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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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UNODC in West and Central Asia. Newsletter Quarterly

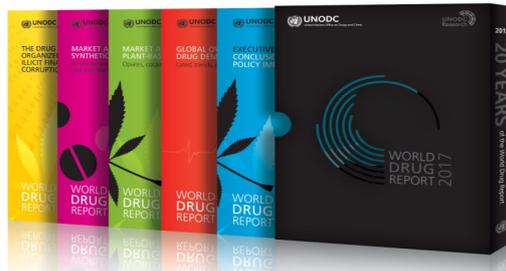
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This Newsletter provides information about key UNODC actions, events and partnerships in the region of West and Central Asia

(Afghanistan, (I.R. of) Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

The UNODC strategy for West and Central Asia maximizes synergies with existing programmes in the region, primarily the Country Partnership Programme for (I.R. of) Iran, the Country Programmes for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Programme for Central Asia and the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. This approach enables an integrated and concerted “one-UNODC” response in West and Central Asia focusing on Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice and Legal Cooperation, and Social and Health Aspects, and therefore supports national and regional efforts deployed for international peace, stability and development. UNODC is also promoting the drug control and cooperation platform set-up through the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach and ensures effective linkages with other UNODC Regional Programmes operating in regions affected by Afghan opiates traffic including the trafficking of precursors, notably along the Balkan, Northern and Southern routes.

20
YEARS
of the
World Drug
Report



World Drug Report 2017—20 Year Anniversary

Vienna/ New York/ Geneva, 22 June 2017— In 2015 about a quarter of a billion people used drugs. Of these, around 29.5 million people - or 0.6 per cent of the global adult population - were engaged in problematic use and suffered from drug use disorders, including dependence.

Opioids were the most harmful drug type and accounted for 70 per cent of the negative health impact associated with drug use disorders worldwide, according to the report. The Report finds that hepatitis C is causing the greatest harm among the estimated 12 million people who inject drugs worldwide. Amphetamines account for a considerable share of the global burden of disease and new psychoactive substances (NPS) pose serious health risks due to their unknown contents and dosages.

The 20 years Drug Report anniversary comes during the time that the international community has decided to move forward with joint action. UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov highlighted that the outcome document of the 2016 landmark UN General Assembly special session on the world drug problem contains more than 100 concrete recommendations to reduce demand and supply, however he acknowledges that more needs to be done. New technologies, such as mobile communications, darknet and cryptocurrencies, the increasing diversity of drugs and the financing of terrorists are amongst the important new global challenges that the international community faces.





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HIGH LEVEL MEETING—CENTRAL ASIAN DIALOGUE

13 June 2017, Ashgabat. The UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres chaired a "High-Level United Nations-Central Asian Dialogue on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia". On this occasion, ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan adopted a Joint Declaration on strengthening regional collaboration to counter-terrorism.

The objective of the meeting was to review progress on the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia and to define future strategic counter-terrorism priorities for the region.

"Central Asian countries are leading by example in the joint implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the regional level," commended Mr. António Guterres adding that the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia is the first of its kind around the world.

The Secretary-General also expressed his appreciation to the Central Asian countries for their "commitment to jointly addressing and defeating the scourge of terrorism" and for further strengthening regional cooperation and coordination in this field. "No one country can defeat

terrorism alone." He also reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to continue supporting regional and national efforts of Central Asian countries in this regard. He added that his counter-terrorism architecture reform initiative to establish a new Office of Counter-Terrorism "will provide stronger leadership, enhance coordination and coherence across the system, strengthen capacity building support, mobilize political will and robust partnership to ensure a balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy."

The Declaration welcomes the recent initiative of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture by establishing a new Office of Counter-Terrorism and acknowledges the importance of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts in the region. It also recognizes the valuable support of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, as well as the expertise and support provided by other international, regional and sub-regional organizations in implementing the Joint Plan of Action.

26TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

22-26 May 2017, Vienna. UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov emphasized the relevance and importance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in his opening remarks by drawing attention to the broad spectrum of addressed topics during the 5 days of the Crime Commission.

The UNODC Chief was speaking at the high level opening of the CCPCJ. Every year, the event draws together around 1,000 participants annually from Member States, civil society and academia. This commission was particularly important as the CCPCJ begins the process of preparing for the 14th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Japan in 2020.

A series of resolutions were agreed to guide preparations for the 2020 Crime Congress, and to promote implementation of the Doha Declaration and help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In one resolution, the Crime Commission called on all those countries who have not done so to consider ratifying the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols on migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, and the illicit manufacture and trafficking in

firearms.

A thematic discussion at the CCPCJ examined crime prevention strategies and public participation, social policies and education in support of the rule of law. Over 100 side events and numerous exhibitions on crime prevention and criminal justice matters were held during the five days of the Crime Commission.

