26 September 2012

English only*

Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 30 October-2 November 2012
Item 3 of the provisional agenda**
Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

Regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific***

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction: Overview of main trends

1. The illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of opiates and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are the two most significant illicit drug threats in the Asia and the Pacific region. Most reports and data collected indicate that during the past five years, the production, trafficking and consumption of ATS has increased considerably in Asia and the Pacific. Cultivation of opium poppy has increased steadily since 2006. The illicit production of methamphetamine — in both pill and crystalline forms — has shown a dramatic increase in recent years. These trends continued in 2011 and 2012. As a result, public health and law enforcement systems in the region face significant risks.

2. Whereas the cultivation of opium in East Asia and the Pacific is largely concentrated in Myanmar, the illicit manufacture of ATS is not only limited to Myanmar but also takes place throughout the region. ATS drugs, particularly methamphetamine, have emerged as the primary drug threat in the region in recent years, in some cases displacing traditionally used plant-based drugs such as heroin, opium or cannabis. Since 2009, ATS have ranked in the top three drugs of use in all countries in East Asia. The primary ATS of use in East Asia, particularly South-East Asia, is methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form. In Australia and

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New Zealand, “ecstasy” and the powder form of methamphetamine are the most commonly used ATS drugs.

3. The Asia and the Pacific region, home to about one-third of the global population, is one of the most established amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) markets in the world. The vast majority of the ATS produced in the region is consumed by users within the region. Large-scale ATS manufacture takes place in Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand and the Philippines. Limited and small-scale illicit ATS manufacture or ATS pill pressing operations have been reported in recent years from Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. Large quantities of “ecstasy” are illicitly produced in Australia and Indonesia, and possibly also in China, Myanmar and New Zealand. Small quantities of “ecstasy” containing low amounts of MDMA and other synthetic substances have been pressed domestically in Viet Nam. Traffickers in the ATS market range from full-time professional criminals, people closer to mainstream society, and sometimes high-ranking state officials and military personnel.

4. Farmers grow illicit crops such as opium poppy for a variety of reasons. In Myanmar, the main issues are chronic poverty, debt, a decline in rural food insecurity and regional insecurity due to armed conflict. Farmers grow opium poppy to buy food, pay off debt and have a cash income to pay school fees, buy medicine, etc. However, farmers are also aware that if they grow an illicit crop, it may be eradicated and then they would lose everything. Thus, alternative development programmes which can provide a sustainable basis for farmers to earn a livelihood need to be strengthened and expanded in tandem with eradication efforts, in order to successfully reduce illicit crop cultivation and opium production, and improve people’s lives.

5. The South Asia region is largely a transit region for trafficking of heroin from South-West Asia (SWA). There are no firm estimates of the quantum of heroin that comes in to the region but based on seizure statistics alone, India for example estimates that up to 50 per cent of all heroin seizures in the country are sourced to Afghanistan. And the annual heroin seizures approximate 1 ton. For the last three years, the seizure of heroin in India has shown a declining trend. However, the percentage of seizure of SWA heroin has remained by and large the same. Trafficking to destinations outside India is led by West African syndicates whose preferred destinations are the United States of America, European Union and South Africa.

6. The heroin market in other countries of South Asia — Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives is relatively small. Illicit production and use of ATS is an emerging trend in the region which needs to be closely monitored. Ketamine has emerged as one of the preferred substances for trafficking outside the region. It has now been subjected to tough controls by India. The more serious issue confronting the region is the illicit use of prescription narcotics and psychotropic drugs and the prime reason for this is easy over the counter availability. It is important to deal with this menace through a comprehensive strategy, an important part of which should be awareness of their harmful effects and strengthening law enforcement agencies. Most countries in the region have adequate data collection mechanisms. But there is the problem of inadequate analyses and interpretation on which to base policy interventions.

