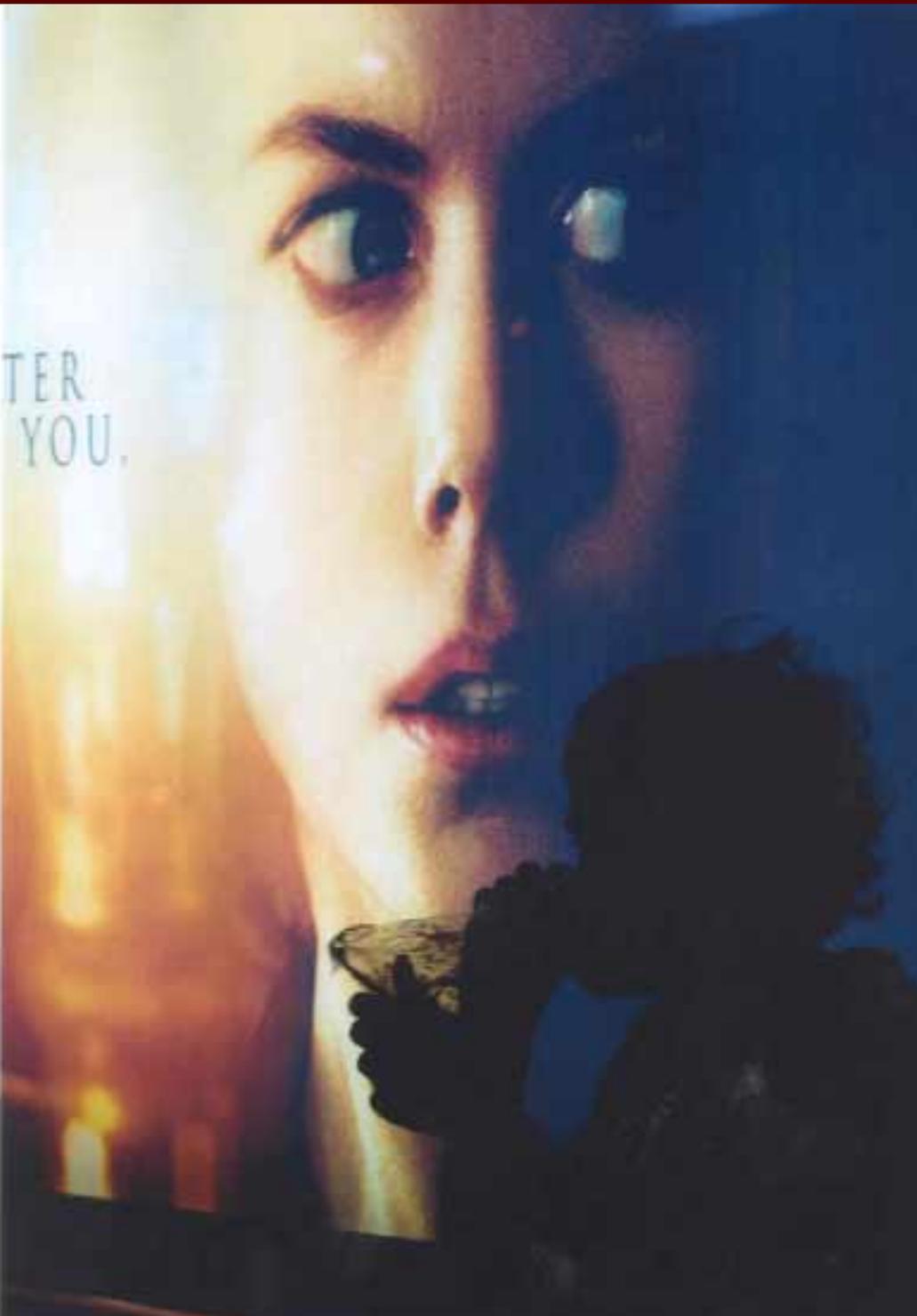


O D C C P

Eastern Horizons

News on the fight against drugs and crime
in East Asia and the Pacific

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June 2002



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*Down and Out in Bangkok - Glue Sniffing Child
Photo: Mr. Jetjaras Na Ranong
Courtesy: Bangkok Post*

CAMBODIA and NEW ZEALAND Work to Foil HEROIN



by Mail Scam

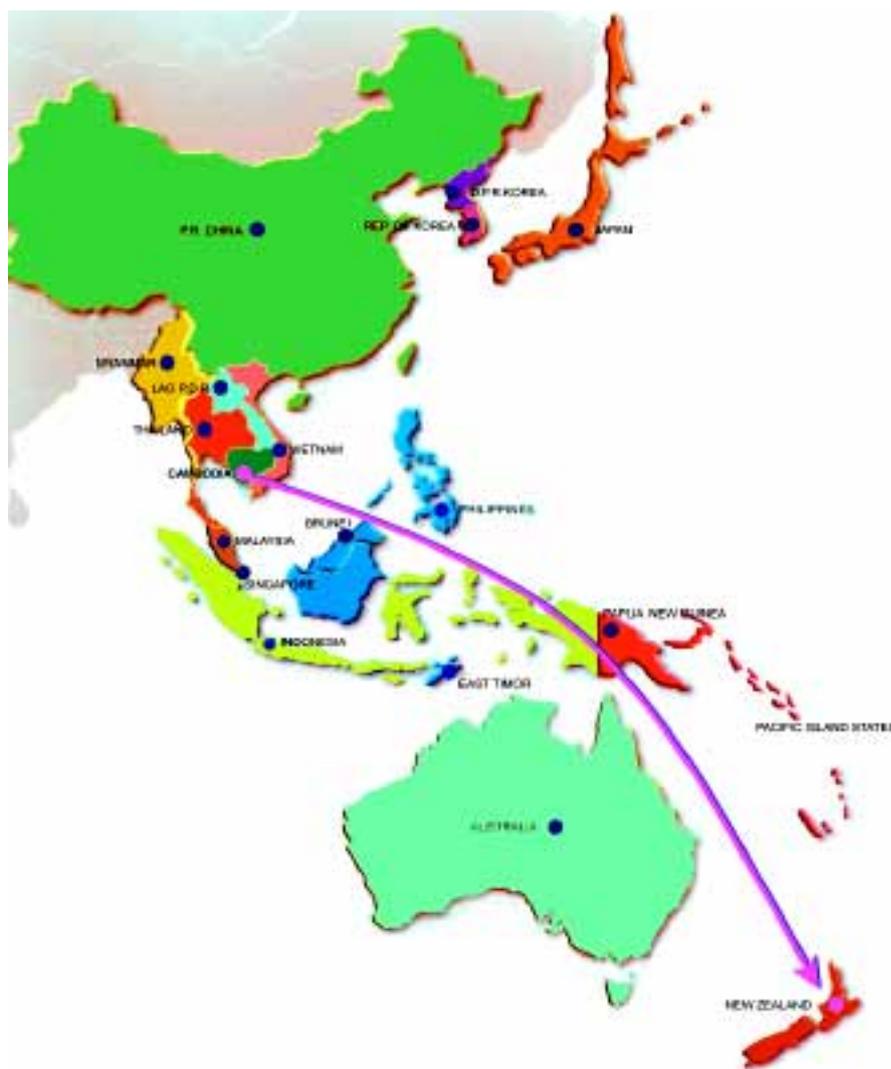
The trafficking of illicit drugs from Cambodia to countries in the Asia-Pacific region takes various forms. The latest case to come to light is the sending of heroin by mail from the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, to New Zealand.

Police in New Zealand seized a kilo of heroin earlier this year sent by a Khmer-New Zealand citizen and have been cooperating with Cambodian authorities to apprehend the suspect. Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) in Cambodia, Sar Kheng, told a meeting of provincial drug control committee officials in March that, “this is not the first time criminals have done this and the issue has rightly shown the size of the drug danger.”

Teng Savong, Secretary-General of the NACD, accepts that Cambodia is now a major transit route for illicit drugs. He recently told the news agency Reuters, “The Golden Triangle is now the main source of drugs smuggled through Cambodia to the West. [Drug traffickers] import and re-export from here, but we don’t know how much.”

The NACD’s Secretary-General is also reported to have indicated that corrupt Cambodian authorities, including police and military, were involved in the drug trafficking networks. The UNDCP Cambodia Country Profile (available at <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>), released in March 2001, reflects this view of the involvement of some elements in the law enforcement community in this illegal trade.

The Cambodia-New Zealand Trafficking Route



– *Graham Shaw, UN/ODCCP, Cambodia*





Australian National Illicit Drug Campaign on the Way

A new Commonwealth Government Drugs Campaign, promoted by the Australian Government, is now targeting parents to be more alert to the seriousness of the drug problem. It provides the information parents need for discussions about drugs, together with suggested ways of talking with children about drugs.

It is believed that such advice can strengthen families' resistance to drugs. The campaign will feature television advertisements, print advertisements, and a booklet provided in several languages. The booklet is currently going to every household in Australia. The message focuses on the difference between childhood dreams and the dangers of drug use including the risk of death.

The TV ads themselves can be both dramatic and frightening. However, the main emphasis is on communication. One example is an ad where what appears to be a family discussing emerges to be actors in a television programme, which consequently is discussed by a second family watching the show. The ad advocates that families should grab the chance to discuss drug issues, when drugs appear in television.

Together with the drug treatment and law enforcement programs currently underway as parts of the National Illicit Drug Strategy, the advocacy initiative represents the largest single national initiative in Australia's history to fight drugs.

– Patricia M. Budiyo, UNDCP, Bangkok

Grapes of Wrath

During the years of the Vietnam War Laos achieved the unpleasant privilege to become the most bombed country in human history. The country received an equivalent of one metric ton of bombs per person. Needless to say that it took the Americans quite a number of missions to deliver such a payload and obviously every mission carried the risk of being hit by enemy fire. In fact, the local resistance did manage to shoot down quite a number of planes. A fact, which slowly takes us to the point.