The CCPCJ closed with a call to remain united against cybercrime and terrorism. "The terrible tragedy in Manchester reminds us that we must remain united against terrorism and violent extremism," Mr. Fedotov said.

He observed that the Crime Commission opened just as the global ransomware attack started. The cybercrime attack revealed a need to improve responses to transnational organized crime, and emphasized the importance of international cooperation and action to counter crime.

"UNODC is fully engaged in supporting [Member States] to strengthen cooperation and build capacities to meet the many collective challenges we face," said Mr. Fedotov.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

PCUs in the region results — Drug seizures and undeclared consumer goods

CENTRAL ASIA

May-June 2017. In May-June, a series of national mentorship programmes took place in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan under the UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme's (CCP) Regional Segment for Central Asia.

Members of CCP Port Control Units established in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek and Osh dry ports), Tajikistan (Dushnabe-2 and Nizhniy Pyanj dry ports) and Turkmenistan (Ashgabat International Customs Terminal) participated in the practical training delivered by the World Customs Organization's experts.

Mentorship aimed at sustaining the programme outcomes and ensuring continuity of training of newly recruited CCP staff. Experts facilitated practical exercises to identify high-risk container. Trainees learned how to select containers in the pre-arrival (imports) and/or pre-departure (exports) phases taking into consideration the

specific needs of relevant countries.

Since the launch of the Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan of the "UNODC-WCO Global CCP", 11 Port Control Units (PCUs) were established. 571 customs officers of beneficiary countries improved their skills on profiling and inspection of high-risk cargos at national and regional multi-level training activities. As a result, the PCUs officers in the region seized: 1,313kg of narcotic drugs (heroin, hashish, opium, methamphetamine etc.); 33 tons and 360 liters of sulfuric acid; 138,000 packs of cigarettes; various types of undeclared consumer goods for the total amount of 1,883,322 US dollars.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the Government of Japan, the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program.

Promoting public-private partnership on container control in the region

KYRGYZSTAN

June 2017, Bishkek. First public-private partnership workshop in the region provided an excellent opportunity for Customs officers across the region to develop dialogue on container security and public-private partnership among companies operating on respective selected ports as well as establishment of pre-arrival clearance mechanisms and information sharing between the PCUs and companies operating at the respective port cities.

The regional workshop was organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in June in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan under UNODC-WCO Global CCP. Representatives from Customs and other law enforcement agencies from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan took part in the event. Private sectors companies operating at the air, dry and seaports in the region participated in the workshop.

Afghan PCU officials visit South Eastern Europe

AFGHANISTAN

5-15 July 2017, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro. Fourteen officials from the Afghanistan Port Control Units attended an eight-day study visit to South Eastern Europe as part of the implementation of the UNODC-WCO CCP. The goal of the visit, which included the Port of Durres, Albania, Port of Bar, Montenegro, and the Border Crossing Point of Bijaca, Bosnia and Herzegovina, was to enhance sharing of best practices on security related systems and processes, commercial operations, automation, management models and other trade enforcement activities.

The CCP is closely working with the Governments of the three countries in SEE and the Government of Afghanistan to build the capacity of customs and border police through several initiatives, including the establishment PCUs. Regional and inter-regional initiatives are also an

important element of the CCP.

These meetings gave the participants first-hand experience on customs control cargo and vehicle at the Ports and BCP and demonstrated the possibilities for improvement and modernization. The meetings also familiarized the Afghan officials with the customs risk management and investigation techniques; electronic clearance methodologies, best practices in detecting and managing the movement of illegal goods; import and export restrictions.

Particular attention was paid to strengthening the cooperation between border authorities and establishment of a more effective information exchange at national and regional level aiming at keeping a good balance between security and trade facilitation.



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CCP Member States sign protocol, affirm readiness for cooperation to tackle drug trafficking

GEORGIA

24 July 2017, Tbilisi. The CCP, developed jointly by UNODC and the WCO, aims to minimize the misuse of containers in the transnational shipment of illicit goods by enhancing law enforcement capabilities of seaports and other similar facilities.

In this regard, heads of Customs Administrations of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan recently gathered in Tbilisi, Georgia, to discuss regional and international cooperation among countries participating in the Programme, and signed a protocol, affirming their readiness to take further efforts, including joint operations.

At the event, WCO Director of Facilitation and Compliance, emphasized the critical role played by the customs' in protecting national economies and citizens while ensuring trade facilitation. "CCP provides ample opportunities for national, regional and international cooperation in the fight against illicit goods which fund criminal and terrorist structures," she underscored.

During the meeting, participants discussed issues related to information exchange and joint operations to identify high-risk consignments and to combat drug trafficking and other illicit activities while facilitating legitimate trade. Practical recommendations for better regional and international cooperation were also discussed.

The meeting, hosted by the Revenue Service of Georgia, was organized by UNODC and WCO. The CCP Regional Segments for Afghanistan, Black Sea, Central Asia and Pakistan are funded by the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan and the United States.