II. Detailed assessment of production and trafficking trends

7. In 2010, some 1,269 ATS-related manufacturing facilities were dismantled in the Asia and the Pacific region, most of which were manufacturing amphetamines-group substances. Preliminary data show that the number of ATS-related manufacturing facilities dismantled in 2011 may surpass this figure. Methamphetamine can be produced wherever the precursor chemicals are present, which exist to a greater or lesser degree in every country in the world. As a result, there is no inherent need for cross-border trafficking of the finished product.

8. The largest numbers of clandestine laboratory seizures in 2011 were made in Australia, China and New Zealand. In Indonesia, from 2006 to 2011, a total of 135 ATS manufacturing facilities were dismantled, primarily small-scale crystalline methamphetamine and "ecstasy" facilities. Smaller numbers of ATS laboratories and pill re-pressing operations were also seized in Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand in 2011.

9. Methamphetamine in pill form continues to be the primary drug of concern in the Greater Mekong Subregion. It is the primary drug of use in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. In 2010, the number of methamphetamine pills seized totalled nearly 136 million, representing a 44 per cent increase from the 94 million pills seized in 2009 and a greater than four-fold increase compared with 2008. Most pills were seized in China (58.4 million), Thailand (50.4 million) and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (24.5 million), which accounted for 98 per cent of the total. Cambodia and Viet Nam continue to report increasing methamphetamine pill seizures. Preliminary data for 2011 show that methamphetamine pill seizures have reached at least 100 million. During the past few years, the methamphetamine pill problem has expanded southward to Malaysia and Singapore.

10. In just a few years, crystalline methamphetamine use has spread to virtually every country in the region. China is probably the largest producer, but large labs have also been detected in Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines. In Cambodia, Singapore and Thailand, crystalline methamphetamine seizures reached record highs in 2011. China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand each reported seizures of more than 1 ton during the year. Crystalline methamphetamine is the most widely used drug in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Republic of Korea.

11. The Shan State in the eastern part of Myanmar remains a major source of methamphetamine manufacture and opiates production in South-East Asia. Most of the illicit drugs manufactured in Myanmar are destined for international market. Domestic demand for ATS remains at lower levels than for opium and heroin, but it has expanded steadily during the past decade or so. Methamphetamine pills and crystalline methamphetamine are trafficked directly into Thailand, China and the Lao People's Democratic Republic overland and along the Mekong River. Methamphetamine pills have also been seized in the western part of Myanmar as well as in India and Bangladesh. Increasing quantities of crystalline methamphetamine are also being illicitly manufactured in Myanmar to supply markets in the Greater Mekong Subregion and beyond, in particular the Malaysian market. A large portion of the heroin manufactured in Shan State is trafficked to China. Some quantities are further trafficked to international markets. There have

been several attempts by Malaysian drug criminals to traffic large amounts of heroin and methamphetamine through Thailand to Malaysia.

12. Cambodia remains a key transit country for ATS and heroin and is being increasingly targeted by international drug trafficking organizations. Methamphetamine in pill form is the primary drug of use among Cambodia's small but rapidly expanding consumer base; however, in recent years, crystalline methamphetamine use has become increasingly widespread. Cambodia is also becoming a significant centre for the manufacture of methamphetamine. Illicit ATS manufacturing facilities were first detected in 2007. But during the past few years, law enforcement authorities have dismantled 11 clandestine laboratories for manufacturing ATS. In May 2012, police undertook a series of drug raids in Phnom Penh — possibly the most extensive in history — and discovered six drug-manufacturing sites and seized large amounts of precursor substances used in the production of both "ecstasy" and methamphetamine. This comes in addition to the nearly 20 million pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine seized in 2010. The number of seized drugs — methamphetamine in particular — has grown significantly during the last year. In 2011, the amount of methamphetamine tablets seized tripled.

