Amphetamine-type stimulants world-wide

The Global S.M.A.R.T. Programme:

Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends

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Side event at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
10 March 2010
Focus: Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS)

**Two Groups:**

(i) *amphetamines-group* substances include predominately amphetamine (including fake *Captagon*) methamphetamine – in various forms used different ways.

(ii) *Ecstasy-group* substances include MDMA (and its analogues) and substances containing or thought to contain MDMA – in various forms used different ways.
The Global S.M.A.R.T. Programme:

Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends
Global SMART Programme

The need for action against amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)

Beate Hammond, Global SMART Manager
Illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants

- a complex problem
Illicit manufacture of ATS: Not dependent on cultivation of plant raw materials
Cultivation of coca leaf restricted to one region
Most of the world’s opium and heroin is manufactured in a handful of countries
ATS can be manufactured everywhere and continues to spread
Map 18: Member States reporting ATS-related manufacture* since 1990

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data / DELTA; Government reports; UNODC, Global SMART Update 2009, Volume 1 (March); Amphetamines and Ecstasy: 2008 Global ATS Assessment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.12).

- **Red**: At least one incident of ATS-related manufacture activity
- **Light Blue**: No record of any incidents

*Includes attempts thwarted by law enforcement
More than 60 Counties have reported manufacture—including new often remote locations

Map 18: Member States reporting ATS-related manufacture* since 1990

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data / DELTA; Government reports; UNODC, Global SMART Update 2009, Volume 1 (March); Amphetamines and Ecstasy: 2008 Global ATS Assessment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.12).
The number of laboratories outside United States increases

Source: UNODC, World Drug Report 2009
ATS abuse-an under-recognized phenomenon
Amphetamine users outnumber users of opiate and cocaine combined – between 15-51 million (last 12 months).

Fig. 102: Estimated amphetamines-group users in the past year by region, 2007

Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire; Government reports; reports of regional bodies; and UNODC estimates.

Source: UNODC, World Drug Report 2009
Experts report use up in emerging economies

Amphetamines-group use trends in developed and developing countries 1998-2007
ATS Treatment Demand* Grows Globally

- Asia: 22% (1997/98: 12%)
- Oceania: 20% (1997/98: 13%)
- North America: 16% (1997/98: 5%)
- Europe: 11% (1997/98: 8%)
- South America: 12% (1997/98: 2%)
- Africa: 5% (1997/98: 3%)

*Unweighted per cent of total treatment, Annual Reports Questionnaires
ATS -
an under-reported phenomenon
Reporting on ATS is a treaty obligation under the United Nations drug control Conventions.
Many Member States face significant difficulties gathering and using data: a problem of capacity
Reporting of Annual Report Questionnaires (ARQ) Part III, Illicit supply of drugs, for the year 2007

ARQ reporting
- ARQ substantially filled in
- ARQ partially filled in
- No data available or no ARQ received
Very limited data available on ATS abuse

- Only 65 countries have an estimate in the past ten years of the prevalence of ATS use in the general population or among school/university-aged young people.
- Some very populous countries have no estimate at all.
- This reduces the capacity to make evidence-based drug-control related decisions.
Member States face considerable obstacles

- Lack of independent alternative data sources
- Lack of accurate/consistent reporting
- Outdated and incomplete data
SMART Priority Regions

Phase 1

SMART operations:
strategic and flexible capacity building ready to scale-up
Capacity building where and how it is needed

Ensuring and enhancing Information flow
Global SMART Programme: Implementation in East Asia

Deepika Naruka, Regional Programme Coordinator (East Asia)  
Global SMART Programme
Structure of presentation

• Background
• Overview – SMART in East Asia
• Emerging concerns and case studies
ATS trends in E/SE Asia

• ATS USERS: approx ½ in East and SE Asia

• ATS SEIZURES: just under ½ global methamphetamine seizures in E/SE Asia

Use reported: 5 countries

Increasing: 4 (China, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam)

Stable: 1 (Lao PDR (stable after an increasing trend for past five years))

Source: DAINAP
Methamphetamine pills: seizures (2004-2009*)

* 2009 data are preliminary and likely to be revised (likely increase).
Note: Seizures from Australia and New Zealand are not included.

