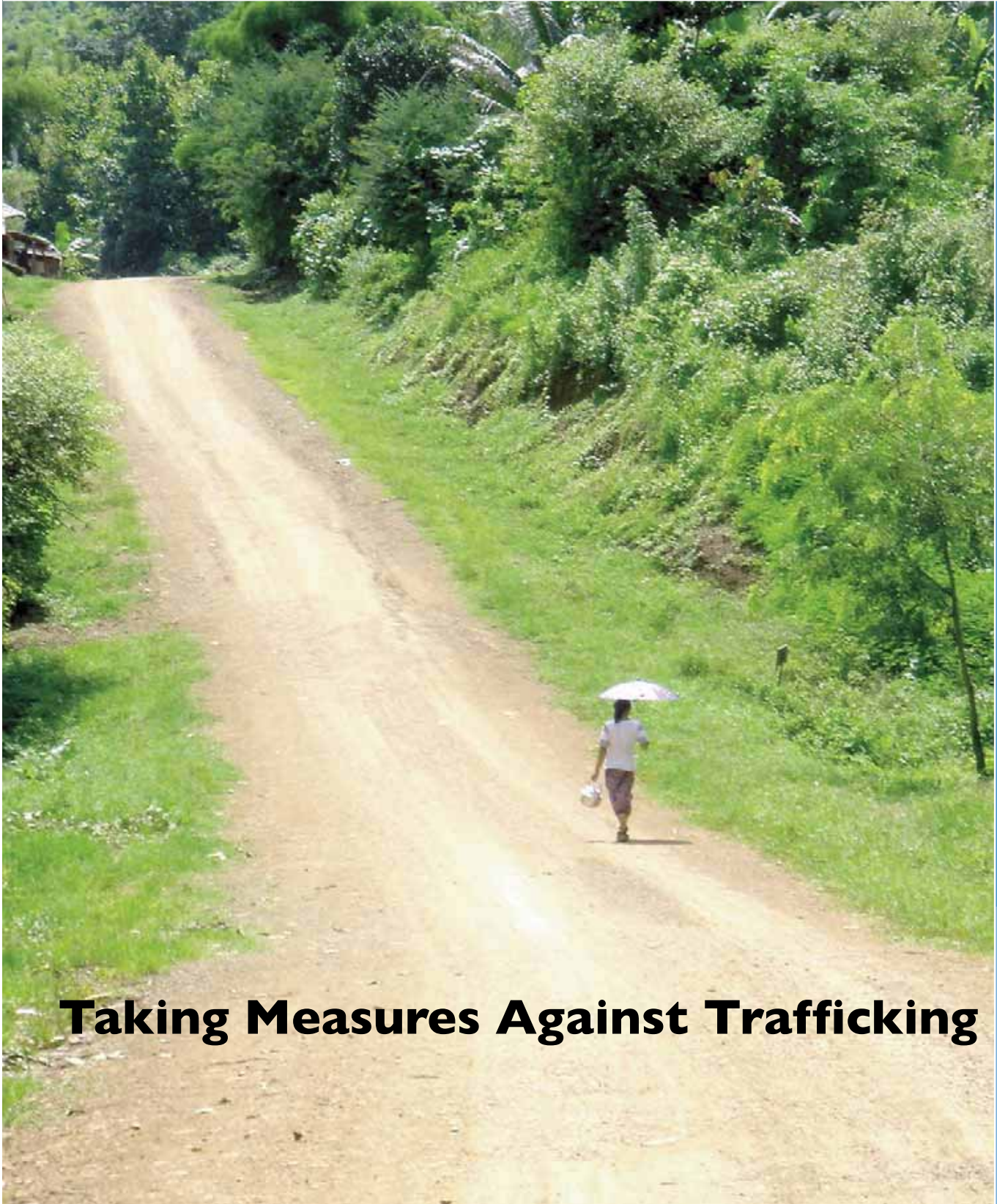




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Eastern Horizons

Autumn/Winter 2004



Taking Measures Against Trafficking



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Autumn/Winter 2004

ABOUT THE COVER

The road may be long and winding.

For areas growing the opium poppy, UNODC envisions sustainable alternative development, paving the way for an opium-free community in the region. Photo shows the road leading to a village in Laos which is now growing other agricultural crops instead of the opium poppy.

Photo by Akira Fujino.

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CONTENTS

TRAFFICKING



4 Countries Explore Opportunities to Curb Drug Trafficking by Sea



5 Ministers from Six Mekong Countries Sign Historic Agreement on Human Trafficking

7 UNODC Supports Philippines' Human Trafficking Initiative

10 The Trafficked, the Traffickers, and the Threats

PROJECTS

13 Sustaining the BLOs: Sustaining the War against a Borderless Menace

16 ACCORD Countries Plan for 2005

17 Cambodia and Myanmar Advance Development of Drug-related Data Collection Systems



CAPACITY BUILDING

19 Multimedia Training for Drug Law Enforcement Personnel Show Positive Results

21 Multimedia Training Reaches Out to Drug Law Enforcement Officials

22 Project Management Training Beefs Up Skills of Drug Control Personnel



REGIONAL MEETINGS



34 New Publications

24 HONLEA Meeting Explores Solutions to Regional Drug Scourge

26 HONLEA: Partnerships at Work

28 Briefs

33 Internship Opportunities

35 Stories from the Past – Series II

In 2004, the world and this region faced difficult times, ending the year with the tsunami disaster. The staff of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific extend their deep sympathies to all those families that tragically lost their loved ones and express sincere hope for the speedy reconstruction of the countries affected. While during the initial emergency relief phase UNODC's capacity for such assistance is limited, it is currently conducting needs assessments with a view to providing mid- to long-term assistance within its areas of competence for issues related to, for instance, human trafficking involving tsunami victims, criminal justice systems, and corruption in the reconstruction phase.

One year has passed since I assumed my duties as the Representative in January 2004. A number of major regional events have taken place during the year. After a decade, the 11th Senior Officials Meeting of the six-country Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) mechanism, took place at Krabi, Thailand in April. The World AIDS Conference was held in Bangkok in June. A range of drug law enforcement meetings were organized, including one for maritime drug law enforcement cooperation. Various task force meetings of ACCORD (The ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs) were held in different countries. Regional and international meetings on alternative development to replace opium crops have attracted attention. Human trafficking issues led to another MOU for the greater Mekong region. These have been covered in this and earlier issues of the Eastern Horizons.

In my first message published in the Eastern Horizons (March 2004 issue), I noted that the approach to work at UNODC Regional Centre will be issue- and results- oriented, focusing on cross-sectoral and inter-regional linkages. Today, such linkages increasingly require further networking with competent national, regional and international bodies, as well non-government organizations. When integrated approaches to drug and crime issues are even more acutely needed, such networking is essential. Today, we are dealing with truly multi-sectoral issues.

I intend to explore further possibilities, by forging partnerships, particularly involving civil societies. In addition to my working closely with various governmental and intergovernmental bodies in the region, I have directly witnessed innovative approaches of civil societies in different fields in various countries. Where UNODC Regional Centre has the comparative advantages in linking up partners, governmental and non-governmental alike, we shall make every effort to assist in reinforcing networking initiatives.

A thematic focus for this issue is "trafficking". Whether trafficking in drugs or in human beings, organized crime is behind such trafficking, affecting other issues such as HIV/AIDS and corruption, providing obstacles to development. It is for this reason that we chose the theme. In addressing newly emerging issues in the region, we shall aim at regional responses.

The year 2004 has set up a leaping ground for activities in 2005. I look forward to working even more closely with our partners in the region and beyond. ■

Akira Fujino

Representative

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok

The Royal Project Photo, Thailand



Countries Explore Opportunities To Curb Drug Trafficking by Sea



On the occasion of the seminar, the Japan Coast Guard held a demonstration of an exercise on the capture and inspection of a vessel smuggling drugs.



Whether by air, land, or sea, drug traffickers utilize various types of routes to promote their business.

To enhance international cooperation on information exchange and practical operations against drug trafficking by sea, the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Seminar (MADLES) 2004, was organized by the Japan Coast Guard and co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 12-15 October 2004 in Tokyo.

Mr. Akira Fujino, UNODC Representative for East Asia and the Pacific addressed the meeting, highlighting the changing patterns in drug trafficking in the region, particularly involving amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), and actual cases of maritime drug law enforcement cooperation. He stressed that networking for real time information exchange is essential for both law enforcement and regulatory authorities within a Government, between Governments, and with competent international bodies.

During the MADLES meeting, Ms. Catherine Volz, Chief, Treaty and Legal Affairs Branch, UNODC, also delivered an opening address and further made a presentation giving a detailed account of UNODC-developed Practical Guide for Competent National Authorities under Article 17 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, setting the framework for practical maritime drug law enforcement cooperation.

MADLES 2004 offered the first regional training on the Practical Guide. Most of the 15 countries participating in the

meeting were represented by both maritime authorities and drug law enforcement agencies, complimenting each other's roles. The awareness for necessary information exchange between them was clearly discernable in the country presentations and subsequent discussions. A number of countries, including Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Philippines and Thailand provided concrete examples of maritime drug law enforcement cooperation.

The Japan Coast Guard presented a simple to use electronic information and intelligence sharing system (e-MADLES). Through a secured e-mail, specifically designed for maritime drug law enforcement cooperation, the system has been successfully tested between Japan and China. The participants were invited to consider its practical application. The meeting of the Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) also provided a further opportunity for the countries to review e-MADLES. Subsequently, e-MADLES has become functional between the Japan Coast Guard and the Thai Marine Police.

