2011 Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs

Asia and the Pacific

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UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
29 November 2011
Presentation Structure

1. Background
2. Key trends – E/SE Asia
3. Effective responses
The Big Picture

“Containment” has worked during past decade

- Number of users level at 4.5% adult population
- Opiate cultivation declines globally
- Coca/cocaine declines globally
- Cultivation is limited to a few countries
- ATS use stabilizes across globe

WARNING SIGNS

- SE Asia: resurgence of opium cultivation
- SE Asia: soaring production, trafficking, use of ATS
What are Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS)?

- Amphetamine
- Methamphetamine
- Methcathinone
- Ecstasy-group substances (MDMA and its analogues)
DEMAND: ATS attraction

- Affordable
- Perceived to enhance performance and communication
- Perceived as not being very harmful
- Associated with a modern and dynamic lifestyle – occupational use
SUPPLY dynamics

• Unlike plant-based drugs, can be manufactured anywhere
• Variety of precursor chemicals
• Labs close to markets
• No longer a “cottage” industry – links to TOC groups
GLOBAL TRENDS

• After cannabis – ATS #2 most widely used illicit drug globally

• 14-57 million people aged 15-64 used ATS in 2009-2010

• 0.3% - 1.3% world adult population
S – synthetics
M – monitoring:
A – analyses,
R – reporting and
T – trends
A. Detailed assessment:
• Regional Level
• East and Southeast Asia
  Country Level – 15 reports
  • Australia
  • Brunei
  • Cambodia
  • China
  • Indonesia
  • Japan
  • Lao PDR
  • Malaysia
  • Myanmar
  • New Zealand
  • Philippines
  • Rep. of Korea
  • Singapore
  • Thailand
  • Viet Nam

B. Overviews:
• South Asia
• Pacific Island States/territories
Funding support for SMART

• Australia
• Canada
• Japan
• Republic of Korea
• New Zealand
• Thailand
Presentation Structure

1. Background
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ATS threat in SE Asia

- ATS: main illicit drugs threat in East and South-East Asia
- E / SE Asia = ½ world’s meth seizures
- E / SE Asia = ½ world’s ATS users
ATS threat in Indonesia

- Indonesian Government ranks crystal meth (*shabu*) as primary drug of concern in 2010 for the first time
- ATS users account for 44% of all persons in treatment in 2010 (up from 12% in 2009)
- ATS use expanding among women
- Continuing high levels of ATS manufacture
- TOC groups led by Chinese, Iranians and Africans continue to traffic ATS and other drugs into Indonesia
- Half of all IDUs infected with HIV
### 1. ATS rank in top 3 drugs in the region

...for the second consecutive year

#### Methamphetamine pills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Brunei</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Lao PDR</th>
<th>Malaysia</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Singapore</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
<th>Viet Nam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rank</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Score</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Ecstasy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Brunei</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Lao PDR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rank</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Score</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Crystalline methamphetamine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Brunei</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Lao PDR</th>
<th>Malaysia</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Singapore</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
<th>Viet Nam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rank</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Red** = increasing trend
- **Yellow** = stable trend
- **Green** = decreasing trend
- **White** = no trend reported

Source: DAINAP

Note: Numbers denote drugs of concern in ranking order. “1” refers to the top drug of concern as perceived by experts in respective countries. “●” indicates no ranking reported.
2. High levels of ATS manufacture

ATS labs busted in E/SE Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labs</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIVE-FOLD INCREASE

Meth pill press seized outside of Bangkok – Sep 2011
Source: The Nation (Thailand)
2. High levels of ATS manufacture

Methamphetamine pill seizures (2006-2010)

Source: DAINAP
2. High levels of ATS manufacture

Methamphetamine pill seizures (2006-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In millions

Source: DAINAP
3. Methamphetamines: a growing threat

Methamphetamine pill use trend (2010*)

* Or latest available data

Source: DAINAP
3. Methamphetamines: Lao PDR at risk

- Increasing quantities trafficked through the country
- Surrounded by large manufacturers
- Surrounded by large meth markets
- Expanding domestic market
- Remote borderlands, limited law enforcement
- Drug trafficking groups already established in Lao PDR
4. Crystal meth: a growing threat

Crystalline methamphetamine use trend (2010*)

Increasing use in EIGHT countries:

- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

*Or latest available data

Source: DAINAP
4. Crystal meth: a growing threat

Seizures (2006-2010)

- 2010: 6.9 metric tons
- 2009: 4.8 metric tons

Source: DAINAP
5. Shift in precursor sourcing

- Precursors in new physical forms
- Use of non-controlled licit chemicals
- Diversion of pharmaceutical preparations

Sources: ONCB, IDEC 2011
## 5. Shift in precursor sourcing

### Pharmaceutical seizures
(millions of pills containing pseudoephedrine)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: DAINAP; ONCB
6. Transnational Organized Crime groups

Syndicates from Iran

- Seizures started in mid-2009 and continued in 2010 and 2011
- Trafficked directly from Iran or via Europe and/or Middle East to SE Asian countries
- Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are major destinations
- Traffic high purity (99%) and lower cost meth
- Attempted ATS manufacture in Japan, Malaysia and Thailand
6. Transnational Organized Crime groups

Syndicates from Africa

- Operate in several countries
- Traffic primarily cocaine and heroin previously
- Emerging crystalline meth trafficking
- Sophisticated and constantly evolving methods
- Recruit women on the Internet and public places
- More trafficking by air/sea cargo
7. ATS arrests and treatment demand rising

Methamphetamine-related arrests

ASEAN + China (2006-2010)*

*For countries which provided disaggregated arrest data by drug type.
7. ATS arrests and treatment demand rising

Methamphetamine treatment demand in E/SE Asia

- Brunei Darussalam: 99%
- Republic of Korea: 98%
- Lao PDR: 95%
- Cambodia: 90%
- Thailand: 85%
- Philippines: 62%
- Japan: 50%
- Singapore: 27%
- Indonesia: 24%
- China: 19%
- Malaysia: 13%
- Hong Kong, China: 9%
- Myanmar: 3%

Source: DAINAP; 2011 World Drug Report, UNODC
7. ATS arrests and treatment demand rising

Lack of ATS treatment services

- ATS treatment under-resourced

- Most treatment for heroin, opium and cannabis – NOT ATS

- Compulsory treatment marked by high relapse rates

Sources: DAINAP; WHO, 2009; Thanyarak Institute, 2010
RECAP

• ATS rank in top 3 drugs in the region
• High levels of ATS manufacture
• Methamphetamines: a growing threat
• Crystal meth: a growing threat
• Shift in precursor sourcing
• TOC groups
• ATS arrests and treatment demand rising
Presentation Structure

1. Background
2. Key trends – E/SE Asia
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EFFECTIVE STRATEGIC RESPONSES

1. Continue to collect data/knowledge
2. Evidence-based prevention and treatment
3. Harm reduction for people who inject drugs
4. Law enforcement
5. Regional LE/prosecutorial cooperation
THANK YOU

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