High up in the Lao mountains in Houphan Province UNDCP and the Lao Government are implementing an alternative development project. The area is impoverished highland and there is a lack of most things. However, one resource is abundant – scrap metal. The local villagers use scrap-metal from wreckages of air-planes to produce belts and other daily necessities.

The belts are produced by the villagers using local technology. First they melt scrap-metal collected in the vicinity in order to produce metallic wire. The wire is then manually converted into belts, which is used by the local women. The villagers produce about 500 belts of a variety of sizes and lengths annually. The market price for the belts varies between 2 to 4 US\$.

– Peter Lunding, UNDCP, Bangkok



HANDS ACROSS



A mural based on the handprints of the representatives of drug law enforcement agencies covering most of the Asia Pacific Region was presented on 20 March, 2002 to UNDCP Bangkok by Commissioner Mr. Mick Keelty of the Australian Federal Police.

The mural came out of a four-day meeting involving 140 delegates from

45 countries meeting under the auspices of the UN sponsored Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) held in Sydney last year.

The mural is based on artwork by Mr. Mark Huddleston, a member of Australia's indigenous community, who had been working with the Australian Federal Police. The artwork shows an outer ring of hands, symbolizing people from different lands, who have traveled many paths to the central meeting place. The meeting was taking place under the protection of a platypus – the corporate symbol of the Australian Federal Police.

The mural is permanently placed in the United National Conference Centre in Bangkok and accessible to the public.



The Thai delegation attending the cross-border cooperation Phnom Penh meeting

Making Cambodia's Borders A Barrier Against Drugs and Crime

Recent reports from the anti-narcotic police in Cambodia have indicated that methamphetamine trafficking from Laos into the northern Cambodian province of Stung Treng has now taken over as the primary route for this illicit trade. Up until about a year ago, most 'yaba' trafficked into Cambodia came from Thailand via the northwestern provinces of Banteay Meanchey and Battambang as well as the former Khmer Rouge area of Pailin; in addition, this synthetic drug was smuggled through the western Cambodian province of Koh Kong.

Since 2001, drug traffickers appear to be extending their logistical operations to take advantage of the lack of law enforcement capacity along the remote border of Laos and Cambodia. Unconfirmed reports suggest that methamphetamine and heroin entering Cambodia along the River Mekong and associated road network originates in Myanmar.

The drug traffickers are likely to face a setback in the coming months through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) at strategic locations along Cambodia's border with neighbouring countries as part of the UN Drug Control Programme's subregional project Develop-



Vietnamese participants at the meeting in Phnom Penh

ment of Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia. BLOs will function as focal points to improve the effectiveness of modern border control methods, including investigation and interdiction techniques, and to develop joint operational activities by law enforcement officials in key border areas.

An additional factor in the increasing amounts of methamphetamine available on the streets of the major urban centres of the country is the opening up of Cambodia to trade, investment and tourism. The building of a new highway between the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, through the remote western province of Koh Kong and across a new bridge to the Thai border at Trat is a welcome development.

However, it also brings with it the danger of unscrupulous people using such develop-

ments to expedite their illicit trade in illicit drugs by getting their harmful cargo to market much easier and quicker than previously.

Bilateral cross-border meetings were held between April 22-26, 2002, in Phnom Penh involving officials from Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia where agreement was made to set-up three BLOs within the next few months. Plans are also under discussion with Cambodia and Laos to establish a BLO on their border by the end of this year.

Mr. Akaneevut Sisawasdi, Vice Governor of Trat Province, said after Thailand's discussions with Cambodia, "now the two countries have many similar problems. It is important that we have closer co-operation to prevent drugs from being trafficked from one country to another."

As part of this developing cooperation mechanism, supported with funding from the Government of Japan, the UNDCP will provide office and communications equipment together with vehicles and will join forces with subregional project Enhancement of Drug Law Enforcement Training in East Asia to provide computer-based training in law enforcement techniques to assist officers at all levels to increase the interdiction of criminal activities along the border, including the trafficking of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals.

Looking to the future, the head of the UNODCCP Liaison Office in Cambodia, Mr. Bengt Juhlin, told the meetings that, "although the Border Liaison Offices today have a mandate focussing on drug trafficking, I can see that steps might be taken in the future to expand the mandate to cover other illegal cross-border matters such as trafficking of persons or smuggling of weapons, etc., because once the cross-border system is in place it can be adjusted and applied for many different purposes."

- Graham Shaw, UN/ODCCP, Cambodia



The Cambodian delegation at their meeting with Thailand

UN/ODCCP Counters Money Laundering :

Criminals Need to “Launder” the Proceeds of Crime

In today's globalized economy, organized crime groups generate huge sums of money by drug trafficking, arms smuggling and financial crime. “Dirty money”, however, is of little use to organized crime because it raises the suspicions of law enforcement and leaves a trail of incriminating evidence. Criminals who wish to benefit from the proceeds of large-scale crime have to disguise their illegal profits without compromising themselves. This process is known as money laundering.

Left unchecked, money laundering can erode a nation's economy by changing the demand for cash, making interest and exchange rates more volatile, and by causing high inflation in countries where criminal elements are doing business. The siphoning away of billions of dollars a year from normal economic growth poses a real danger at a time when the financial health of every country affects the stability of the global market. The consequences of money laundering are bad for business, development, government and the rule of law.

After September 11

However, the consequences of money laundering can also be a direct threat to national and international security, as recent events have shown. The disastrous events of 11 September 2001 focused attention on ways in which the international community addresses the threat of terrorism, and ways in which the United Nations can help its Member States face this challenge. One significant result was the entry into force on 10 April 2002 of the United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism.

The speed with which this Convention has been ratified by Member States illustrates the heightened commitment of the international community to combating terrorism in all its forms. Twenty-two of the 26 ratifications/accessions received to date took place after the terrorist attacks on the

United States.

The new Convention recognizes that financing is at the heart of terrorist activity and it calls for efforts to identify, detect, and freeze or seize any funds used or allocated for the purpose of committing a terrorist act. It also calls on financial institutions to pay special attention to unusual or suspicious transactions and to report to the government any transactions they suspect may be connected to terrorist activity. The United Nations is committed to helping its Member States put in place the legislation and implementation mechanisms that will enable them to address the financing of terrorism.

United Nations Global Programme against Money Laundering

In 1997 the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) created the Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML) in response to the United Nations mandates against money laundering. GPML is the focal point in the UN System for issues related to money laundering and proceeds of crime, including technical assistance to states in bringing their countermeasures up to international standards.

GPML is the only technical co-operation body with a global mandate to deal with money laundering. It is an active partner of international organizations working in this field, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and INTERPOL, as well as the regional organizations and regional development banks, with which it works closely.

The general thrust in the area of technical co-operation is assisting legal, financial and law enforcement authorities to develop the necessary infrastructure to fight money laundering. Specific initiatives are built around awareness-raising, institution-building and training. The Pro-

gramme uses its highly successful mentorship programme to provide sustained assistance over periods ranging from 6 to 12 months.

Research activity focuses on work that adds to the body of information on contemporary issues relevant to money laundering, the maintenance and improvement of relevant databases, the analysis of specific aspects of money laundering, and the provision of logistical support for technical co-operation activities, including practitioner tools and training materials.

GPML is also the coordinator of the International Money Laundering Information Network (IMoLIN), which includes global databases of anti-money laundering legislation and analysis. The Programme administers IMoLIN on behalf of the United Nations, FATF, Interpol, Commonwealth Secretariat, Organization of American States, Council of Europe, and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering. IMoLIN can be accessed on www.imolin.org.

Key to the GPML assistance effort is provision of expertise and other assistance in the development of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). FIUs are the central national institutions used in receiving and analysing reports of financial transactions linked to criminal activity. Among the duties of GPML mentors is to help countries establish, develop and maintain FIUs. The Programme does much of this work in conjunction with the Egmont Group, the international umbrella body for FIUs.

Anti-money laundering is a dynamic field, frequently subject to changes in techniques, technology, jurisprudence and policy approaches (both at the national and international level). GPML activities will continue to be structured to take account of current circumstances and thus to remain responsive to the changing needs of Member States and the international community.

— GPML, UN/ODCCP, Vienna

Entering the 10th Year of Drug Control Partnership in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Drug Control Cooperation Remains a Major Priority

- Over 80% of global seizures of amphetamines (ATS) in 2000 took place in East and South East Asia;
- About half of the world's population abusing ATS are found in East and South East Asia;
- Over 70 % of the global seizures of heroin and morphine in 1999 occurred in Asia;
- Between 1993 and 2001 a tremendous increase in the use of ATS was reported in Thailand;
- In Asia and the Pacific (excluding Central Asia), over 1 million adults and children were newly infected with HIV in 2001;
- HIV infection among injecting drug users continues to be high in the region; in some countries over 70%.

These trends are staggering

Drug abuse, drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime, manifested in violence, corruption or other socially harmful consequences, represent a direct threat to humankind. Economic and social crimes such as drug trafficking, financial fraud, corruption of public officials, and money laundering threaten the integrity of social, economic, financial, and political institutions. They can rapidly defeat social and economic development efforts.

In order to join hands for a cooperative response to the drug threat in an efficient and effective manner, the seven signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control - namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNDCP – held their yearly Senior Officials Committee meeting in Beijing from 20-22 May 2002.

High level senior officials from each of the six countries and UNDCP gathered in the Chinese capital for a three-day round of multilateral meetings. The sessions took stock of progress made in the past nine years of sub-regional drug control operations and ways of further strengthening their efforts in the fight against illicit drugs and drug-related crimes.

In 1993, the Governments of China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and UNDCP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the conviction that concerted efforts were essential to address the worsening problems of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in the region. In 1995 Cam-



bodia and Viet Nam joined the sub-regional cooperation agreement in drug control and became parties of the regional group.

At the First Ministerial Meeting of the six signatory countries to the MOU held in Beijing in 1995, the countries adopted the Sub-regional Action Plan – SAP. Today the SAP programme includes 15 projects with the total budget of over US\$22 million. It is within this programme that substantive progress in drug control cooperation has been made.

