained. ■

You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours¹

coima²

pot-de-vin³

رشوة⁴

He подмажешь - не поедешь⁵

Passport

20

贿赂⁶

Una mano lava l'altra⁷

Gör beni, göreyim seni⁸

Será que não tem um jeitinho?⁹

Toa kila kitu¹⁰

You can stop CORRUPTION

Corruption.
A crime in every language.

¹You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours (English) ²a bribe (Spanish) ³pot of wine; a bribe (French) ⁴to bribe (Arabic) ⁵to bribe (Chinese) ⁶Without oil, there's no driving (Russian) ⁷One hand washes the other (Italian) ⁸If you favour me, I'll favour you (Turkish) ⁹Isn't there another way out? (Portuguese) ¹⁰Pay us all you have got (Swahili)

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"The United Nations Convention alone will not end corruption; however, the Convention does provide the United Nations system with the mandate to assist the governments and encourage civil society actions to ensure that the war on corruption is effectively waged. With the efforts of determined individuals, civil society organizations and public spirited officials and politicians, we have a better chance to move forward on the avenue to greater fairness, transparency, justice and well-being. Let us make the United Nations Convention a milestone on the road."

Mr. Shigeru Mochida
Officer-in Charge of the Secretariat
and the Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific
(UNESCAP) at the High-Level Seminar
for the Asia Pacific Region on the
Ratification and Implementation of the
United Nations Convention against
Corruption, 16 January 2006, Bangkok

"In this digital age, advanced technologies when combined with good management system, can be used as an effective tool to fight corruption and make our government more transparent. A clear example is Thailand's recent innovation and adoption of the Government Fiscal Management Information System (GFMS), which serves as the back office of our administration.

GFMS makes Thailand one of the first countries in the world with an online-real time fiscal and management system. The GFMS is designed and developed to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency through online-real time surveillance of the Government's entire financial processes. Such system, therefore, not only deters corruption, but also ensures optimum utilization of limited government resources."

H.E. Pol. Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Justice at the High-Level Seminar for
the Asia Pacific Region on the Ratification
and Implementation of the
United Nations Convention against
Corruption, 16 January 2006, Bangkok

Towards a New Platform for International Cooperation against Corruption

People around the world have become increasingly frustrated at witnessing and suffering from the injustice and the deprivation that corruption brings. They face the effects of corruption on a broad range of areas as diverse as the administration of justice and the provision of adequate medical care. The resulting loss of confidence in institutions and the de-legitimization of government have destructive consequences. The impact can span generations.

The new United Nations Convention against Corruption offers a unique platform for effective action and an essential framework for genuine international cooperation. It proves that a destructive practice will no longer be tolerated. It demonstrates that core values, such as respect for the rule of law, probity, accountability, integrity and transparency must be safeguarded and promoted as the bedrock of development for all.

The vision, determination and commitment that Governments displayed throughout the negotiation process made the Convention a reality. It was the broad support it received from civil society that helped it come to life. The Convention is a remarkable achievement because it is innovative, balanced, strong and pragmatic.

Ratification rates

Since the opening of the Convention for signature in Merida in December 2003, the rate of ratifications has exceeded expectations and has confirmed the continued political will and determination of Member States. Still, the number of ratifications of the Convention increases within the shortest time possible. This will ensure that the Convention will become the global standard that it was intended and negotiated to be. Concerned agencies and organizations should exercise all the influence to bring and maintain ratification to the top of the domestic political agenda.

Since Merida, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has given priority to the promotion of the expeditious ratification of the Convention. UNODC has developed a legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the Convention. A series of high-level regional seminars were organized to reinforce the political will and commitment that led to the adoption of the Convention. UNODC assists a number of countries in the development of anti-corruption strategies, and supports prevention measures and the establishment and institution-building of anti-corruption bodies.

Implementation

The Convention established its own implementation mechanism, the Conference of the States Parties, with a broad and challenging mandate. The best way to ensure implementation and

universal implementation will be to aim for the widest possible participation and an optimal balance between developed and developing countries from all regions in the Conference of the Parties. Within one year, this body should be operational and then review if and how States Policies meet their objectives under the Convention.

Asset recovery

At the national level, the judiciary constitutes only a relatively small group of individuals, promoting judicial integrity and offers a focused and targeted action with a potential for high impact. Given the importance of asset recovery, UNODC is supporting Governments to gear up their systems. By using the innovative provisions of the Convention, Governments in the future will become more successful in recovering looted assets.

The initiatives taken by international and regional organizations, as well as the civil society and the private sector demonstrate the importance of concerted actions against corruption. Criminal justice is a key element, but only part of the answer. UNODC will continue and reinforce its efforts to reach out for joint action against corruption by all engaged partners.

UNODC responsibility

As custodians of the new Convention, UNODC has the responsibility of nurturing, spurring and supporting the efforts of Governments to reach the common goal of universal adherence and full compliance with the Convention. ■

“As the United Nations agency that takes the lead on government issues within the United Nations family, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will collaborate closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with national, bilateral and international partners to help countries build the essential knowledge and skills to effectively implement the Convention. UNDP has worked together with UNODC on finalizing a Legislative Guide on the Convention. And here at the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok, we have completed a comparative study on institutional arrangements for combating corruption. Also, a series of events will be organized to advance the Convention agenda in the region.

At UNDP, we strongly advocate for integrating anti-corruption initiatives into national poverty reduction strategies to address corruption as a major obstacle that prevents the poor from claiming their rights and securing their livelihoods.”

Ms. Elizabeth Fong
Regional Manager for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP), Bangkok at the High-Level Seminar
for the Asia Pacific Region
on the Ratification and Implementation
of the United Nations Convention against
Corruption, 16 January 2006, Bangkok

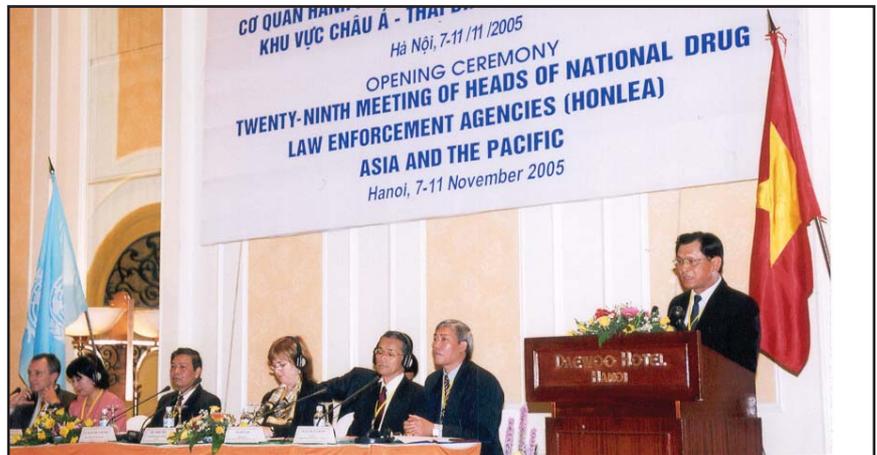
Viet Nam Hosts 29th HONLEA Asia and the Pacific Meeting

By Nguyen Tuong Dung and Narumi Yamada
Viet Nam Country Office

The Government of Viet Nam hosted the 29th Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) Meeting in Ha Noi on 7-10 November 2005. Over 100 participants representing 35 delegations from the national drug law enforcement agencies in the region, and experts from international organizations attended the meeting aimed to provide updates on drug trends and discuss countermeasures and joint actions.

Pol. Gen. Le The Tiem, Viet Nam Vice Minister of Public Security opened the meeting. Pol. Gen. Tran Van Thao, Viet Nam Police Commissioner General; Ms. Narumi Yamada, UNODC Representative in Viet Nam; and Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative of the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific co-chaired the meeting.

In his welcome speech, Gen. Le The Tiem highlighted efforts made over the past years by the national drug control law enforcement agencies in the region to carry out effective initiatives against the illicit drug problem. He reaffirmed that the Government of Viet Nam considered drug control as one of the priority tasks and committed to promote international cooperation, especially within the region and with neighbouring countries, UNODC and other international organizations in the combat against drugs.



Photos by Standing Office on Drug Control of Viet Nam

At the opening session, Ms. Yamada on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC delivered a keynote speech. She referred to some of the encouraging developments in the collaborative efforts in the region, such as the Border Liaison Office (BLO) mechanism which has been facilitating information and intelligence exchange leading to more effective drug interdiction and seizures. Heroin trafficking remains a major problem in the region. There is a need to examine the current trends of modus operandi of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) trafficking and countermeasures, including precursor control and financial investigations. Injecting drug use remains the most important mode of HIV transmission in the region and new information technology and other new techniques are being used by drug traffickers and related criminal groups. The countries in the region need to further improve regional cooperation, as well as in-country capacity and action in their law enforcement operations, including cross border cooperation, precursor control, financial investigations, and mutual legal assistance.

During the plenary session, Mr. Fujino made a presentation on the latest developments in drug trafficking and key initiatives in

the region, focusing on the special ATS initiative which was launched at the Second ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Congress, in the light of the recent relocations of clandestine methamphetamine laboratory sites and emergence of MDMA laboratories. The presentation also highlighted the need for further actions to address increasing ketamine abuse and trafficking, and cyber trafficking, particularly involving diversions of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

The working group sessions discussed regional counter measures to heroin trafficking; measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking and related organized crime groups; responding to the threat of ATS manufacture within the region; and good practice procedures in law enforcement processing of HIV/AIDS positive drug abusers.

Bilateral meetings with authorities of Viet Nam and representatives of China and Thailand were also held to discuss further regional cooperation, including border liaison office activities. ■



UNODC and World Bank Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

By Olivia Sylvia Inciong
UNODC Regional Centre



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Programme against Money Laundering and the World Bank (WB) have entered into a partnership to assist Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam to implement their respective anti-money laundering (AML) and countering financing of terrorism (CFT) frameworks.

This collaborative effort has resulted in the joint funding of a Regional Adviser on AML/CFT to work in the three countries. The Regional Adviser at the UNODC Viet Nam Country Office in Hanoi, provides advice, training and technical assistance to national authorities to support their efforts in establishing, developing and strengthening AML/CFT regulatory and enforcement capacity in each country. The target agencies for assistance and training include financial intelligence units, police, customs, prosecutors and the judiciary and key policy agencies.

The UNODC/World Bank partnership aims to assist agencies in practical and meaningful ways to equip them to deal with a range of money laundering and terrorist financing issues, from effective regulation of the financial sector to detection of suspected illegal activity and investigation and prosecution of criminal acts, where appropriate.

According to Mr. Ric Power, Regional Adviser, priority needs of agencies have been addressed and appropriate strategies for delivery of technical assistance are being determined.

He said that initial meetings with government officials have provided opportunities to raise awareness of the key issues that affect jurisdictions, identify the major challenges faced by agencies in implementing effective AML/CFT initiatives and discuss strategies for strengthening institutional capabilities for AML regulation and enforcement action.

"Two practical examples of the work being undertaken in the region are the development and delivery of AML training to participants in the Asia Region Law Enforcement Management Programme (ARLEMP) and the development of basic and advanced financial investigation training courses for law enforcement officers and prosecutors," Mr. Power said.

The ARLEMP is an innovative programme enabling senior law enforcement officers from the 10 Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, China and Hong Kong SAR to undergo an intensive one-month long multicultural communication and management skills training in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Participants engage in practical and theoretical exercises covering cross-cultural communication skills, research and analytical skills, project management, a variety of leadership and management skills, technical knowledge as well as knowledge management and sharing, and presentation skills.