UNODC and the government of Japan contribute to Anti Narcotics Force operational capacity.

PAKISTAN

3 August 2017, Rawalpindi. The UNODC Country Office Representative in Pakistan and the Economic and Development Counsellor, Embassy of Japan, handed over Five Progeny ResQ Handheld Raman Analyzers to Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) during the handing-over ceremony at ANF Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

The procurement of this state of the art equipment was one of the agreed deliverables under the Japanese funded UNODC project, which is aimed at strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime. This is also part of UNODC efforts to enhance the operational capacity of drug law enforcement, specially ANF, in line with its Country Programme (2016 - 2019). Senior officials from Embassy of Japan, UNODC and ANF were present at the occasion.

Japan, acknowledged the efforts done by UNODC and ANF and highlighted the importance of this state of the art equipment to enhance ANF capacity for effective interdiction and investigation of illicit drugs. He noted that enhancing the border security between Pakistan and Afghanistan is crucial as the stability of the region is essential to the national security of Pakistan.

UNODC is leading global efforts against drug trafficking and is the guardian of all international conventions on

drugs and transnational organized crime. UNODC Country Office in Pakistan has been active for over 35 years and works in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan. Its mandate is to assist the national institutions in their efforts to overcome the challenges associated with transnational organized crime, thereby contributing towards the nation's development.





International cooperation on container control: Study visits for Central Asian customs

CENTRAL ASIA



May 2017. Two study visits were organized for Customs officers of beneficiary countries in the framework of the CCP. UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and Regional Office for South-East Asia and Pacific

jointly organized a study visit to Thailand and Laos P.D.R. for representatives of State Customs Committees of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.

Delegations of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan visited the Investigation and Suppression Division, Customs Control Room of Thai Customs, Regional Office for Capacity Building of the WCO, Customs Bureau of Laem Chabang seaport and its observation tower, radiation detection area as well as container and rail scanner. In addition, the delegations have visited the CCP PCU operating at Laem Chabang seaport. They were provided with the general background information and specific operations of the PCU, including seizure cases.

Visiting the Laos P.D.R., delegations were introduced to Laos Customs Department administrative structure, customs checkpoints, capacity building, strategic development plan, national single window system as well as reform and modernization. The Deputy Director of Clear-

ance and Formalities Division mentioned that almost all border checkpoints equipped with vehicle and passenger control and Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking systems. In addition, the delegations visited the Laos-Thai "Friendship Bridge-1" and Thanaleng Customs Checkpoint and observed the existing procedures and methods of customs control.

Jointly with the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA) a study visit was organized to the United Kingdom for the members of PCU of the Turkmenbashi seaport and Ashgabat dry port, officers of the State Customs Service and the Office of the President of Turkmenistan.

Turkmen Customs officers were focused on the control techniques to combat trafficking of drugs, people, alcohol and tobacco at the Port of Dover and the Port of Felixstowe. The participants were introduced to the United Kingdom's Joint Border Investigation Units' structure, methodologies, and intelligence techniques related to containers control. It was an excellent opportunity for the NCA and Turkmen State Customs Service officials to share experiences and best practices discuss international cooperation in countering illicit goods and other criminal activities.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the Government of Japan, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of INL and the EXBS Program.

More PCUs were established in the Kyrgyz Republic

KYRGYZSTAN

12 June 2017, Bishkek and Osh. New PCUs were established at the State Customs Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic's Headquarters in Bishkek and its Regional Department in Osh in the framework of "UNODC- WCO Global CCP - Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan".

During the opening ceremony the Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic stressed that "the CCP provides new opportunities on fighting customs violations and crime" and expressed hope strengthening cooperation by the establishment of similar units at the airports.

Senior government officials from the State Customs Service, Japanese Ambassador in the Kyrgyz Republic as well as representatives of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of INL and the EXBS, attended the event.

In addition, respective staff of established PCUs were

trained to identify of high-risk consignments utilizing modern customs control techniques in cooperation with the State Customs Service, that target high-risk consignments whilst facilitating the free flow of legitimate trade.

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Pakistan joins UNODC GLO.ACT

PAKISTAN

19 July 2017, Islamabad. The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) funded by the EU and the Public Awareness Campaign against human trafficking and migrant smuggling co-funded by Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection and United States Department of State were launched together in Islamabad.

GLO.ACT is a four-year joint initiative by the EU and the UNODC implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The project reaffirms that combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is of the highest importance for the EU and the UN as a whole. GLO.ACT is a coordinated response to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants and aims to strengthen the criminal justice response in 13 strategically selected countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Likewise the public awareness campaign aims at educating the general public about human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The Ambassador of the European Union to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan highlighted that the dual approach of GLO.ACT is so important because it combines both prevention with protection strategies on one hand strengthening capacities and on the other, providing assistance and protection for vulnerable victims.