13. In 2011, the amount of methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) seized in China increased by nearly 45 per cent, from 9.9 tons in 2010 to 14.3 tons in 2011, about half of which was seized in Yunnan province, adjacent to Myanmar. The proportion of the methamphetamine seized in China originating from Myanmar also continued to increase in 2011. In addition, about 7.1 tons of heroin, 0.8 tons of opium, 5.4 tons of ketamine and 2.6 tons of cannabis were seized. Since 2007, the proportion of ATS users among all registered drug users in China has expanded continually, from less than 10 per cent to more than 20 per cent in 2011. At the same time, the proportion of heroin users has shown a continual decline, from about 78 per cent in 2008 to less than 65 per cent in 2011.

14. Crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug threat in the Philippines. During the past decade several illicit methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories have been seized in the country, with 32 such facilities seized from 2008 to 2011, mostly smaller-scale "kitchen type" laboratories in metropolitan areas. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures declined sharply in the Philippines since 2008, from 845 kg to 64 kg in 2010. In 2011, preliminary data indicates that methamphetamine seizures may show a four-fold increase over the previous year.

15. The diversion of pharmaceutical preparations for the manufacture of methamphetamine continues in the region. Due to the strict controls on precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, criminals have shifted to the use of non-controlled licit chemicals and already tabletted pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. A number of countries in Asia are being targeted as both source and destination countries for ATS precursors. China and India are the main sources of precursor chemicals found in the region, but large quantities have also been trafficked from Cambodia, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. With a number of countries having tightened controls on these most commonly used precursors during the past couple of years, there are indications that drug traffickers are replacing traditional precursors with alternate types of precursors and chemically modified precursors not under international control.

16. “Ecstasy” continues to be manufactured in the region, particularly in Indonesia. In previous years, “ecstasy” manufacture in the region consisted primarily of pill pressing and re-pressing operations. However, some MDMA production facilities have been dismantled in Indonesia during the past few years. Cambodia and China remain the primary sources of safrole-rich oils, a precursor for the manufacture of MDMA. Many of the seized drugs marketed on the streets as “ecstasy” in the region contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA, such as ketamine, methamphetamine or piperazines.

17. During the past few years, a number of new psychoactive synthetic stimulants have emerged on ATS markets in the region. These include piperazines, such as benzylpiperazine (BZP) and 1-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl) piperazine (TFMPP), synthetic cathinones such as mephedrone and methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV or “bath salts”) and synthetic cannabinoids such as JWH. To circumvent legislative and regulatory measures, many of these substances are marketed as “legal highs” under the guise of other products not intended for human consumption, such as bath salts, plant food and incense.

18. Transnational organized criminal groups from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to be involved in the trafficking of methamphetamine to Asia. African criminal organizations, which used to engage primarily in cocaine and heroin trafficking, now have diversified into ATS trafficking. African groups are involved in trafficking crystalline methamphetamine, “ecstasy” and heroin into Indonesia, and have used Cambodia as a centre for financial transactions and for the distribution of illicit drugs to Indonesia. In Japan, the number of nationals of West African countries arrested for methamphetamine trafficking to Japan has expanded considerably since 2007, while in Malaysia, the number of Nigerian nationals arrested for drug-related offences more than tripled in 2011. In addition, the Philippines reported the emergence of African manufactured methamphetamine being smuggled into the country through the airport for further trafficking to markets in South-East Asia.

19. Drug trafficking from the Islamic Republic of Iran appears to be on the decline in some major markets targeted by Iranian criminal organizations, such as Malaysia and Japan. In Malaysia, a total of 299 Iranian nationals were arrested in 2010 and 2011 for drug-related offences, primarily trafficking. In 2011, the number of Iranian nationals arrested for methamphetamine-related offences in Japan was the lowest total reported during the past five years. However, whereas Iranian drug trafficking groups previously only trafficked in ATS, there are recent indications to suggest that they are also beginning to manufacture methamphetamine in the region. During the past three years, Iranian nationals have been arrested in connection with illicit methamphetamine manufacture in Japan (2010), Malaysia (2012) and Thailand (2011). In addition, criminal organizations from China (including Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan Province of China) are involved in drug trafficking in most countries in the region.