UNODC Viet Nam Country Office Photo / Ric Power

The training, held in November 2005, was participated in by 18 participants including senior officers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

During the training, intensive discussions were made on money laundering process and methods; money laundering implications for development; international AML standards; money laundering offence and predicate offences; and investigation of money laundering.

Financial investigation training resources are being developed under the project, which provide practical case studies to allow investigators to get the feel for the challenges that may be presented during a money laundering investigation. These training courses are aimed to produce course materials in appropriate languages and to develop qualified local personnel delivering training for law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

Money laundering and terrorist financing are significant criminal activities that can take place in any jurisdiction. They can have severe economic and social consequences for developing countries, particularly those seeking to attract sound foreign investments. Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam have demonstrated a commitment to implement effective AML/CFT systems. They have introduced or are in the process of introducing appropriate legislative, regulatory and administrative arrangements to address AML/CFT requirements. ■

UNODC Reiterates Support for HIV Prevention among Drug Injectors

By Sonia Bezziccheri
UNODC Regional Centre

In a joint United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Session on Policy Advocacy for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care for Drug Users during the 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) held in Kobe, Japan, 1-5 July 2005, support was strongly reiterated for the 'essential comprehensive package to prevent HIV from drug abuse'. The session also stressed the need to act immediately and in a complementary manner among all interested agencies, non governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and community leaders to protect those that abuse drugs from becoming HIV-infected and spread the virus to other high risk groups, such as commercial sex workers.

UNODC stated its support for a comprehensive approach to drugs and HIV/AIDS and called for implementation of multi-dimensional interventions, addressing prevention, demand reduction, supply reduction and scaled treatment interventions, with training and relevant technical assistance to addressing law enforcement, the judiciary, prison administration as well as compulsory drug treatment centres' authorities, health providers, and social workers.

The Joint Session strongly highlighted the importance to scale up comprehensive HIV prevention programmes tailored at drug injectors and in prison-

like settings to increase coverage, build countries' capacity, and provide appropriate training and monitoring and evaluation in South East Asia.

In the speech delivered by Mr. Burkhard Dammann, Senior Programme Management Officer at the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, he noted that "the link between HIV/AIDS epidemics, injecting drug use and prisons is not yet adequately addressed; the response is often scattered, uncoordinated and insufficient.

Globally, less than 5 per cent, and in many high risk areas, less than 1 per cent of all drug dependents has access to prevention and care services. The absence of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention policies and programmes addressing

drug dependence in the community and custodial settings alike is a major contributing factor to the further spread of the HIV epidemic and other blood-borne diseases.

The recent UNAIDS policy paper is grounded on the essential principles that determine the success of any effective HIV prevention initiative, namely, all prevention programmes should be comprehensive, based on sound scientific evidence, and fundamentally in line with the human rights approach; they should also be locally sensible, sustainable beyond the life of projects, considerably up to scale and inclusive of the community.

In January 2005, the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific started a new Regional Project on Strengthening Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Among Drug Users and in Prison Settings to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam and in particular, the high prevalence of infection among injecting drug users, and their vulnerability to incarceration and stigmatization. This project builds on existing structures and especially on the National Working Groups on Drugs and HIV/AIDS as established by the concurrent Regional Project on Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse. The project will expand National Working Groups to include authorities of custodial settings as well as integrated work plans to prevent HIV from drug abuse for more effective prevention and treatment responses in custodial facilities; comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS prevention from drug dependence; and the introduction and adaptation of community policing models for improved cooperation of the public security sector with community-based programmes for the alleviation of HIV vulnerability among drug injectors.

This approach is also valid for prison-like settings, which Mr. Dammann said, are at grave risks to “function like pumps, fuelling and re-fuelling the epidemics”. At any given time, UNODC has estimated that there are about 10 million people in prisons; the annual turnover in these settings is about 30 million individuals who every year enter or leave the detention system.

HIV infection rates, and other communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis, are significantly higher in prisons than the general population caused by overcrowding, precarious conditions, a lack of adequate HIV prevention and health care services, violence, and an absence of protection for the youngest.

It is also clear that standards of most AIDS services in custodial settings are lower than in the communities. Scientific evidence suggests that upon incarceration, a person is more likely to become HIV-infected; and once released, a former prisoner has a great chance to spread the virus to the partners who may not be part of so-called ‘at risk groups’ hence bridging the spread of HIV to the general population, from drug injectors to their partners, to commercial sex workers, to men that have sex with men, to friends through sharing injecting equipment, and to other members of society. ■

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific co-chairs with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) the United Nations Regional Task Force on IDU and HIV/AIDS. UNODC is represented by Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. UNAIDS is represented by Mr. Prasada Rao, Director, Regional Support Team.

Since the Task Force was reorganized in August 2005 in Bangkok, its first meeting was held in Kunming, China in November 2005. The meeting was attended by representatives of civil society, government agencies of South and South East Asia, as well as international bodies, including World Health Organization (WHO) and The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

During the meeting, a new structure, which includes the Executive Committee supported by a coordinator, and its renewed work plan was agreed upon. The coordinator, funded by UNAIDS Regional Support Team will be placed within the UNODC Regional Centre. The Task Force will meet every six months for the duration of three years.

- In Cambodia and Thailand, despite successful 100 per cent condom campaigns that considerably slowed the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1990s, these countries face a threat of a resurgence of cases due to complacency regarding prevention as well as an underlying disregard for targeting specific populations such as injecting and other drug users. Thailand reports about 50 per cent HIV prevalence among its injecting drug users (IDUs) population.
- In Cambodia, sentinel surveillance results showed 1.9 per cent HIV prevalence among its adult population in 2003. At the same time, the country is also experiencing a steep increase in drug abuse, particularly amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) and injecting of heroin. Injecting drug use (IDU) is rising and sharing of needles and syringes is common practice among IDUs. High HIV risk is also associated with heightened sexual drive caused by ATS use. For example, 40 per cent of illicit drug users reported irregular use of condoms or none at all when engaging in sex under the influence of drugs. They also reported that they were selling blood for money to buy drugs. HIV among drug users in Cambodia is rising.
- In Myanmar, HIV epidemic has shifted from being concentrated among high risk groups such as IDUs and sex workers to, unfortunately, a general epidemic. The Government has committed to providing a response to the epidemic through the Joint Programme to Fight AIDS in Myanmar, a United Nations collaborative initiative which provides a framework for cooperative planning, resource mobilization and advancing the ‘Three Ones’ principles. However, limited implementation infringes on coverage. Specific geographical pockets may show 50-90 per cent HIV prevalence amongst IDUs.
- Lao PDR, Bangladesh, Timor-Leste, Japan, Pakistan and the Philippines have golden opportunities to prevent serious outbreaks.
- In Indonesia, Viet Nam and China, the concentrated epidemic among IDUs have ‘kick started’ the epidemic among sex workers and their clients, and national infection rates have skyrocketed. In Jakarta, current HIV prevalence among IDUs is 48 per cent. It is estimated that more than 100,000 new infections could occur by 2010 due to high risk behaviour — unprotected sex among IDUs, sex workers and their clients, and sharing of contaminated equipment — if nothing is done to circumvent this.
- In China, reports show unsafe injecting is common practice among IDUs who also have multiple partners, and often buy and sell sex without a condom. In 2002, HIV was found among drug users in all 31 provinces; in 2001, 70 per cent of HIV infections were observed among IDUs. The Government has reacted urgently through a national multi-sectoral task force comprised of various ministries at decision-making levels, formalized under the Prime Minister. Methadone maintenance clinics and needle and syringe programmes were set up nationwide.
- In Viet Nam, the nexus of IDU and sex work skyrocketed HIV infection rate to above 80 per cent among IDUs in 2003-2004, and 50 per cent among sex workers especially in the country’s north. The Government responded to the problem and AIDS spending is being increased from US\$7-8 million in 2003 to a projected US\$50 million in 2006.

Excerpts from a paper prepared by Sonia Bezziccheri, Demand Reduction Associate, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, and presented at the Australian National University International Conference on Illicit Drugs and Development: Critical Issues for Asia and the Pacific, Canberra, Australia, 15-17 August 2005.

Injecting drug use, overcrowding and risky sexual practices are widespread and increasing in European prisons currently populated by 500,000 persons. It is therefore not surprising that prisons have become a fertile ground for the proliferation of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis caused by the limited or often insufficiently-implemented measures to prevent their incidence and transmission.

Despite the existence of solid scientific evidences on proven, cheap and easy interventions to effectively address the present and future spread of infectious diseases within prisons, European countries are yet far from reaching sufficient results.

The 8th European Conference on Drugs and Infections Prevention in Prison (ENDIPP), jointly organized by Cranstoun Drug Services and the Hungarian Prison Services, held in 2005 in Hungary, provided an avenue for more than 260 delegates from 41 countries, international organizations such as World

A number of specific workshops provided avenues for the discussion of priorities and emerging issues such as policies and practices in working with juveniles and young people with substance misuse problems in custody; practices in addressing and responding to the misuse of substances such as alcohol, amphetamine-type stimulants and crack in prisons; epidemiological evidences on prevalence, identification of risks factors and drug-related deaths on release from prisons; alternatives to imprisonment as well as provision of aftercare interventions and support; constraints and opportunities for cooperation between governments and civil society, and comprehensive drug reduction strategies, approaches and interventions to ensure effective response practices and policies.

The next European Conference on Drugs and Infections Prevention in Prison, which will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 5–7 October 2006, will offer the opportunity to continue to share experiences and ideas around the principle of equivalence, which has been chosen as the central theme. More

information and details about the registration and programme can be found at www.endipp.net

Working in 27 countries, co-funded by the European Commission and coordinated by Cranstoun Drug Services and Wissenschaftliche Institut der Ärzte Deutschlands (WIAD), ENDIPP has grown to establish itself as a leading network of Governments, NGOs, and international or-

ganizations, and is today an essential reference point for sharing and shaping innovative approaches and policies, offering expertise in the areas of research, training, health monitoring and operational responses to drugs and infections prevention and treatment in prisons. ■

Prisons do not lock up persons for life. Prison gates are opened every day to release individuals back into society. Underestimating the importance of good, comprehensive and effective prisons health care is a dangerous neglect of communities and societies' overall health care. Failing to recognise that prisons are dangerous breathing ground for HIV and AIDS, TB and hepatitis, and delaying the introduction of immediate and comprehensive responses could therefore prove to be catastrophic.

Making Prisons Safe for Everyone

By Martina Melis
Cranstoun Drug Services, Belgium

Health Organization (WHO) and European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to exchange practical and scientific knowledge and expertise on prevention and treatment of drug dependence and infectious disease in prisons. The conference facilitated the integration of civil society in prisons' treatment processes; and moved forward the ENDIPP network collective agenda towards continuous improvement, widening, and effective responses to the issues of drug dependency and related infections in prisons.

Reflecting current concerns on how to guarantee the health of prisoners while ensuring the security of prisons staff, a panel of experts from national prison's services, WHO, local governments, and NGOs addressing the challenging issues of care versus control concluded that good care can lead to better control as exemplified by the fact that most disturbances in prisons originate not from attempts to escape but from demands for better conditions.

Drug Use, Prison Setting, and Trafficking in Persons

For the biennium 2006-2007, UNODC has been requested by the UNAIDS co-sponsors and the Secretariat to focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and care as it relates to drug use, prison settings and the trafficking in persons. Three specific key results under the UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan have been agreed upon to address three thematic areas.