• 2008: Total seizures 32 million (approx.) (70% in Thailand)
• 2007-2008 – Increasing (26%)

Source: DAINAP
Crystalline methamphetamine: Use trend (2004-2008)

Use reported: 12 States
Increasing: 6
- China
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

Decreasing: 4
- Australia
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Rep. of Korea

Stable: 2
- Brunei Darussalam
- New Zealand

Source: DAINAP
Crystalline meth seizures (2004-2008)

* 2009 data are preliminary and will to be revised (likely increase).
Note: Seizures from Australia and New Zealand are not included.

- **2008**: Total seizures 8.3 metric tons (approx.) (66% in China)
- **2007-2008** – Increasing (13.7%)

Source: DAINAP
UNODC Global S.M.A.R.T. Programme

**Objective:** Member States are able to make effective evidence based decisions to counter the problem of synthetic drugs

**Outcome 1:** Generate and manage information on ATS.

**Outcome 2:** Drug information analysed and reported on at national, regional and global level.

**Outcome 3:** ATS information is used by countries for evidence-based policy and strategic/tactical interventions.
Structure of presentation

- Background

- Overview – SMART in East Asia

- Emerging concerns and case studies
SMART priority regions

SMART Priority Regions
Phase 1

SMART Phase 1 support
Australia
Japan
Rep. of Korea
New Zealand
Thailand
Brunei
Cambodia
China
Indonesia
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Viet Nam
Analysis and reporting - data with integrity

1. Data collection
   On-going drug data collection through the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific

2. Data integrity process
   - Review I - Identifying data entry errors and reporting gaps by cross-checking earlier data and between data sets
   - Review II - Cross-checking with secondary sources and identifying discrepancies using official reports, presentations, web-sites, studies and media
   - Communication - Dialog with national counterparts, consolidating and verifying reported data

3. Analysis
   Analysis of verified data by the project team

4. Dissemination of data
   - Project report - Patterns and Trends in ATS and Other Drugs of Abuse in East Asia and the Pacific
   - Clearinghouse - www.apaic.org
   - Workshops and annual meetings

SMART mechanisms
Timeline 2009

- Consultations
- Planning start-up
- SMART Global Update
- Briefing to CND
- Advisory Group meeting
- 2009 Regional ATS Assessment design begins
- DAINAP data collection begins

2008

1. Programme Consultation
2. Programme approval
3. Launch of SMART plus ATS report
Timeline 2009

- Global ATS Update 2
- 2009 Regional ATS Trends and Patterns
- National workshop: Myanmar
- National workshop: Philippines
- National workshop: Cambodia
- Scale-up to other regions begins

Event Timeline:
- Oct: HONLEA Bali
- Nov: 2009 Regional ATS Trends and Patterns
- Nov: National workshop: Philippines
- Dec: National workshop: Cambodia
- Dec: Scale-up to other regions begins
Workshop outcomes – identification of needs

Law enforcement

Health and treatment

Forensics
Timeline 2010

Data collection and analysis

Data integrity process

Discussions with country focal agencies

Capacity building through TOTs, CBTs and Expert Consultations

Regional report and National briefs

Participatory programme development: Regional Workshop: National meetings: e-consultations

Ongoing activities
Timeline 2010: Jan - Apr

- Feb
  - National workshop reports
  - Discussions: country support time-lines
  - Donor Brief I
  - Global ATS Update 3
  - CND and SMART side-event
  - Myanmar health data collection workshop
- Mar
  - APAIC re-launch
  - Country paper: Myanmar
  - Forensic Alert
  - Cambodia National Workshop
- Apr
  - UNFLOC
  - Capacity building of counterparts
  - Discussions Myanmar
  - Myanmar health data collection workshop
Structure of presentation