It was noteworthy that in reporting on the latest trends in trafficking in, and abuse of, controlled drugs, practically all the countries represented at the meeting referred to ketamine, a substance that is not yet under international control, reportedly abused together with methamphetamine. The HONLEA meeting held in November 2004 called for the international control of ketamine. ■

Ministers from Six Mekong Countries Sign Historic Agreement on Human Trafficking

The world's first comprehensive regional trafficking agreement was signed by representatives of the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, The Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, capping the week-long Inter-Ministerial Consultation held in October 2004 at Yangon, Myanmar.

*By Sanna Nissinen
UNODC Regional Centre*



UNIAF Photo/ Melissa Stewart

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) was signed and adopted by the countries during the ministerial level meeting.

The regional agreement addresses all forms of human trafficking, and focuses on a range of trafficking-related issues, including criminal justice, repatriation, victim support, channels for safe and legal migration and exploitative labor practices. Through COMMIT, the six countries committed to take actions in national/international policy and cooperation; legal frameworks, law enforcement and justice; protection, recovery, and reintegration; preventive measures; and implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

“We hope that COMMIT could be a model of collaboration for other parts of the world as well as lead to a strengthened cooperation among the countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS),” said Mr. Yngve Danling, Law Enforcement Advisor, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.

Through the Memorandum of Understanding, GMS countries recognize the need for a strengthened criminal justice response to trafficking to secure justice for victims of trafficking and end impunity for traffickers and others who derive benefits from this crime. The countries asserted that it is completely unacceptable that human beings are traded, bought, sold, abducted, placed, and maintained in exploitative situations, thus being de-

nied their most fundamental and inalienable rights. They emphasized that children and women who become victims of trafficking are particularly vulnerable, and need special measures to ensure their protection and well-being.

Started in 2003, COMMIT evolved as an inter-governmental process among the six GMS countries to combat human trafficking. While a wide range of initiatives were undertaken in the past, these efforts were externally driven with little government ownership. The GMS countries acknowledged the need for multi-sectoral, inter-country, and collective efforts.

The GMS countries are considered to be major points of origin, transit and destination for trafficked persons. Many factors contribute to the problem of trafficking including poverty, economic disparity, unemployment, gender bias, lack of educational opportunities and access to information, inadequate legislation, poor law enforcement, conflict, family problems, and the breakdown of traditional extended family support mechanisms. It is an industry, which involves transnational organized criminal groups and less sophisticated “cottage industry” at the local levels. While trafficked women and children face a range of exploitative conditions, including prostitution, forced marriage, domestic service, exploitative labor and begging, men usually end up in factory and construction work.

Prior to the ministerial gathering, a two-day meeting was held 27-28 October 2004, where over 40 senior officials from the six countries developed concrete activities for COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action. Some of the areas of practical cooperation include the creation of a network for repatriation and reintegration of victims between the six countries; networking of specialist police units from different countries to build cooperation in investigations and prosecutions; support for a regional training facility to build capacity for government officials to better understand and

act against trafficking; and improved extradition procedures.

The COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action will be reviewed during the first quarter of 2005 at the Senior Officials’ meeting in Hanoi to be hosted by the Government of Vietnam. Officials at the meeting confirmed that by early 2005, a Regional Plan of Action on trafficking will be enacted based on the framework set in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The COMMIT process is being supported by UNODC, in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, Royal Norwegian Government, Australian Agency for International Development, New Zealand Agency for International Development, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children’s Fund, Save the Children UK, and International Organization for Migration.

The agreement commended GMS states which have ratified and/or acceded to the key international legal instruments concerning trafficking and related exploitation including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and its Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; International Labour Organization Forced Labour Conventions (29&105); International Labour Organization Convention (182) Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour; and encouraged those States which have not yet done so, to accede to these instruments at the earliest possible time. ■



UNIAP Photo/Melissa Stewart

UNODC Supports Philippines' Human Trafficking Initiative

By Sanna Nissinen
UNODC Regional Centre

An absence of a comprehensive support programme for human trafficking victims, limitations in the present witness protection programme, and limited knowledge about the effectiveness of services offered to victims, were the salient findings of a study on trafficking victims conducted during the first phase of the pilot project, *"Coalitions against Trafficking in Human Beings in the Philippines."* These results served as bases for the second phase of the project, *"The Support for Victims/Witnesses of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Philippines."*

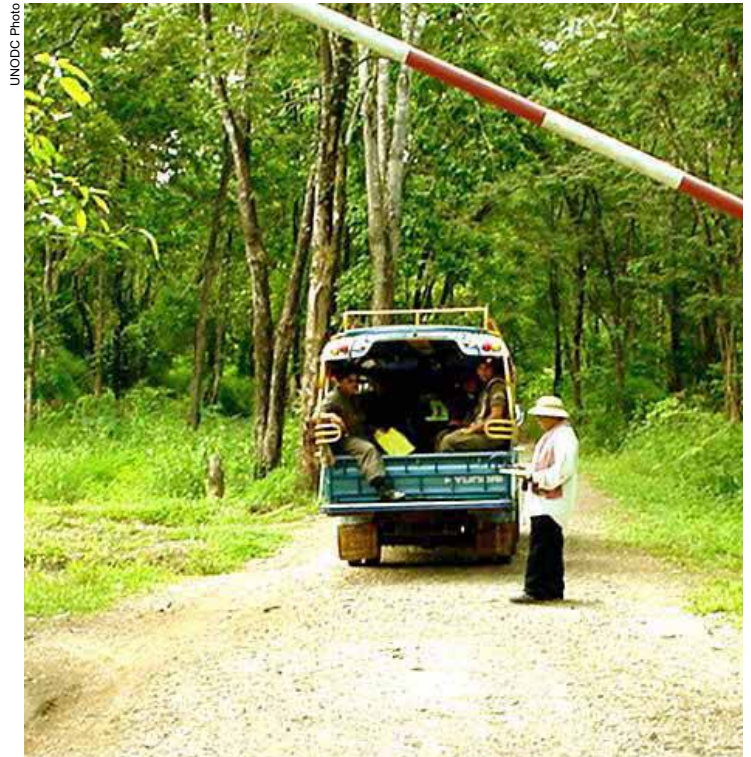
Crime prevention is the main objective of the project. Specifically, the project aims to provide support services for victims and witnesses of human trafficking cases and support structures to prevent re-victimization and facilitate victims' reintegration into the community. The project provides for the creation and expansion of selected rehabilitation centres and enhance victims' support services including vocational training and reintegration, both at the national and community levels.

"We hope that through this project, we can strengthen cooperation between the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and related law enforcement and criminal justice agencies," Mr. Yngve Danling, Law Enforcement Advisor of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre said.

The UNODC Regional Centre will serve as the executing agency for the 18-month project by facilitating coordination and monitoring. Expertise and advisory and technical services will be provided. The project will be implemented by DSWD which will provide facilities and relevant information about the contacted victims, and implement model strategies at its centres. The project will be carried out in cooperation with other relevant national institutions and non-government organizations (NGOs).

The Philippines is one of the largest migrant countries in the world. There are indications that it is now also becoming a destination and transit country. Estimates by the Commission of Filipinos Overseas (CFO) in 1999 showed that out of the over 7 million Filipinos overseas, about 1.62 million are suspected victims of human smuggling and trafficking.

The Government of the Philippines is among the first countries to ratify in May 2002 both the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. This pilot project supports the Government in its efforts to meet its commitments under the new international instruments.



Trends of human trafficking cases in the Philippines

In a report by CFO, statistics provide an indication of the problem. Out of the 959 recorded cases of human trafficking from 1992 to 2001,

- 65% of the victims were women;
- 25% of the victims were forced into prostitution;
- 53% were trafficked into the Asia Pacific region, 25% to the Middle East, and 19% to Europe; and
- 8% were involved in intermarriages.

Statistics also showed that trafficking victims paid as much as US\$8,500 to recruiters. About 51% were recruited by parties not related/known to them and the government repatriated 38%.¹

Legal channels for employment abroad exist, but illegal intermediaries offering illegal services are on the rise contributing to the trafficking problem. Female overseas migration has been increasing steadily for the past ten years which comprise over 60% of legally deployed labour which predominantly work in a low-paying service sector. They are mostly single, about half belonging to the 20-29 age group.

Studies reveal reasons for the rise in female migration including the following:

- Growing poverty and lack of opportunities for local employment especially among the rural population, which was exacerbated by the Asian economic crisis along with severe environmental disasters;
- Economic boom in destination countries; and
- Recruitment of women who are actively promoted with the collaboration of recruitment agencies.

Anti-human trafficking efforts and lessons learned

Combating trafficking in human beings requires a multidisciplinary rights-based approach, which incorporates a criminal justice response to prevent crime and deter offenders and a human rights response to protect and defend the rights and integrity of trafficked persons.

The Recommended Principles and Guidelines developed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the human rights perspective of the Trafficking Protocol, states that the “trafficking cycle cannot be broken without attention to the rights and needs of those who have been trafficked.” Appropriate protection and support should be extended to all trafficked persons without discrimination. An effective law enforcement response requires States, in cooperation with NGOs and other relevant sectors of civil society to take measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of trafficking victims including: appropriate housing, counseling and information, medical/psychological/ material assistance, and em-

ployment, educational and training opportunities.²

“The Women in International Migration Process: Patterns, Profiles and Health Consequences of Sexual Exploitation, The Philippines Country Report” recommends for the implementation of viable and sustainable psycho-social and economic programmes such as preventive and post-trafficking strategies. The post-trafficking strategies should incorporate services to trafficking survivors that are empowering and self-sustaining, which include counseling, and the formation of support groups of survivors.