TYPE OF INITIATIVES PER AREA OF INTERVENTION

Injecting drug use

Key result description: Increase and improve service coverage of HIV/AIDS prevention and care for injecting drug users in countries where the use of contaminated injection equipment among them is a major or potentially a major route of transmission.

Type of initiatives

- Support to countries in developing legislation, policies and standards of care that enable the implementation of effective services for drug users.
- Encourage the proactive involvement of law enforcement agencies in HIV prevention and care, as well as more cooperation and collaboration among health, criminal justice sectors, and community-based and civil society organizations.
- Establishment of outreach interventions, covering at least 35 per cent of all injecting drug users, to provide them with HIV/AIDS information, education and the means of reducing their HIV infection risk.
- Diversification and expansion of drug dependence treatment services, including special treatment programmes for young injectors and for women, and, if appropriate, establishment of large-scale drug substitution maintenance treatment.
- Awareness-raising among drug dependence treatment services with respect to the need to address HIV/AIDS prevention and care issues.
- Interventions to prevent the transition from non-injecting drug use to injecting drug use, particularly for young people.

Prison settings

Key result description: Develop a globally agreed strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support in prison settings, and establish national HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes in prison settings, of selected countries.

Type of initiatives

- The right to health care and HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment for inmates, equivalent to that available in the general community.
- HIV/AIDS information and education to be provided to inmates, wardens and other staff in prison settings.
- Confidential and voluntary counselling, testing and psycho-social support, HIV/AIDS education and provision of the means of HIV prevention.
- The internal and external monitoring of general prison conditions and operating secure, safe and orderly prisons in order to reduce violence and the spread of HIV.
- The classification and separation of juveniles from adult prisoners, and use of maternity wards.
- The organization of meaningful rehabilitation activities in prisons, including pre-release reintegration programmes.
- The training of prison staff on prison management and on the needs of HIV-infected inmates.
- The provision of antiretroviral therapy and improved hygiene, sanitation and diets for HIV-infected prisoners.
- The active involvement of civil society organizations in prisons and for after-care services.
- Drug dependence treatment as an alternative to imprisonment.

Trafficking in persons

Key result description: Provide actual and potential trafficking victims, particularly women and girls, with comprehensive, gender-sensitive, HIV/AIDS prevention and care in selected countries of origin and destination.

Type of initiatives

- Large-scale awareness campaigns and advocacy on the nature and extent of trafficking in persons and the related HIV/AIDS risks.
- Providing at-risk groups with information on HIV transmission and how to protect themselves.
- Providing actual and potential trafficking victims with appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, including information and education, voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and anti-retroviral treatment and palliative care for persons with AIDS.
- Involvement of civil society organizations for provision of health, social and legal assistance services.
- Strengthening legislation to counter stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly victims of human trafficking.
- Providing repatriated victims of human trafficking with comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, and with reintegration assistance, particularly to avoid re-victimization.

For more information on UNODC HIV/AIDS Programme, contact UNODC, Global Challenges Section HIV/AIDS Unit, Tel: (+43-1) 26060-5549 E-mail: AIDS@unodc.org

Taking drugs can lead to HIV/AIDS.



Think before you start.
before you shoot.
before you share.

Helping Street Children in Drugs

By Lheng V Matibag
Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippines



Photos by Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippines



Street children have toys that transport them into a fantastic, make-believe world. These toys warp their thinking, eat up their flesh, and lead them to death. Dangerous substances can prove to be lethal toys.

The absence of a nurturing family drives the Filipino street children to find solace in methamphetamine hydrochloride and volatile substances, which provide them with a welcome escape from the emotional and psychological anxiety.

Research results have shown that street children in the Philippines fall under three identified categories: (1) **children on the streets** who work on the streets but maintain regular contact with their families and return home; (2) **children of the streets** who see the streets as their home and from where they seek food, income, and shelter and may still have family connections but they regard these ties as bad and so they very infrequently visit their families; and (3) **true children of the streets** who have been totally disconnected from their biological families, completely abandoned and neglected, and are entirely on their own for physical and psychological survival. When not working, street children tend to catch up with childhood by playing, resting and sleeping, watching movies, gambling, and in some cases, abusing substances.

A research conducted among 700 street children revealed that about 39.97 per cent admitted to using dangerous drugs/substances. Out of this 39.97 per cent, a total of 66.07 per cent were users of solvent or rugby (glue), 14.29 per cent cough syrup, 5.36 per cent marijuana, 2.14 per cent shabu, and 12.14 per cent other drugs. Daily use was admitted by 35.41 per cent of the drugs/substance users while 38.32 per cent admitted to abusing drugs/substances about three times a week; 12.76 per cent said they seldom used drugs/substances, and 13.5 per cent claimed that they had taken dangerous drugs/substances only once.

In the Philippines, the phenomenon of street children was noted in the late 1970s. They were then called vagrants or “pick-up” children as they were arrested by the police for violating the anti-vagrancy law. These children were working and living in the streets without the supervision of adults. Poverty, an offshoot of the prevailing socioeconomic and political

condition in the 1980s, was identified as the leading cause of the exploitation of children. Likewise, the breakdown of traditional family and community values and structures was also cited as a major factor in the proliferation of the children on the streets.

The problem of street children was aggravated with the onset of cases of substance abuse. It is common to see a group sniffing solvent from brown paper bags and pieces of cloth. They start abusing these substances as early as 7-8 years old, although some were initiated to the experience at ages 11-12 by friends. In response to this alarming situation, the Department of Social Welfare and Development-National Capital Region (DSWD-NCR), in 1998, established the Diagnostic and Assessment Centre (Ahon Bata sa Lansangan Centre in Pasay City) to determine the nature and extent of substance abuse among street children and also to augment the number of temporary shelters for them. It served as the processing centre for the street children rescued from the streets.

From October 1998 to December 1999, a total of 1,010 street children were admitted, 85 per cent of whom abused rugby and solvent while 3 per cent used marijuana and shabu. The DSWD-NCR referred 17 of these children to the former Philippine National Police Narcotics Group Drug Rehabilitation Centre (PNP NarGroup DRC) now known as the PNP Bahay Bagong Buhay for Street Children on Drugs (PNP-BBBRC). However, the BBBRC can only provide limited treatment and rehabilitation services since a treatment program specifically for substance-sniffing street children is yet to be developed. Nevertheless, DSWD has recommended the fund augmentation for the BBBRC and other NGOs engaged in offering services for the substance-abusing street children.

With the sustained campaign to rescue street children, the problem of inadequate facilities and caregivers became pressing. That time, only the Tahanan Rehabilitation Centre, Malaya Centre, Kapatiran Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc., Masigla Foundation, and the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group Drug Rehabilitation Centre or the PNP NarGroup DRC (now known as the PNP Centre for the Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents or PNP-CUREDD) provide services for them. These centres were not enough to accommodate the increasing number of street children.

A series of consultation dialogues and collaborative meetings were conducted by DSWD among government agencies which included the Department of Health, Dangerous Drugs Board, Department of Interior and Local Government, the then National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Centre (NDLEPCC), the former PNP Narcotics Group, the National Centre for Mental Health, and the Department of Education, and the NGOs to thresh out the problem relative to the management and care of street children with substance abuse problems. Among the recommendations raised

The Rapid Assessment of Working Children Engaged in the Production, Sale and Trafficking of Drugs conducted in the first quarter of 2000, as commissioned by the International Labour Organization - The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) in Manila, found that drug pushers have penetrated barangays and neighboring areas with a prevalence of street children. Some findings:

- 82 per cent belong to the 15-17 years age group;
- Predominantly male;
- Come from households of inadequate income with an average of 7 members;
- Confronted by issues of parents' separation and remarriage;
- Highly exposed to abuse at home with family members reported to be drug users;
- 38 per cent were studying but found it boring or difficult;
- Dropouts were attributed to lack of money to support education;
- Enjoy outdoor sports, i. e. basketball, volleyball, badminton, and other street sports;
- 38 per cent were employed in street-based jobs while 56 per cent were into construction work, stevedoring, portering, clerical work, and domestic work, among others, earning an average of Php 2,000/month;
- Absence of rugby and shabu, were from ages 7-17 years;
- 90 per cent of those between the age range of 15-17 years were shabu users; and
- Other drugs being abused were cough syrup preparations and marijuana.

were the establishment of a treatment and rehabilitation facility exclusively for substance abuser-street children at the PNP CUREDD Compound in Bicutan as a pilot project; and the training of caregivers to adopt more specific and effective intervention strategies for street children.

Interviews made with pushers, runners, and users revealed that the trading/selling of shabu usually followed this pattern: from a distributor/source via a major pusher and family merchandisers (or "*tingi-tingi*", a local term meaning piecemeal or retail pushers) to direct buyers. Runners and "scorers" were involved in these transactions as "look-out" boys or couriers.

In the first phase (early 1990s to 1997) of shabu trading, children aged 9-15 years were used mainly as runners by traders/pushers because as minors, children are protected from imprisonment. Lately, however, the deployment of children as runners is no longer a widespread practice as the police have discovered this strategy.

Currently, there is a prevailing increase in the number of street children observed to be inhaling solvents. It was gathered that majority of the children have been abandoned by their families while a few refused to go back to their homes.

A large part of the rescued street children indulge in substance-taking especially solvents and shabu. With the economic difficulties brought about by urbanization and unemployment and their deep longing to be nurtured by an intact and loving family, illicit substances are used as an escape to forget negative experiences and to cope with stress. The chronic use frequently ends up in social and health-related problems. Although a growing number of street children fulfill the criteria of substance dependency, they are not in touch with rehabilitation services. Majority are not aware of the immediate and obvious harm posed to one's self and to the larger society, in general.

Other government initiatives on substance-abusing street children

In 2000, the Dangerous Drugs Board, in coordination with the PNP, developed the Manual of Operation for Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres for Street Children with Substance Abuse Problems to address the lack of literature on the treatment and rehabilitation of the drug-abusing street children.

DSWD embarked on capability-building efforts through the "Nationwide Training on the Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation for Service Providers Handling Substance-Sniffing Street Children." It was recommended that there is a need to train the academe as education in schools about drugs and volatile substances is of prime importance. There is a need to develop advocacy materials to be used in information campaigns.

Dialogues between the manufacturers and owners of hardware stores have been initiated in Metro Cebu and Pasay City in 2002.

The training of street children educators (Childhope) was also conducted. These street educators are the ones who provide the street children with information on the ill effects of the abuse of rugby and other dangerous drugs. They were also tasked to conduct regular monitoring, rescue, and referral of substance-abusing street children in Metro Manila.

DSWD has likewise pushed for the piloting and strengthening of the Special Drug Education Centers (SDECs) and the Family Drug Abuse Prevention Program as primary prevention programs. In addition, it has organized a group composed of a GO and an NGO named the Technical Working Group on Children and Youth on Drugs.

There remains a need to come up with a comprehensive and relevant treatment program for these street children. It should consist of the promotion of healthy coping and life styles through the focus on the development of personal resiliency and environmental protective factors that will not only allow them to survive adversities but also to grow stronger from these negative experiences. ■



Photo by PNP-CURREDD, Philippines

Street children at the BBBRC

One major government program for street children is the establishment of the PNP Bahay Bagong Buhay for Street Children on Drugs (BBBRC), constructed to provide shelter and treatment and rehabilitation services for street children. Thousands of street children who were rescued through the combined efforts of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the PNP, and the local government units have been housed in this facility since 1999.

Majority of the street children confined at the BBBRC are between 11-14 years old, most of them males. They are elementary drop-outs and are living with parents who are usually common-law partners and have 4-6 children. Their parents are engaged in market or street vending, construction, and laundry work. Some parents have been found to be engaged in criminal activities, such as robbery, snatching, theft, drug abuse and pushing, murder, and rape.