• Background

• Overview – SMART in East Asia

• Emerging concerns and case studies
Detailed assessment:
• East and South-East Asia

Overviews:
• South Asia
• The Pacific Island States

Country reports: 15

Published: November 2009
Emerging Concerns

- Diversification of manufacturing trends
- Development – Infrastructure
- Impact of internal security – governance
- Emergence of new markets
- Drug-crime-environment linkages
- Health impact – treatment, IDU-HIV risk
- Data limitations
Emerging Concerns

DEVELOPMENT - INFRASTRUCTURE

• Transportation and economic liberalization in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).
Infrastructure and trade liberalization

What are the driving factors?

- Export oriented growth strategies
- Inter-regional competitive pressure
- Trade liberalization
- Poverty reduction – Millennium development goals
GMS Economic Corridors Expansion plans 2008-2015

- Economic liberalization and trade facilitation
- Greater volumes
- Containerization
- Export oriented growth strategies
- Inter-regional competitive pressure
- Trade liberalization
- Poverty reduction – MDGs
Infrastructure and trade liberalization

Challenges to be addressed:

• considerable increase in the volume of cross-border cargo and persons over the next decade
• fewer and simplified border inspections, exemption of goods in transit, simplified visa procedures and exchange of traffic rights
• heavy industrialization of towns and villages along transport arteries
• both positive and negative aspects of industrialization - illicit drugs - strain on local government and police
IMPACT OF INTERNAL SECURITY - GOVERNANCE

- Myanmar: Increased movement of drugs across the border.
MYANMAR: Increased movement of drugs across the border.

Political situation in Myanmar: push factor for illicit drugs and relocation of manufacturing sites across Myanmar/Thailand/Lao PDR border

Source: Global ATS Assessment 2008, UNODC, SMART (East Asia) Workshop 2009 and CCDAC
**MYANMAR:** Increased movement of drugs across the border.

**Indicators:** Increasing seizures of methamphetamine pills in Myanmar and neighbouring countries in 2009

* 2009 data are preliminary and consists of Myanmar, China and Thailand only.

**2009:** 56.15 million pills seized in Myanmar and its two neighbours. The seizure in 2009 is predicted to double the seizure in 2008.

Source: DAINAP
EMERGENCE OF NEW MARKETS:

- Indonesia – established ATS market.
- Malaysia – geographically next door – following the pattern of Indonesia?
- Viet Nam – potential major market.
Changing size and sophistication of clandestine operations
Seizure of 978 kg crystalline meth in Rompin, Malaysia, May 2009

Source: Royal Malaysian Police
VIET NAM:
• Potential major market for ATS expansion.

• Meth manufacturers seeking new markets

• Close to established manufacturing areas and trafficking routes

• Large and increasingly affluent population

• Increased trafficking of crystalline methamphetamine
VIET NAM:
- Potential major market for ATS expansion.

### ATS use trend in Viet Nam, 2003 - 2008

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<tr>
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<th>Methamphetamine pills</th>
<th>Ecstasy</th>
<th>Crystalline methamphetamine</th>
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Source: DAINAP
VIET NAM:
- Potential major market for ATS expansion.

Increasing seizures of methamphetamine pills, 2004-2008

Source: DAINAP
Emerging Concerns

**DRUG-CRIME-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES**

- Safrole-rich oils in Cambodia.
SAFROLE-RICH OILS

LICIT USE

- Fragrance and perfume industry
- Pesticide and insecticide
- Traditional medicine
- Food and soft drinks

Also used in the manufacture of the illicit drug MDMA (Ecstasy)

Photos: FFI
SAFROLE-RICH OILS

- Major environmental impact (both forest depletion and pollution when chemicals destroyed)
- Can be used as precursor for ecstasy manufacture
- Cambodia: 35 tonnes of safrole-rich oil seized in 2008; similar trend in first half of 2009

Source: 2008 UNODC and Forest Research Institute Malaysia; ADLOMICO Cambodia presentation, Oct 2009; media reports in 2009
Global SMART Update

Incident or Trend?