In offering support services to victims of trafficking, it is not enough to protect their human rights. A rights-based approach is also a prerequisite for efficient investigation and prosecution. Without support mechanisms, victims rarely report to the police or testify against their traffickers due to the following reasons: lack of knowledge about their rights, threats from traffickers, and lack of witness protection systems. The involvement of organized criminal groups in trafficking has made victim and witness cooperation more difficult, but their testimonies remain vital to the investigation and prosecution.

“We hope that the results of the second phase of the study will contribute to the development of a coordinated criminal justice and human rights-based approaches for more effective methods in combating human trafficking,” Mr. Danling said. ■

¹ Guevarra, Narcisa. *Trafficking in Women and Children and Smuggling of Migrants*. Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), Resource Material Series No. 62. Tokyo, 2004. p.128

² ESCAP: *Combating Human Trafficking in Asia*, United Nations: New York, 2003



UNODC Photo

For Piloting in Thailand: New Computer-Based Training on Human Trafficking



UNODC Photo

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is addressing the urgent need to enhance the level of law enforcers' skills in detection, investigation and prosecution of traffickers through its Computer-Based Training (CBT) programme in human trafficking. The CBT project aims to enhance the understanding by general service law enforcement officers in Thailand on the crime of trafficking to enable them to detect the crime and respond more efficiently.

*By Sanna Nissinen
UNODC Regional Centre*

Human trafficking has become one of the most profitable activities of organized criminal groups in recent years. The effects of globalization have made the crime more efficient through varying methods.

In the South-East Asian region, the wide spectrum of cultural backgrounds and ideological and religious differences influence the patterns of human trafficking, especially among women and children. The heterogeneity and the growing diversity of population and extent of economic disparity between the poor and the rich make Asia a large reservoir for recruiters.

Thailand has long been identified as a source, destination and transit country for human trafficking. Although it has put in place a strong legal framework on human trafficking as well as signed bilateral agreements, the understanding of human trafficking and the enforcement of related laws combating it have lagged behind. The same problem is common among countries faced with human trafficking.

One barrier to effective enforcement of human trafficking laws arises from the definition of and the related lack of comprehension on trafficking. Although the Transnational Organized

Crime Convention and its Trafficking Protocol have offered internationally agreed definition of the crime, these are less understood outside professional circles.¹

The lack of knowledge at local levels has resulted in trafficking of victims being arrested or deported by law enforcement officers leading to victims' left open for re-trafficking while traffickers escape prosecution. Most social workers and non-government organizations (NGOs) have informed local police officers of relevant laws and regulations.

The 12-month awareness-raising project to be piloted in Thailand will produce a computer-based human trafficking training module for general service law enforcement officers that support, enhance and link with UNODC's human trafficking enforcement strategy. The project will also produce a pilot law enforcement training module in Thai, with potential expansion to the whole region.

The CBT programme in human trafficking follows the success of the Computer-Based Drug Law Enforcement Training modules which were started by UNODC in 1997 and are currently circulated and used worldwide. The success of UNODC's CBT programme can be attributed to its low-cost, wide audience targets, and manageability. It can be modified and adjusted to the specific legal, procedural, language, and cultural factors of a country or region. The modules are created to be learner-and-management-friendly with materials presented in an interactive manner to enhance retention. Set-up is at low-cost and upgrading easily done. Trainees can complete the modules at their own pace.

For further information about UNODC's CBT programme, contact UNODC Regional Representative for East Asia and the Pacific, E-mail <fo.thailand@unodc.org>. ■

¹Brian Iselin — *Paper on Barriers to Effective Human Trafficking Enforcement for The Human Rights Challenge of Globalisation in the Asia Pacific US: Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 2002*

The Trafficked, the Traffickers, and the Threats

From Himalayan villages to Eastern European cities, people — especially women and girls — are attracted by the prospect of a well-paid job as a domestic servant, waitress, or factory worker. Traffickers recruit victims through fake advertisements, mail-order bride catalogues, and casual acquaintances. Upon arrival at their destination, victims are accommodated in conditions controlled by traffickers while they are exploited to earn illicit revenues. Many are physically confined, their travel or identity documents are taken away and they are threatened if they do not cooperate. Women and girls forced to work as prostitutes are blackmailed by the threat that traffickers will inform their families about their work. Trafficked children are dependent on their traffickers for food, shelter and other basic necessities. Traffickers also play on victims' fears that authorities in the foreign country will prosecute or deport them if they ask for help.



UNODC Photo

Trafficking in human beings is a global issue, but a lack of systematic research means that reliable data on the trafficking of human beings that would allow comparative analyses and the design of countermeasures is scarce. There is a need to strengthen the criminal justice response to trafficking through legislative reform, awareness-raising and training, as well as through national and international cooperation. The support and protection of victims who provide evidence is key to prosecuting the ringleaders behind the phenomenon.

Over the past decade, trafficking in human beings has reached epidemic proportions. No country is immune. The search for work abroad has been fuelled by economic disparity, high unemployment and the disruption of traditional livelihoods. Traffickers face few risks and can earn huge profits by taking advantage of large numbers of potential immigrants.

What if the victim consents?

Victims often consent to the initial stage of trafficking because they are misled or deceived by traffickers.

Trafficking prosecutions are sometimes lost, though, because the evidence needed to establish the true nature of the consent is not available. At the same time, constitutional and other human rights protections in many countries require that those accused of trafficking must be able to raise the possibility of consent as a defense. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, states that, if any of the improper means set out in the definition (i.e. coercion, fraud, deception) have been used, any alleged consent to the subsequent exploitation is irrelevant.

Children under 18 cannot give valid consent, and any recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation is a form of trafficking regardless of the means used.

How is “trafficking in persons” different from the smuggling of migrants?

In some respects, trafficking in persons resembles the smuggling of migrants, which is the subject of a further Protocol (Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air), but there are several important differences.

The smuggling of migrants, while often undertaken in dangerous or degrading conditions, involves migrants who have consented to the smuggling. Trafficking victims, on the other hand, have either never consented or, if they initially consented, that consent has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers.

Another major difference is that smuggling ends with the arrival of the migrants at their destination, whereas trafficking involves the ongoing exploitation of the victims in some manner to generate illicit profits for the traffickers. From a practical standpoint, victims of trafficking also tend to be more severely affected and in greater need of protection from re-victimization and other forms of further abuse than are smuggled migrants.

Finally, smuggling is always transnational, whereas trafficking may not be. Trafficking can occur regardless of whether victims are taken to another country or only moved from one place to another within the same country.

What is “trafficking in persons”?

“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Traf-

ficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Trafficking in human beings is a crime in which victims are moved from poor environments to more affluent ones, with the profits flowing in the opposite direction, a pattern often repeated at the domestic, regional and global levels. It is believed to be growing fastest in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In Asia, girls from villages in Nepal and Bangladesh — the majority of whom are under 18 — are sold to brothels in India for US\$1000. Trafficked women from Thailand and the Philippines are increasingly being joined by women from other countries in Southeast Asia. Europol estimates that the industry is now worth several billion dollars a year.

Trafficking in human beings is not confined to the sex industry. Children are trafficked to work in sweatshops as bonded labour and men work illegally in the “three D-jobs” — dirty, difficult and dangerous. A recent Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) report estimated that between 45,000 to 50,000 women and children are brought to the United States every year under false pretenses and are forced to work as prostitutes, abused labourers or servants. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that more than 200,000 children are enslaved by cross-border smuggling in West and Central Africa. The children are often “sold” by unsuspecting parents who believe their children are going to be looked after, learn a trade or be educated.

In many cases, trafficking patterns are also related to conflict situations as combatants create a market for the services of victims and the effects of conflict erode the capacity of law enforcement and other authorities to combat the problem. As a form of organized crime, trafficking can also threaten sustainable development and the rule of law, as illicit profits are used for corruption, other criminal activities and, in some cases, terrorism. The assistance, support and rehabilitation of victims is also a significant problem, particularly in source countries where resources are often limited, and in the case of trafficked children, where the need is most acute.

Additionally, the spread of HIV/AIDS

among victims trafficked into prostitution makes victim support and repatriation a public health issue. The treatment of victims as a commodity is also a violation of their most basic rights to freedom, autonomy and human dignity. Although these violations are committed by traffickers, it is important for States to respond to alleviate the harm caused to victims by trafficking where possible and, at a minimum, to not cause further harm. Measures against trafficking should also respect the basic substantive and procedural rights of those accused of trafficking.

Trafficking is fostered, in part, by social and economic disparities that create a supply of victims seeking to migrate and a demand for sexual and other services that provide the economic impetus for trafficking. Deterrence and criminal punishments are important elements, but addressing the underlying conditions which drive both supply and demand are also necessary. Another important preventive measure is public information to mobilize support for effective laws, raise the awareness of key law enforcement and other officials, and to make the socially marginalized groups from whom victims are often recruited more aware of the reality of trafficking and less likely to be deceived when approached by traffickers.

Involvement of organized crime

Trafficking is almost always a form of organized crime and should be dealt with using criminal powers to investigate and prosecute offenders for trafficking and any other criminal activities in which they engage. Trafficked persons should also be seen as victims of crime. Support and protection of victims is a humanitarian objective and an important means of ensuring that victims are willing and able to assist in criminal cases.

As with other forms of organized crime, trafficking has globalized. Groups formerly active in specific routes or regions have expanded the geographical scope of their activities to explore new markets. Some have merged or formed cooperative relationships, expanding their geographical reach and range of criminal activities. Illegal migrants and trafficking victims have become another commodity in a larger realm of criminal commerce involv-

ing other commodities, such as narcotic drugs and firearms or weapons and money laundering, that generate illicit revenues or seek to reduce risks for traffickers.

