THE MOU COUNTRIES OF S.E. ASIA

"The once-notorious Golden Triangle has ceased to play a major role as an opium production area and this region can no longer be called the Golden Triangle for the reason of opium production alone."

Antonio Maria Costa (2007)

This Exhibition tells the story of how a group of countries in SE Asia has striven to contain the threat of drug production, trafficking and abuse. They have done so over the past decade and a half, through a pact called the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They have done so with the support of partner countries from the international community and technical assistance from UNODC.

Their story is not over. For while there has been a qualified success in one area of drug control (opiates), a new menace has arrived in the form of synthetic drugs (ATS). The group has now turned its energy and resolve to address this new challenge with the support of its partners.
HOW IT ALL STARTED

One-and-a-half decades ago on the 26th of October 1993 representatives of the Governments of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand sat down for a meeting with the Executive Director of UNDCP (now UNODC).

They had gathered on the sidelines of General Assembly meetings with a small group of other officials to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control.

The group later raised their glasses in a toast to the future of cooperation among the Governments and the United Nations to deal with the rising tide of illicit drug problems in South East Asia.

This is the story of some of the enduring success in drug control which the M.O.U. has delivered since that time...
1995 - more countries

A Protocol to the MOU was signed in Beijing, China in 1995. This was done to include Cambodia and Vietnam as new Members of the MOU.

2001 - greater ownership

The "Addendum on Partnership" was signed in 2001. By signing the document, MOU partners pledged to assume a more active and protagonist role in the subregional consultation process as well as in the implementation of the rolling Sub-regional Action Plan.

In addition, the MOU member countries became contributors themselves, by funding the projects implemented within the MOU framework -- on top of their existing in-kind contributions.
MOU PRIORITIES

THE SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PLAN
The Sub-Regional Action Plan (SAP) is the very engine of the MOU process. The SAP is primarily implemented through clearly-defined projects addressing specific problems and operational weaknesses. The project activities build the legal, institutional and operational capacities of member governments.

The implementation of the SAP is ensured through the project **Support for MOU partnership in East Asia**, which includes an unprecedented financial contribution from the MOU members.

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**Support for MOU Partnership Project, 5%**

**ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, 4%**

**DEMAND REDUCTION, 21%**

**DRUGS AND HIV/AIDS, 4%**

**INT’L COOPERATION ON JUDICIAL MATTERS, 5%**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT, 61%**

$26m
MOU PARTNERS

1993 - 2009
A commitment from the Sub-Region's partners...

...to address the multiple threats of drugs
Southeast Asia's opium poppy reduction successes have been built upon decades of successful alternative development work in rural communities. This success has been marked by the effective elimination of illicit opium production in Viet Nam (in 2000) and Thailand (in 2003). In the year 2005, Lao PDR was declared opium-free. Until recently, Myanmar had also witnessed a continuous decline of opium production.

RESULT:
Once notorious as heroin's Golden Triangle. Now a limited problem, concentrated in one region (Shan State), of one country (Myanmar).

A PROBLEM CONTAINED...

- Opium in South East Asia:
  1990 = 1,800 tons
  2008 = 424 tons

- As percentage of global opium production:
  1990 = 50%
  1998 = 33%
  2008 = 5%

...BUT NOT RESOLVED

- Recent increase in cultivation
- Poverty still endemic to former opium-producing regions
- Food insecurity continues
- Opium prices are rising
- Risk of resurgence
- Drug addiction continues in growing areas
- Opium production still undermines attainment of Millennium Development Goals

Photos and graphics: UNODC/Illlicit Crop Monitoring Programme and UNODC/Huam Noan Hssem
2009: WITH SUPPORT...

Significant progress has been achieved in reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region in recent decades. Overall, opium poppy cultivation has been contained. Some of the key elements in the success have been:
- Longer-term vision - no quick fixes
- Active involvement of beneficiaries
- Sequencing + timing + sufficiency of assistance.

The fundamental concept of crop replacement:
Help opium poppy growers to grow useful crops and they will stop growing opium poppy.