Regions and Issues to Watch

Matthew Nice, Research Expert
Global SMART Update
Incident or Trend?
Regions and Issues to Watch
Incident or trend: Changes in the Americas

June 2009 Sinaloa Mexico—49,640 lt of pseudoephedrine containing cough syrup

Proportion of methamphetamine back-track investigations involving pharmaceutical preparations as the chemical precursors for methamphetamine

Source: International Narcotics Control Board, Trafficking in Pharmaceutical Preparations for the Illicit Manufacture of ATS, presented at the 52nd Commission on Narcotic Drugs (March 17, 2009, Vienna).
Incident or trend: Changes in the Americas

- March 2009, 8.5 tons of phenylacetic acid (PAA) seized
- October 2009, Mexico seizes 17 tons of 2-phenylacetamide and 20 tons of sodium phenyl acetate
- P-2-P based product quality lower, but tartaric acid is being used to improve potency
Incident or trend: Changes in the Americas

Source: Policía Nacional de Nicaragua
Incident or trend: Changes in Europe

- In 2007 and 2008 there was no reported European seizures of the typical ecstasy precursor 3,4-MDP2P (PMK)

- Ecstasy (MDMA) tablets seized in Europe declining

- European “ecstasy” club drug products diversifying:
  - increasing piperazine content (particularly m-CPP)
  - fluoroamphetamine,
  - fluoromethcathinone,
  - methylmethcathinone (aka mephedrone)

Source: Google
Incident or trend: Changes in Africa

- West Africa emerges as ecstasy manufacturer July 2009
- Multiple chemical sites in Guinea Conakry inspected jointly INTERPOL/UNODC
- Reaction vessels and other equipment
- 5,390 lt of sassafras oil
- 80 lt 3,4-MDP-2-P
- Source of precursors? Destination of product?

Photos: UNODC
Incident or trend: the Near and Middle East

- Iran (IR) reports multiple “home-made industrial” synthetic laboratories dismantled (October 2009)
- Seizures of methamphetamine rapidly increasing
- In 2008, 3.6% of drug users report using methamphetamine (none reported use in 2004/05)
- Price dropping rapidly
- 2009 report finds 2.4 metric tons of amphetamine and methamphetamine

- Multiple multi-kilo trafficking cases recently emerged from Iran: destination East Asia/ Pacific
Incident or trend: the Pacific Islands

- Polynesia - growing trend of methamphetamine seizures
- Tonga seizes significant amount of methamphetamine
- Methamphetamine drug use high among students in the Pacific Islands

Reported lifetime use of methamphetamine:
- Mariana Islands (CNMI) 4.9%
- Samoa (American) 5.7%
- Guam 5.9%
- Palau 7.1%
- Marshall Islands 13.1%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Nov 2008)

Source: Oceania Customs Organization

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the depictions on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
SMART priority regions—targeted expansion

SMART Priority Regions
Phase 1
Scale-up

SMART Phase 1 investors
Australia
Japan
Republic of Korea
New Zealand
Thailand
Global SMART – some of the accomplishments to date

- Global ATS Assessment, September 2008
- Global SMART Update v1, March 2009
- SMART Advisory Group Meeting, March 2009
- Global SMART programme staffed, July 2009
- Regional East and South-East Asia Workshop, July 2009
Global SMART – some of the accomplishments to date (contd.)

- Global SMART Update v2, October 2009
- East and South-East Asia Regional Report, November 2009
- Global SMART at the SYNDEC4 Conference, November 2009
- Global SMART Update v3, March 2010
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

For more information:
www.apaic.org
www.unodc.org
GlobalSMART@unodc.org