20. Arrests and drug treatment demand related to methamphetamine continue to show an upward trend. The number of methamphetamine-related arrests in East and South-East Asia increased from about 93,000 in 2006 to more than 200,000 in 2010, about half of which were recorded in Thailand. Since 2007, about 80 per cent of all drug-related arrests have been related to crystalline methamphetamine. In the Philippines, crystalline methamphetamine accounted for about three-fourths of all

drug-related arrests in 2010. In 2011, more than half of all drug-related arrests in Indonesia and Malaysia involved crystalline methamphetamine. The large majority of the persons arrested were drug users. In several countries in the region, arrested drug users are sent to compulsory drug treatment facilities, most of which do not provide ATS-specific treatment services.

21. In 2010, ATS were the primary drugs of use for 44 per cent of all persons in treatment. During the year, of all persons in drug treatment in the Philippines, 60 per cent were crystalline methamphetamine users. In Thailand, 84 per cent were methamphetamine pill users. Most persons who underwent drug treatment in Cambodia used methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form. In Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Korea, more than 98 per cent of all persons in drug treatment used crystalline methamphetamine.

22. The Golden Triangle region, where the borders of north-eastern Myanmar, north-western Lao People's Democratic Republic and northern Thailand converge along the Mekong River, has for decades been the epicentre of South-East Asia's drug trade. In the 1970s and 1980s, Myanmar was the world's leading source of opium, producing some 700 tons of opium annually between 1981 and 1987. Today, the vast majority (close to 90 per cent) of poppy is still cultivated in the Shan State of Myanmar. This region is also where the vast majority of heroin processing takes place in the country. A considerable portion of the opiates used, found and/or seized in the Asia and the Pacific region originate in South-West Asia, mainly Afghanistan.

23. In an attempt to stem the flow of opium and heroin from Myanmar, a number of initiatives were undertaken by the Governments of those countries encompassing the Golden Triangle with national as well as external assistance. The efforts contributed to achieving the steady and steep reduction of opium poppy cultivation — from 163,000 ha in 1996 to 21,600 ha in 2006. However, since then, opium poppy cultivation in the region has risen year after year, reaching 47,900 ha in 2011. This represents a more than 50 per cent increase compared with the base year of 2006 and a 16 per cent increase compared with the previous year. Of this amount, some 91 per cent was cultivated in Myanmar. In addition, the Lao People's Democratic Republic reported the cultivation of 4,100 ha in 2011 compared with 3,000 ha in 2010, representing a 37 per cent increase in a single year. Small amounts of opium poppy are also cultivated in Thailand. In the absence of other development initiatives, there is a risk of continued growth in opium poppy cultivation.

24. The trafficking of heroin is increasing substantially in some Asian countries. The amount of heroin seized in China increased by one-third, with about 7.1 tons seized in 2011 compared with 5.4 tons seized in 2010. In Malaysia, heroin seizures totalled 755 kg, the highest total in the past five years and 150 per cent higher than the amount seized in 2010 (299 kg). The 554 kg of heroin seized in Thailand in 2011 represents a four-fold increase over the 139 kg seized in 2010. Thailand continues to be used by drug traffickers as a transit country for heroin manufactured in Myanmar to international markets. Heroin seizures in Singapore in 2011 increased by half, with 73 kg seized in 2011 compared with 49 kg seized in 2010. In addition, the number of heroin-related arrests in Singapore in 2011 (1,924) was the highest total ever reported from the country.

25. Most of the heroin — in absolute amounts — in East Asia and the Pacific continues to be consumed in China, accounting for more than 70 per cent of all

heroin users in the region. Economic growth, resulting affluence and increasing purchasing power also seem to have fuelled the demand for drugs, including heroin. Heroin continues to be the most commonly used drug not only in China but also in Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Viet Nam, as perceived by Government experts in those countries.