These street children have a history of abuse of volatile substances like those found in cigarette lighters (normally butane gas), aerosol, solvent-based adhesives (rugby), correction fluids, thinners, gasoline, nail polish, and acetone. These substances are usually bought from hardware stores and illegal retailers while some are offered by peers.

Preference for these substances are due to easy availability and affordability, peer pressure, and the perceived "pleasant" effects from the drug experience such as hunger alleviation, intoxication, numbness from pain, hallucinations, and feelings of excitement, warmth, and fun. The identified ill effects are nausea, loss of consciousness, paranoia, hallucinations, health complications, and suffocation leading to death. ■

Cross-border Cooperation for Secure Trade

By Motoyuki Okura
UNODC Regional Centre

Secure trade is a key condition for stable development. One of the challenges is how to secure legitimate global trade without disrupting its flow.

The growing volumes of containerized shipments point to the great importance of container security. Various measures have been taken, addressing a broad range of security issues, ranging from post 11 September 2001 terrorism prevention to the use of containers for other illicit activities such as trafficking in stolen and falsified goods, weapons and explosives, dangerous chemicals, narcotic drugs, and human beings.

G8 action

Responding to the growing recognition of the need for multi-lateral efforts in combating terrorism, G8 leaders endorsed the "Co-operative G8 Action on Transport Security" at the Kananaskis Summit in June 2002. Under the agreement, "container security" is one of the actions to be taken to promote greater security of land, sea and air transport.

Leaders mandated G8 countries and relevant international bodies including the World Customs Organization (WCO) to develop and implement an improved global container security regime to identify and examine high-risk containers and ensure their intransit integrity; develop pilot projects that model an integrated container security regime; implement expeditiously common standards for electronic customs reporting; and require advance electronic information pertaining to containers as early as possible in the trade chain.

In June 2005, the WCO agreed to adopt the "WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade." About 125 out of the 169 members expressed their intent for the implementation of the framework. The framework, features enhanced U.S. security measures, such as Container Security Initiative (CSI), 24-hour rule, and Customs- Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), in a multilateral format, and consists of the following four core elements: (1) harmonization of the advance electronic cargo information requirements on inbound, outbound, and transit shipments; (2) employment of a consistent risk management approach to address security threats; (3) inspection of high-risk containers at early stage of supply chain, preferably using NII equipment; and (4) enhancement of Customs and business partnership through the provision of clearly-defined benefit for businesses that comply with minimal supply chain security standards.

US initiative

In parallel to the G8 action, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) first took an initiative in tackling this issue bilaterally under the CSI scheme which is based on four core elements: (1) using intelligence and automated information to identify and target high-risk containers; (2) pre-screening high-risk containers at the ports of departure; (3) using non-intrusive inspectional (NII) equipment to quickly inspect high-risk containers; and (4) using smarter, tamper-evident containers.

Since the announcement of the initiative in January 2002, CSI has been operational in 42 ports as of the end of 2005, including the East Asian ports in China, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Thailand. At each port, a team of CBP officials is being dispatched to collaborate with Customs officials from host countries on targeting and pre-screening of high-risk containers based on shared intelligence information.

In Japan, CSI is now operational in four ports, i.e. Kobe, Nagoya, Tokyo, and Yokohama. While each port has few CBP officials, Japan Customs has been dispatching its officials to the Port of Los Angeles, Long Beach since April 2003. Since the launch of CSI in Japan, there has been no incidence related to terrorist activities. This can be interpreted as CSI functioning as a deterrent in a potential terrorist threat. It was shown that because of information sharing and cooperation, CSI contributed to the improvement of the screening of high-risk cargoes and of container inspection methods.

The U.S. Government has enforced a "24-hour rule," which requires specific data elements regarding export cargoes destined or transiting the U.S. ports to be reported 24 hours prior to loading aboard a vessel destined for the U.S. Another important initiative to secure trade is the CTPAT in which CBP requests businesses on voluntary basis to ensure the integrity of their security within the supply chain. In return, CBP offers benefits to businesses, such as reduced number of inspections at borders.

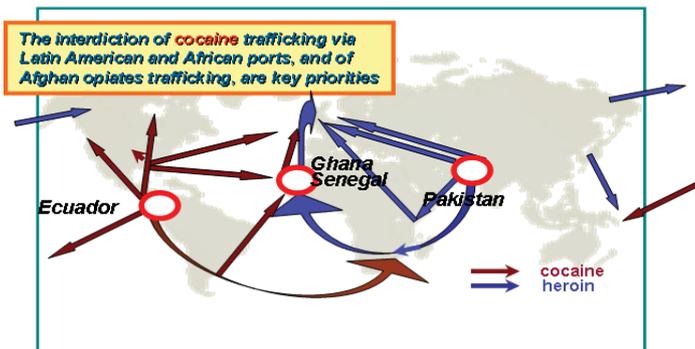
As global trade becomes more secure and facilitated, revenue collection will be improved and national laws and regulations will be more properly applied. Furthermore, since Customs alone cannot fully realize the standards, the framework encourages close cooperation between Customs and other government agencies, resulting in integrated border management and control. For Customs administrations, the implementation will modernize Customs and improve its ability to detect high-risk cargoes/containers, as well as enable more efficient allocation of scarce resources. For businesses, once they are qualified as Authorized Economic Operators, they

receive benefits, such as faster processing of their goods by Customs. In addition, with an established and implemented set of international standards, multiple and complex reporting requirements are reduced.

UNODC Global Programme

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in close cooperation with the WCO, is addressing the issue through its global programme, "Container Control Pilot Programme (COPP)". The programme is designed to assist port law enforcement units comprising of customs and police officials in establishing profiling systems and modern control techniques. The programme helps to ensure a sufficient level of control and enforcement on freight containers that could be used to smuggle illicit drugs, explosives and dangerous chemicals, as well as used to traffic human beings, while allowing the free flow of legitimate trade. The control units have regular access to experts and specialist mentor services and are encouraged to foster partnerships with the trade and business sector. This pilot project is now being implemented at six port locations in four pilot countries, namely, Ecuador, Senegal, Ghana and Pakistan, which are identified as major hubs for maritime shipments of cocaine from Latin America, opiates from Afghanistan, and South-East Asian heroin. Through its implementation, it is expected that closer cooperation and information exchange mechanisms will be developed not only between those participating in the project but also with other ports and drug control agencies.

Pilot Ports along key trafficking routes for Cocaine and Afghan Heroin



Source: UNODC Vienna website <www.unodc.org>

Securing legitimate trade and preventing potential terrorist threats are expected to create a barrier to transnational organized crime. Through enhancement of the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement capacity and further encouraging cross-border and cross-agency collaboration, smugglers would be deterred from utilizing legitimate trade flow as a vehicle for illicit activities such as drug trafficking. ■

Global Container Pilot Programme

More than 220 million commercial freight containers move around the globe every year, and the volume is expected to double by 2012. As these numbers grow, so does the use of these containers for illicit activities, like trafficking in stolen and falsified goods, weapons and explosives, dangerous chemicals, narcotics and human beings.

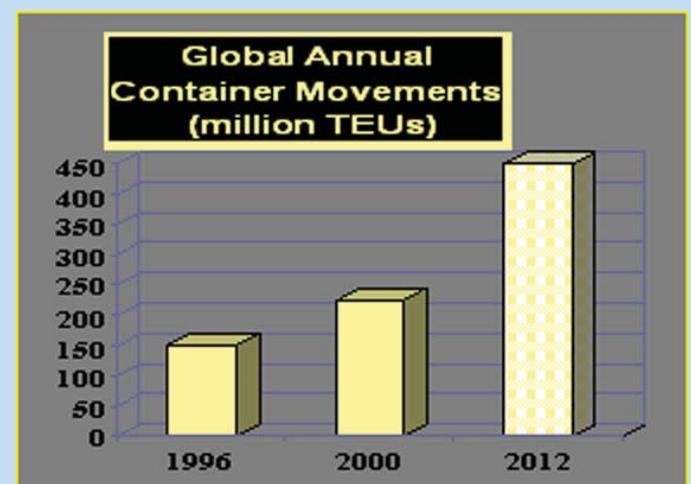
Seaports can process from several hundred to 50,000 containers daily. Speed is needed to expedite these shipments, but a full inspection can take hours. UNODC's Global Container Pilot Programme is designed to assist port enforcement teams in developing countries in establishing profiling systems and modern control techniques to ensure proper control and enforcement without causing unnecessary disruptions in the commerce of legal goods.

Abuse of commercial containers for illicit purposes

The volume of trade via commercial containers has risen considerably over recent years – and is expected to double by the year 2012. At present, more than 220 million containers move around the globe per year.

The growing abuse of maritime and other commercial freight containers for illicit purposes is well evidenced, in particular for the trafficking of illicit drugs and the smuggling of contraband.

Less figures, however, exist on the extent of container trafficking in stolen and falsified goods, weapons and explosives, dangerous chemicals, and even for trafficking in human beings.



Source: UNODC Vienna website <www.unodc.org>



Photos by Philippines' Dangerous Drugs Board/ Dante Tinoso

Improving Capacities for Drug Control Reporting

Twenty-one selected staff from the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), the national drug control agency for the Philippines, participated in a workshop which aimed to develop in-house capacities of DDB staff in media relations, print journalism, and enhancement of DDB's publications. These interventions are geared towards improved drug control reporting. The activity, held 14-16 December 2005, was one of DDB's initiatives to enhance public awareness and promote advocacy on illicit drug use and its dangers through the media.

The skills-building workshop was undertaken by DDB in partnership with the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific Project, "Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drugs in East Asia." DDB provided funds for the conduct of the training. The Regional Centre, through the project, provided technical assistance with the Project Coordinator, Ms. Olivia Sylvia Inciong, serving as resource person for both the seminar and the workshop. Other resource persons are Mr. Alan Allanigue, broadcaster and television producer, Philippines Broadcasting Systems; and Ms. Luningning Gotera, Public Relations Chief, DDB.

Participants to the training included selected staff from various offices of DDB, including those from the Executive Director's Office; Board Secretariat; Conference Secretariat; Legal Division; Preventive Education, Training and Information Division; Policy Studies, Research and Statistics Division; and Administrative and Financial Management Division.

During the workshop, participants wrote and prepared articles aimed for dispatch to the media and for inclusion in DDB's newsletter. A pre- and post evaluation were conducted on the seminar-workshop. The experience of DDB could serve as model for other national drug control agencies in the region in enhancing in-house capacities for public awareness on the dangers of drug abuse. ■



Online Information Sharing Software Supports Regional Fight Against Drug Abuse

By Johannes Lund
UNODC Regional Centre

During a three-day workshop from 21-23 November 2005, delegations from eight national drug control agencies met in Bangkok to train on the utilization of the completely web-based data collection and network management software which was developed for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific Project "Improving ATS Data and Information Systems".

Known as ATS Networker, the software allows national drug control agencies to immediately make amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) data available to their regional counterparts. The software also allows national drug control agencies to manage their drug information sources as well as share ATS abuse and supply data. The online system is accessed through the project's website, <www.apaic.org>, which is also used for publishing the most recent national drug abuse reports, providing an on-line library as well as information related to ATS.

During the training, national delegations succeeded in transferring national data in paper format into the online system.