Tea plantation in Selu of Shan State (Myanmar)
Sunflowers plantation (Myanmar)
Coffee plantation (Thailand)
Cabbage cropping (Thailand)

2009: NO SUPPORT...

Yet, much remains to be done as former poppy farmers remain poor and vulnerable. Poverty alleviation and sustainable licit income generation should continue to be the main goals of sustainable development, with food security and income generation programmes to support farmers. Political commitment, long-term financial support, in-country support, people’s participation, market access, and the "balanced approach" are crucial factors for success.

The cultivation of opium poppy is contained but it needs to be monitored especially in the Shan State (Myanmar).
From regional Initiative...

E-learning has been defined at the "structured, purposeful use of electronic systems or computers in support of the learning process". The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok has become a global centre for excellence in e-learning. The Centre provides advisory services in the planning and implementation of e-learning projects to law enforcement authorities throughout the world.

THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

The first UNODC Computer Based Training (CBT) project started in the Greater Mekong Sub-region in 1998. The first countries to benefit were those in and around the Golden Triangle. The early training courses delivered drugs training to combat illegal drug trafficking. The training consisted of detection techniques and profiling methods at airports, seaports and border crossings. It also included search techniques relating to vehicles, containers, aircraft and people.

200 CENTRES IN EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

Later, the training programme was extended to other parts of the region. Training centres were set up in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and 5 countries in the Pacific. At present there are more than 200 centres in the East Asia and Pacific region delivering training to many thousands of law enforcement personnel.
...to global success

The training programme is in great demand and UNODC is now delivering CBT curriculum in 52 countries, in 18 languages and via 300 CBT centres GLOBALLY.

EXPANSION: Police officers in Indonesia undergoing training. CBT programme expanded beyond the original group of SE Asian countries in 2004.

As a result of its accomplishments, the CBT project has been given the prestigious UN 21 AWARD for "substantial programmes and individual productivity" to UNODC by the Secretary General of the UN in 2007.

KEY STRENGTHS OF CBT
Sustainable
International best practice
Standardized
Tailored
Cost-effective
Interactive
Available 24 hours

List of CBT modules

1. Introduction Techniques at Land Controls
   1.1. Introduction
   1.2. Risk Assessment
   1.3. Risk Profiling
   1.4. Questioning
   1.5. Subterfuge Indicators
   1.6. Selection Methods
   1.7. Preliminary Observations
   1.8. Document Analysis
   1.9. Cargo Risk Indicators
   1.10. Body Carry
   1.11. Passport Review
   1.12. Conclusions

2. Introduction Techniques at Airports
   2.1. Introduction
   2.2. Risk Assessment
   2.3. Risk Profiling
   2.4. Questioning
   2.5. Subterfuge Indicators
   2.6. Selection Methods
   2.7. Restoring Airline Tickets
   2.8. Removing Passports
   2.9. Body Carry
   2.10. Baggage Indicators
   2.11. Cargo Risk Indicators
   2.12. Conclusions

3. Introduction Techniques at Seaports
   3.1. Introduction
   3.2. Risk Assessment
   3.3. Risk Profiling
   3.4. Selection Methods
   3.5. Questioning
   3.6. Subterfuge Indicators
   3.7. Body Carry
   3.8. Passport Review
   3.9. Preliminary Assessment of Cargo
   3.10. Cargo Crackdown
   3.11. Conclusions

4. Risk Management for Senior Managers
   4.1. Introduction
   4.2. Land Controls
   4.3. Airport Controls
   4.4. Seaport Controls

5. Controlled Deliveries
   5.1. Understanding Controlled Deliveries
   5.2. Planning and Executing Controlled Deliveries

6. Drug Identification
   6.1. Drug Identification

7. Car Search

8. Container Search

9. Search of Persons

10. Aircraft Search

LIST OF ADDITIONAL CBT TOPICS
11.1. Money Laundering
11.2. Tax Evasion Legislation
11.3. Money laundering methods
11.4. The role of traditional financial institutions
11.5. Non-traditional financial institutions
11.6. Money-laundering schemes
11.7. Financial Intelligence Unit
11.8. Financial intelligence
11.9. Financial Records
11.0. Information in the Context of Financial Investigations
11.1. Undercover Operation in Financial Investigations
11.2. Financial
11.3. Financial Operations During Financial Investigations
11.4. Financial Operations
11.5. Financial
11.6. Financial
11.7. Financial
11.8. Financial
11.9. Financial
11.0. Financial