The relatively low risks of trafficking and substantial potential profits have, in some cases, induced criminals to become involved as an alternative to other, riskier criminal pursuits. With the adoption of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in November 2000, countries have begun to develop the necessary criminal offences and enforcement powers to investigate, prosecute and punish traffickers and to confiscate their profits, but expertise and resources will be needed to make the new measures fully effective.

Risks are further reduced by the extent to which victims are intimidated by traffickers, both in destination countries, where they fear deportation or prosecution for offences such as prostitution or illegal immigration, and in their countries of origin, where they are often vulnerable to retaliation or re-victimization if they cooperate with criminal justice authorities. The support and protection of victims is a critical element in the fight against trafficking to increase their willingness to cooperate with authorities and as a necessary means of rehabilitation.

United Nations Conventions and Protocols

The United Nations has taken an important step forward in coordinating an international response to trafficking. On 15 November 2000, the General Assembly adopted a package of instruments against various forms of transnational organized crime, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. These require the countries that become States Parties to adopt basic criminal offences, including trafficking in persons or the equivalent, participation in the activities of an organized criminal group, money laundering and other illicit conduct. They also establish a framework for international cooperation, including various forms of assistance in the conduct

of investigations and prosecutions and provisions for the extradition of offenders. Within the first year, both the Convention and Protocol had obtained more than half of the 40 ratifications needed to bring them into force, and they are expected to take effect in the near future.

United Nations Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings

The Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT) was designed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) to assist Member States in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. The GPAT's overarching objective is to bring to the foreground the involvement of organized criminal groups in human trafficking and to promote the development of effective criminal justice-related responses. As the only entity focusing on the criminal justice element, GPAT, working through UNODC's Crime Programme, brings special advantages to the fight against trafficking.

Technical cooperation

Seven countries are now involved in technical cooperation projects. Specific intervention measures are being introduced that are designed to strengthen the capacity to combat forms of trafficking at the national and international levels. At the national level, GPAT aims to: promote awareness-raising (such as public awareness campaigns) of trafficking in human beings and especially strengthen institutional capacity; train law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges; advise on drafting and revising relevant legislation; provide advice and assistance on establishing and strengthening anti-trafficking elements; and strengthen victim and witness support.

At the international level, GPAT aims to provide assistance to agencies, institutions and governments as part of an interdisciplinary effort to design effective measures against trafficking in human beings. ■

(Excerpted from UNODC website. For more information, please visit www.unodc.org)



Office of the Narcotics Control Board Photo, Thailand

Sustaining the BLOs: Sustaining the War against a Borderless Menace

It all stemmed from a sense of urgency that something needed to be done to prevent an increasing and illegal trade – illicit drug trafficking. But coordination was wanting.

In 1993, an important step was taken by Governments in East Asia when representatives of the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control, signalling a commitment to the future of cooperation in dealing with the rising problems of illicit drugs in South-east Asia.

Along with the Drug Control Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was the establishment of a Sub-Regional Action Plan wherein Governments committed to support cooperation to prevent the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs. Two years later, Cambodia and Vietnam became parties to MOU.

Since then, the six Governments have held biennial Ministerial level meetings as well as annual gatherings of high level officers known as the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) responsible for monitoring the Action Plan. The SOC recommended for the operation of a cooperative mechanism to be established at high-risk border areas of MOU countries.

Although all the Mekong countries reached this agreement, there was still uncertainty on how to operationalize cooperation and how such could become a reality. Practical mechanisms were wanting.

There was an expressed need to put acts together with a clear understanding of the meaning of cooperation.

Within this framework, the Border Liaison Office (BLO) was conceived as a

cooperative mechanism that facilitates the exchange of information between drug enforcement officials working on drug control in a given country as well as between officials from different countries.

The BLO was built around the concept of partnership between and among those working in drug control, irrespective of country or borders assigned by the national authorities. After all, the trade of illicit drugs as a common enemy was operating as a business without borders.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project on *The Development of Cross-border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (D91)* became the launching pad to develop trust among partners with the end view of improving the effectiveness of law enforcement of-



Office of the Narcotics Control Board Photo, Thailand

ficers in targeted border areas through the use of modern border control delivery mechanisms, including investigation and interdiction techniques. Mutual trust serves as the foundation to strengthen cross border cooperation.

The gradual building-up of trust among partners was achieved through interpersonal means – face to face meetings, seminars, workshops, field visits, etc.

Numbers don't say it all

The size and frequency of drug seizures do not tell a complete story.

Instead, other measures are important: observations of BLO staff and the interactions with their counterparts both along and across borders, frequency of joint formal and informal meetings, application and frequency in the use of techniques demonstrated during BLO training sessions, frequency of exchange of reliable information.

“It is not only the provision of technical support that is crucial to the project but the development of a long-term sustainable cooperative mechanism which would allow technical support to operate to its maximum efficiency,” said Mr. Yngve Danling, UNODC Law Enforcement Advisor. He emphasized that much lies in capacity building techniques which in the longer term will

deliver results such as increased drug seizures, apprehension and prosecution of drug traffickers, as well as human traffickers with the ultimate goal of reduction and eventual eradication of illicit drugs.

Building bridges of trust

Since the project started in 1999, 24 BLOs have been established along the borders shared by Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and China.

Mr. Songsatit Kittikhunwatchana, D91 Project Coordinator, reported that by the end of 2004, an additional 16 BLOs were established along the Mekong River and more than 10 BLOs are expected to be operational in 2005.

He recalled that while all MOU countries have established national drug control agencies with law enforcement units, the efficacy of these units was inhibited by the lack of information sharing both with other domestic units as well as with foreign counterparts. The flow of information was hampered as officers did not have an easy, accessible and neutral place for holding meetings.

“Officers were uncertain about counterparts to be contacted on a particular problem and lower-ranked officers were reluctant to discuss information without

explicit approval from their superiors,” Mr. Songsatit noted. Sometimes, it would take several hours or a day before an action is made.

The National Project Coordinator for Thailand, Mr. Samarn Polnok shared the information that previously, there were many factors hindering the cooperation among countries fighting against drugs — a lack of trust, the different priorities and interest of each country, and a lack of political will.

“With BLO cooperation mechanism, Thailand and its neighbors can develop a better relationship and as a result, make more arrests and illicit drug seizures at the border zones,” he noted.

Providing policy guidelines for drug prevention and suppression for all five BLOs in high-risk areas, Mr. Samarn cited a case in July 2002 for the arrest of two fake monks from Myanmar who crossed the Mei River. One monk was arrested with 90,000 methamphetamine tablets in Mae Sot, Thailand.

“Acting on the exchange of intelligence from BLOs of the two countries, Myanmar authorities arrested the offender and seized more amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) tablets stockpiled in Myanmar,” he recalled.

Other reports resulting from the cooper-

ation between BLOs included the arrest of a Chinese offender in possession of 2 pistols, 1 hand grenade, 7 packets of heroin and ATS samples; the seizure of an ATS production lab including methamphetamine production equipment; the seizure by police and customs officers of 436,000 methamphetamine tablets and 4.97 kg of heroin after searching a boat; and many more.

The famous drug trafficker Yin Soe Yone, a Chinese national, was arrested by authorities in Myanmar and handed over to the Chinese Government. A trafficker with 28,000 Diazepam tablets was arrested and handed over to the Cambodian authorities. A Vietnamese drug trafficker with over 300 methamphetamine tablets trafficked from Thailand to Cambodia and Vietnam was arrested after crossing the border to Vietnam. Another Vietnamese drug trafficker was arrested with ten bags of heroin weighing 3.38 kg.

Best practices gaining grounds

With the establishment of BLOs, there has been evidence to show that seizures along the border are increasing in frequency and volume. Trained officers working along the borders are now putting their training to use to improve the efficiency of investigations. Joint operations, now increasing in number, have been carried out. These have often resulted in a trusting and functional relationship developed between officers, giving them the confidence to exchange information.

Police Colonel Tin Maung Htay, National Project Coordinator for Myanmar was happy to see the exchange and sharing of intelligence information done frankly and with trust, contributing towards successful law enforcement cooperation. As national project coordinator, he backstops in the implementation of the cross-border cooperation project.

Since 1999, 10 cases have been handed over to the Chinese authorities by Myanmar. One of these cases is the arrest of Tan Xiaolin which led to the seizure of more than three tons of heroin and the apprehension of 18 suspects.

“Through the computers and computer-based training provided by the project, staff are now equipped with knowledge about modern techniques for border

control such as risk identification, search techniques, and behavioral observation. By attending and participating in workshops and seminars, I gained more knowledge and at the same time, share my own experience,” Colonel Htay said.

While officers utilize their training experience in real life and work situations, they are developing a body of best practices specific to the region. Joint meetings are now part of the daily schedule. Meetings have empowered ground level staff and cross border cooperation is no longer done during special occasions but has become part of a routine.

Joint patrols along the Mekong River by countries sharing the border are now a common sight.

Sustaining the foundation for cross border cooperation

Law enforcement is presenting a united front in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Since 1999, UNODC project has promoted cooperation and strengthened the capacity of law enforcement officials in high-risk areas in these countries by providing technical assistance, computers and communication equipment, training and vehicles. Within the framework of the project, BLOs were established and national/cross border cooperation workshops conducted for over 600 law enforcement officers.

As BLOs continue to foster trust and

cooperation among different authorities in various countries, emerging needs have to be addressed. Much remains to be done.

“The most important task for the project is to ensure that commitments made by countries are met,” Mr. Akira Fujino, UNODC Representative for East Asia and the Pacific said.