Apart from the training session, Ms. Virginia P Balmes, Project Evaluation Officer, and Ms. Lheng V Matibag, Chief, Policy Study, Research and Statistics Division, both from the Policy Study, Research and Statistics Division of the Philippines Dangerous Drugs Board, presented the results of the National Household Survey on the Nature and Extent of Drug Abuse in the Philippines. Dr. Apinan Aramrattana of Chiang Mai University and Dr. Usaneya Perngarn of Chulalongkorn University also gave presentations on Thailand's law enforcement data and forensic techniques used to identify sources of methamphetamine production.

The presentations provided valuable insights on overcoming problems related to obtaining sensitive information on drug abuse. The presenters provided practical examples on the use of data for policy and programme development in their respective countries. ■

ATS Networker
IMPROVING ATS DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS AD/RAS/01/F97

DATA SOURCE TRACKING SYSTEM
ATS DATA TRACKER
TUTORIAL / FAQ

UNITED NATIONS Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
AD/RAS/01/F97

DATA SOURCE TRACKING SYSTEM
THAILAND
PROVINCE: Buri Ram

ATS Data Tracker - Buri Ram

2005	Price	Arrests	Treatment Admissions
1st Quarter	0	0	0
2nd Quarter	0	0	0
3rd Quarter	0	0	0
4th Quarter	0	0	0
Average			
Total			

Most Common Street Unit >

Edit | Edit Most Common Street Unit | Home | Print Data Sheet

2006	Price	Arrests	Treatment Admissions
1st Quarter	0	0	0
2nd Quarter	0	0	0
3rd Quarter	0	0	0
4th Quarter	0	0	0
Average			
Total			

Most Common Street Unit >

Edit | Edit Unit Description | Home | Print Data Sheet

2007	Price	Arrests	Treatment Admissions
1st Quarter	0	0	0
2nd Quarter	0	0	0
3rd Quarter	0	0	0

"The first step in effective drug prevention is the continuous monitoring of drug data. To evaluate whether any particular suppression or prevention method is successful, one needs accurate drug data, and ensuring continuation of data collection over time. The ATS Networker together with the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific will aid in this regional effort."

Nick Kozel
Project Consultant

"We strived to make the interface as intuitive as possible, minimizing the time spent on simply learning how to use the software."

Nuttun Chanchumras
Webmaster, UNODC Regional Centre
and Co-developer of the software

"It takes only a few minutes to understand the software. It is not complicated at all. Just pick your province and enter the data source."

Dalin Soudachan
Lao National Commission
on Drug Control and Supervision



UNODC Holds Regional Training for National Programme Officers

By Sonia Bezziccheri
UNODC Regional Centre

A five-day regional training-workshop in Bangkok, 7-11 November 2005, was provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific to examine key issues regarding the reduction of drug abuse and related HIV transmission from the perspective of national programme officers. In particular, the regional training addressed: (a) Epidemiological trends in drug abuse and drug-related HIV transmission; (b) Strategies and effective practices for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse; (c) Strategies and effective practices for the reduction of HIV transmission among drug users; and (d) Program planning, management and evaluation through intersectoral cooperation in health and public security among government and community-based initiatives.

A total of 43 national officers from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the training, and observers from Indonesia and Malaysia.

A UNODC Regional Centre consultant served as the main resource person, supported by Regional Centre staff.

Following an introductory statement by Mr. Burkhard Dammann, UNODC Regional Centre's Senior Programme Management Officer, Dr. Swarup Sarkar, UNAIDS Regional Support Team, provided an overview of the regional situation and the need for scaling up efforts to reduce HIV transmission among injecting drug users.

The regional training was organized in the context of the UNODC regional project on "Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse", which identifies and disseminates best practices on the prevention of HIV from drug abuse. The project was initiated in 2003 and executed by the Regional Centre with the immediate objective of strengthening government and non-government responses in South East Asia to the drug abuse-related transmission of HIV/AIDS. Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar,

Thailand and Viet Nam participate in the project, through their respective national drug control agencies. The project has undertaken a two-step approach by first reviewing the critical geographic areas concerned with drug-related HIV trends; and conducting separate assessments of national drug control agencies. The results of these assessments showed a wide range of common needs of drug abuse treatment and HIV transmission; hence the delivery of the regional training attempted to respond and adequately address such regional needs. The background and results of the project can be accessed at <www.unodc.un.or.th/drugsandhiv>

For further information, contact: Sonia Bezziccheri, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, E-mail: <sonia.bezziccheri@unodc.org> ■

ACCORD Second International Congress Reconfirms Regional Response Towards Illicit Drugs

By John Doyle
UNODC Regional Centre



UNODC Photo/Clivia Sylvia Inciong

The eleven countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) met in Beijing 18-20 October 2005 for intensive discussions on how best to move forward as a region in the face of growing threats of illicit drugs. Through an updated regional Plan of Action endorsed by the countries, specific initiatives were agreed upon in response to the following concerns:

- Suppressing the availability of precursor chemicals for illicit drug manufacture;
- Providing alternative income generating opportunities for farmers cultivating illicit drug crops;
- Decreasing and controlling profits from drug trafficking;
- Increasing the availability of primary prevention, treatment and rehabilitation interventions;
- Enhancing regional cooperation between governments;
- Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies; and
- Reducing HIV vulnerability from drug abuse.

The ACCORD Second International Congress was jointly organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific and the ASEAN Secretariat and hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of China through the National Narcotics Control Commission. More than 200 delegates representing over 20 countries and international organizations attended.

The Congress consisted of separate Senior Officials and Ministerial meetings. During the Senior Officials

“We have a long way to go before reaching the goal of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015. While we have made progress in addressing the menace of natural drugs, the region is faced with the growing threat of synthetic drugs.”



UNODC Photo/ Olivia Sylvia Inciong

Dr. Wilfrido V. Villacorta
Deputy-Secretary General
Association of Southeast Asian Nations
(ASEAN) during the ACCORD
Second International Congress
18-20 October 2005

“The synergy we generate from working together is what we desperately need to fight, and, ultimately, to defeat a billion-dollar criminal industry supported by a network of connections that cannot be localized, and can only be described as global. ACCORD recognizes the paramount importance of taking a proactive stance against dangerous drugs. That ultimately, containing the drug problem will hinge less on cutting the supply lines as it will on cutting the demand for dangerous drugs. If the buying stops, so will the supply.”



UNODC Photo/ Olivia Sylvia Inciong

Governor Gwen Garcia
Province of Cebu, Philippines
during the annual ACCORD
Demand Reduction Task Force
Meeting, 4 August 2005

Meeting, working groups finalized updates to the ACCORD Plan of Action and drafted a special initiative on regional joint actions against ATS-related crimes. These documents, along with the Beijing Declaration, were endorsed during the Ministerial Meeting held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Heads of Delegations paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Luo Gan of the Politburo Standing Committee. Mr. Luo was Head of the Chinese Delegation during the First ACCORD Congress held in Bangkok in 2000. H.E. Mr. Zhou Yongkang, State Councilor, Commis-

sioner of NNCC and Minister of Public Security, delivered a keynote address while Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, UNODC and Dr. Wilfrido V. Villacorta, Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN also spoke at the opening of the meeting.

The Second ACCORD International Congress builds upon and extends the strengths of the first International Congress “In Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the Vision, Leading the Change” held five years ago. A balanced Plan of Action was endorsed then as a framework for regional drug control efforts. Since then, the Plan has

become the foundation for many national and regional drug control initiatives.

The documented shifts in illicit drug manufacturing and production, trafficking and consumption throughout the region require countries to strengthen their cooperation under all sectors of drug control. The Second Congress reconfirms the significance of the ACCORD mechanism as a unique regional drug control framework, encompassing both ASEAN and China working together to meet their comprehensive drug control goals and targets.

The ASEAN Secretariat and UNODC serve as the ACCORD Joint Secretariat. UNODC supports ACCORD through implementation of the Regional Co-operative Mechanism to Monitor and Execute the ACCORD Plan of Action project. ■



UNODC Photos/ Olivia Sylvia Inciong

We, the Participating Countries to the Second International Congress of the ASEAN and China Co-operative Operation in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) held in Beijing on 18 - 20 October 2005:

Affirming the achievements made by all parties through positive drug control cooperation under the framework of the "Bangkok Political Declaration" and taking note of the achievements made under the "ACCORD Plan of Action" as endorsed at the International Congress "In Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the Vision, Leading the Change" held in Bangkok on 11-13 October 2000 by ACCORD countries and by the technical assistance provided in support of the Plan while noting the need to update the Plan to fully reflect the most pressing drug control needs in the region;

Noting with satisfaction that, with the unremitting efforts of the nations in this region, supported and assisted by the international community, the implementation of alternative development programmes have led to a notable decrease of illicit opium poppy cultivation in the "Golden Triangle" area and a considerable reduction of trafficking of opium and its derivatives from and within the region and a slowdown in the spread of traditional drugs, while expressing concern about the need for sustainable alternative development;

Noting with deep concern that the illicit manufacture, traffic, distribution and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) is spreading rapidly, especially among the youth and the fact that the majority of global ATS seizures occurs in the region, including 80 percent of global methamphetamine seizures, which poses a serious threat to the social fabric of society, and the nations in this region;

Concerned about the close connection between drug-related crimes, money laundering and transnational organized crime as manifested throughout the region;

Underlining the importance of special legislation and regulations on precursor chemical control, as have already been enacted in a number of countries in the region, which put strict control on the manufacture, purchase, transportation and use of precursor chemicals while at the same time ensuring their licit uses under the supervision of the relevant authorities such as the police, drug control administrations, industry, public health and environment protection agencies;

Acknowledging that the ACCORD countries, making full use of their potential, advantages and practical research, have gained first-hand experience of preventive education and systems of treatment and rehabilitation reflecting the characteristics of this region, and have tried some effective intervention measures to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; and

Reiterating that in order to jointly solve the drug problems in this region, ASEAN and China need to constantly adhere to the principles of mutual respect and trust, equality and sincerity in cooperation, take action on the basis of broad participation and shared responsibilities and to consistently implement comprehensive and balanced international drug control strategies while focusing on the most pressing drug control needs;



Photo by National Narcotics Control Commission, China



UNODC Photo/Olivia Sylvia Inciong

DECLARATION

20 October 2005

Solemnly declare to:

1. **Reconfirm** the significance of the ACCORD mechanism as a unique regional drug control framework encompassing both ASEAN and China, and call for continued coordination in meeting its comprehensive drug control goals and targets through timely communication, dialogue and exchange of ideas and enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including high-level visits and cooperation with other multilateral drug control mechanisms;

2. **Endorse** the revised "ACCORD Plan of Action" and its four pillars, namely, to promote civic awareness and social response by advocating on the dangers of drugs; to build consensus and share best practices on demand reduction; to strengthen the rule of law by improving law enforcement cooperation and legislative review; and to eliminate the production of illicit narcotic crops by boosting sustainable alternative development programmes;

3. **Prioritize** efforts to combat ATS-related crimes as a key national drug control strategy by acquiring adequate information, including on trends of illicit manufacture, traffic and abuse of drugs in each country, actively collecting and exchanging relevant intelligence and information regarding the subject, and taking coordinated law enforcement measures to address the rampant illicit ATS manufacture, traffic and abuse in this region, working toward the containment of the spread of ATS-related crimes and the prevention of further deterioration of the ATS situation in this region;

4. **Endorse** the Regional Joint Action Against ATS-related Crimes Initiative to be implemented fully in line with the updated Plan of Action;

5. **Continue** to strengthen alternative development through the provision of adequate financial and technical support for sustainable alternative development activities in the traditional illicit opium poppy cultivation areas, the implementation of favourable market access policies for alternative products, and the expansion and initiation of alternative development programmes, including pilot projects, in different opium poppy cultivating areas;

6. **Call** for assessing the possibility of expanding alternative development programmes to other illicit drug crops, including cannabis;

7. **Promote** the development of laws and regulations on the manufacture, purchase, transportation and use of precursor chemicals and to exercise strict supervision in these areas, to enforce an effective administration of precursor chemicals, to prevent their diversion to illicit drug manufacturing channels and to take an active part in the global joint operations launched by International Narcotics Control Board;

8. **Intensify** cooperative research, to stipulate pertinent measures on preventive education and rehabilitation, and to consider adopting evidence-based effective intervention measures such as drug maintenance methods, while recognizing the cultural realities and social values unique to this region, in order to reduce the number of new drug addicts, enhance the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation and prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases;

9. **Reiterate** the commitment of ASEAN and China for internal resource mobilization to support the ACCORD Account, especially funds intended to support prioritized programmes and activities; and

10. **Urge** the international community to take practical and effective actions through financial and technical support for the solution of the drug problems in this region to ensure timely realization of the goal of "a Drug-Free ASEAN and China in 2015". ■



UNODC Photo/ Olivia Sylvia Incliong

Regional Joint Action against ATS-related Crime among ACCORD Countries

Following a proposal from the Chinese delegation under the ACCORD Plan of Action, the ACCORD Second International Congress launched this unique regional initiative taking the ATS issue as one of the top priorities in regional drug control cooperation. The initiative was endorsed by all the delegations to the Congress.