GLO.ACT Project Coordinator, explained during the

launch that apart from providing assistance to 13 countries participating in GLO.ACT, the initiative will also benefit civil society organizations as well as victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants directly. She went on to say that: "Together with our implementing partners, we apply six key responses to the project. These responses relate to strategy and policy development; legislative assistance; capacity building; regional and trans-regional cooperation; protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants; and assistance and support to children among victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants."

The launch ceremony took place in the presence of the diplomatic community, senior government representatives from provincial line departments, provincial police, academia, media and civil society representatives.



Countries of the region discussed and developed priorities in container control

KAZAKHSTAN

19 May 2017, Almaty. Around 50 representatives from customs and other law enforcement agencies of Afghanistan Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as international partners and donors came together to review the achievements made under the UNODC-WCO CCP on the fourth regional meeting conducted at the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre. The event was organized together with the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries.

In the opening remarks UNODC Global CCP Coordinator stressed that "CCP countries are the priority for UNODC, since most of them are affected by heroin trafficking as the drugs are moved to their key destination markets, and play an important role in countering drugs, crime and terrorism."

Discussions were held among experts on priority ac-

tions to be conducted under the CCP in the region. One of the most important outcomes of the meeting was the adoption of CCP Regional operation "Container Programme Chemical check-I" at the expert level by the participating countries. Furthermore, participants developed a list of recommendations that UNODC/WCO will support in the region.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of INL and the EXBS Programme as well as the Government of Japan.





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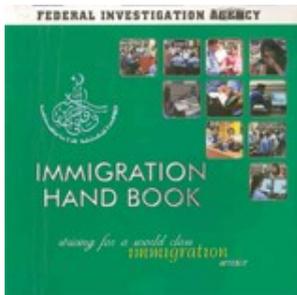
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Revised Immigration Handbook and operational strategy validated

PAKISTAN



24 May 2017, Islamabad. UNODC Country Office Pakistan conducted a validation workshop in collaboration with US and Australian experts. The purpose was to revise and upgrade the Immigration Handbook and the Operational Strategy of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for field of Human Trafficking

and Migrant Smuggling.

The Immigration Handbook is a guide to the frontline immigration officers that was drafted in the year 2007 by the then FIA Director General. The purpose was to put together all the relevant laws, job descriptions, recommendations, standard operating procedures, circulars, standing orders and other important material related to human trafficking and migrants smuggling in one place to enable easy access to the relevant material by the practicing officers.

UNODC while assisting the FIA revised the handbook and invited relevant officials for its validation. 10 middle level FIA officers from four provinces were invited to provide their feedback and validate the revised material.

UNODC senior expert and International Law Enforcement Advisor stressed on the importance of the "Immigration Handbook". UNODC has upgraded it after due consultation with the senior management of the FIA. Revised standard operating procedures have been added along with many other relevant circulars that can come handy anytime while performing our duties.

A researcher from the UNODC, briefed the participants about the draft operational strategy. He said that the strategy is based on 5Ps: Prevent, Protect, Partnership, Pursue and Prosecute. The operational strategy document chalks out recommendations that are in-line with international best practices and should be considered at all tiers.

Kyrgyz-Uzbek: Strengthen the law enforcement inter-agency and cross-border cooperation

CENTRAL ASIA

23 May 2017, Dostuk. The State Border Service of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with UNODC and with the financial support of the Government of Japan conducted joint simulation exercises at the border crossing-point "Dostuk" on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border to intercept drugs and precursor chemicals in May.

Real-life scenario at the border area aimed at improving coordination between the border guards, including Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) and other law enforcement representatives. In line with the scenario, BLO of border check-point "Bor-Dobo" (Kyrgyz- Tajik border) informed their BLO colleagues at "Dostuk" check-point on high risk of narcotics which might be trafficked from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan approximately in mid-May 2017. In their turn, officers at "Dostuk" check-point shared respective information with their colleagues and suggested to strengthen the control.

Chief of the Main Operational Department of the State Border Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, said: "Joint work of law enforcement agencies involved in border control is one more step towards better coordination."

BLOs are considered to be one of the most sustainable systems that can help developing mutual trust and intelligence information sharing system among law enforcement agencies responsible for border protection. UNODC Programme Coordinator, emphasized that communication, coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies are the key elements aimed at effectively combating illicit drug trafficking.

Representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Border and Customs Services of the Kyrgyz Republic took part at the exercise. The UNODC representatives, Kyrgyz Border Guard Service under the National Security Committee and Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan attended the event as observers.

The event was organized in the frame of the Sub-programme 1 component "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)" of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015 -2019.



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UNODC plans to deliver 'eLearning' as standardized training & certification programme

PAKISTAN

10 May 2017, Multan. The Computer-based Training Centres established by UNODC in the law enforcement academies of Pakistan at over 50 locations have imparted training to 42,000 personnel, while their knowledge gains remained outstanding at 101% as measured through the pre and post-test results. In Punjab, over 15000 personal of Punjab Police have undergone various training on crime prevention and investigation through UNODC CBT/eLearning platform, completing a total 60,000 hours of the training duration.