This year's meeting was opened by Mr. Bai Jing Fu, Deputy Commission and Secretary General of the National Narcotics Control Commission and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Public Security. It was chaired by Mr. Yang Feng Rui, Permanent Deputy Secretary General, National Narcotics Control Commission. The meeting

addressed progress made under the Sub-regional Action Plan projects in the fields of drug abuse, reduction of illegal drug production and trafficking, and law enforcement cooperation.

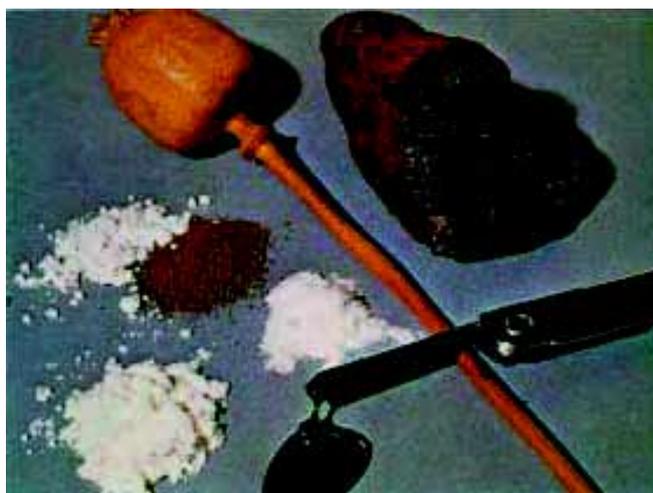
Highlighted in the discussions were issues such as control measures and strategies, application of computer-based training, cross-border cooperation, the epidemic increase of trafficking in and abuse of synthetic drugs, in particular methamphetamines, the spread of HIV/AIDS through injecting drug use as well as rural drug demand and poverty reduction and alternative development. Participants also discussed new topics to address new challenges: exploring ways to effectively control the maritime trade of drugs and the use of international rivers, and the close links

Drug Abuse and HIV Vulnerability Among Cambodia's Street Youth in the Spotlight

A study of 1,677 young Cambodians aged between 9 and 21 in Phnom Penh, Battambang and Poipet has been undertaken by the local non-governmental organization (NGO) Mith Samlanh/Friends with funding from the UK-based International HIV/ Aids Alliance. The survey teams included staff from several agencies working with young people in the country, including Krousar Thmey, Operations Enfants de Battambang and Goutte d'Eau.

An overview of the findings of the study was presented at a meeting held in Phnom Penh on February 26, 2002. Glue and methamphetamines are the most commonly reported substances used by the young people surveyed and abuse of methamphetamines among street children tripled in the year to June 2001. Those under the age of 14 reported using mainly glue and as youth grew older they increasingly turned to methamphetamines. Other forms of illicit drugs used, especially by older youth, include ecstasy, ketamine, marijuana and heroin.

Of particular concern in the initial survey findings is that drugs are easily accessible and in widespread use across all social groups in Cambodia and that youth have a high level of familiarity with different types of illicit substances. The survey also reports that there is a low awareness of HIV transmission through needle sharing and unsafe sex whilst under



the influence of drugs and that, "reported bravado and recklessness increases high risk sexual behaviour among some males."

Whilst the survey found that drug abuse amongst street children is a concern, it noted that the large number of urban middle-class youth are one of the most high-risk groups in society. "More disposable income and lower HIV awareness may make middle class youth more vulnerable to drug use and drug related HIV transmission than street children."

Mith Samlanh/Friends noted that in the year to June 2001, the number of young people injecting drugs increased from 0.6 percent to 4.3 percent. In addition, the report added that parents are, "naïve of [the] easy availability of drugs

and possible consequences of drug use/dependency."

Lour Ramin, permanent deputy Secretary-General of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), said at the meeting that, "there has been a 399 percent increase in drug use among children since 2000," adding that, "the NACD recognizes the increase

in drug use and production. We are concerned about the youth." Mith Samheng, the Minister of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training of Youth, told the gathering that although Cambodia has not yet set up programs to combat drug abuse, the government recognized it needed to develop preventative measures.

The UN/ODCCP Liaison Office in Cambodia is in the process of attracting funds for a three year drug abuse awareness project aimed at high-risk young people throughout the country. As Sebastien Marot, director of Mith Samlanh/Friends, told the meeting, "we need to inform, we need to train and we need to do it fast because the drugs aren't waiting for us."

– **Graham Shaw, UN/ODCCP, Cambodia**

between international organised crimes, such as money laundering and exploitation of human beings. The partners agreed on some immediate steps to take more active role and make tangible contributions to the MOU process.

The meeting adopted the Beijing Declaration. Furthermore, a subregional project "Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse" was signed.

This year's meeting contributes to the implementation of the recommendations

for enhancing regional cooperation on drug control which resulted from the International Congress "In pursuit of a drug-free ASEAN 2015" which was held in Bangkok in 2000. On that occasion, ASEAN countries and China jointly endorsed the ACCORD Plan of Action – ASEAN and China Co-operative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs.

While entering the tenth year of drug control partnership in the Greater Mekong Subregion, the MOU represents not only

a model now replicated in other parts of the world, but it also serves as a forum where new adaptive changes to new challenges of drugs are considered. As shown in this meeting's deliberations, it is anticipated that the MOU countries will be manifesting their more active role through increased contributions to the process of planning, managing and implementing cooperative activities.

– **UNDCP, Bangkok**

How the Golden Triangle is becoming a Hexagon: **New Gross Criminal Product** **and Illicit Business ROUTES** **AROUND the Golden Triangle**

The dark side of globalization, i.e. new transnational crime utilizing new opportunities created by economic development was the subject of a recent UNDCP presentation. The main conclusions are here made available for a broader public.

At present most of the greater Mekong subregion is developing rapidly, which generally has a very positive impact on local communities. However, this development is also creating new opportunities for transnational criminal organizations. Especially the newly constructed (or planned) "Asian Road Links" are opening up the region for a number of unwanted activities. The focus of the presentation was on these unwanted side effects of economic development and infrastructure construction.

The new road links not only benefit local business, they also serve as links for trafficking of drugs, precursor chemicals and trafficking of humans and migrant smuggling. The most important of the new routes used for drug trafficking are: Methamphetamine is trafficked from Myanmar to China and Thailand sometimes using Laos as a transit point. Heroin is trafficked from Myanmar to China and Vietnam either for local consumption or in transit to overseas markets. Laos and increasingly Cambodia are used as transit point for these activities.

The Mekong River is increasingly prepared and applied for commercial traffic and as a result drug traffickers too are increasingly using these new riparian transport facilities. This trend has been highlighted by a recent seizure by Myanmar authorities where 9 million ATS tablets were seized at a boat at Wong Pong Port near the Myanmar Laos border.

Besides drug trafficking, human trafficking is another illicit business which is utilizing the opportunities created by the region's improving infrastructure. Chi-



Maps of Drug Smuggling Routes.

nese illegal immigrants travel via Mekong River to Muang Mom in Bokaew Province, Laos and cross the river to Ban Sob Ruak, Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai, Thailand. Some of them cross the land borders via Laos and Myanmar into Thailand.

Most of the illegal female immigrants from China end up at entertainment business parlors. Daily, Vietnamese illegal immigrant workers are trafficked into Dongxing in China. More than 6,000 Vietnamese illegal immigrants work in the Cambodian sex trade. Myanmar illegal workers are working in the border provinces of Thailand. Cambodian children are trafficked into Bangkok via Cha Cherng



Sao Province to become organized beggars. Daily Cambodian illegal workers cross the border to Thailand from Poipet as well as other Cambodian provinces.

In order to safeguard the proceeds of these illegal activities, money laundering has become a serious problem across the region. Casinos situated along Thai/Cambodian, Thai/Myanmar and Chinese/Myanmar borders constitute a heaven for money laundering activities. Additionally, licit businesses based on drug money are everywhere including investments in golf courses, real estate, and other front business.

Faced with this challenge the question of what to do becomes more urgent than ever. In order to resist that the fruits of development are abused by transnational criminal organizations action must be taken. Most importantly:

- Raise civil awareness through national and regional advocacy efforts on the major and emerging transnational crimes among member countries
- Promote and facilitate the strengthening of regional cooperation and develop new links and partnerships to generate more knowledge, ideas and resources to fight against all illicit activities
- Develop legal cooperation and harmonize laws for maritime and cross-border cooperation purposes
- Promote more effective communication channels for information sharing on recent drug trends, current on the ground situations, intelligence and other related issues

Conclusion:

The most important challenge for everyone concerned is how to balance the facilitation of economic development in this region with proper controlling measures in fighting against drugs and other illicit activities and to do so without entering into conflict with the region's economic development.

The problems of drugs and other illicit activities are no longer problems reserved the countries in the Golden Triangle. Transnational crime has become truly international and activities have become a threat to all countries competing on the global market place.

– **Songsatit Kittikhunwatchana,**
UNDCP, Bangkok

SEX and DRUGS, **But No Rock 'N' Roll**

A survey of female commercial sex workers in Vietnam



As part of UNDCP activities to reduce drug abuse and prostitution a survey of female commercial sex workers was conducted in Vietnam.

The survey provides a wide range of information about the women and the link between prostitution and drug addiction. A total number of 500 female sex workers from Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Da Nang, Thai Nguyen and Baria-Vung Tau participated in the survey, which took place during the last quarter of 2000. In addition to questionnaires in-depth interviews took place with a smaller sample of 100 women. The survey sites comprise for 55% of all known female prostitutes in Vietnam.

The survey found that 71% of the women were drug users. Most (64%) were in the 18-25 years age bracket, but 9% was younger than 18 years. 10% of the sample was illiterate and they were found mainly in Ho Chi Minh City. Compared to findings of previous studies the level of education of women in this sample was significantly higher. Almost 2/3 had secondary school level (including upper secondary) education. About half of the women participating in the survey were married.