III. International Cooperation

A. Regional conferences and meetings on drug control

26. To explore mutual legal assistance (MLA) measures with Member States, UNODC Regional Centre of East Asia and the Pacific (RCEAP) organized a workshop in Bangkok, titled "*Senior-level Workshop on Mutual Legal Assistance in East Asia and the Pacific*". Attended by representatives and senior-level practitioners from nine ASEAN Member States — Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam — as well as Japan and the Republic of Korea, the workshop aimed to break down the legal and technical barriers in rendering MLA and to explore measures to build an effective MLA regime across East Asia and the Pacific.

27. UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme regional workshop was held in Phnom Penh in July 2012. Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop participants were updated on the Programme implementation and exchanged information on the regional ATS situation and national responses to it. They also discussed the threats and challenges posed by the emergence of new psychoactive substances on the market and future regional SMART implementation steps including the data-sharing Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP).

28. Recognizing the need to train large numbers of officers in basic law enforcement skills quickly and consistently, UNODC has worked with the countries of East Asia since 1997 to deliver this knowledge through computer-based training (CBT). As technologies have advanced, UNODC have now launched a new Global eLearning Programme that seeks to consolidate the good work of the past, update and develop new training modules and introduce users to a new UNODC Learning Management System. In June 2012, a rollout programme of upgraded computer hardware was installed using existing UNODC CBT together with training in the use of the new software in China, Myanmar and Thailand. Similar programme will be implemented in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam.

29. To address significant drugs and crime issues, the Government of Viet Nam, the Mini-Dublin Group and UNODC Viet Nam held a day-long Round Table Meeting on Action against Drugs, Crime and Human Trafficking in April 2012 in Hanoi. The 130 meeting attendees included senior Viet Nam Government officials, and representatives from Embassies, development and United Nations member agencies and media. The meeting's high-level presentations included the launch by UNODC Viet Nam of its Amphetamine-type Stimulants in Viet Nam — Review of the Availability, Use and Implications for health and security.

30. In April, over 60 representatives from the Royal Thai Government, the community of people who use drugs, international organizations, academia and the United Nations agencies joined a national seminar hosted by the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Country Team to discuss current government policy on drug use and alternative approaches to compulsory detention of people who use drugs.

31. The Senior Officials Committee Meeting of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control in the Greater Mekong Subregion was held in Siem Reap in July. The Delegates from 6 GMS and UNODC attended. All the MOU members stated they benefitted through the MOU mechanism, an enhanced partnership and better cooperation amongst the members beyond the bilateral level especially in the areas of law enforcement and alternative development. The MOU related meetings also provide an opportunity and a platform not only for sharing information on the drug situation but also identification of concerted joint programmes/activities at the subregional level. Realizing the difficulty in obtaining financial resources from external donors for the implementation of the SAP, the meeting agreed to explore funding resources from MOU countries while at the same time seek external donors. The MOU countries pledged during the meeting to increase its own financial or in kind contributions for the continuity of the MOU mechanism, implementation of the SAP and the project that supports the MOU Partnership in East Asia.

32. The Heads of State/Governments of ASEAN, gathered at the 20th ASEAN Summit, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in April 2012. Recognizing that the international drug problem remains one of the main security concerns to all ASEAN Member States, the Governments declared to intensify concerted efforts to realize the vision and goal of a drug-free ASEAN Community by 2015 as a high-priority agenda of ASEAN by tasking relevant Ministers to speed up the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking, and Use 2009-2015 and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) on drug-free ASEAN by 2015. They also declared to deepen cooperation and coordination measures through the sharing of information and best practices in order to enhance more effective enforcement of illicit drug control in the region as well as to further enhance cooperation and coordination in a comprehensive manner with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and external parties to eradicate illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and use in the ASEAN region by 2015.

33. The 17th Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC-17th) was held in Tokyo, Japan from 14 through 16 February 2012, to discuss the current drug situation in the Asia-Pacific region and share information on effective drug law enforcement. The ADEC-17th aimed at strengthening international cooperation especially focusing on International Cooperation in Drug Law Enforcement against the threat of Globalizing ATS. The meeting was attended by 38 countries and 4 international organizations.