The inaugural session of eLearning course was attended by 20 officers of Multan Police at the newly established eLearning centre at Police Lines. The Centre was established by UNODC in 2016 with the support from Government of Denmark.

UNODC Representative in Pakistan, explained that "Within the framework of UNODC Pakistan Country Programme -II (2016-2019), eLearning has been identified as a priority assistance towards building the law enforcement capacity so it can meet the security challenges, as well as community expectations. The training platform at over 50 locations in law enforcement in Pakistan will therefore be upgraded in 'eLearning'- as the most advance tool of Training and Certification for the law enforcement"

The Regional Police Officer mentioned latest initiatives of Multan Police in public interest including the

Traffic Theme Park and FM Radio that serve to enhance awareness among public concerning to security and their protection from becoming victims of heinous crimes such as drug abuse and human trafficking.

UNODC visited the Police Training Institute Multan where UNODC's eLearning curricula have been integrated within the formal training system, at various levels including in Recruits' Course, Lower School Course, Special Investigation Course, and Police Response Unit Course. Over 4000 recruits had completed training on core police functions through the eLearning platform, which culminated in total 16,000 hours of training duration.



UNODC and NCD organize workshop on precursor control for industry representatives

PAKISTAN

4-5 May 2017, Karachi. UNODC, Pakistan in collaboration with Narcotics Control Division (NCD) and ANF organized a two day sensitization workshop on precursor control, for the chemical and pharmaceutical industry representatives. The objective of this workshop was to raise awareness within the industry on the diversion of precursor chemicals and their illicit use.

NCD Senior Joint Secretary, in his opening remarks, highlighted the important role of industry in helping law enforcement agencies combat drug trafficking and related crimes.

This workshop on precursor control was one of the many deliverables under a new project on 'Strengthening Border Security Against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Transnational Organized Crime' (2016-2019), recently signed between the Government of Japan and UNODC.

The workshop was widely attended (40 individuals) by the managers (sales), supervisors, health and safety officers, proprietors, and traders of leading national industries based in Karachi including Zafa Chemicals, Ittefaq Traders, Indus motors co. LTD, Gul Ahmed Textiles mills, Denim clothing, Linz Pharmacia and many other notables in the relevant industries from Sind.

This achievement has been made possible by the generous support of the Government of Japan.





CRIMINAL JUSTICE

UNODC organizes inter-regional training on tackling abuse of money and value transfer services

CENTRAL ASIA

4—7 July 2017, Beijing. Tackling illicit financial flows and money laundering is a core element of UNODC's efforts in combatting drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in Afghanistan, and more widely in West and Central Asia.

To support Member States in investigating financial crimes, recently organized an inter-regional training course on reducing the risks of the abuse of money and value transfer services (MVTs).

Funded by the European Union, the four-day event was held in Beijing, China, where participants and discussed the importance of migrant remittances and fragile economies; the abuse of transfer services by transnational organized crime groups, terrorist networks and corrupt officials; sensitive investigation techniques; forensics strategies and evidence handling; and the challenges of prosecuting crimes across different legal systems.

Also discussed were specific threats faced by individual countries. These include heroin trafficking, abuse of non-profit organizations, financing of advanced improvised explosive device networks and terrorist financing flows from suspected donors in countries in the Middle East to fund the travel of foreign terrorist fighters in Syria and Iraq.

Participants were representatives of Afghanistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Together with RPANC, the training course was organized by UNODC's Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML), Proceeds of Crime and Financing of Terrorism in partnership with the People's Bank of China.

Report on Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Counter Terrorism response

PAKISTAN

18 July 2017, Peshawar. Case analysis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa report was launched by UNODC in collaboration with the Home and Tribal Affairs Department of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and National Counter Terrorism Agency under a European Union funded programme this week. The report was completed under the auspices of 'Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism with a special reference to KP's project, which is supported by the European Union and aims to build national capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in effectively countering terrorism.

The Home and Tribal Affairs Department of KP constituted a committee which consisted of members from the Police, Prosecution and the Judiciary who provided practical recommendations for further strengthening the criminal justice response to terrorism. The committee has put forward 30 recommendations which reflect the capacity, process, legislative improvements. The recommendations would also act as a road-map and a cornerstone to UNODC and the EU's intervention in the province under the 'Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism Project'.

OSCE - UNODC training on Countering Terrorist Financing

KYRGYZSTAN

23 - 25 June 2017, Vienna and 22 - 28 July 2017, Issyk-Kul. OSCE and UNODC offered training on strengthening the capacity of government officials from Kyrgyzstan to counter terrorist financing. This took place on the 23 June in the form of a three-day train-the-trainers course organized by the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department (TTD) and the UNODC's GPML at the OSCE Secretariat premises in Vienna.