The mechanism may not yet be self-sustaining and still requires both the financial and political support from member countries. He encouraged countries which have stronger economies to help those with lesser financial means.

Countries are encouraged to allocate specific funds to BLO project in their annual budgets. The joint patrols in the Mekong by Thailand and Laos stand as examples of what can be achieved through cooperation.

“It is hoped that other agreements of the same nature can be developed at other key points along the Mekong,” Mr. Fujino noted.

The fact that BLOs are reporting successful joint missions is an indication of the difference that cooperation and training can make. While BLOs are not a comprehensive answer to the problem of drug trafficking, they have proven to be invaluable in the development of working relationships between officers on the ground.

As drug traffickers devise new methods and routes for drug trafficking, law enforcement officers will be able to draw on the skills and relationships formed and developed through the project. ■



UNODC Photo

ACCORD Countries Plan for 2005

The 11 countries participating in the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) experienced increased cooperation and collaboration in the fight against illicit drugs under the Plan of Action framework in 2004.

According to John Doyle, Project Coordinator for the *Regional Cooperative Mechanism to Monitor and Execute the ACCORD Plan of Action*, five regional task forces meetings were successfully hosted in 2004. The five task forces, one for each pillar of the Plan of Action, include Civic Awareness, Demand Reduction, Law Enforcement and Alternative Development, and a Joint Task Force.

Also in 2004, funds were mobilized from ACCORD Account in support of three regional initiatives to be organized by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Thailand: a workshop to build the capacity of regional ATS treatment counselors; a regional seminar concerning maritime interdiction; and a workshop/study tour on the marketing of alternative development products in collaboration with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) Myanmar. A sophisticated regional online data collection and sharing network was also established in 2004 permanently linking all 11 ACCORD countries.

“While we accomplished several important milestones in 2004, there is more to come in 2005 for ACCORD countries,” Mr. Doyle said.

The Second ACCORD International Congress to be hosted by the People’s Republic of China will be the most important event on ACCORD 2005 calendar. Changing national/regional drug production, manufacturing, trafficking and consumption trends, security concerns and economic and political groupings require an updated Plan of Action to better meet and reflect regional needs. While many of the original targets under the four ACCORD Pillars have already been met, the Congress will serve as an opportunity for the region to discuss and decide in consensus priority areas for future interventions.

Other activities for 2005

- Publications and reports with in-depth coverage of regional drug control progress, including up-to-date statistics and information from all 2004 ACCORD Task Force Meetings;
- The convening of a regional data-collection working group meeting to be hosted by the Malaysian National Drug Agency in Putrajaya (26-28 January) which will assess national/regional data collection progress and collaboration between *UNODC ACCORD Regional Cooperative Mechanism and Improving ATS Data and Information Systems* projects, leading to a platform for up-to-date exchange of relevant drug control information from throughout the region;
- The hosting of the annual ACCORD Task Force Meetings which, together with ACCORD Account, aim to strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration; and
- The launching of an updated ACCORD website with more informative and user-friendly links and improved statistics and graphics.

ACCORD represents the commitments by governments of ASEAN and China to make the region drug-free by 2015. This commitment translates into specific actions that go beyond national efforts and are guided by a cooperative framework called ACCORD Plan of Action. The Plan rests on four pillars: proactively advocating civic awareness on the dangers of drugs and social response; building consensus and sharing best practices on demand reduction; strengthening the rule of law and enhanced network of control measures and improved law enforcement cooperation and legislative review; and eliminating the supply of illicit drugs by boosting alternative development programme and community participation in the eradication of illicit crops. ■

For further information please visit ACCORD website at www.accordplan.net



Cambodia and Myanmar Advance Development of Drug-related Data Collection Systems

By Eduardo Hidalgo
UNODC Regional Centre

Systems for collecting data are increasingly recognized by governments in East and Southeast Asia as an essential tool for the formulation of effective responses to emerging trends in drug abuse, trafficking, and production of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). National drug control agencies in eight countries in the region are working together to strengthen their systems for data collection with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre-assisted project *Improving ATS Data and Information Systems (AD/RAS/01/F97)*. As part of this collaborative effort, competent authorities of Cambodia and Myanmar recently held meetings to provide data collection training for drug control officials at the provincial levels.

In November 2003, Cambodia's National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) inaugurated its data collection network in nine provinces, and in September 2004, NACD presented data produced by the data collection network for the first time. In November 2004, NACD held a training meeting in Phnom Penh with representatives of the Provincial Drug Control Committees from Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, Kratie and Stung Treng Provinces to expand NACD drug data reporting system to three provinces. The delegation from Kompong Cham Province which had recently initiated its data collection network attended the meeting to assist the new provinces in establishing their data collection networks.

Activities during the meeting included training exercises on data form completion, establishment of reporting schedules, and training on submitting the collected data. In addition, Computer-Based Training (CBT) materials on drug identification were presented to the delegations for comments and suggestions prior to nationwide distribution.



Provinces in Cambodia participating in the national data collection network since November 2003 (outlined in black) and the expansion of the network to three additional provinces: Kratie, Stung Treng, and Svay Rieng, (outlined in red).

Stung Treng and Kratie Provinces were selected for network expansion due to the increasing importance of the Mekong River as a primary trafficking route in the region, while Svay Rieng Province was selected due to its extended border with Vietnam and its importance as a trading route between Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City. The need for a coordinated response by provincial narcotics control agencies along the Mekong was highlighted by the seizure in Kratie Province in September 2004 of over 600,000 methamphetamine pills, marking the largest seizure in Cambodia's history. The seizure, discovered under a load of vegetables on a boat docked in Sambor District, was ten times more than the previous record of 60,000 pills confiscated in 2001 in Banteay Meanchey Province.

In September 2004, Myanmar's Office of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) together with UNODC Myanmar Technical Coordination Unit (TCU) convened a training course in Yangon for the Drug Abuse Data Collection System consisting of 11 data reporting sentinel sites based in CCDAC offices. The sentinel sites cover six townships where major drug treatment centres



Sentinel sites in Myanmar selected for drug abuse data collection system. Provincial offices of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) collect drug control data in "high-risk" border townships and districts with major drug treatment centres and submit it monthly to the national CCDAC office.

are located: Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio, Kyaingtone, and Taunggyi; as well as five border townships: Muse, Tachileik, Myawaddy, Kawthaung and Tamu, which are located near the borders of Thailand, China, and India. The selection of the sites reflected emerging patterns of drug abuse in Myanmar and areas vulnerable to trafficking and production of heroin and ATS.

The Yangon meeting included training on relevant software for data collection and management, distribution of computer systems, development of standardized data reporting forms and schedules, and data submission via the internet. Future TCU activities include school surveys and community surveys, and the addition into CCDAC data collection network of information gathered from various NGOs operating in sentinel sites.

Data collected through Cambodia and Myanmar networks will be presented at the Regional Data Collection meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in January 2005. The information presented will be disseminated to a wider audience through the activities of Project F97.

For more information on Project F97, please visit the project website <www.apaic.org>

Countries Discuss Mechanisms to Integrate Drug Data Collection

By Eduardo Hidalgo
UNODC Regional Centre

National delegations from 11 countries in the region will participate in a regional drug data collection meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 26-28 January 2005 with the aim of improving regional data collection and exchange.

The meeting will serve as a forum to consult with country representatives on the status of regional drug data collection systems including 1) ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) on-line data collection and sharing network which is implemented through the *Regional Cooperative Mechanism* project; and 2) the Regional ATS Questionnaire (RAQ) imple-

mented by the *Improving ATS Data and Information Systems* project.

At the meeting to be hosted by the Malaysian counter-narcotics agency Agensi Dadah Kebangsaan, national delegations will review and endorse a new regional drug data collection system that consolidates different existing systems. The meeting will discuss standards of national drug information systems and provide an opportunity to raise issues related to drug data collection. The meeting is jointly organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific projects *Regional Cooperative Mechanism to Monitor and Execute the ACCORD Plan of Action (AD/RAS/00/F73)* and *Improving ATS Data and Information Systems (AD/RAS/01/F97)*. ■

Study Tour Expose Drug Liaison Officers to BLOs

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of the Royal Thai Government hosted the Drug Liaison Officers Narcotics Control Meeting and also organized a study tour on Narcotics Law Enforcement along the Mekong River, 15-17 December 2004 at Chiang Rai Province, Thailand.

About 70 drug liaison officers from Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom attended the meeting cum study tour. Representatives from the Interpol, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and other agencies of the Royal Thai Government also participated in the study tour.

Presented and discussed during the meeting were current drugs situation in Thailand and the Royal Thai Government's policy on narcotics control; Thailand's international narcotics control strategy; international trades at Chiang Saen Port, Thailand; and drugs control cooperation between Thailand and its neighboring countries. The visits to border liaison offices (BLOs) in Ban Mom in Lao PDR and Wan Pong in Myanmar provided the participants first-hand experience on the operation of BLOs.

The BLO is a cooperative mechanism that facilitates the exchange of information between officials working in drug control from the same country as well as between officials from different countries. Intelligence information/follow-up action on drug seizures, drug trends, concealment methods for illicit drugs, local situation and suspicious people and their activities are freely and openly exchanged among BLOs. ■



Project to Develop Replicable Approaches to ATS Prevention

By Gerson Bergeth
UNODC Regional Centre

Significant outputs have been generated during the second phase of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) implemented project *Primary Prevention of ATS Abuse among Youth in Thailand and the Philippines (AD/RAS/04/G07)*. The project outputs are expected to result in ATS prevention approaches that could be replicated on a national and regional scale.