Apart from prostitution half of the women were unemployed. Almost all were ethnic Vietnamese. 42% were migrants from rural areas. This figure is significantly lower than previous findings that indicated that most commercial sex workers were rural migrants.

Almost half cited "living a difficult life" as main reason for entering commercial sex work. Most rural migrant

prostitutes became addicted to drugs after entering the sex work. The drug using urban group mainly prostituted themselves to earn money for drugs. In this sample almost half had been in prostitution for 1-2 years at the time of the survey. The work place depended on age, beauty, health status and addiction. Addicted prostitutes tend to work more in public places.

Heroin is the drug best known by the women. It is also the main drug of choice and usually injected. ATS was still not very well known at the time of the survey. Drug use is very prevalent in both the workplace and the social environment of this group. The harmful consequences of drug use seemed to be well known, but the knowledge itself did not appear to lead to a decrease in the level of drug abuse.

Self-esteem was low and family support for the women limited. Child traumas (including sexual abuse) were highly prevalent both among drug abusers and non-users.

High risk behaviour for HIV/AIDS transmission was highest in the subgroup of drug users. In this group almost half never used condoms and 62% shared needles. Daily drug use cost is 3-15 US\$ (50,000 – 200,000 VND).

75% of those addicted received some form of drug treatment but relapse is very high.

Interviews are now being prepared to reduce drug abuse and prostitution rates in project sites (Haiphong, Danang and Ho Chi Min city). Implementation is foreseen for 2002.

– **UNDCP, Vietnam**



Cambodia **Receives CARS** **AND EQUIPMENT** from ODCCP in Its Fight against Drugs

The UNODCCP Liaison Office in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, formally handed over the right of use of two vehicles and a variety of office equipment to the Secretariat of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) in a ceremony held on February 21, 2002, as part of its commitment to help the Cambodian government develop its capacity to implement a national drug control programme under the supervision of the NACD.

The ceremony held at the offices of the NACD Secretariat was presided over by Lt. Gen. Teng Savong, the Secretary-General of the NACD, and Mr. Bengt Juhlin, head of the UNODCCP office in Cambodia.

Teng Savong said, "We can say that the assistance will contribute to further strengthening the capacity of the NACD Secretariat-General and the national drug control programme. We hope that the co-operation between the two institutions will be more effective and fruitful in the future."

The computers handed over in the ceremony form part of the UNDCP sub-regional project Enhancement of Drug Law Enforcement Training in East Asia that provides Cambodian language computer-based training to law enforcement officers at initially two training centres located in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. In his speech, Bengt Juhlin expressed his hope,

"that this new human resource development technology will result in a significant increase of the amount of illicit drugs being seized which in turn will strengthen the Cambodian Government's position as an effective regional and global partner in the fight against drugs."

Those attending the handover ceremony included the Japanese Ambassador, the Deputy Head of the US Mission to Cambodia together with representatives of the Australian Embassy, the European Union, the Australian Federal Police and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

- *Graham Shaw, UN/ODCCP, Cambodia*



Cambodia Begins **FIRST** **EVER** DRUG ABUSE **SURVEY** of School Children

The first ever survey of illicit drug abuse amongst secondary school children in Cambodia began on March 27, 2002, in the capital, Phnom Penh. The survey, part of the UNDCP project Subregional Development of Institutional Capacity for Demand Reduction among High Risk Groups, was organised by the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) with support from the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, Liaison Office, Cambodia.

A total of 2,000 high school students aged from 14 to 17 completed the Cambodian language survey totaling 191 questions. The schools involved in the survey included Sonthormok, Indratevi, Bak Touk and Preah Sisowath, which were randomly selected. Further surveys of high school students will be made in Battambang (800 students) and Sihanoukville (700 students) in the coming weeks and it is hoped that the final results of the data collected will be published by the end of July 2002.

The results from this initial survey will provide crucial data that will enable effective counter-measures to be developed as part of the national drug control programme. The survey will also help inform the development of future drug treatment and rehabilitation services for Cambodia and is of crucial importance in the efficient use of Government budget allocations as well as focusing assistance from donors, United Nations organizations, NGOs and other civil society groups.

This is the first in a series of drug



Bak Touk High School in central Phnom Penh

abuse surveys that will be performed in the coming year. Schoolchildren have been given priority as there is a common understanding that drug abuse, in particular methamphetamine/yaba, is on its way to

spreading rapidly amongst school children – a development that would mirror, for example, Thailand where the number of frequent drug users among school children has risen from 70,000 to a staggering 2.3 million in only 5 years.

Other population sectors to be analysed include other youth groups, workers in the entertainment industry, manual labourers, truck and taxi drivers, junior military personnel, workers in the garment industry and fishermen. More extensive surveying of high school, college and university students are also planned in the near future as funds become available.

– *Graham Shaw, UN/ODCCP, Cambodia*



Cambodian High School students taking part in the illicit drug abuse survey



“We Know What V in Reducing HIV/AIDS Vulnerability

The increasing number of injecting drug users particularly in Asia highlights the need to address the link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. The Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) is a global information and support network created to link and support the people and programs working in Asia to stop HIV among injecting drug users (IDUs). Activities include a resource center, newsletter, special reports, training programs and technical assistance and cover five key areas (advocacy, networking, training/capacity building, information dissemination and support to the establishment of enabling policies). *Eastern Horizons* has interviewed the Executive Director of AHRN, **Mr. Ton Smits**, on the dangerous link between drugs and HIV/AIDS.

What are the key programs promoted to prevent harms associated with drug abuse?

AHRN does not run actual harm reduction programs. Key to AHRN success is our partnerships with over 2000 members, of which more than 80% are based in Asia. Partnerships include communities affected, programs (where rehabilitated drug users play a key role), international organizations, research institutes and universities, NGO's both national and international as well as international organizations.

What are the ongoing programs you are promoting?

Some good practice examples in Asia include the Hong Kong Methadone Program, The Community Based harm reduction interventions for Akha people in Mae Chan in North Thailand, SHAKTI in Bangladesh, Nai Zindagi in Pakistan, SHARAN in India, the good work of the Samitarions in Calcutta, and Yayasan Hati Hati in Bali. Some interesting social marketing harm reduction programs are currently underway in Thailand and China.

What are the policies/actions of AHRN toward promoting national harm reduction networks?

Indonesia and Thailand are good examples of AHRN's work on this issue. In a recent meeting between a small group of members of the Thai Parliament and the Ministry of Health, it was agreed that a national harm reduction network would be an important instrument in the process of establishing enabling policies and programs.

AHRN has been instrumental in coordinating this meeting after a successful study visit to the 13th International Harm



Mr. Ton Smits.

Reduction Conference in Slovenia and to the Netherlands where delegates could see harm reduction in practice in prisons, at municipal health services and with law enforcement agencies. These visits were possible with the support of UNAIDS SEAPICT, Population Services International (PSI) and AHRN.

In Indonesia, the Centre for Harm Reduction (CHR) and AHRN are the International Partners of a Family Health International (FHI) coordinated project called ASA. This HIV/AIDS project is supported by USAID. FHI, ARHN and CHR are confident that our joint efforts there will result in an advocacy model that could be applied elsewhere in the region. The AHRN component includes advocacy to law enforcement agencies, the criminal justice system, religious leaders and media. AHRN will also be responsible for building capacity for networking. Yayasan Hati Hati in Bali will be the coordinating agency for the first year.

As part of the process stakeholders will meet at national meetings to further iden-

tify and address obstacles and challenges.

What are the barriers commonly faced in most projects working in Asia to stop HIV among IDUs?

Currently there are few programs in place in Asia, despite the fact that we know, that in many countries injecting drug use is the main mode of transmission for HIV/AIDS. Moreover there is lacking political support to the establishment of evidence-based programs. Social order campaigns based on dogma prevail in too many countries and are certainly to lead to disaster.

We know what works, there is overwhelming international backing (i.e. UNGASS, UN System Position Paper, CND Resolution) yet things are not happening. We will need all hands on deck to market these papers and strategies and convince leadership of the importance of evidence based, effective policies and programming. Too often I read reports in newspapers of country representatives where the words HIV/AIDS and the need for HIV prevention are not even mentioned once. Moreover most information is just sitting out there, often in languages not commonly spoken throughout countries.

In relation to the project in Indonesia, what do you think of the roles of the government, NGOs and communities in this country in reducing HIV and other harms associated with drug abuse?

Progress in Indonesia so far has been impressive. Within a relatively short period of time support for pragmatic approaches and policies have grown. Indonesia is implementing a methadone pilot project, and is given headway for NGO's targeting drug use and HIV in the absence of exist-

Works”

ing policies. I would argue that the Indonesian Minister of Health, Mr. Achmad Sujudi, is a great role model for the region. But also treatment programs such as Yayasan Kita and great activists such as Chris Green deserve lots of credit for ringing the alarm bells in Indonesia for a long time.

Further, there is strong leadership from well-respected senior (retired) government officials such as Pkh Brutto. With support from AusAID good things are happening too, and let's not forget the great role the UNAIDS Country Program Advisors have been playing in advocacy and coordination. I believe UNDCP also has plans working with Indonesia. Clearly there is willingness in Indonesia to move ahead and I would not be surprised if it would become a regional model.

What are effective programs for HIV prevention among IDUs that could be applied in this country?

Like in any other country where drug users do not have access to user friendly and comprehensive services, we need comprehensive programs inclusive of critical components such as drug substitution and needle and syringe availability programs. Most of all the criminalisation of drug users has to stop. Drug users have to become part of the solution. It is possible; religion does not have to be an obstacle. Wonderful programs by SHAKTI in Bangladesh and Nai Zindagi in Pakistan are good examples of this.

Do you face any difficulties during this on-going program since the issue of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in Indonesia is very sensitive?

People who are facing the greatest difficulties are those who are at risk of incarceration and of contracting HIV and other blood borne infections. Often forgotten, but also often under extreme pressure are the outreach workers and other program staff who often face harassment as a direct result of their compassion to their fellow men. Our difficulties compared to theirs are relatively small.