While the traditional opiate drug problem remains serious in the region of East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the problem of illicit drug manufacture, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) has become grave in recent years. The ATS problem has generated a series of threats to the social security, stability and economic development in this region, and a potential danger to the international community.

Comprehensive measures and balanced approaches are required to effectively deal with the regional ATS problem, including, *inter alia*, community-based prevention, education, public awareness, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement and criminal justice system responses.

Initial experience indicates that the ATS problem has characteristics that differ from traditional opiate drug problems, especially in terms of fast proliferation in urban areas and more difficult interdiction by law enforcement agencies due to close proximity in the demand and supply chains. Illicit ATS manufacture can virtually take place anywhere with easy access to precursor chemicals. Where trafficking patterns change, which is taking place in the region, abuse follows. Therefore, joint law enforcement cooperation should be taken in the region and internationally as an initiative to contain the problem and provide sound basis for comprehensive interventions.

In this regard and as an initial measure, it was proposed that ACCORD countries should immediately take joint operations to fight ATS-related crimes, both domestically and internationally, aiming to effectively contain the spreading and deteriorating ATS problem in this region. The proposed joint operations may include those in the Annex.

A. All countries of this region should heighten their vigilance and take effective actions respectively against domestic ATS-related crimes:

1) A series of necessary measures should be taken to obtain a better understanding of the current situation regarding the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS in each country; legislative efforts should be enhanced; domestic law enforcement against ATS-related crimes should be strengthened. It is expected that by taking these measures, the ATS problem in relevant countries can be effectively controlled in the near future, and successful experience in dealing with the issue can be obtained;

2) It is proposed that relevant countries take immediate law enforcement actions collectively against ATS-related crimes in their respective countries, aiming at successfully destroying a number of domestic ATS-related criminal organizations and networks, arresting a number of known major drug traffickers, collecting and sharing information and intelligence on ATS-related crimes and establishing an effective information/intelligence sharing system. By doing so, social prevention and monitoring system on ATS-related crimes can be established.

B. International law enforcement cooperation should be taken actively to fight against transnational ATS-related crimes:

Some substantive points of the proposal for joint action were as follows:

a. (i) Joint operations should cover joint targets in trafficking and clandestine laboratories, with a designed operation plan agreed by the relevant law enforcement agencies of the ACCORD countries; (ii) Regional Standard Operating Procedures about joint operations covering intelligence sharing, controlled delivery and other investigation techniques and actions should be formulated, approved and implemented; and (iii) Backtracking investigations of the precursors should be conducted and the results informed to the related countries.

Proposed Joint Law Enforcement Operations

- Carry out a situation survey and evaluation, at both national and regional levels;
- Establish standard operational principles and procedures;
- Set up goals, inputs and outputs, timeline of actions;
- Define areas of joint operations, subject to national legislations and relevant bilateral agreements, i.e.,
 - Information/intelligence collection, analysis, dissemination, feedback ;
 - Clandestine laboratories and illicit chemist identification, investigation and destruction;
 - Evidence identification, collection, safe preservation and sharing;
 - Seized ATS and precursor chemicals profiling;
 - Precursor chemicals identification, safe treatment and disposal, backtracking of precursors;
 - Laboratory equipment handling (tableting machine backtracking);
 - Case management, investigation, prosecution;
 - Mutual legal assistance;
 - Law enforcement professional training;
 - Other joint actions as required/appropriate;
- Establish liaison network for the joint actions, taking advantage of the existing cross-border liaison offices in relevant countries; designation of full-time contact persons; notification of available communication means and ways;
- Design and approve a joint action plan among parties through consultation;
- Initiate regional joint actions; and
- Carry out a terminal review which would include case studies on international cooperation and collaboration, and recommended future actions. ■

b. ACCORD countries should identify a number of target cases that need transnational cooperation. A consultation system could be set up for designing unique operational and tactical plans, seeking to destroy completely the targeted drug trafficking networks including arresting major drug criminal organizers, and high success in terms of quantity of drug seizures;

c. Smooth communication channels should be established among relevant countries. A number of contact persons with rich experience of cross-border investigation and fluent English capability should be designated by each country, who will be responsible for information/intelligence transmission, coordinating domestic operations, providing quick response to requests from other countries and reachable 7 days/24 hours, and who will provide telephone numbers and/or other communication channels;

d. Internal law enforcement training should be provided to member countries of ACCORD to enhance their capabilities in identification and suppression of ATS-related crimes. The training may include intelligence collection, analysis and estimation; advanced knowledge and techniques of cross-border law enforcement; anti-money laundering, best practice sharing, and other subjects based on the identified needs;

e. Joint law enforcement operations along common border areas should be encouraged by relevant countries, fully utilizing and possibly extending the existing border liaison office mechanism established by UNODC. Proper joint operations against ATS trafficking in some targeted common border areas should be taken to interdict illicit ATS smuggling from the source; and

f. ACCORD countries will work with relevant countries, where appropriate, in pursuit of joint law enforcement operations.

A review on the actions and results of the joint actions in this region should be taken by the end of 2006. Such review should be carried out in combination with the annual ACCORD Task Force Pillar III Law Enforcement meeting. The review meeting can provide an opportunity for member countries to share experience, show successful results of their actions, demonstrate the determination of this region in dealing with the ATS problems and the spirit of closer cooperation among countries of this region, and urge the international community and major donor countries to provide necessary financial and technical assistance.

Through a subsequent follow up workshop, the following were established:

- (i) Regional Standard Operating Procedures, including issues of organization and coordination, resource requirements, and funds mobilization; and
- (ii) An operational plan and target cases.



Photo by Office of Narcotics Control Board, Thailand

High-Level Seminar on the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Organizer: The Government of Thailand
Place: Bangkok, Thailand
Date: 16-18 January 2006

The Ministry of Justice hosted the high-level Seminar for the Asia-Pacific Region on the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The seminar was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Thailand, H.E. Pol. Gen. Chidchai Vannasatidya. Other key speakers were Representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

During the seminar, which was attended by delegates from 18 countries and 10 observing organizations, discussions on the corruption and anti-corruption measures in the region were made. An overview of the legislative requirements emanating from the Convention in the areas of prevention, criminalization, and international cooperation and asset recovery were also discussed as well as legal technical assistance in support of the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the most comprehensive effort of the international

community which addresses the far-reaching impacts of corruption. It has received 140 signatures and 43 ratifications. The Convention entered into force in December 2005.

It is now widely accepted that effective actions against corruption involves a multitude of measures that go beyond the criminal justice system. Such measures must include establishing and maintaining good governance structures, the rule of law and social and economic structures which are effective and responsive in dealing with problems, using resources efficiently. ■

First ASEM Prosecutors-General Conference

Organizer: The Supreme People's Procuratorate of China
Place: Shenzhen, China and Hong Kong SAR
Date: 9-13 December 2005

The Asia-Europe Meetings (ASEM) Prosecutors-General Conference is an annual meeting for Prosecutors-General from 38 member states. This first conference, approved by the 7th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto, had the theme "Combating Cooperatively Transnational Organized Crimes, Establishing Harmonious, Stable and Prosperous Society".

The Conference, which was attended by over 300 participants was opened by Mr. WU Bangguo, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of China, and Mr. Jia Chunwang, Chief Grand Prosecutor of China. Ms. Kimberly Prost, Chief, Legal Advisory Section, delivered a statement

at the opening on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General and the UNODC Executive Director.

Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, chaired a session on "cracking down transnational drug crimes". Mr. Eduardo Vetere, former Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC, served as Counselor at a session on "enhancing information exchange and cooperation of personnel training". Other sessions discussed international cooperation against corruption, and combating terrorism cooperatively.

The presentations and statements at the conference made frequent ref-

erences to the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, and to the Convention against Corruption. A number of speakers pointed out the importance of working closely with the United Nations and the establishment of linkages between networks of prosecution and judiciary and those of law enforcement. There was also an increasing need for prosecutors of a country, for instance in Europe, to have working contacts with different types of law enforcement authorities, including police, customs, drug control agencies, and maritime law enforcement agencies, of other countries and regions.

The Conference provided an opportunity for prosecutors to establish direct contacts with those from European countries and with organizations such as the Eurojust and the International Association of Prosecutors. ■

Regional Directors' Forum on HIV and AIDS

Organizer: The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Place: Jaipur, India
Date: 22 November 2005

The first meeting of the Regional Directors' Forum on HIV and AIDS for Asia and the Pacific was convened by UNAIDS. Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS discussed recent developments at the global level.

The Forum considered a draft "United Nations Framework for Supporting Country Level Action against AIDS in the Asia and Pacific Region". The Forum also reviewed and revised its Terms of Reference to make the purposes and functions more focused on deliverables and policy issues, and distinguishing it from other technical level fora. ■



Initiative Workshop for the Regional Joint Action against ATS-related Crimes among ACCORD Countries

Hosts: The National Narcotics Control Commission and the Provincial Narcotics Control Commission
Place: Guangzhou, China
Date: 21-22 December 2005

The workshop was held to examine the draft Standard Operating Procedures, which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre prepared in line with the Regional Joint Action against amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)-related crime launched by the Second Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) International Congress held in Beijing in October 2005. The workshop was attended by law enforcement agencies of all the ACCORD countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO) Interpol Regional Office. Law enforcement officials of several provinces of China also participated in the workshop.

Following highly professional discussions based on findings from actual law enforcement operations, the participants adopted the Standard Operating Procedure with amendments.

The Workshop also heard the findings and the current status of a number of ongoing cases, including the investigations on the large clandestine laboratory dismantled outside Jakarta in November 2005, which had been making methamphetamine and 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), and also diverting ketamine from licit sources.

Prior to the workshop, the authorities concerned had conducted very extensive investigations and surveillance on all those cases. The case presentations revealed that the same targets were often sought after by different countries. In a number of cases, investigations independently carried out by different countries led to the same target criminals, pointing to the transnational nature of the clandestine ATS manufacture and trafficking. Investigations in one country further revealed, for instance, traffickers' plan to set up labs in another country in the immediate future.

The workshop provided a further timely opportunity for real-time information exchange on those operational findings.