Discussions on localized scenarios based on real UNODC news life cases.

The course led by international experts included sessions on the terrorist finance funding cycle, foreign terrorist fighters, public-private sector co-operation, information collection and strategic analysis. There were dis-

Following this event, on the 22 July, a seven-day training course, aimed at strengthening the capacity of government officials from Kyrgyzstan to counter terrorist financing took place in Issyk-Kul. The training course, based on localized scenarios, included sessions on the terrorist finance funding cycle, foreign terrorist fighters, public-private sector co-operation, information collection and strategic analysis. The six local government officials who were trained in Vienna contributed to the teachings during the Issyk-Kul course.



The effectiveness of International Judicial Cooperation, Mutual Legal Assistance And Extradition

I.R OF IRAN

12- 13 July 2017, Kerman. The UNODC in Iran in close collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Judiciary International Affairs, Kerman Province General Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a two-day national meeting on "International Judicial Cooperation" with specific emphasis on the "Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition. A senior public prosecutor from Switzerland, a renowned Iranian law professor, and a senior member of Iranian Interpol Criminal Investigation Division were among the facilitators to the meeting.

The event was made possible thanks to the generous funding of the Government of Japan to the UNODC Iran Country Partnership Programme (2015-2019).

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for seventy judges and public prosecutors as well as senior provincial judiciary authorities from different cities of Kerman Province to become familiarize and upgrade their knowledge of international Judicial Cooperation, Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition.

In the course of the working sessions, a number of subjects were presented, followed by an interactive

brainstorming and exchanges of opinion. These included subjects such as: (i) Iran's legislative structure and potentials for international judicial cooperation; (ii) added value of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as legal basis for international cooperation; (iii) concept of criminal judicial assistance and its characteristics; (iv) familiarization with the Interpol; (v) Swiss perspective on Mutual Legal Assistance; (vi) Member States cooperation under the International Conventions; (vii) confidentiality and disclosure of information in formal proceedings; (ix) extradition or pursuit: improving effectiveness of combating crime; (xiii) Swiss perspective on extradition matters; and (xi) familiarization with modalities of International Judicial Cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Tehran meeting on Preventing and Combating Cybercrime

I.R. OF IRAN

26 – 27 July 2017, Tehran. UNODC Iran organized a meeting on the prevention and combating of cybercrime involving 140 Iranian participants from senior and junior experts level from a number of counterparts including: Iranian Cyber police, Iranian INTERPOL, various units of Iran Police Force, members of executive branch - Presidential Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, and academia. The International participants from foreign missions in Tehran included: Afghanistan, Australia, Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and Turkey. The Ambassador of Japan, Ambassador of Australia, and the Ambassador of Thailand were also present at the event.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on Legal and International Affairs joined and opened the meeting in Tehran along with the Ambassador of Japan, Chief Cyber Police, Islamic Republic of Iran, and UNODC Iran.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the Deputy Minister, the Ambassadors of Japan, Australia, and Thailand, Chief of Iran's Cyber Police, and UNODC Iran had a side meeting where various subjects on interest including UNODC activities and mandates in Iran were discussed. Both the Deputy Minister and the Ambassador of Japan stated their satisfaction to UNODC Iran and Iran's Office work and programme. Special appreciation was also conveyed to Government of Japan for funding our Iran programme and the event in question.

The meeting was an interactive event particularly during the Q&A sessions between Iranian participants and foreign speakers who came to Tehran from Japan, Romania, South Korea, Thailand, and UNODC ROSEAP. At the closure, UNODC also informed the floor and Iranian counterparts on the plan for holding another cybercrime regional meeting in close cooperation with the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and UNODC Vienna in the 4th quarter of 2017.



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National meeting on Mutual Legal Assistance and Judicial Cooperation

I.R. OF IRAN

3 – 4 May 2017, Tabriz. UNODC Iran and Iranian Judiciary jointly organized a national meeting on 'International Judicial Cooperation on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition'. The event was made possible thanks to the generous funding of Government of Japan to the UNODC Iran Country Partnership Programme.

UNODC Vienna Division for Treaty Affairs closely cooperated with UNODC Iran and facilitated participation of two crime prevention and criminal justice senior legal experts to the event. A senior public prosecutor from Switzerland, and Head of Iranian Interpol Criminal Investigation Division were among the facilitators of Tabriz meeting. Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Legal Department assisted UNODC Iran in launching the Tabriz meeting.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for seventy five judges and public prosecutors of East Azerbaijan Province to become familiarized and upgrade their knowledge about the principles of International Judicial Cooperation on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition, with specific emphasis on the UNTOC convention.