—Patricia M. Budiyanto, UNDCP, Bangkok

A SYSTEM FOR BEST PRACTICES

Health Canada has recently released guidelines for arriving at “best practices” related to addiction treatment and rehabilitation and more are on the way. “Best practices” are those actions that will have the greatest impact on reducing the current and future burden of addiction and related health problems. These actions include policies, programs, principles and guidelines, instructive resources, research, and more. Achieving “best practices” requires integration of knowledge from science (evidence) and practice to achieve informed decision-making and action. This can be achieved through a process in three phases that offers such integration and builds a system and a philosophy that continually infuses stronger knowledge in order to improve practice.

PHASE I synthesizing information

First step of the process involves synthesizing knowledge. Various sources suggest methods for systematically extracting the highest-quality evidence, but the amount of high-quality information relating to many behavior change practices is limited. Therefore, knowledge synthesis can yield only recommendations for practices – not “best practices”. This is due to the fact that they cannot account for the context in which the recommendations might be implemented which is a critical aspect of the process.

PHASE II applying knowledge to practice

Steps in applying best practices include: building awareness and understanding;

selecting, planning and delivering practices; and evaluating the process and impact. A “best practice” for ensuring that recommended practices are used, is developed through constant and intensive two-way communication. These qualities must be followed by opportunities for potential users to discuss how the practices might fit with their work, and how adaptations might improve the fit. Each of the steps involved in using best practices requires as much care and attention as those involved in the original knowledge synthesis.

PHASE III feedback – completing the cyclic process

This step closes the best practices process loop. A system for best practice involves continuously feeding information from practice and research back into the body of knowledge. Thus, organizations have the opportunity to impact the best practices process and contribute toward a system that is cybernetic and self-correcting.

In sum, a “best practice” is a fluid concept and continual program evaluation. It contributes to the ongoing refinement of what might more accurately be described as “better” practices. With the development of models for identifying best practices and the motivation supplied by funders anxious to make a difference, the addictions community faces an opportunity to develop a best practices system.

—Patricia M. Budiyanto, UNDCP, Bangkok
Based on information available in *Developments*, Edmonton: AADAC, Vol. 21, Issue 6, Dec 2001 – Jan 2002.

No “best practice” can be assumed to be best long into the future, so we must repeatedly redefine and implement better practices.

Recognising the **Need** for **Business Acumen** in Alternative Development Projects

Opium poppy is cultivated and forms a crucial source of cash income for poor farmers living in often extremely remote, mountainous areas, where the mainstream national economy has yet to penetrate. In alternative development projects aiming to end opium poppy cultivation by finding alternative sources of income, major challenges occur as the opium farmers are introduced to a whole new economy:

How can farmers in these remote areas find markets for alternative products that lack the automatic marketing force of opium? If they are fortunate enough to have a nearby marketplace, how can they be empowered to deal with post-harvest technology, transportation costs, pricing, and competitiveness? How can they get financial credit so that they are able to start small enterprises?

Issues such as these are currently faced in projects around the region, and were recently discussed at the regional seminar "Sharing experiences and good practices on micro-credits, revolving funds and marketing," held in Luang Prabang, Laos from 12-16 March 2002.

The seminar forms part of the UNDCP project administered by the Regional Centre, "Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia," a sub-regional project supported by AusAID running since October 2000. The recent seminar in Luang Prabang was preceded by a meeting of the Project Coordination Committee (PCC) for the project on 11 March. The PCC reviewed and expressed strong satisfaction with the progress in project implementation, and adopted the work-plan for 2002-2003.

Upcoming activities for the Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia project include a regional training on monitoring and evaluation of AD projects and a regional seminar on data base collaboration.

The alternative development cooperation seminar built on last year's regional



Slash and burn cultivation is still common in the highlands of Laos.

seminar held in Taunggyi, Myanmar, where micro-credit and marketing were identified as areas where much more information and knowledge were needed in order to arrive at more successful income replacement. Country delegations from China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, alternative development project

coordinators and managers, development specialists and representatives from UNDCP offices, donor and international development agencies all participated in the five-day seminar in Laos. There was certainly a sense of community among the participants, after many have now met several times in various regional activities



Peeling of mulberry bark – a cash crop and sometimes a beneficial alternative to opium. The bark is sold and applied in commercial paper production.



implemented under the project.

Country delegations presented their experiences in micro credits, revolving funds and marketing for alternative development. Project presentations from Laos and Thailand gave hands-on information on how these issues are felt at the project level. Since the amount of experience within the AD community is limited, advice and recommendations were also sought from invited guest speakers with more specialised expertise. Presentations on micro finance and micro business practices, marketing of horticultural crops in mountainous regions in Thailand, and

recommended guidelines for marketing AD products thus provided the participants with more detailed information on practices that have proven successful. A regional study on marketing was also presented to give an overview and account of the experiences in marketing AD products gained so far.

Group discussions were organised to allow more interaction and arrive at recommendations for future practices. One group focused on micro-credits and revolving funds, and among their recommendations were that alternative development should move towards enabling projects to incorporate such options, defining the structures that need be in place and their proper functioning in micro-credit and revolving fund schemes.

The group discussion on marketing found that the range of alternative development products is very wide in the region, some marketing constraints were identified, and finally the group listed important issues in establishing a marketing component in AD projects such as identifying products, product development, storage, transport, pricing and pro-

motion. The interest was very high among the participants, and the seminar boosted many conceptual and practical discussions. The seminar successfully initiated a common conscience on the impact tools such as micro-credit, revolving funds and marketing can have in opium producing areas.

A one-day field study visit to the outskirts of Luang Prabang provided opportunities to become more familiar with the seminar topics in practice. Several villages were visited, where local leaders presented their experiences with various forms of revolving funds in particular. The seminar participants also visited the Northern Agriculture and Forestry Research Centre, and the "Sloping Land Management Project" and research site run by IBSRAM.

A full report of the seminar's conclusions and recommendations, including papers and presentations, will soon be available in paper form and on the Regional Centre's AD website <http://www.undcp.un.or.th/ad>.

– Lise Bendiksen, UNDCP Bangkok.

International Drug Control Summit 2002: Parliamentarians Unite to Fight Drugs

The International Drug Control Summit 2002, jointly hosted by the Federation of Japanese Parliamentarians to Fight against Abuse of Narcotics and ATS, the Government of Japan, and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), was held in Tokyo on 23-24 April 2002. The summit in Tokyo was the first truly global forum of parliamentarians on drug control, since the previous four summits convened only the Western Hemisphere.

The exchange of views on international drug problems included discussing global trends in illicit drugs focusing on Bolivia's efforts and the development of the situation in and around Afghanistan, the global market situation of

ATS and other synthetic drugs, and the involvement of organized crime in production and trafficking of illicit drugs. There were also discussions on the control of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of ATS and other synthetic drugs and ways of combating drug trafficking.

Regarding demand reduction issues, the discussion focused on concerns about the deteriorating situation of drug abuse among youth and it was stressed that priority must be given to drug abuse prevention. It was suggested that Sweden host the next Drug Control Summit, which will take place next year.

– Patricia M. Budiyo, UNDCP, Bangkok

International Day **Against Drug Abuse** and **Illicit Trafficking** in Myanmar

Last June 26th, a groundbreaking marathon against drugs, a public event attended by over 300 people, took place in the streets of Yangon. This had also been organized to assess the feasibility of a deeper involvement of the local civil society in the anti-drug endeavours. The experiment proved better than expected.

Ever since, a number of remarkable steps have been taken. Pursuing the goal of an all-round youth-targeted drug awareness campaign, the idea was further pushed forward by networking with a group of local celebrities, who share our concern over the threat posed by synthetic drugs. In this respect, the findings of a drug consumption school survey, recently conducted by UNDCP, speak for themselves. The most striking outcome is that, after marijuana, synthetic drugs have passed heroin as the second drug of choice among



launch of its second drive last January, when the idea of a NGO consortium, for long time in the pipeline, materialized. In recognition of the need to foster concerted action, UNDCP and eight Yangon-based NGOs active in the field of drug control, agreed to jointly pursue their common goal of a drug free society in Myanmar.

campaign, which capitalizes on the popularity of the “Stars against Drugs” group. The overall framework plans to undertake a variety of innovative initiatives such as the first ever music tour across the country by a drug awareness raising mobile team; a wall-poster, street-poster and press campaign; a sport event and a video clip pro-



urban areas' high-school students.

The problem has not yet spread to endemic proportions, but UNDCP believes that timely preventive action is to be taken in order to avoid a major ATS epidemic. To this end, the involvement of local celebrities, role models for the youth, was sought and formally displayed in October 2001, when the “Stars against Drugs” group was established.

The civil society initiative recorded the

After identifying the partners and acknowledging their firm determination, all that remained to do was to lay down a set of concrete initiatives and move on to the operational phase. This is at the bottom of a multi-media outreach campaign. In principle the concept has already received the government's go-ahead.

The celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking provides an ideal occasion to kick off the

duction.

For all this to materialize, funding is needed and UNDCP is now in the process of appealing to the generosity of the local private sector, another crucial civil society constituent. However, even if only half of the package was financed and hence implemented, this would represent an achievement unthinkable just one year ago.

– Giovanni Gallo, UNDCP, Myanmar

Wa Region to Become Drug-free by 2005: But What's Next?

The Shan State, one of the most remote and rugged regions of Myanmar, accounts for 95% of the national opium production. The Wa and the Kokang areas alone account for 70%. These two ethnic groups are now in the world's spotlight.

Last year's drastic drop in Afghanistan's opium production crowned Myanmar as the world's largest opium producer, capturing public attention and condemnation. The President of the United States Mr. George W. Bush, as recently as last February, labelled Myanmar as "one of those countries that failed demonstrably to make sustainable counter narcotics efforts over the last 12 months". This makes Myanmar ineligible to receive any bilateral aid other than humanitarian from the United States of America.