The documentation prepared by the National Project Teams and consultants have resulted in significant recommendations for the introduction of interventions in target areas. Multiple training sessions have been conducted and a grant programme established which will be accessed by service providers and non-government organizations participating in the project at the national level.

In Thailand, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board organized training for youth and community groups in Tambon Laharn and Tambon Bangkurad, 4-6 December, and 10-12 December 2004. The sessions were facilitated by students from Chulalongkorn University with coverage from the local media. More training camps are planned during the first quarter of 2005.

In the Philippines, the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) will host the first of a series of Orientation and Training Workshops for Service Providers, 12-14 January 2005 in Zambales. The training will be facilitated by DDB staff and expert consultants. Subsequent workshops are slated in February and March 2005.

It is expected that the National Project Teams will continue to build on the knowledge gained and that the implementation of project outputs at the community level will result in the development of replicable approaches. ■

Multimedia Training for Drug Law Enforcement Personnel Show Positive Results

To gauge the progress and extent of implementation of the multimedia DVD on precursor control for law enforcement personnel, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Project *Precursor Control in East Asia (AD/RAS/01/F34)* conducted a survey in the nine participating countries, i.e., Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

By Eduardo Hidalgo and Wong Hoy Yuen
UNODC Regional Centre



Graphics from UNODC Training DVD

The DVD multimedia video training tool was developed to enhance awareness on precursors and clandestine drug laboratories among drug control personnel. The training will provide the participants knowledge essential to combat trafficking in precursors, materials and equipment in the manufacture of illicit drugs after viewing the video. It will also enable them to recognize signs of clandestine drug laboratory activities.

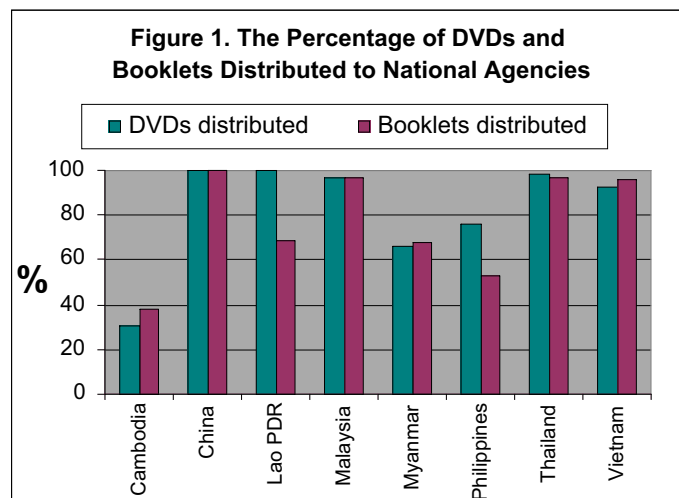
UNODC provided 500 sets of DVDs and 4,000 booklets to each of the participating country. China was provided with 4,000 sets of DVDs.

A survey questionnaire was sent to the countries in November 2004 requesting information on the distribution of DVDs and booklets, number of training sessions conducted and personnel who were trained, use of the portable training kit, and an evaluation of the trainees who completed the training programme. Eight of the nine participating countries completed the survey questionnaire.

Overall results of the survey indicated that within six months, a total of 466 DVD training sessions were carried out, reaching 10,510 law enforcement and customs personnel in the region, many in high-risk areas.

Survey results

Distribution. Countries participating in the project distributed DVD training materials to various law enforcement agencies, including customs police/border police/provincial police, regulatory agencies, and military personnel. Most project countries have distributed the training materials (Figure 1). China requested permission from UNODC to replicate 250,000 copies of DVD for distribution. According to the survey, one country commented that many police and customs stations

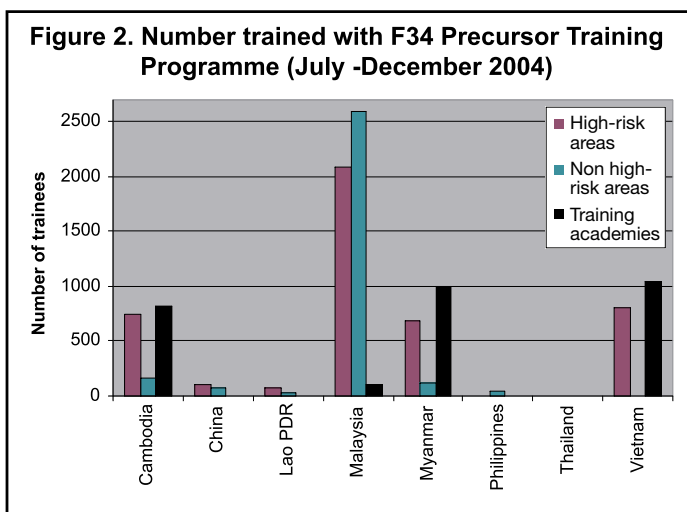


do not have a DVD player and television to run the video training for their staff. Another country noted that they had difficulties meeting the cost of distributing DVDs.

Portable training kit. Seven countries were provided each with a portable training kit except Myanmar and China which were given two each. The training kit was intended to facilitate training in remote areas that are considered at high risk for precursor trafficking. Survey comments were generally favorable on the usefulness and convenience of the training kit. Some agencies requested more kits. Others commented that the kit was too bulky for long trips. In some areas, electricity was not available, which precluded its use. One trainer commented that unclear pictures due to old or malfunctioning LCD projectors bored the trainees.

Training. The survey obtained information on the number of courses conducted and the number of participants in the training sessions. Countries were asked to focus training resources on law enforcement personnel operating in high-risk areas where they are likely to encounter trafficking of precursors and equipment for illicit drug production.

Figure 2 shows the wide variation in the implementation of the training programme, indicating slow implementation by some countries and differences in national situations regarding precursor diversion. Overall, the survey indicates that countries are focusing their training efforts in high-risk areas and training academies.



Some concerns expressed by countries included lack of financial support for printing the training evaluation, lack of DVD players, and lack of understanding by trainees on the need for such training. Lack of qualified trainers was cited by three countries as a significant problem.

Training evaluation. The project designed a test to evaluate the trainees upon completion of the video training. Five of the nine countries (Cambodia, China, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam) carried out the evalu-

ation and provided feedback on the percentage of trainees who were evaluated after completing DVD training, and the percentage achieving a passing mark of at least 60%.

Results are summarized in Table 1.

Countries	% of trainees evaluated	% of trainees passing the evaluation (passing mark is 60%)
Cambodia	15	30
China	100	60
Malaysia	72.5	92.5
Philippines	*	*
Vietnam	62.5	95

* Figures not available

One country commented that the recommended 40 minutes allotted for the evaluation was inadequate. Myanmar reported that the training courses conducted at the Kokant and Wa Special Regions could not be properly evaluated as most of the trainees could not speak, read or write the Myanmar language. It should be noted that the Chinese version of the video was used in these regions.

Other observations. Overall, the survey results indicated that materials for the video training on precursors have been efficiently distributed, with an effort by countries to focus their training in high-risk areas and training academies. It is interesting to note that several countries with a comparatively less serious problem of trafficking in precursors, have trained significantly more personnel than those with a more serious problem. Most countries had given due attention to the implementation of the video training resulting in significant numbers of trained personnel in a short period. That would not have been possible with the traditional classroom method of training with the same human and financial resources.

Considering that UNODC developed the video training material for law enforcement personnel without the need for trainers, it was surprising to receive comments from several countries that they lack “trainers” to run the video training.

It is recommended that these countries shift to the multimedia training from the traditional “trainers teach trainees” method. The former method outperforms the latter in terms of numbers of personnel trained, cost and speed. This strategy is crucial particularly for those countries faced with a serious problem of precursor trafficking and illicit drug manufacture because unless they implement strategies to quickly train large numbers of law enforcement personnel who currently need more information on precursor control, it would be difficult to effectively and efficiently respond to the problem.

The project will carry out a second survey and report its findings at the annual meeting of MOU countries in May 2005. ■

Multimedia Training Reaches Out to Drug Law Enforcement Officials

By Victoria Chia and Wong Hoy Yuen
UNODC Regional Centre

To increase awareness and understanding on precursors and clandestine drug laboratories among drug control personnel in the East Asia region covering the six Greater Mekong countries (Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) as well as Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project *Precursor Control in East Asia (AD/RAS/01/F34)*, produced a multimedia training video in DVD format, designed for drug law enforcement personnel.

Beginning in January 2004, the training video on "Detecting Precursor Trafficking and Clandestine Drug Laboratories" was launched in all nine countries. After viewing the video, personnel are expected to have a better knowledge to combat trafficking in precursors, materials and equipment for the manufacture of illicit drugs and enable them to better recognize signs of clandestine drug laboratory activities.

The two-hour basic training produced in nine regional languages incorporates high-quality animated graphics, videos, photographs, sound effects, screen text, and narration. The novel method of training was developed with the objective of enabling East Asian countries to conduct large-scale training of law enforcement personnel at low cost, within a short period, and in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The training video aims to provide law enforcement personnel with sufficient knowledge to be vigilant against both the trafficking in precursors, materials and equipment for illicit drug manufacture, and clandestine drug laboratory



Standing Office on Drugs Control of Vietnam Photo

activities. The training is not aimed at producing knowledgeable investigators or experts in these fields.

Why multimedia training beats training by trainers

Training via multimedia video was adopted because previous "training of trainers" programmes presented numerous drawbacks: follow-up training courses were frequently discontinued after some time as they used up scarce resources — taking away operational staff from their duty stations and overly burdening trainers; many trainees also did not pass on their acquired knowledge as those who completed the training courses were often promoted or transferred and replacements were not easy to find with such a technical subject area.