LIST OF ADDITIONAL CBT TOPICS
12. Intelligence

12.1. Introduction to Basic Intelligence
12.2. Application of Intelligence
12.3. The Intelligence Cycle
12.4. Introduction to Basic Intelligence Analysis
12.5. The Association Matrix
12.6. The Association Matrix
12.7. The Power Play
12.8. The Power Play
12.9. The Power Play

13. Financial Investigations

13.1. Financial Investigations
13.2. Financial Investigations
13.3. Financial Investigations
13.4. Financial Investigations
13.5. Financial Investigations
13.6. Financial Investigations
13.7. Financial Investigations
13.8. Financial Investigations
13.9. Financial Investigations
13.0. Financial Investigations
BORDER LIAISON OFFICES

WHAT ARE THEY?
A Border Liaison Office (BLO) is a co-ordinating office for national law enforcement agencies which facilitates and promotes greater cross-border cooperation among the four countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region who signed a Memorandum of Understanding on drug control in 1993.

BEFORE:
This picture shows an example of how the communication among border officials was absent or used to be channeled through central national authorities.

ACTIONS
Intelligence/Information
Follow up actions
Drug seizures
Traffickers
Drug trends
Concealment methods

Country A
Country B

CCDAC
Myanmar

Narco Police
Border Police
Customs
Local Police
Immigration
CID

Military
Intelligence
Narco Police
Customs
Local Police
Immigration
CID

BLO
BLO
BLO
BLO

AFTER:
This picture shows the improvement in communication and cooperation created through the BLOs mechanism.

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UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Cambodia
China
Lao PDR
Myanmar
Thailand
Vietnam
WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

BLOs promote communication and cooperation between different national law enforcement agencies working along a common border. They also foster greater cross-border law enforcement cooperation through the sharing of real-time information on drug traffickers to enable fast and effective intervention by law enforcement officers on the other side of the border. BLO counterparts meet on a regular basis to both formally and informally exchange intelligence. Periodically, regional BLO workshops are held to disseminate the latest modus operandi of traffickers and the trafficking routes.

Located close to recognized border crossings, the BLO on each side of the national border acts as a centralized clearing house for information received from the vicinity of border areas. Currently, this information relates to drug trafficking only.

- 11 BLOs (2007-present) Established with UNODC support.
- 18 BLOs (2007-present)

These were established through bilateral agreement between the Governments of Thailand/Cambodia and Thailand/Lao PDR.
BLO RESULTS (1999-2005)

Because of cooperation among BLOs, more than 700 cases have been registered in the region. These have often been accompanied by large seizures. Here are a few examples of some of the larger successes.

2001
Drug seizures in China
In May 2001, Chinese police at Mengla launched a joint operation with their Lao PDR counterparts. During a 2-month operation, 17 suspects, including 5 Lao PDR nationals and 14.5 kg of morphine was seized by China and Lao PDR police.

2004
ATS haul at Thai-Cambodia border
In 2004, cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia (Aranyaprathet-Poi Pet) led to the seizure of 15,800 tablets of ATS and 2,144 bottles of ketamine.

2005
Han Yongwan syndicate busted
In 2005, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand police jointly broke the “Han Yongwan” transnational drug syndicate with the seizure of more than 400 kg of heroin. By the end of 2006, China, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam had carried out almost 100 joint operations, in the border areas. More than 800 kg of heroin, methamphetamine and various illicit drugs were arrested during the joint operations.

Handover of Han Yongwan from Lao authorities to Myanmar authorities at Vientiane, Lao PDR in September 2005.
BLO RESULTS (2006-2008)

Improved trust and working relations among the six GMS countries result in more seizures, arrests and convictions of drug traffickers.

2006
Chiang Rai drugs raid
In May 2006 a coordinated effort by Myanmar and Thai law enforcement agencies led to the arrest of two notorious drug traffickers. They were arrested at Chiang Rai with 20,000 amphetamine tablets and 1,000 ecstasy tablets. Further joint investigations led to the recovery of a vehicle containing 80,000 amphetamine tablets.