On the domestic scene, earlier this month, the Wa and the Kokang authorities issued a bill stating that all drug related activities, such as production, trafficking and consumption, are prohibited in the territories they control and violations will be severely punished. The Wa went even further, reaffirming that their regions will be drug-free by 2005. Rather ambitious, if one considers that it took Thailand 30 years to stamp out opium. One of the provisions that characterizes both the bills is that opium growers will have their fields destroyed, should they fail to abide by the new law.

These decrees hint at an analogous story just two years ago. It was July 2000 when the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Omar, issued an edict imposing a total ban on opium poppy cultivation. Amid the global scepticism the ban was implemented and Afghanistan's opium production was slashed by 94%. The enthusiasm following this extraordinary result was soon replaced by new concerns. The gravity of the humanitarian situation had worsened by the over-night turn, leaving decades-long opium growers without any



alternative source of income.

If anything, Afghanistan's experience tells us that to make an achievement bal-

anced and sustainable, actions to provide alternative sources of income are imperative. Similar to Afghanistan, opium cultivation in Myanmar is intrinsically linked with humanitarian aspects such as food security.

Recent socio-economic studies conducted by UNDCP revealed that 95% of opium growers are forced by the necessity to offset chronic rice shortage. 94% of them showed a keen interest in alternative economic development to replace opium in their cash economy.

It goes without saying that the sustainability of any opium ban requires investments involving, among others, sectors such as agriculture, health, education and infrastructure. With a precarious economy, Myanmar doesn't have sufficient domestic resources and external humanitarian aid to the country is limited.

Against this background, since 1998 UNDCP has been running an alternative development project in the heart of the notorious Golden Triangle. With an initially estimated US\$15.4 million budget, the project aims at reducing and eventually eliminating opium production in the Southern Wa by providing opium-growing communities with economically viable and sustainable alternatives. Last year, the lack of funding led to significant cuts both in the staffing and in the scope of the project. For 2001, UNDCP received US\$1.1 million, against an initially planned US\$3 million. Despite these constraints, opium cultivation declined by a resonant 30% in the intervention zone.

While on a limited scale, this demonstrates the potential for sustainable opium reduction in a humanitarian fashion. To repeat this all over the Shan State and in order to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe for the current opium farmers and their families, additional external resources are required. Depending on this, the sharp opium reduction might not look so unrealistic.

– Giovanni Gallo, UNDCP, Myanmar

ADDRESSING PSYCHO – Social Problems at Work

ILO's InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork) in cooperation with ILO's International Training Centre has developed the course known as SOLVE.

This program has been developed in collaboration with the Turin Centre and successfully tested at an inter-regional training course at Turin and a national course in Malaysia. It was subsequently launched in South Africa at a regional course in Windhoek, in November 2001, in South East Asia in Penang, Malaysia, and at a national course in Chennai, India, in 2002. Additional national-level courses are foreseen during 2002.

This SOLVE course offers an integrated workplace response to psychosocial problems on stress, tobacco, alcohol and drugs, HIV/AIDS and violence. It also introduces an innovative approach whereby workers' health, safety and well being become integral parts of the economic sustainability and organizational development of enterprises.

The SOLVE methodology is designed to

allow an organization or an enterprise to integrate psychosocial issues into overall enterprise policy and establish a framework for preventative action. Specific action is developed through MicroSolve packages that target each of the five identified areas of SOLVE.

The modules provide step-by-step guidelines for putting into place preventa-

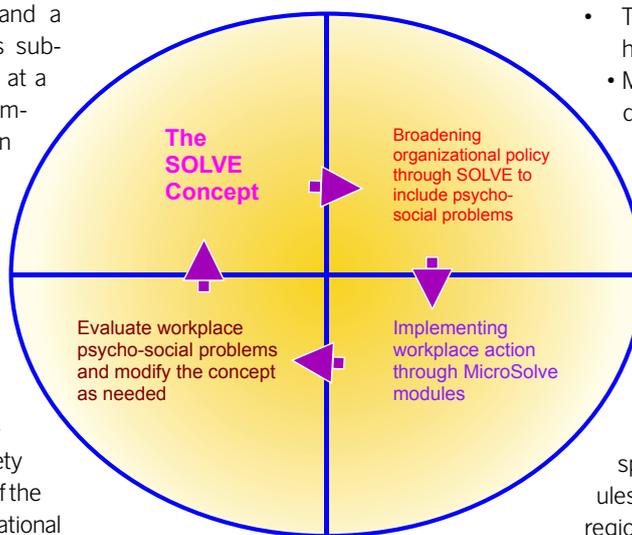
tive action. The enterprise has the opportunity to choose the MicroSolve modules that will best suit its organization.

Thus far, there are seven MicroSolve modules foreseen for 2001-2002:

- Preventing sexual harassment at the shop-floor level
- The shop-floor recognition of a sexual harassment problem
- Methods at the shop-floor level for dealing with sexual harassment
 - What a supervisor can do to prevent negative stress at work
 - A supervisor's ability to recognize stress among subordinates
 - Methods of dealing with negative stress
 - Preventing discrimination against HIV positive workers

As SOLVE becomes more widespread, additional Micro-Solve modules will be developed at the international, regional and national levels.

– Patricia M. Budiyo, UNDCP, Bangkok



The SOLVE implementation cycle

Skills for Drug Abuse Prevention

The Fourth Global Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention held from 13 to 17 May 2002 in Penang, Malaysia, focused on skill-based approaches in drug abuse prevention to enable prevention practitioners to be more effective in addressing drug problems.

There was a series of six specialized skill-based workshops on all aspects of drug abuse prevention. Additionally, there were two concurrent workshops on sharing best practices and innovative approaches in drug abuse prevention. The objectives of this conference were:

- To enhance specific skills in drug abuse prevention;
- To develop the global network on

drug abuse prevention;

- To share best practices on innovative approaches in drug abuse prevention;
- To forge linkages among policy makers, NGOs and prevention practitioners in drug abuse prevention.

The purpose of the specialized skill-based workshops were:

- Enhancing life skills in drug abuse prevention
- Parenting skills in drug abuse prevention
- Role of media in drug abuse prevention
- Utilization of cyberspace technology in drug abuse prevention
- Drug prevention project design

/formulation and management

- Mobilizing workplaces against drug abuse.

The meeting was organized by National Drugs Agency - Ministry of Home Affairs Malaysia, PEMADAM Malaysia, The Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (DAP), International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations (IFNGO) and US Department of State.

The participants invited for this meeting were policy makers, prevention practitioners, counselors, educationists, NGO volunteers, community and youth leaders, human resource managers, and members of civil society and concerned others.

– Patricia M. Budiyo, UNDCP, Bangkok

Bridging the GAP:

Global Alliance Perspective on Transnational Organized Crime



An impressive number of 400 law enforcement officials and academics gathered in Hong Kong March 18-21, 2002 to exchange views on a wide range of issues that they are confronting in the fight against transnational organised crime (TOC).

TOC has been a challenge to the international community for some time and continues to pose threats to the integrity of law enforcement systems worldwide as it threatens the legitimate ground on which we build our nations. Some of the activities include prostitution, trafficking of human beings, and illegal drug trafficking. Organised crime syndicates move these activities across national borders, strengthening their networks and increasing their profits.

Many of the delegates attending the conference came to share their experiences gathered from the field as they face a reality where cyber crime, money laundering activities and illegal operations across borders are becoming difficult to detect using traditional law enforcement techniques. Despite this, others came with clear illustrations of joint law enforcement operations emphasizing the fact that cooperation and information sharing between different law enforcement jurisdictions is happening and has accounted for successful interdiction.

Hong Kong Police, the organizers and trailblazers of the conference have hosted this gathering as a statement of commitment towards creating an environment for effective law enforcement responses to challenge the operations of transnational crime syndicates.

General consensus emerging from the conference was focused around

strengthening and building on the current interaction and existing levels of cooperation, which the delegates agreed required more trust and strategic partnership.

The conference titled "Bridging the Gap" was divided around four themes, which were guided by panel discussions and keynote speakers. Their concerns centred around:

1. Emerging trends in narcotic crime, new drugs appearing on the market and the increased sophistication of the organisations marketing these drugs as well as the extent to which illegal narcotic and precursor production is occurring across borders in the region. The increasing abuse of amphetamine stimulants and the growing trafficking of heroin in China was presented.
2. How new networks such as those designed to undermine financial systems and those linked to child pornography have developed and have expanded the face of cyber crime.
3. Triad societies and their increasing span of influence.
4. Money laundering, the funding source of the transnational criminal activities.

As a result of the deliberations it was clear that important milestones had been achieved in the region. Credit was given to the existence of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties, the result of which has made legal procedures between countries much easier. Noted was also the expansion of the technology crime divisions in Hong Kong and Singapore along with the formation of Interpol's working parties in cyber crime in Asia, Africa,

Europe and the US.

The political will created by the Memorandum of Understanding of the Greater Mekong Subregion and the ACCORD Plan of Action for a Drug Free ASEAN 2015 has laid the foundation for international cooperation.

Nonetheless delegates recognised that higher levels of inter-country cooperation had to be achieved in order to match the transnational nature of the crimes being committed. By far, the greatest tool to reinforcing this foundation was recognized as **TRUST**. Conference delegates reiterated that the fight against organised crime systems hangs on the levels of trust and willingness to cooperate with each other as law enforcement officers in the region.

Hong Kong police has already confirmed their commitment to the process by offering more places in their current and upcoming training courses. Delegates left the conference with three challenges issued to them by the Hong Kong Police Commissioner:

- To share expertise and specialist equipment when and where necessary;
- To seek assistance of each other when dealing with cases of an extent which may cross borders;
- To trust each other.

As the Hong Kong Commissioner stated: "The success of a case will not depend solely on how much information you are willing to share but how quickly you are able to respond as an international team."