During the course of the two days meeting a number of sessions were held followed by lively discussion and exchange of national and international experiences. The covered topics included (i) the extend of legislative potentials of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regards to

international judicial cooperation; (ii) UNTOC convention landmark achievements: opportunities for international community cooperation against transnational organized crime; (iii) familiarization with the global role of Interpol and Iranian Interpol positioning and tasks; (iv) international cooperation in gathering electronic evidence and basic tips for investigators and prosecutors. Methodology and examples of requesting electronic and digital data; and evidence from third jurisdictions; (v) Iranian national perspective on mutual legal assistance; (vi) mutual legal assistance: how to devise solutions and overcome obstacles; (vi) familiarization with the 'UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool'; (vii) confidentiality and disclosure of information in formal proceedings; (viii) roles and mandates of 'Judicial Central Authority' in different member states; and (iv) modalities of international judicial cooperation by the Iranian judiciary.



Implementation of the UN Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

UZBEKISTAN

28 July 2017, Tashkent. With the memory of Nelson Mandela in mind, who himself spent 27 years of his life in prison, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in December 2015 as 'the Nelson Mandela Rules'. The rules resulted from five years of inter-governmental consultations, and represent a landmark harmonization of the original version (1955) with international law and good prison management practices.

UNODC established the 'Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules' to provide an informal and open-ended network of like-minded Member States who have joined forces to promote the practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, to facilitate expert consultations, and to support prison reform initiatives.

General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan in partnership with UNODC Regional Office in Central Asia conducted the roundtable on implementation of the UN Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners to promote

humane conditions of imprisonment and to value the work of prison staff. The event gathered 70 participants from Tashkent and more than 100 participants from five regions of Uzbekistan through the video conferencing. Discussion focused specifically on reduction of the scope of imprisonment, prison conditions, rehabilitation programmes in prisons and post-release services aimed to ensure, as much as possible, that prisoners are willing and able to lead law-abiding lives upon release.

Representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office, National Centre on Human Rights and Ombudsman's Office reiterated Uzbekistan commitment in applying the Mandela Rules, implementation of penal reform, revision of relevant legislation, procedures, policies and practices in line with the Rules. Participants agreed that the revised Nelson Mandela Rules provide the significant momentum to work together to preserve human dignity in prisons, thereby making a real difference for prisoners, prison staff and society at large.



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The Kyrgyz Republic joins the UNODC GLO.ACT

KYRGYZSTAN

31 May 2017, Bishkek. The GLO.ACT of the UNODC was launched today in Kyrgyz Republic. The GLO.ACT aims to support 13 countries in planning and implementing strategic national counter trafficking and counter smuggling efforts through prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership.

Deputy Chairperson of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, emphasized: "Trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants are priority issues on the Government's agenda, which have given an impulse to the development of a strategic framework, such as the new 2017-2020 National Action Plan on Countering Trafficking in Persons of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Migration Policy Framework 2030."

Through its assistance to government, the GLO.ACT

will also provide benefit to civil society organizations as well as victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants directly. There are six key responses included in the project: strategy and policy development; legislative assistance; capacity building; regional and trans-regional cooperation; protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants; and assistance and support to children among victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants.

The GLO.ACT is a four-year (2015-2019), €11 million joint initiative by the European Union and the UNODC. The project is being implemented in partnership with the IOM and the UNICEF and reaches thirteen countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD

UNODC trains NGOs' staff for pilots of drug use prevention among at risk youth and women

I.R OF IRAN

2 August, 2017, Tehran. UNODC in collaboration with the Iran conducted 3 consecutive training workshops for experts from 8 NGOs on drug prevention among Iranian and Afghan youth and women at risk from 25 July to 2 August 2017. Aimed at re-instigating pilots among these at risk populations, this 7-day training workshop was conducted with the gracious financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Initially conducted to increase the capacity of the selected NGOs for piloting the two earlier translated and developed training packages for the two at risk populations in the coming months, the main goal of the training was to acquaint those in the field with the intricate contents, the psychological theories base of the packages together with methods and approaches that have proved to be the most effective.

The seven selected NGOs shall implement the mentioned drug prevention pilots in Tehran, Shahriyar, Mashhad and Bushehr funded by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The first three days of the training envisaged to familiarize the participants with the principles of drug prevention and reviewed, together with the participants, facilitation and other training techniques. Moreover, it imparted an overview of the contents and the methodologies applied in the training packages. In the next four days, the

participating NGO experts had the opportunity to practice the delivery of training according to the selected training packages. This was thought simply as a simulation of what participants are about to face as trainers for the upcoming months in the field. It rendered the opportunity to practice the methods and demonstrate how the experts are qualified in a supporting teaching environment.

The trainings contributed to making the trainers more comfortable with the envisaged tasks under the pilots with the hopes of achieving drug prevention goals in the implementation in the upcoming months. "I found the training very practical and now feel much more confident for leading youth and women drug prevention training groups in my centre," said one of the participants at the end of the training.