34. The International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) XXIX was held in Bali, Indonesia between 12 and 14 June 2012. Mr. Gories Mere, Head of the National Narcotics Board (BNN), was the President of the conference. IDEC is a global forum of law enforcement officials that aims to build cooperation and commitment required in the success of effort to eradicate the drug syndicate at all drug distribution chain. The conference was attended by 121 countries.

35. The 22nd Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO) will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea between 12 and 14 September 2012. The primary objective of the conference was to share experiences, facilitate exchange of information on drug crimes, and establish personal contacts among drug law enforcement agencies at working level in the region. The meeting was organized by Supreme Prosecutors' Office. There were 183 drug officials from 24 countries and 5 international organizations attended the conference last year.

B. Cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Governments of the region

36. In 2011, four new enhanced (multi-crime type) Border Liaison Offices have been established in Cambodia and Viet Nam through the PATROL project. In addition, 12 existing BLOs (6 in Cambodia and 6 in Viet Nam) have been identified for expansion of their mandate.

37. In Viet Nam, a total of 250 drug law enforcement officials successfully completed computer-based training modules on basic intelligence gathering.

38. At the subregional level, UNODC's support for the MOU drug control partnership in South East Asia continues to play a critical role in enhancing subregional cooperation on drug control matters. In July 2012 during the Senior Officials Committee Meeting of the signatory to 1993 MOU on drug control in the GMS,[1] all the MOU Governments stated they benefitted through the MOU mechanism, an enhanced partnership and better cooperation among the members beyond the bilateral level especially in the areas of law enforcement and alternative development. The Senior Officials Committee and Ministerial level meetings also provide an opportunity and a platform not only for sharing information on the drug situation but also identification of concerted joint programmes/activities at the subregional level. These programmes/activities also supplement and support their national programmes.

39. In Viet Nam, an assessment of the extent and nature of ATS abuse was concluded, including a quantitative and qualitative study of ATS among specific risk groups and a population survey among a representative sample of people aged 16 to 22 years old in 5 cities in Viet Nam. For the first time in Viet Nam, advocacy and training of peer educators and staff in contact with these high-risk groups have increased the target populations' understanding of the harmful consequences of ATS use as well as their roles and responsibilities in preventing ATS use, as evidenced by pre-post interventions surveys.

40. National counterparts in Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam have collectively identified and agreed upon a joint mission "to develop successful models of community-based drug dependence treatment in Southeast Asia." Eight sites in Cambodia, two in Myanmar and three in Viet Nam initiated community-based treatment services for drug users in 2011, supported by UNODC.

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[1] Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNODC.

41. Authorities in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam have developed a model for community-based drug treatment service delivery, standards of care, and guidelines with the support of UNODC. These documents will be fine-tuned and are expected to be adopted in 2012.

42. Border Liaison Offices in Viet Nam, Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia and Myanmar also continue to support improved cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies both within and across borders.

43. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, progress continues to be made in harmonizing national laws with United Nations Conventions on drugs and crime. In particular, UNODC's work has highlighted the following areas in which national law differs from international conventions:

(a) Apparent denial of defendant's rights to remain silent in the Law on Criminal Proceedings;

(b) Limited expectation of prosecutors' role to persuade judges with reliable evidence and judges' role to critically examine cases;

(c) Lack of standard procedures for use of the legal tools required by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including mutual legal assistance, extradition, witness/victim protection and confiscation of criminal assets.

44. In the South Asia region, UNODC has continued to provide technical assistance in enhancing drug law enforcement capacities in the region through Computer-Based Training through 2012 (CBT). CBT centres have been established and rolled-out in Nepal, Bhutan, India and the Maldives and by the end of 2012, CBT for drug law enforcement will be installed in Bangladesh and in Sri Lanka. By March 2013, UNODC will have installed 25 CBT centres in the region, of which 16 are already operational. Realizing that the content of the current CBT is relevant to not only drug enforcement agencies, but also to cross-cutting issues in law enforcement, different users have expressed their interest in the product as well as to get access to new modules that are being developed like "First responders to crime scene". This will be directly relevant to many police academies. The aim is to develop CBT centres into "centres of excellence" by the introduction of more modules. A need has also been expressed to deliver CBT training in local languages to ensure better impact at all levels of law enforcement.