– *Dianne McIntosh, Centre for Criminology, University of Hong Kong*

Training **ETHNIC** **ANTI-DRUG** Motivators

Chu Po Xa, a Ha Nhi ethnic woman from Muong Te district, blushed when it was her turn to become a story teller in a training session on communication skills. It was not easy for her - an ethnic woman who rarely went out of her native far-off Go Kha hamlet - to stand before such a big audience and talk.

Everyone in the classroom looked at her in the new dress that she wears on market days only. All of them are newly-made friends in this training workshop organized by the UNESCO Centre for Non-Formal Education of Vietnam (UCNEV) with support from the UNDCP/DAPC NGO Grant Scheme. They are 50 trainees coming from 10 districts and communes in Lai Chau Province. Chu Po Xa and two others from Muong Te district had traveled three days before they reached Dien Bien Phu to attend the training. But this time they had nothing to worry about, because the provincial women union and the continuing education centre had provided travel cost, accommodation and meals during their stay in the provincial town.

Chu Po Xa was so shy and excited that she could not see anything, hardly knowing what to say. Someone slipped into her hand a pictorial book developed under the project for distribution to the trainees in the workshop, urging her to read. She took a secret glance at Ms. Van and Mr. Duc who are the trainers, seeking their support.



Catching their encouraging eyes, she felt more confident and made up her mind not to read but to tell a story as required. With a deep breath she started with her own story about Ly Xu Che - an opium smoker who successfully kicked off the drug habit with the support of his family and fellow villagers.

Chu Po Xa's story received a rousing applause from the audience. In only one week she learned a lot about drugs and drug abuse. Through role plays she practiced life skills such as making informed decisions, refusing drug use and minimizing drug related harms, and she learned how HIV is transmitted by shared contaminated injecting equipment. The training provided her with knowledge and skills to become an anti-drug motivator. When she returns to her remote Muong Te mountainous district, she will set out to work to bring the benefits of the project to hundreds of drug users in the district's villages.

- *Nguyen Tuong Dung, UNDCP, Vietnam*

The **UNDCP/** **DAPC Grant** **Project**

The UNDCP/DAPC Grant Project "Educating on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention and control for education representatives and key cadres of provincial women's association in Lai Chau mountainous province in Vietnam" has completed the following activities in 2001.

- 8,000 copies of 4 publicity materials containing basic information about drugs, appropriate to ethnic minorities were developed and distributed.
- 100 participants including 70 women from 10 districts and the Continuing Education Branch and Women Association of Lai Chau province obtained benefit from two training courses on education of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- 50 of them became local trainers to provide follow-up training to 450 district and commune women leaders in 10 districts and the provincial town.

LEADERSHIP



The UN Secretary-General has appointed Antonio Maria Costa (Italy) as the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) and as the Director General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. Mr. Costa joins the UN from his position as Secretary-General of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London.

Mr. Costa was born on 16 June 1941 in Mondovi, Italy. He holds a degree in political science from the University of Turin and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

From 1969 to 1983, Mr. Costa served as an economist in the

United Nations Department of International Economics and Social Affairs and became Head of Unit. He was subsequently appointed Under-Secretary-General (Special Counselor) at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris where he served until 1987. He was a member of the OECD Working Group for the liberalization of capital flows and the control of financial transactions, as well as Alternate Member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank Interim Committee and of the G-10 Group for the coordination of economic policy, public governance and international monetary affairs.

He served at the Commission of the European Union between 1987 and 1992, rising to the post of Director-General for Economics and Finance. As Secretary-General of EBRD, Mr. Costa oversaw political issues, institutional affairs, corporate governance and questions relating to shareholders.

Mr. Costa is married with three children.

Global Fund **Moves** To Action



In its first funding round, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) on April 25 announced how it was to disburse the nearly US\$2 billion at its disposal. "We received far more proposals than we are able to fund in this first round, demonstrating how great the need is to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria", said Anders Nordström, Interim Executive Director of GFATM. "We prioritized high-quality proposals that were based on effective programs and lessons learned, and were developed by partnerships of governments, community organizations, people living with the diseases, and other groups."

GFATM was created as an independent public-private partnership to increase the global resources available to combat AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, direct the resources to areas of greatest need, and ensure that the funds are used effectively. Programs aimed at prevention, treatment, care and support of those infected and directly affected are all eligible for funding.

Proposals to the Fund must be evidence-based, technically and developmentally sound, and must show that added resources will bring added results. So far, GFATM has awarded and approved many proposals to support national plans in fighting AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in

many countries.

The idea of an international funding mechanism to fight these diseases crystallized at the Okinawa G8 Summit in July 2000. At the urging of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and national leaders, the concept was then unanimously endorsed at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June, 2001. GFATM became officially operational at the first meeting of the Board in January 2002 and the announcement of the approved proposals on April 25 therefore marked the end of a very swift review process.

This first round seems to have been a learning exercise for GFATM as there was insufficient focus on disease treatment compared to prevention and other aspects of care. Therefore, proposals with a strong treatment component, practicable and coming from groups or organizations that are committed to working together to achieve set goals will be favored. The need to disburse funds towards programs with the potential to have a rapid and tangible effect on the burden of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria and to demonstrate impact and effectiveness on the ground is clearly critical.

"The Global Fund has clearly not been established as a research-funding agency. However, applied and operational research

will be essential to facilitate and improve effectiveness," said Professor Richard Feachem, founding director and current head of the Institute for Global Health at the University of California.

Where will the money come from? So far, almost all the money has come from the public sector but governments' generosity has varied, which is criticized to be a poor response to GFATM's request for funding. Therefore, an "equitable contributions framework", where the contribution of each relatively wealthy country to GFATM would be 0.035% of gross domestic product, is proposed.

Moreover, a key question in the future will be the greater private-sector involvement in all stages of the funding process, including technical review; and also the pharmaceutical industry, which it is believed has significant potential to contribute in many ways, including sharing expertise in research, development and business management. Demonstrable impact and effectiveness of programs will attract more donors, as optimistically stated by Professor Feachem: "funds will follow demonstrated success, including support from the private sector."

— **Patricia M. Budiyanto, UNDCP, Bangkok**

PERSONALIA



Mr. Fumio Ito (Japan) joined the UNDCP Regional Centre on 2 May 2002 as Associate Expert. Fumio's main assignments will be to assist in the implementation of law enforcement projects in areas such as strengthening of judicial and prosecutorial drug control capacity and response to trafficking of human beings. He has a Master of Law degree from Japan and a Master of Law and J.D. degrees from the US. He also brings with him seven years of professional experience serving municipal government office in Japan.

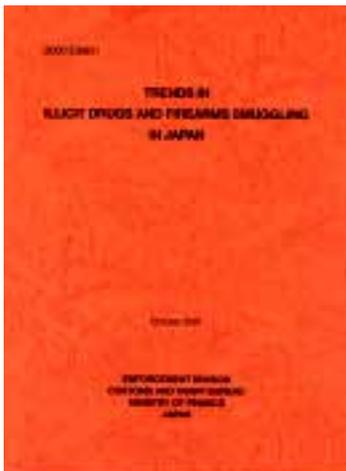


Mr. Brian Iselin (Australia) is the new Regional Legal Policy Adviser to the UN / O D C C P Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. His specific task is to counter human trafficking, and more specifically the sex slave trade in women and children in the Mekong sub-region. Brian was formerly a Federal Agent in the Australian Federal Police, his last posting being as Counsellor (Law Enforcement) in the Australian Embassy to China. His law enforcement experience includes Asian organised crime investigations (mostly drug-related), strategic intelligence, and operations policy.



Ms. Patricia Margaretta Budiyanto (Indonesia) has joined the Regional Centre as an Intern. Patricia has a Master degree in International Business from Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia. During her studies, she worked as a research assistant at the University for more than two years. By joining the four-month internship program at UNDCP Regional Centre, she intends to gain professional experience in an international organization. She is especially interested in global issues such as drugs, development, and crime. Patricia will pay special attention to the field of demand reduction and serve as deputy editor for Eastern Horizons.

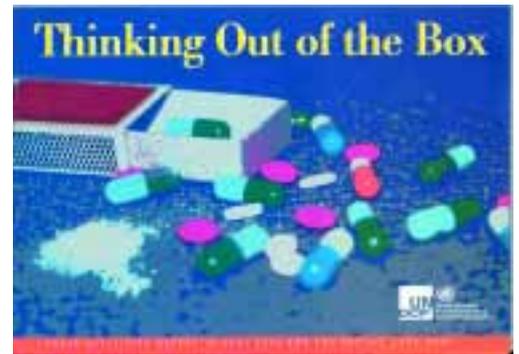
Trends in Illicit Drugs and Firearms Smuggling in Japan, Tokyo: Enforcement Division Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan, 2001. The report outlines the present trends in drugs and firearms smuggling and explains the initiatives taken to curb the illicit activities. The report is available from Coordination Section, Enforcement Division, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, 3-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8940, Japan, Phone: (+81-3) 3581 0039.



Final Report on Findings of Nationwide Student Drug Use Survey; Conducted by the The National Assessment Team, Myanmar, Yangon: CCDAC & UNDCP, 2001. This report is the outcome of one of the activities of the UNDCP regional project Developing Institutional Capacity for Demand Reduction among High Risk Groups. The survey is available from UNDCP Myanmar, No 11 (A), Maylikha Road, Ward 7, Mayangone T/S, Yangon, Union of Myanmar, Phone: (+95-1) 666 903, Fax: (+95-1) 666 903, E-mail: undcp.mm@undp.org



Thinking Out of the Box: UNDCP Activities Report in East Asia and the Pacific 2000-2001, Bangkok: UNDCP, 2002. The report outlines the challenges which face the region regarding issues such as illicit drugs, human trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS and what UNDCP in partnership with the people in the region are doing to face these challenges.