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Drug Use Prevention: International standards and evaluation methods

KAZAKHSTAN

10 July 2017, Almaty. Three days training workshop was held to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The workshop was organized within the UNODC Programme for Central Asia and aimed to introduce the participants with UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, develop knowledge and skills among prevention professionals to design, implement and evaluate evidence based drug prevention programmes for children and youth.

32 experts from 16 regions of Kazakhstan participated in the workshop representing education, health, law enforcement as well as civil society sectors. Participants were introduced to evidence based prevention intervention and policies, as well as how to monitor and evaluate prevention activities. During the workshop the participants also worked on improvement of country responses to drug prevention targeting the prenatal, infancy, early childhood and middle childhood age groups, early adolescence, adolescence and adulthood age groups.

Workshop participants have identified several areas in national drug prevention system that requires improvement. Specifically issues related to ensuring adequate financial and human resources, provision of training and supportive regulatory framework have been identified as key priorities for the country.



National Mobilization Week against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking in Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN

9-14 July, 2017, Kabul. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) declared the 2nd week of July as National Mobilization Week against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The GoIRA with support from UNODC, celebrated the week jointly with different events being organized at national and sub-national levels in order to raise public awareness about the dangers associated with drug production and trafficking.

Celebration of the National Mobilization Week against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking begun by a national event organized on 9 July, in Kabul. Over 200 people participated at the event including H.E. second Vice President, ministers, religious scholars, parliamentarians, representatives from national and international organizations and civil society.

UNODC representative for Afghanistan and neighboring countries, covered negative impact of drug abuse and illicit trafficking on health, development, peace and security.

Mobilization events/activities against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking continued up to 14 July. For example, Women Gathering Event against Drugs, organized by Ministry of Women Affairs, during which women from different provinces of Afghanistan participated discussing the evils and dangers associated with drug production, trafficking and use.

Likewise, on 11 July, Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs organized a National Event in Kabul where clerics from different provinces participated announcing that poppy cultivation, production and trafficking is against Islam. Furthermore, a girls cycling race captioned as "Tour De Bamyan" awareness event took place with participants from the Herat, Kabul, Bamyan and Balkh provinces. These events were widely publicized by local media in Afghanistan.



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Countries of Central Asia celebrate World Drug Day

CENTRAL ASIA

26 June 2017. In order to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug use, several events were organized by the governments of Central Asia in cooperation with international organizations and UNODC during the week of the World Drug Day.

Uzbekistan organized drawing competitions for the 7-9 grade students in 15 regions of Uzbekistan. A competition for journalists was also organized to create videos with prevention messages aimed at the young population.

Kyrgyzstan conducted anti-drug information campaigns focusing on this year's main message, the 'Listen First' initiative.

Tajikistan organized several round tables in Dushanbe, Gisar city and in Khorog of Mountain Badakhshan aimed at the youth. Sport and drawing competitions, awareness raising campaigns were also organized at the border areas of Khatlon and other provinces of Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan organized sport games, quizzes, dances and other activities promoting critical thinking, healthy lifestyle and constructive social relationships. UNODC in

collaboration with other UN agencies and NGOs disseminated relative prevention messages.

The overarching theme and message of this year's World Drug Day was the 'Listen First' initiative which is an evidence-based approach that effectively addresses the drug-related behaviour risks threatening children and youth. It focuses at their well-being and their relationship with their families and communities.



UNODC and Kyrgyzstan team up to promote sports for youth crime prevention

KYRGYZSTAN

22 June 2017, Bishkek. UNODC experts met with a range of Government officials and non-state actors in Kyrgyzstan to explore ways to expand cooperation in tackling crime and drug use through using sports. The meetings were an important step towards rolling-out UNODC's global initiative which aims to prevent delinquency among at-risk youth as part of the Doha Declaration Global Programme as well as the Office's 2015-2019 Regional Programme for Central Asia.

The initiative focuses on sports to build resilience of youth by enhancing their life skills and increasing their knowledge of the consequences of crime and drug use. Alongside awareness raising activities, a key part of the work is in the form of a sports-based life skills training curriculum - Line Up Live Up - that is currently being tested in Brazil and South Africa before being piloted in other regions, including Central Asia.

During a meeting with the Deputy Director on Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz State Agency on Youth, Physical Culture and Sports cooperation with UNODC to include life skills training in the day-to-day activities of sports coaches was welcomed.

The implementation of the work was similarly supported by representatives of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education

and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, and the Ministry of Interior. Furthermore, a large number of NGOs working on youth development more broadly, and the Football Federation briefed UNODC on their work, which allows the Office to ensure complementarity when planning future activities, and explore partnership opportunities.

In the coming years, several activities are foreseen within this area. Among these are an active engagement of youth as ambassadors for safe and healthy communities as well as large number of youth-oriented sports initiatives in cooperation with partners to promote life skills, civic values, peaceful societies and a culture of lawfulness.