Unlike traditional training methods, video training is not dependent on trainers, a scarce resource in the nine project countries.

Each participating country has drawn up a Precursor Video Training Plan which prioritizes training in high-risk areas. ■

Expected training outcomes

- *Understanding of the role of precursors in the manufacture of illicit drugs;*
- *Knowledge of drugs manufactured in the region; the main precursors for heroin, methamphetamine and MDMA manufacture; common methods used by traffickers to conceal precursors, materials or equipment; and basic precautionary measures to prevent chemical injuries;*
- *Recognition of the role of common equipment and materials for drug manufacture, suspicious signs of illegal shipments of precursors, materials or equipment, suspicious signs of clandestine drug laboratory activities; and*
- *Knowledge on actions to be taken when a suspected clandestine laboratory is discovered.*

Multimedia Training	Training by Trainers
Trainers not required	Knowledgeable trainers required
Reaches many trainees quickly	Reaches relatively few trainees slowly
Repeat training anytime	Repeat training unlikely
Good chance of getting right trainees	May not get the right trainees
Training quality guaranteed	Training quality varies
Trains any number of trainees	Training large and small numbers not feasible
Enhances retention of knowledge through good audio-visual stimulation	Retention of knowledge dependent on quality of trainers
Training can be held at trainees' station	Trainees must come to training station

Project Management Training Beefs Up Skills of Drug Control Personnel

Thirty-one drug control personnel from Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar completed a six-day Project Design and Management Training Workshop, 17-22 December 2004 at the Drug Elimination Museum in Yangon, Myanmar.

The training-workshop was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of Myanmar as one of the activities in the workplan of the project, *Support for MOU Partnership in East Asia*.

The training aimed to improve the participants' skills in planning, implementation, and evaluation of regional and national drug control projects.

The training-workshop provided an opportunity for drug control personnel to understand the process of project development and implementation. It covered seven modules on project development and management, which included project implementation (situational analysis,



UNODC Photo

needs assessment, and problem identification); project formulation including development of objectives, strategies, outputs, indicators and activities; development of project logical framework; project appraisal and approval; project workplanning; project management and organization; and project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Group works were also organized for in-depth discus-

sion and understanding of the various modules.

Following this training, a project Formulation Workshop will be hosted by the Chinese Government in Kunming, 1-4 February 2005 to formulate the project ideas endorsed at the Senior Officials Meeting held in Krabi in May 2004 into project documents through a consultative process. ■

Participants Express Usefulness of Transnational Crime and Terrorism Course

*By Gerson Bergeth
UNODC Regional Centre*

Participants to the two-week 2004 Transnational Crime and Terrorism Course jointly organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre and the University of Adelaide of Australia expressed satisfaction on the conduct of the course, particularly commending its usefulness and the effective format of instruction. The two-week training course was held from 30 August to 10 September 2004 at the United Nations Building in Bangkok.

The course was designed to provide government officials and employees from international organizations, including UNODC, with a comprehensive understanding of the criminology of transnational crime and terrorism, international law and anti-terrorism conventions, and domestic offences in the Asia Pacific region. The course also offered an introduction to the general principles of criminal law and public international law. It was the result of a long-standing partnership between UNODC and the University of Adelaide to promote the inclusion of academic curricula into drug control training. ■



Hong Kong Police Force Photo

Law enforcement officers in Hong Kong training with CBT.

Drug Law Enforcement Officers Cite Need for Training

By Eduardo Hidalgo
UNODC Regional Centre

The inability of provincial drug law enforcement personnel to identify drugs is a significant impediment to the production of useful national drug information. They have expressed interest in developing training programmes to enable them to strengthen their capacity to properly identify illegal drugs resulting in the improvement of the quality of drug-related data in the region. In response to this need, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre project *Improving ATS Data and Information Systems (AD/RAS/01/F97)* is tapping the expertise of other projects at UNODC Regional Centre to enhance the capacity of the counter-narcotics agencies to build effective data collection systems.

F97 is distributing a Drug Identification Computer-Based Training (CBT) module, produced by UNODC Regional Centre project *Enhancement of Computer-Based Drug Law Enforcement Training (AD/RAS/97/C51)*. The introduction of CBT modules as a component in drug information network development has been well-received by project participants. However, the lack of computer access in many of the less developed provincial narcotics control agencies in the region remains a limitation that needs to be addressed. For additional information, please visit www.apaic.org

For more information on projects F97 and C51, please contact the UNODC Regional Centre, E-mail: fo.thailand@unodc.org

Training Manual Enhances Drug Treatment in China

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre has prepared a manual for training personnel at Compulsory Drug Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) in the People's Republic of China. The manual is targeted for DRCs so that the centres can add treatment components that have been found to be effective through research by the international community.

The production of the manual was a result of the growing interest in sharing information between China and the international community. It reflects partnerships with the United Nations Theme Groups for HIV/AIDS in China and UNODC Regional Centre in their combined efforts to reduce stigma, discrimination and HIV vulnerabilities that are associated with harmful drug use.

The first part of the manual summarizes and provides an overview of contemporary treatment approaches and best practices.

The second part presents a basic 10-session recovery training programme that can be used within the centres to provide drug abusers with knowledge and skills to aid them in their recovery from heroin addiction. The sessions are self-explanatory and easy to use by DRC staff, requiring minimum preparation. The content covers effects of addiction, stages of change model and application, self-help, relapse prevention, and aftercare strategies.

For more information about the manual, contact UNODC Regional Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, E-mail: fo.thailand@unodc.org

UNODC Produces Training Video for the Chemical Industry

Work on a tool for mass training of the chemical industry to prevent diversion of precursor chemicals from licit to illicit trade has been completed and now being translated into eight languages.

Produced as a multimedia video in DVD format with a reference handbook, the English version will be launched in the Philippines during the first quarter of 2005 and subsequently in the other countries. The launch is expected to include a national campaign focused on DVD training aimed at mobilizing the chemical industry as partners of the government in the fight against the manufacture of illicit drugs, by preventing diversion of precursor chemicals from the industry.

HONLEA Meeting Explores Solutions to Regional Drug Scourge

Strategies to address drug and crime-related issues highlighted the 28th Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLEA) as representatives from 23 countries explored solutions to the regional drug scourge. The meeting, held from 29 November to 3 December 2004, was jointly organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Royal Thai Government. Observers from other organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO), and the World Customs Organization also attended the meeting.

*By Victoria Chia
UNODC Regional Centre*

The representatives of national drug enforcement agencies during the meeting highlighted the need for detecting and dismantling clandestine drug laboratories, effective measures to counter heroin trafficking, and effective procedures to identify, seize, and confiscate goods and assets derived from crime.

Detecting and dismantling clandestine drug laboratories

The participants recommended the establishment of a regional database to collate and disseminate intelligence on convicted offenders, equipment used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and known illicit sources of precursor chemicals. They expressed the need for expertise in effectively dismantling clandestine drug laboratories, and suggested that governments more advanced in this area share such information with countries without such expertise.



Office of the Narcotics Control Board Photos, Thailand

The 29th HONLEA meeting in 2005 will discuss a regional approach for strategic planning to counter cross border crime.

Ketamine, posing an increasing threat in the region was also recommended to be brought under international control and relevant governments take steps to notify the World Health Organization on this matter.

To fight the proliferation of clandestine drug laboratories in the region, it was also recommended that governments encourage their drug control agencies to develop strong working relationships with the chemical industry to ensure an effective intelligence information and provide support to the industry.

Effective measures to counter heroin trafficking

Governments that have not done so are encouraged to ensure that effective procedures are in place to support the timely and secured exchange of information between drug control agencies and cross-border counterparts. Governments should also actively support cross-border cooperation initiatives such as the border liaison office programme. National legislation against the trafficking of precursor chemicals must also support the enforcement of precursor control and the successful prosecution of those engaged in such illicit trafficking.

Effective procedures to identify, seize and confiscate goods and assets derived from crime

Countries lacking an effective domestic legislative framework to fight attempts at money-laundering were urged to review and strengthen domestic legislation. States yet to become parties to or implement relevant international conventions on money-laundering were encouraged to do so. Concerned governments were also advised to take steps to establish more financial intelligence units.

Delegates to the meeting also reported on major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures in their respective countries. The People's Republic of China is currently giving high importance on demand reduction — including preventive education, treatment, rehabilitation and comprehensive measures. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, consumption of synthetic drugs is rising. ATS and MDMA (Ecstasy) are being brought into the country from Eastern Asia and Europe. Malaysia's consumption trend is moving steadily away from opiates to ATS. Its experience on a successful joint operation between Chinese and Malaysian authorities to dismantle a large clandestine methamphetamine laboratory was also discussed and shared among participants.

In Japan, where methamphetamine accounts for about 85% of all drug arrests, traditional ATS trafficking routes from China and Hong Kong SAR have been disrupted, with trafficking via Canada and the Philippines now increasing in popularity. Smugglers' modus operandi have also changed while smuggling by air and international parcel service has increased in the past year. The Japan Coast Guard held a Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Seminar in 2004, resulting in the launching of a practical guide on maritime drug law enforcement and a new electronic exchange network called *e-MADLES*. The network plans to fa-



UNODC Photos



The 29th HONLEA meeting in 2005 will discuss a regional approach for strategic planning to counter cross border crime.

cilitate the exchange of information through encrypted e-mail, including details about suspected ships, crew lists, cargo manifests, intelligence, ports of call, criminal records of suspects, and the types of suspected drugs.