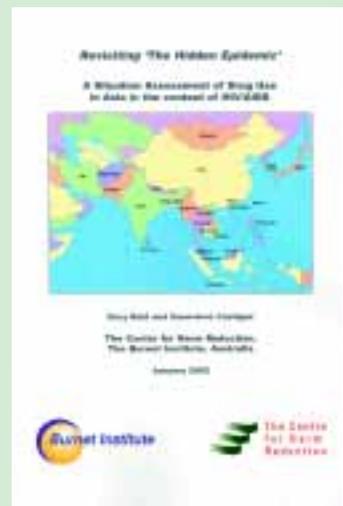
There are chapters about computer based law enforcement training, alternative development, actions taken against HIV/AIDS and what is done to curb the demand of illicit drugs.

The report is available from the UNDCP Regional Centre, 14th Floor, United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand, Phone: (+66-2) 288 2091, Fax: (+66-2) 281 2129, E-mail: rcdcp@undcp.un.or.th, Web site: <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>

Gary Reid and Genevieve Costigan, Revisiting 'The Hidden Epidemic' A Situation Assessment of Drug Use in Asia in the Context of HIV/AIDS, Fairfield: Burnet Institute & The Centre for Harm Reduction, 2002. In 1997 the Centre for Harm Reduction and the Asian Harm Reduction Network carried out a rapid situation assessment of drug use and HIV vulnerability in the Southeast Asian Region.

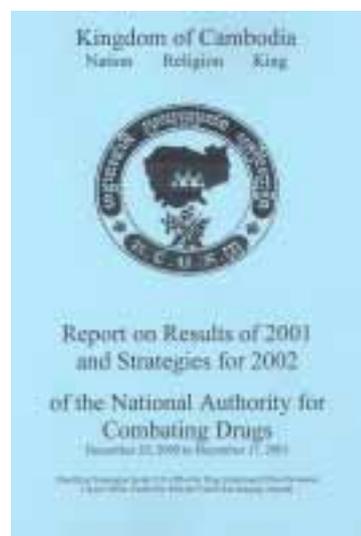
for Harm Reduction, The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research & Public Health, P.O. Box 254 Fairfield, Victoria, Australia 3078. The report is also available on-line on <http://www.chr.asn.au>

The resulting report was called "The Hidden Epidemic." Today's report offers a new regional situation assessment, which is also broadened to cover all of Asia including South Asia. The report documents enormous changes in many areas including: changes in drug production and use, new populations becoming involved with illicit drugs and with their injection, and continuing explosive epidemics of HIV among different populations.



The compiled reports from a wide selection of Asian countries leaves a frightening and clear message. The epidemic is no longer hidden and serious action needs to be taken - right now!

The report is available from The Centre



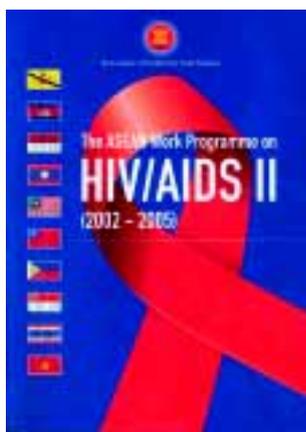
Report on Results of 2001 and Strategies for 2002 of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, Phnom Penh: NACD, 2002. The report describes the results achieved in drug control in 2001 and outlines the strategy to be pursued in 2002.

The English version of the report (unofficial translation by UN/ODCCP by the UN/ODCCP Liaison Office in Cambodia) is available from the UN/ODCCP Liaison Office in Cambodia, House No.4, Ma o Tse-Tung Boulevard, Sangkat Boeung Keng Kang, Khan Chamcarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Phone: (+855) 23 726 035, Fax: (+855) 23 216 257, E-mail: unodccp@pigpond.com.kh. The report is also available on-line on the UNDCP Regional Centre's website: <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>

The ASEAN Work Programme on HIV/AIDS II (2002-2005), Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, 2002.

The book contains plenty of useful information about the ASEAN Work Programme (AWP) on HIV/AIDS. It includes chapters reviewing the implementation of AWP I, assessment of the regional needs and capacity for AWP II on HIV/AIDS, objectives of AWP II, strategies and priority programme areas.

The book is available from the ASEAN Secretariat, 70 A Jl. Sisingamangaraja, Jakarta, 12110, Indonesia, Phone: (+62-21) 724 3372 or (+62-21) 726 2991, Fax: (+62-21) 739 8234 or (+62-21) 724 3504, E-mail: public@aseansec.org, Web site: <http://www.aseansec.org>

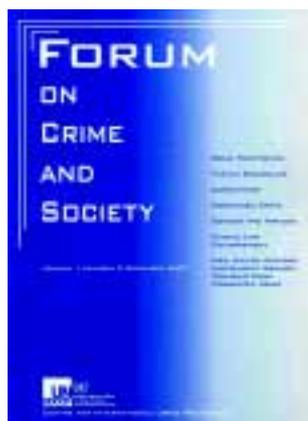


Forum on Crime and Society, Volume 1 Number 2, Vienna: UN/ODCCP, 2001.

The second issue of the new periodical from UN/ODCCP was recently published

continuing its efforts to help forge partnerships among scholars, experts and decision makers so as to advance knowledge and policy, upgrade practice and achieve reform in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in line with universal standards, norms and precepts. This issue contains articles debating among other issues drug trafficking, human smuggling,

corruption, gender and mafiosi, and female law enforcement. The Forum is available from UN/ODCCP Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43-1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43-1) 26060 5898, E-mail: odccp@odccp.org, Web page: <http://www.odccp.org>



Australian Illicit Drug Report 2000-01, Canberra: ABCI, 2002.

The report provides a strategic review and statistical analysis of the illicit drug situation in Australia and does so from a law enforcement perspective. The report provides and comments on data obtained directly from law enforcement agencies and provides the reader with the overall picture of the drug control situation in Australia. The report is available from ABCI (Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence), PO Box 1936 Canberra City 2601, Phone: (+66) 2 6243 5666, Fax: (+66) 2 6247 5380.



List of documents previously distributed by UNDCP Regional Centre (Bangkok)

- 1/2001 National Workshop for Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91)
- 2/2001 First Annual Meeting of the Mutual Legal Assistance Advisory Committee (MLAAC)-AD/RAS/97/C74
- 3/2001 Fellowship Programme in Malaysia 04 September-10 October 2000 (AD/RAS/97/C74)
- 4/2001 Participants Database: Seminars, Workshops and Meeting for 1st Phase of Development of Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91) (12 November 1999- 15 January 2001)
- 5/2001 Review of High Risk Groups in China - Urumqi and Yining, Xinjiang Autonomous Region (Urumqi-Yining, 15-19 September 2000) (AD/RAS/98/C75)
- 6/2001 Directory of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services, East Asia and the Pacific
- 7/2001 Eliminating Opium: Lessons from Succeeding in Thailand
- 8/2001 Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation Meeting/Workshop (AD/RAS/99/D91)
- 9/2001 Status of Donor Contributions to Regional Programmes as of December 2000
- 10/2001 Eastern Horizons No. 5, March 2001
- 11/2001 Cambodia Country Profile
- 12/2001 Pacific Islands Regional Profile
- 13/2001 Injecting Drug Use and HIV Vulnerability: Choices and Consequences in Asia and the Pacific
- 14/2001 Report on Workshop "A Partnership with United Nations in A World Class Training Project", Bangkok, Thailand, 24-25 April 2001
- 15/2001 What they said: Press Clippings: Ministerial and Senior Officials Committee Meetings on Drug Control, Yangon, 9-11 May 2001
- 16/2001 Eastern Horizons No.6 June 2001
- 17/2001 Sports and Drugs (Press Kit), International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June 2001
- 18/2001 Annual Field Report 2000
- 19/2001 Regional Profile 2000
- 20/2001 Global Impact of the Ban on Opium Production in Afghanistan
- 21/2001 Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia
- 22/2001 UNDCP Judicial Fellowship in the Balkans
- 23/2001 Alternative Development: Sharing Good Practices, Facing Common Problems
- 24/2001 Eastern Horizons No.7, September 2001
- 25/2001 Opium Reduction in Thailand, 1970-2000: A Thirty-Year Journey
- 26/2001 Training Guide: Community Participation in Alternative Development Projects
- 27/2001 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, IX. Advanced Intelligence Analysis
- 28/2001 ACCORD: First Meeting of the ACCORD Plan of Action Task Forces, 12-14 November 2001, Bali, Indonesia
- 29/2001 Eastern Horizon No.8, December 2001
- 1/2002 Projects B65 & C46 - Terminal Report
- 2/2002 Regional Drug Control Profile for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, 1 February 2002
- 3/2002 The Private Sector is a Protagonist of the Community Response to the Drug Scourge in the East Asia and Pacific Region
- 4/2002 Law Enforcement Programme Evaluation Report
- 5/2002 Eastern Horizon No.9, March 2002
- 6/2002 Progress Report on Subregional Action Plan on Drug Control (Report No. 6; June 2001 - May 2002)

The above documents can be obtained through the website of UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific (<http://www.undcp.un.or.th>)

The Charity Concert to Promote Human Security in Asia - Pacific

The concert will be graciously presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn



Uniting for Human Security in Asia - Pacific

We call on civil society, including the business community, to support United Nations activities for human security, to share experiences and lessons learned, and to unite for action to promote a more secure Asia-Pacific region.



Orchestra Suzuki of Turin (Italy)

27 June 2002 at 18:00 at United Nations Conference Centre, Level 2, ESCAP Hall - Ticket Prices at 1000, 700 and 500 baht
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Tel: 02-288 2532, 02-288 2091
28 June 2002 at 15:00 at Siam City Hotel, Kamolthip Ballroom - Ticket Price at 1000 and 500 baht
477 Si Ayuthaya Road, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Tel: 02-247 0123 (Skytrain Station: Phaya Thai)
Reserve your tickets at Thai Ticket Master Call Center: 02-262 3837. Website: www.thaiticketmaster.com



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Articles, comments and relevant information with photos or tables attached are welcomed. Submissions should not exceed 500 words. Full name and signature must accompany all letters to the editor. Articles and letters may be edited for purposes of space and clarity.

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