The workshop established joint "Target Cases" and a "Fugitive List", on which the concerned parties will collectively work on. As individual and joint operations proceed, closed case meetings will be held for the concerned parties, as appropriate. Findings from such meetings will be reported in a future workshop, which could be held back-to-back with the ACCORD Task Force meetings on law enforcement. ■

National Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development for Illicit Cannabis Plant Cultivation

Organizer: Government of Indonesia
Place: Medan, Indonesia
Date: 19-20 November 2005

Following recent developments in Aceh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took the lead in organizing a national workshop, involving community leaders and development and reconstruction agencies in Aceh. M.R. Dinadda Diskul, Secretary General, Mae Fah Luang Foundation, and Akira Fujino, Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific were the speakers at the initial session.

In a meeting with UNODC, Mae Fah Luang Foundation, representatives of Aceh, and the Foreign Ministry, it was agreed that the Thai Government, in consultation with UNODC, would invite ten representatives from Aceh, including religious leaders and representatives of farmers, to Doi Tung to observe the effects of sustainable alternative development activities. The field trip is aimed to inspire and motivate the Acehenese local community to support and be a part of the implementation of sustainable alternative development project. UNODC would consider a possible project of technical assistance, which would be closely linked to reconstruction and development efforts in Aceh.

Recommendations resulting from the workshop include the following: formulation of a model of sustainable alternative development to be implemented in the cannabis-cultivating areas in Indonesia; synchronizing the development and implementation of the sustainable alternative development policy in the national level with the regional ACCORD mechanism as well as

with the UNODC international mechanism; a political decision to reaffirm the commitment of the central government as well as the local authority that sustainable alternative development is of crucial importance; the need to integrate the whole sectors of sustainable alternative development policy into the rehabilitation and reconstruction policy strategy in Aceh in the post tsunami period; conducting scientific studies/research regarding the development and implementation of the sustainable alternative development policy in Indonesia; the need to conduct a study by focusing on the three pillars of a successful sustainable alternative development policy; consider a special clause regarding a more flexible approach in the law enforcement toward the cannabis farmers during the transitional period until the mechanism policy is formulated; taking advantage of the re-

mote sensing technology in mapping/monitoring cannabis cultivation areas through close cooperation with the UNODC and countries which already have these technological capacity and capability; encourage all components of the civil society (local community and the NGOs), as well as the government and private sectors, to actively participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the program to ensure the success of the sustainable alternative development policy; and advance Indonesia's interests to include illicit cultivation of cannabis as a target of the sustainable alternative development program in both regional and international fora. ■



Qianrong Wang

Mr. Qianrong, Chinese, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in November 2005 as Senior Technical Adviser (Law Enforcement). He is responsible for regional drug demand reduction including drug law enforcement, precursor control, sustainable development, and other activities related to crime prevention. Mr. Wang has been working in criminal investigation and drug law enforcement for more than two decades, and participated in establishing and developing regional and sub-regional drug control cooperation mechanisms in this region. He holds a Master's degree in Transnational Crime Prevention from the Wollongong University, New South Wales, Australia.



Manjul Khanna

Dr. Manjul Khanna, from India, joined the Regional Centre, 15 February 2006 as Regional Coordinator for "Strengthening Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Drug Users and in Prison Settings" in selected countries. Dr. Khanna has been working in the field of drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention in community settings in India for the last five years. She has successfully piloted the peer-led interventions and facilitated self-help groups among the HIV positive population. She holds a Masters degree in Internal Medicine from The Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, India and has served the Indian military for 23 years.



Vipon Kititnasasorchai

Mr. Vipon, Thai, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in January 2006 as Regional Expert for the Terrorism Prevention Branch. A public prosecutor on secondment from the Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Justice, Royal Thai Government, Mr. Vipon currently works on various aspects of criminal justice and terrorism, specifically in East Asia and the Pacific region. He holds a Bachelor of Law degree from Thammasat University, and Master's degrees in environmental law from Tulane Law School and in international environmental law from the University of Washington, USA.



Motoyuki Okura

Mr. Okura, Japanese, joined the Regional Centre in October 2005 as an intern supporting the Regional Centre's work and the project, "Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drugs in East Asia". He has worked with the Japan Customs where he was in charge of import/export clearance, enforcement, and international relations for nine years. He holds a Master's degree in International Development Studies from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan.



Johannes Lund

Mr. Lund, Swedish, joined the UNODC Regional Centre as an intern in October 2005, assisting the project, "Improving Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) Data and Information Systems". He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Asian Studies from University of Western Australia and a Master's Degree in Southeast Asian Studies from Chulalongkorn University. He is currently assisting the project with its annual publication, and analyzing recent ATS abuse trends in East Asia and the Pacific. Prior to the internship Mr. Lund worked as a political risk analyst for a London-based consulting firm.

Innovative Measures for the Treatment of Drug Abusers

What are the innovative measures for the treatment of drug abusers? This was the question which the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) tried to answer in its research on the Trends in Drug Abuse and Effective Measures for the Treatment of the Drug Abusers in Asian Countries. Together with the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice, UNAFEI conducted a comprehensive study on drug abusers' treatment from 2002 to 2004 and covered Hong Kong SAR, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, entitled "Research on the Trends in Drug Abuse and Effective Measures for the Treatment of the Drug Abusers in Asian Countries - An Analysis of Innovative Measures for the Treatment of Drug Abusers".

Drug use and the problems that accompany it have an extremely deleterious effect on the healthy development of young people. Due to the rapid increase in

drug-related crimes and drug abusers in Asian countries, the establishment of effective countermeasures for demand and supply reduction are a pressing issue.

The research report released in March 2005 presents a summary of the first phase of the study which includes the following issues as these relate to the respective countries: trends of the most abused drugs; an outline of regulations and sanctions related to drug control and drug abusers' treatment; an outline of policy regarding drug abuse prevention and drug

abusers' treatment; an outline of agencies and organizations involved in drug-related problems; and an outline of innovative measures for the treatment of drug abusers.

The report also includes major statutes and regulations relating to the suppression of drug supply and treatment of drug abusers. The second phase of the study will cover Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA. ■

For further details about the study, contact unafei@moj.go.jp

UNAFEI is a United Nations regional institute, established in 1961 through an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan, with the aim of promoting the sound development of criminal justice systems and mutual cooperation in the world.

The three main activities of UNAFEI are to conduct training courses and seminars for personnel in crime prevention and criminal justice; to conduct research in crime prevention and treatment of offenders; and to provide various forms of technical assistance for the improvement of criminal justice.

Opium Poppy Cultivation in Myanmar Falls Again in 2005

Opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar, the world's second largest producer of the drug, fell by more than a quarter in 2005 compared with 2004 and is now 80 percent lower than in the peak year of 1996.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2005 Myanmar Opium Survey showed the area under opium poppy cultivation was 32,800 hectares this year, down from 44,200 hectares in 2004, while the number of families involved in growing it declined by 26 percent to 193,000.

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa welcomed the decline in cultivation but warned that the rapid progress in eradication seen in the past decade could be undone if the growing problem of poverty and under-nourishment among farmers is not addressed.

"Some of the poorest people are being affected by the loss of income from drugs as cultivation declines," Mr Costa said.

"With the loss of opium income, poor farmers and their families not only lose their

coping mechanism to deal with endemic poverty and a chronic food shortage. They also lose access to health services and to schools. They end up very vulnerable to exploitation and misery – from human rights abuses to enforce the opium bans, to internal displacement or human trafficking to survive the bans."

"The world will not condone counter-narcotic measures that result in humanitarian disasters," the UNODC Executive Director added.

"The international community must have the wisdom to fight drugs and poverty simultaneously, to eliminate both the causes and the effects of these twin afflictions. Food security and income generation programmes must remain in place in Myanmar and be strengthened to support both the farmers' decisions not to plant opium poppy and enforcement measures to eradicate the crop that is planted against the law."

The 2005 Opium Survey, conducted jointly by the Myanmar Government and the UNODC within the framework of the UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme,



UNODC Photo

was based on a combination of the use of satellite images and ground verification. It focused on the Shan State, part of the notorious Golden Triangle, where 94 percent of the country's opium poppy cultivation takes place.

Myanmar remains the second largest opium poppy grower in the world after Afghanistan but its share of world opium poppy cultivation fell to 21 per cent in 2005 from 23 per cent in 2004. The average farm gate price of opium poppy at harvest time was estimated at US\$ 187 per kg in 2005, a 22 percent increase on the US\$153 reported in 2004. Myanmar's total potential opium production in 2005 was estimated at 312 metric tons, down from 370 in 2004 and compared with the 1996 peak of 1,760 tons. The farm gate value of opium production this year was estimated at US\$ 58 million, equivalent to about 0.7 per cent of the country's GDP. ■

YCAB CEO Named One of Young Global Leaders 2006



Photo from younggloballeaders.org

Ms. Veronica Colondam, Chief Executive Director of Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (YCAB) Foundation based in Indonesia, has been named a Young Global Leader 2006. She is one of the 40 Asians chosen to become Young Global Leaders in 2006 and joins a global community now including 410 leaders from all regions and stakeholder groups.

The 2006 class of Young Global Leaders includes business leaders, government leaders, and scholars, media and nongovernmental organization leaders, including among others, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, co-founders of Google; Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia; Chris Tucker, Hollywood actor.

The Forum of Young Global Leaders is an independent, Geneva, Switzerland-based foundation whose mission is to build a unique, multi-stakeholder community of the world's most extraordinary leaders under the age of 40 and give them a platform to collaborate and share best practices for the future of the world.

Ms. Colondam is being recognized for her work in YCAB, a leading social foundation based in Jakarta that strives to educate and empower the youth of Indonesia to stay drug-free and healthy. Under her leadership, YCAB is pioneering drug abuse prevention and offers various programmes both within the school setting and the community.

Her work and dedication has earned herself numerous other awards, including the United Nations-Vienna Civil Society Award 2001 presented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In 2003, she received the National Gold Award for her work in drug prevention from the Vice President of Indonesia and the Chief of the National Police and the National Narcotics Board. ■

Thailand Marks International Anti-Corruption Day

Photo by Mahidol University, Thailand



On the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 December 2005, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with Mahidol University, American Bar Association-Asia Law Initiative and the Embassy of the United States of America in Bangkok organized a symposium and commemorated the second anniversary of the signing conference of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Mérida, Mexico on 9 December 2003. The symposium, with the theme, "Corruption: A crime in every language," was held at Mahidol University, Nakhon Pathom

and was attended by about 100 participants, including those from educational institutions, law enforcement and criminal justice offices, private sector, civil society, media and non-government organizations.

Speakers at the symposium included Mr. Brian Pearce, Resident Legal Adviser of the Embassy of the United States of America; Pol. Col. Seehanat Prayoonrat, Deputy Secretary General of the Office of the National Counter Corruption Commission; Mr. Qianrong Wang, Senior Law Enforcement Adviser of UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific; and Asst. Prof. Srisombat Chokprajakchat, Programme Director of the Doctoral Program in Criminology, Justice Administration and Society of Mahidol University. ■

**You can stop
CORRUPTION**

Moments of Light

Working with an NGO in Cambodia

By Anna Carlsson
IOGT-NTO Movement, Sweden

I had the opportunity to work with the Khmer Youth Association (KYA) in Cambodia for two years. KYA among others, disseminates drug prevention information using peer-to-peer education in schools and communities, workshops, campaigns, and Forum Theatre. These initiatives are being implemented with many partners, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project office in Cambodia.