Random check by border police for drug trafficking at the northern Thai border (around the same time as the 2006 raid).

2007
Crackdown on drugs at Lao PDR - Viet Nam border
Seven cases were solved during 2007 as a result of cooperation between Lak Sao (Lao PDR) and Cau Treo (Viet Nam). Nine offenders were arrested with over 1,000 kg of cannabis and 488 tablets of methamphetamines. By 2008, 16 cases had been solved at the same BLOs leading to the arrest of 23 offenders.

Cross-border meeting between Cau Treo BLO (Viet Nam) and LaK Sao BLO (Lao PDR)

2008
Myanmar steps up action on drug trafficking
Between January and October 2008 the Tachilek BLO in Myanmar registered 11 cases of opiates, 27 cases of methamphetamine (83,000 tablets) and a seizure of 6kg of crystal methamphetamine (ice), among other drugs and precursors.

Seizure of precursors
Precursor control is a strategy to reduce the availability of narcotic drugs by preventing illicit drug manufacturers from obtaining the chemicals they require to manufacture them. Through the MOU, an effective precursor control strategy has been established for East and SE Asia.

**SUCCESS IN 1994-2008**

**1994-1996**  
Project RAS/770-990: Sensitizes East/Southwest Asian countries about the need to control precursors and initiate precursor control measures.

**1996-2000**  
Project RAS/B38: Improves the ability to counter precursor diversion and trafficking.

**2001-2006**  
Project RAS/F34: Prepares national plans to strengthen precursor control, mobilizes the chemical industry, enhances regional cooperation among MOU countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines to prevent shipments of illicit precursors, and investigate clandestine laboratories.

**2006-2008**  
Project XAPI63: Reduces risk of safrrole-oil diversion, forges cooperation between oil producing, trading and importing countries in the region.
In 1998, United Nations Member States adopted a Political Declaration to Eliminate or Significantly Reduce Illicit Drug Abuse by 2008. Monitoring progress toward this goal requires reliable and systematic drug-related data that was unavailable at that time. As a response to this need, UNODC, in collaboration with regional governments, undertook to harmonize regional drug data collection and analysis in East and SE Asia.

**APAIC:**
Sharing ATS information on-line through a customer-friendly clearing house www.apaic.org

**QUALITY REPORTS:**
Producing annually on ATS for the first time anywhere

**dainap:**
Providing a user-friendly platform for regional drug information ex-change

Increasing capacity to generate drug-related information
DATA GATHERING & ANALYSIS

PROBLEM:
The use of synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) like methamphetamine and ecstasy, has been one of the most significant drug problems worldwide in recent years. ATS abuse has affected societies in East and SE Asia particularly harshly.

SOLUTION:
As a response to the synthetic drug problem, UNODC has developed the Global SMART programme. This programme will enhance the capacity of Member States and authorities in priority regions (starting in East and SE Asia) to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information to design effective policy and programme interventions.

PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO SYNTHETIC DRUGS MARKETS:
1. Production does not depend on raw plant material.
2. There are a variety of starting materials and manufacturing processes.
3. Production is mobile.
4. Trafficking routes and use patterns change rapidly.
5. Market chain from supply to demand is often very short, which limits the possibility of interdiction.

THE GLOBAL SMART PROGRAMME:
1. Started in East and SE Asia.
2. Provides quality information on synthetic drugs, including patterns of trafficking and use.
3. Provides support to Member States to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information.
4. Provides mechanisms to detect and report on emerging trends.
A SUCCESS STORY OF COOPERATION

Since 2001, methamphetamine and some 'ecstasy' laboratories have been reported in China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Clandestine laboratories in SE Asia are often large-scale facilities capable of industrial-scale manufacture. Notable developments in detecting laboratories were observed in 2007, with larger numbers of seizures in China and Indonesia, including the first time large-scale manufacture seized in Cambodia.