45. UNODC, in close consultations with the Governments of South Asia, is in the process of developing its Regional Programme for 2013-2015. Under this, efforts will be made to strengthen data collection; research and analyses to frame evidence-based interventions; enhance data and information gathering, analysis and sharing; improve border control, and provide training to law enforcement and customs personnel at airports and sea ports. In addition to this, UNODC will continue to advocate for a health-centred approach to drug treatment, as opposed to the punitive approach that prevails in the region. This would include also sensitization to criminal justice and law enforcement officials on the needs of drug users.

C. Bilateral cooperation and national efforts

46. Adhering to strategies set forth in the national Plan of Action, Cambodia has built close relationship and cooperation with countries in the region and other international anti-drug agencies to control and suppress cross-border drug trafficking activities and exchange information and intelligence on drug trafficking suspects. Cambodia had bilateral meetings with Thailand and China as well as a trilateral meeting with Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic relating to drug matters. Law enforcement officers were trained at high-risk provinces along the borders of Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam in collaboration with various national and international partners. Training on drug control and harm reduction was also provided. In addition, special training for law enforcement on drug control was also provided within the framework of MOU signed between Cambodia and Russia. DEA provided trainings on illicit drug information analysis and basic investigation to officers of the Cambodian law enforcement agency. In addition to its own national efforts to upgrade the capacity to prevent and suppress illicit drug trafficking, Cambodia repeatedly calls for non-governmental organizations, international community, UNODC, JICA and those partners with whom it had signed MOU to provide trainings to its law enforcers on human capacity-building and provision of technical equipment.

47. China held bilateral meetings with Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam to promote bilateral cooperation on drug control to tackle the drug problems in the Golden Triangle. To also deal with the drug problems in the Golden Crescent, China also has bilateral cooperations with Afghanistan, Kazhastan, Pakistan and Russia. Moreover, China has cooperation with Columbia. Moreover, China participated in the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting on drug control of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to promote cooperation on drug control and contributed in the drafting of the Drug Control Strategy 2011-2016.

48. The Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Thailand conducts an International Narcotics Law Enforcement Training Course annually by getting the financial support from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The trainees are law enforcement officers from countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Another annual international training course supported by the Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) of the Colombo Plan Secretariat is the Training Course on Precursors and Chemicals Control for ASEAN Narcotics Law Enforcement Officers. It was conducted in August 2011. The participants were from ASEAN member countries and some South Asian countries. Moreover, International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) of Thailand also provides training to drug law enforcement officers every year. A Workshop on ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) Airports Interdiction Task Forces (AITF) was held in May 2012 and over 50 participants attended.

49. In 2011, cooperation between drug control agencies of Viet Nam and neighbouring countries had intensified and meetings were held on a regular basis between the drug control agencies of the provinces that share the border with those of the neighbouring countries. Viet Nam also assisted Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to build up capacity and exchange knowledge and experience in drafting the Drug Law. Since the signing of the agreement with

Thailand in October 1998 to strengthen effectiveness of drug control, drug control agencies of both countries implemented a wide range of activities such as hosting meetings alternatively, conducting seminars, training workshops on drug control matters, exchanging of information, sharing good practice in building up of drug control system, drug treatment and rehabilitation and poppy eradication etc.

50. Due to the provision of advice and guidance from the central level to grassroots level, drug control activities in Viet Nam resulted in significant achievements and increased awareness among the public in the first year of the implementation of the Drug Control Master Plan. The drug control policy mobilized the whole political system and the public participated in the drug control activities. The central and local mass media also actively participated by broadcasting and promoting drug control activities. In addition to broadcasting information relating to drug trafficking cases, a wide range of drug control topics such as good practice in drug treatment and matters relating to alternative development were also broadcasted.