Working for a Cambodia-based non governmental organization (NGO) is very different from working with any organization in Sweden. A lot of activities are carried out on a very short notice. It helps to be a flexible person as I needed to prepare and participate in an event very quickly. My colleagues are very professional and are often capable of carrying out the activities with good results. I still wonder however, what the results would have been if they had been planned earlier.

KYA has many young volunteers who are involved and committed in drug prevention and reproductive health projects.



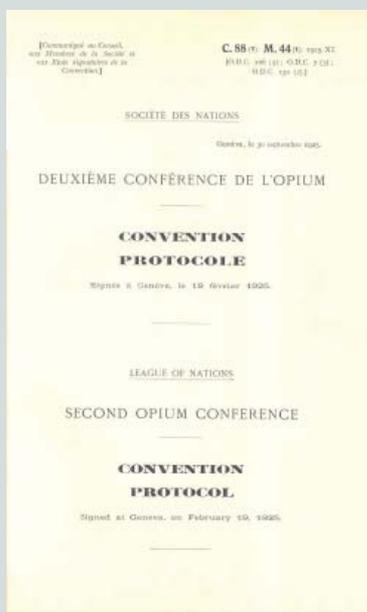
Photo by IOGT-NTO Movement, Sweden

One interesting thing about working in this part of the world is the social phenomenon called "losing face". To admit that one is wrong or that one does not understand something is generally not a big deal in Sweden. However, my experience in Cambodia has shown that this can cause problems when one is communicating with others. So, instead of asking "Do you understand?", I say "Have I made myself clear enough?"

I have been very happy working in Cambodia and with KYA. I have learned a lot. Even if our countries and cultures are very different, people are, deep down, very much the same. Having worked in Cambodia has exposed me to real cross-border cooperation. ■

Lost in the Past: Early 1900s – Towards International Drug Control Treaties

By Akira Fujino
UNODC Regional Centre



“The assembly inclines to the view that the Governments which are parties to the International Opium Convention should be asked to agree not to issue licences for the import of opium, or other drugs to which the convention applies, from any country which has not yet ratified and put into force the convention and adopted the system for the control of exports and imports approved by the second assembly in ... the resolution adopted on the 30th September, 1921, and previously approved by the council on the 28th June, 1921.”
- Resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations, September 1922.ⁱ

Discussions at the League of Nations relating to drug control at the time focused on, among other things, securing adherence to the first international drug control treaty, the International Opium Convention, and on adopting measures to prevent diversion of controlled drugs from licit channels into illicit traffic. That Convention, concluded in 1912, lacked specific binding measures to prevent such diversion. Drugs, such as opium, morphine, heroin and cocaine, trafficked and abused then were products licitly made by pharmaceutical companies. The Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs recognized *“the serious nature of the obstacles to the full execution of the International Opium Convention which are presented by the abstention of certain States from adhering to the convention and adopting the measures for putting it into force which have been recommended by the League; in particular the system for the control of imports and exports of drugs.”*ⁱⁱ Recommendations for specific measures were, therefore, necessary. The Advisory Committee noted:ⁱⁱⁱ

“In particular, it is convinced that an import certificate system is the most effective method so far suggested by which the States that are parties to the convention can be enabled to carry out their international obligations with regard to the control of imports and exports under the convention.”

And the Advisory Committee continued to assert that:

“A State which stands outside that system – and, still more, a State which stands outside the convention all together – hinders, if it does not altogether defeat, the realisation of the aims of the International Opium Convention.”

The League of Nations, as early as 1920s, already recognized that universal adherence to the Convention and universal application of specific measures were essential in addressing drug trafficking. In pursuing effective controls over international trade in drugs, in addition to considering import and export authorization systems, the League and key Governments realized the need for compilation of statistical data on licit drug shipments in order to uncover any diversions from licit channels into illicit traffic. A letter from the Home Office to the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom^{iv} shows that the League of Nations was already making inquiries about discrepancies in statistics:

“... this [information] may be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations in compliance with the request for an explanation of the discrepancies between the British and Japanese statistics which was received from the League last year.” At the time in 1920s a number of large discrepancies had been uncovered between the statistics of both countries, suggesting major diversions of drugs into illicit traffic in the Far East.

The letter further notes the difficulties in so doing:

“... [the British Ambassador to Japan] hesitates to press the Japanese Government for further detailed information in view of the large amount of work involved unless the British Government is prepared to furnish corresponding information, giving details of licences issued, individual shipments, and postal declarations ...”

And it concludes that:

“It is very important that the cause of the discrepancies should be cleared up. He suggests therefore that in communicating the observations of the Board of Customs to the League of Nations, attention should be called to the desirability of complete statistics of imports and exports being compiled by all countries on a uniform basis and of their publication at frequent intervals ... for the purpose of checking the returns and throwing light on the course of international traffic.”

At the time, the League of Nations was facing difficulties in obtaining uniform and detailed statistical data, as such details were not specifically provided for as mandatory reporting requirements under the International Opium Convention, coupled with the fact that many key countries were yet to accede to the Convention. In a document of the League^v, the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous



Photo By Library of Congress

Drugs “asks the council to urge the Governments of these States to forward their reports and statistics at the earliest possible moment, calling their attention to the obligations which they have undertaken in this respect under article 21 of the Opium Convention, and to the fact that the recommendations of the committee on these points have been unanimously accepted by the Assembly of the League.”

While that article provided for a mandatory reporting requirement, it did not specify the details required, noting that “[t]hese statistics shall be furnished with as many details and within a period as short as may be considered possible.” The League, therefore, had to rely on voluntary measures and recommendations from it.

Those measures as proposed, such as import and export authorization system and uniform statistical returns system, to control imports and exports of drugs were then subsequently incorporated into the 1925 Second Opium Conference Convention. They are still some of the key control measures today under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and relevant data are processed and published by the International Narcotics Control Board practically in the manner as the above letter 1923 suggested.

At this point, it is noteworthy to observe briefly some attitude of the enforcement agencies at the time. Some customs authorities’ note might perhaps be representative of the common attitude: “No morphia, heroin or cocaine was seized during the above period; but these drugs are smuggled so easily that detection is a matter of the greatest difficulty.” “From a Customs point of view the search for opium has its drawbacks; it brings in no duty while it takes men away from work which would be of real value to the revenue.”^{vi}

It is also interesting to observe the environment in which drug trafficking and countermeasures were being taken at the time. The following shows some glimpse of it:

“The Siamese Minister for Foreign Affairs suggests that extra-territorial rights should be completely waived in cases involving the illicit use of or traffic in opium. Although His Majesty’s Government have largely abandoned such rights in Siam, the Secretary of State is unable to accept this suggestion, more especially since to do so would encourage the Chinese to follow the Siamese in claiming complete liberty of jurisdiction in such cases. On the other hand, the suggestion that Siamese law, in default of any more effective law, should be applied as it stands in the consular courts of all countries enjoying extra-territorial privileges, as it is now in those of Japan, may not be unreasonable.”^{vii} These remarks suggest corruption behind the scenes and also show the need for concrete provisions under universal international drug control treaties.

Under such conditions in early 1900s, Governments steadily came to consensus on practical measures that would prevent diversion of controlled drugs into illicit traffic, and at the same time attempting to ensure that drugs needed for medical purposes were available. These efforts subsequently evolved into a series of international drug control treaties throughout the past century.

Author’s Note: Texts in italics were reproduced verbatim. Names of individuals are withheld.

^vReport to the Council on the Work of the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs during its Fourth Session, held at Geneva, January 8-14, 1923; document C.117 (I) M.65, 1923, XI.

^{vi}Ibid.

^{vii}Ibid.

^{viii}Letter reference 440,715/17 of 4 May 1923 from the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, to the Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, in file FO 371/9247 63344, Public Record Office, United Kingdom.

^{ix}Report to the Council on the Work of the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs during its Fourth Session, op.cit.

^xLetter dated 4 February 1922 from the Commissioner of Customs to the British Consulate, Foochow, Peking General No.5 Confidential, No.98 in file F.O.371 8025, Public Record Office, United Kingdom.

^{xi}Letter from the Foreign Office to the Home Office, Opium, Confidential, reference F 1504/421/87 in FO 371/9247 63344, Public Record Office, United Kingdom.



UNODC Vienna Photo

United Nations Vienna Civil Society Award

2005 Winners from around the world

The annual United Nations Vienna Civil Society Award was established in 1999 to honour individuals and/or organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the fight against drug abuse, crime and terrorism.

The Award, sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Austrian government and the City of Vienna, includes a medal, a certificate and prize money of EUR 20,000.

Since 1999, the Award has recognized an array of non-governmental organizations and individuals. From a volunteer working in the slums of Bangkok to a drug rehabilitation centre in Peru, the one thing all winners have in common is an unwavering commitment to their communities.

They represent the thousands of tireless workers around the world who, on a daily basis, strive to improve the lives of the people around them. The sponsoring organizations realize that financial support, when combined with the dedication of such community leaders, can make all the difference.

In paying tribute to these individuals and organizations, UNODC hopes to encourage them to continue their work and to inspire others to join the global coalition dedicated to fostering justice and social progress.

The Bogota Children's Shelter

The Bogotá Children's Shelter (Albergue Infantil de Bogotá), founded in 1958, assists street children who use psychoactive substances. Since its establishment, the Shelter has helped more than 5,000 children. Currently, 120 children participate in different programmes that seek to develop their sense of responsibility. With the institution's support, the children build a better life for themselves.

Throughout the years, the Bogota Children's Shelter has built a model of care that meets the needs of the people it helps. As these change, the institution adapts its strategies. What does not change is the Shelter's commitment to providing comprehensive responses to the problems faced by street children and young people in Colombia.

Mothers against Drugs

Established in 2000 to unite parents' efforts to prevent drug abuse among their children, Mothers against Drugs (MAD) has developed and implemented innovative drug abuse prevention programmes among young people. With more than 160 members and 12 regional offices throughout Belarus, MAD also provides information and assistance to drug users, their family members and people living with HIV/AIDS.

For the last five years, MAD has been running an information and prevention programme entitled "Do not let it kill you" together with federal institutions. The programme aims to reduce drug abuse and HIV infections among young people, with the involvement of former drug users.

MAD also created the anonymous consulting service "Your choice," which provides medical information, referrals and legal services to over 100 injecting drug users a month. As part of its awareness raising efforts, MAD and two partners launched the website "All about drug abuse and assistance to drug dependent people in Belarus" in 2002. The website informs visitors about a wide range of drug abuse-related issues in Belarus. The website is www.narkotiki.by

The Rebirth Charity Organization

The Rebirth Charity Organization in Iran, founded and run by former drug addicts, provides treatment and rehabilitation services to drug addicts using a 12-step programme. To date, the organization has helped 40,000 addicts, half of whom are currently drug-free. Rebirth is also active in prevention work. It has 20 employees and 250 full-time volunteers.

As part of the treatment and rehabilitation process, drug addicts go through a detoxification and stabilization programme which involves participation in self-help groups, counselling and meditation. They are treated as in-patients for one to three months in the organization's facilities before being released and referred to self-help groups for further rehabilitation. Currently, the organization has 26 treatment and rehabilitation centres in 11 provinces; two of these centres specialize in treatment of children and young people and female drug users, respectively.

One of Rebirth's objectives is to minimize collateral damage associated with drug abuse. To this end, three information sites have been established in Tehran to educate the public about the negative effects of drug abuse. These sites also provide preliminary counselling on drug treatment to both drug addicts and their families. Two drop-in centres have also been established to provide additional health services to drug users, particularly those injecting drugs. ■

Based on material distributed by UNODC, Vienna.