First clan lab identified in Cambodia (2007) in the back of a cattle farm

CAMBODIA (2007)

One of the most remarkable drug operations within the MOU countries took place near to Phnom Penh. In a cattle ranch, the Anti-Drug Department identified a methamphetamine clandestine laboratory. Test results conducted by the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) in the laboratory indicated that about 30 kg of substances in buckets were chloroephedrine, an intermediate in the synthesis of methamphetamine.

Drug production equipment seized in the clan lab

To assist in the Government’s efforts in follow up investigations and action, the NACD requested technical assistance from UNODC Regional Centre and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

NACD also requested assistance in disposing large quantities of hazardous substances. The results of the cooperation were:

- accelerated steps to ensure the safe disposal of chemicals at the lab site;
- regional and international support to assist NACD in the safe disposal of the dismantled lab.

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Cambodia  China  Lao PDR  Myanmar  Thailand  Viet Nam
THAILAND: 100 Years of Drug Control

1909
First International Opium Convention

1912
Signature International Opium Convention

1950s
Golden Triangle becomes a significant source of illicit opium

1969
HM the King of Thailand establishes the Royal Projects Foundation

1971
Thailand and UN sign agreement to carry out first crop replacement program in the world through Royal Projects Foundation

1988
HMH the Princess Mother initiates the Dai Tong Development Project

1991
The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is established in Vienna

1998
Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA0) to strengthen Member States’ efforts to reduce demand and supply of drugs

2008
Review of the progress made towards meeting UNODC/1 objectives

Adopt Thailand initiated EC0000 Resolution 2008/000 Promoting Sustainability Integrity in Alternative Development as an Important Part of Drug Control Strategy in Matte Mines and Opium Growers’ Welfare through Drug

International Convention on Opium
Signed at The Hague
January 20, 1912

Being desirous to take one step further in the way marked out by the International Convention at The Hague in 1912,

...
THAILAND: Reducing drug demand through Edutainment

Origins of the Opium Problem

Opium as a Commodity in International Trade

A new method of consumption by smoking, and the rise in European dominated international trade contributed to the rapid spread of recreational opium use. It became a key commodity in European trade with the East.

The Industrial Revolution in Britain in the mid-1700s radically changed international consumption and trade patterns. Two important "triangles" of trade developed: one between Britain, Africa, and the Americas; the other between Britain, India, and China. Every aspect of the trade favored Britain or other industrialized countries, all except trade with China. Money flowed from the West into China... until the opium trade reversed the flow of silver.

The Rise and Fall of the Golden Triangle

In 1971, a U.S. official first used the term "Golden Triangle" to describe the opium growing areas of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand. The name soon stuck.

Opium trade fueled instability and drug addiction in the region, but by the end of the 20th Century, due to effective policies against illegal cultivation through alternative development, the world saw significant reduction in opium cultivation in the Golden Triangle. While demand for opium continues, in recent years, the demand effect has shifted illegal opium cultivation to the Golden Crescent.

Drug Abuse and Addiction in the 21st Century

International agreements permit the legal production of opium in India, Turkey, and Australia for a wide range of pharmaceutical drugs based on morphine and codeine. Legal morphine use increased from an estimated 5.8 metric tons in 1988 to over 39 metric tons in 2007 providing much-needed pain relief for patients. Yet even this is dwarfed by illegal opium production. In 1999, an estimated 5,760 metric tons of opium at 376 metric tons of heroin were produced... over half from the Golden Triangle. By 2007, an estimated 8,875 metric tons of illegal opium, which can produce 7,723 metric tons of heroin, were grown. Over 90 percent of that came from Afghanistan. The effects are devastating. More than 16 million people worldwide are addicted to opiate.

While efforts in the region to control opium growing and opium addiction have met with considerable success, new drugs - notably methadone and buprenorphine - have become a serious problem. Many new types of drugs and the wider range of prices also continue to move beyond their initial capability. Our children are increasingly at risk. Education is a key tool for demand reduction showing the ramifications of illegal drug use on individuals, their families and society, through creative and interactive means. It is necessary to teach future generations the dangers of narcotics, to help them avoid drug abuse and addiction, thereby curbing the demand. Younger generations must be able to be charged their future and opium a new way forward.