The 29th HONLEA meeting in 2005 will discuss a regional approach for strategic planning to counter cross border crime. In this regard, governments were requested to identify key issues of concern in the region that affect their ability to act effectively against illicit drug trafficking. Their findings and conclusions should be transmitted to the designated focal point in New Zealand.

Countries represented in the 28th HONLEA meeting included: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America, Vietnam, Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Belgium, Germany, Italy, and Sweden. ■

HONLEA: Partnerships at Work

No country can expect to successfully combat illicit drugs and cross-border organized crime without the help of friends and neighbors. This was stressed by Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific during the 28th Asia Pacific Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) in Bangkok, 29 November — 3 December 2004.

Over the last 28 years, HONLEA has provided a means by which heads of drug law enforcement agencies and senior policy makers share common experiences, establish working relationships, and forge new partnerships. They have continued to build on established mechanisms of cooperation.

The last decade has seen a rise in the prevalence of synthetic drugs and a corresponding shift in the methods of illicit drug manufacture and abuse. Drugs such as methylamphetamine, ecstasy, and amphetamine pose as much of a threat to societies than the more traditional narcotic drugs.

“In the light of the changing nature of the regional drug landscape, practical regional cooperation is imperative,” Mr. Fujino said. Successful law enforcement cannot be achieved in a vacuum. Forums such as HONLEA therefore remain of vital importance.

Encouraging development

In 2004, a number of important events throughout the region took place simultaneously in Bangkok, Yangon, and New York. In November, the UNODC Myanmar Opium Survey was released. The survey revealed a 29% decline in opium poppy cultivation compared to 2003.

The reduction of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar is considered in parallel with the situation in Laos. Results of the Laos Opium Survey released in July 2004 shared a 45% decline in opium poppy cultivation compared with 2003. This translates into a 75% decline in cultivation since 1998.

From a regional perspective, the statistics for Myanmar and Laos — traditionally the main opium production centres in the region — are encouraging. The successes in the two countries have been predicated on resolute elimination programmes.

Re-emergence of Afghanistan

Internationally, the rapid re-emergence of Afghanistan as the main opium producer in the world is a problem that the rest of the region cannot ignore. A worrying new trend reported by the Thai authorities is the trafficking of Afghan heroin through Thailand through Pakistan.

In Thailand, the heroin is repackaged and further distributed back to Pakistan and other destinations worldwide. Those involved are said to use Thai couriers in order to infer that the heroin is produced in the Golden Triangle, thereby obtaining better profits due to the higher value of heroin from South East Asia.

“This shows that even with shifting locations of production, every country remains a target for drug traffickers,” Mr. Fujino emphasized.

ATS taking centre stage

While encouraging signs are seen at a regional level with regard to opium, amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) have increasingly become the focus of attention of drug law enforcement agencies worldwide.

Mr. Fujino recalled that during the last decade, the abuse of ATS internationally has accelerated at a rate surpassed only by cannabis.

“The East Asian region is not an exception to this trend. For manufacturers and distributors, ATS offer high profit margins and can be manufactured in easily concealed, portable laboratories using precursor chemicals diverted from licit channels,” he said. ATS abuse is particularly prevalent among the youth owing in part to an ill-conceived perception that it is a relatively benign drug type.

Of all the ATS, methamphetamine is of most concern. The manufacture of methamphetamine has markedly increased in East and South East Asia during the last six to seven years. The destructive social and health effects of this drug make its growth the biggest illicit drug threat in the world.

Manufacturing made easy

The increasing ease and flexibility by which manufacturers of methamphetamine have been able to establish themselves is exemplified in the increasing numbers of clandestine laboratories that are being discovered throughout the region.

Mr. Fujino reported that in 2003, the Philippines effectively dismantled a record number of 11 clandestine laboratories. In March 2004, a major methamphetamine laboratory was dismantled in Malaysia in cooperation with Chinese authorities.

The discovery in Fiji in April 2004 of reportedly the largest methamphetamine laboratory in the southern hemisphere showed that all countries, even smaller Pacific island states, are far from immune to the workings of transnational organized crime groups.

HONLEA has provided a means by which heads of drug law enforcement agencies and senior policy makers share common experiences, establish working relationships, and forge new partnerships.

Support from governments

The illicit manufacture of ATS and the diversion of precursors were at the forefront of policy makers six years ago at the 20th United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) in New York. At the 1998 Special Session, the Secretary-General called on the world community to address the “tragic reality” of the proliferation of illicit drugs. The international community responded to this challenge with the adoption of concrete resolutions and policies. The UNGASS saw States agreeing to establish the year 2003 as a target date for the introduction of:

- National legislations and programmes to combat the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS and precursors;
- New or enhanced drug reduction strategies and programmes;
- National money-laundering legislation and programmes; and
- Stronger cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities to deal with criminal organizations.

More needs to be done. Mr. Fujino said that there is a need to continue to address the vulnerability of many countries to money-laundering. Drug traffickers rely upon money-laundering to convert their profits into clean and usable wealth. However, legislative response of many states within the region remains inadequate.

The UNGASS has set 2008 as the timeframe by which Members States would have achieved significant results in tackling psychotropic substances and precursors, as well as in demand reduction and the reduction of the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, cannabis plant, and the opium poppy.

“We cannot rest on past achievements. Over the next three years, we need to build on the progress made thus far and continue to tackle these challenging issues,” Mr. Fujino called on HONLEA participants during the 28th Asia Pacific Meeting.

While countries in the region focus on combating illicit drugs, UNODC Regional Representative stressed that drug production and trafficking cannot be tackled in isolation. There are clear and inextricable economic links between drug trafficking and other illegal activities. The issues of corruption, money-laundering, organized crime and terrorism are of key importance.

HONLEA's strength

The diversifying agenda of HONLEA meetings - originally established as a mechanism to respond to the threat posed by illicit drug trafficking - demonstrates the importance that the region has given to these broader, interrelated issues and the international legal response, particularly the entry into force in September 2003 of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing protocols.

In March 2004, the Convention was acceded to by Myanmar while Australia ratified the Convention in May of the same year. These followed after acts of ratification or accession by the People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, and Afghanistan in September 2003. Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention have agreed to take the necessary legal and political steps to give meaning to the Convention at a domestic level.

“The recent actions of Myanmar, China, Laos and Australia impact positively on every country in the region. Regionally, the

There are clear and inextricable economic links between drug trafficking and other illegal activities. The issues of corruption, money-laundering, organized crime and terrorism are of key importance.

majority of Members States have signed onto the Convention,” Mr. Fujino explained. It is hoped that eventually, acts of ratification will be carried out by all Members States.

UNODC as a partner

UNODC recognizes the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities. These linkages have become more relevant in today's globalized society.

At present, UNODC is involved in a variety of multilateral and bilateral regional projects, including the traditional areas of demand reduction and alternative development, human-trafficking, money-laundering, and HIV/AIDS.

In recognition of the importance of cooperation, initiatives such as the *1993 Six Country Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control* and the *ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD)* have been instituted.

The 1993 Memorandum of Understanding and its sub-regional action plan was the result of an urgent need for greater regional coordination to tackle cross-border drug trafficking. As a result of these initiatives which have been put in place over ten years ago, 38 border liaison offices (BLOs) are now established throughout the Greater Mekong sub-region. The effectiveness of a BLO is built entirely upon border-to-border cooperation.

“With the standard operating procedures established and effective information exchange, we are seeing an increasing number of joint operations taking place in the sub-region,” Mr. Fujino explained.

Today, an increasing number of joint operations are taking place in the sub-region resulting in the arrests of major drug traffickers. Joint patrols at the Mekong on the Thai-Lao border are also continuing.

The UNODC project “*Development of Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia*” was extended for another phase starting 2005 with the support from the Japanese Government. UNODC will continue to work with its regional counterparts in strengthening and improving the effectiveness of BLOs.

The annual ACCORD Task Force Meetings held in July and August of 2004 provided a forum for the exchange of information and for increasing dialogue among ACCORD partners. The meetings in 2004 resulted in the selection and endorsement of national and regional drug control projects under each Plan of Action Pillar.

By 2005, a greater emphasis will be placed on enhancing the inputs of non-government organizations (NGOs) in the ACCORD process, recognizing their contributions to curb the illicit drug problem, especially in demand reduction and in promoting public awareness.

“UNODC is committed to the pursuit of an integrated approach to drug, crime and terrorism issues and continue to work with its national counterparts,” Mr. Fujino assured the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies. ■

Think Before You Start, Before You Shoot, Before You Share

World AIDS Day (1 December) represents a victory for millions of people — the men, women, and children who are living with AIDS, and the health professionals, medical organizations and international agencies who have for so long championed their cause.

As this year's Chair of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) acknowledged the contributions of the other members of the group — each one a concerned and committed advocate for HIV prevention and treatment.

They include: The Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), The World Bank, and UNODC.

Many of these United Nations organizations have reached out to specific populations affected by HIV/AIDS: to women and girls, to children and adolescents, to prison inmates infected by the disease, and to populations plagued not only by HIV/AIDS, but also by poverty and strife. Various agencies have also responded to states and regions in need of financial resources for treatment and prevention, to HIV patients in rural and urban areas where anti-viral drugs are badly needed, and to regions where economic development is the first giant step toward creating disease-free societies.

The UNODC's mission focuses on drug control. It works hand-in-hand with colleagues whose job is to approach the crisis from many different directions.

"We may depend on different strategies, but every United Nations organization shares a large and common goal: we all believe that the more than 39 million men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS deserve our collective attention and sup-

port," Mr. Costa said. He added that the time has come for the nations of the world to join together in the global fight against drugs and the spread of this horrific disease.

Mr. Costa recalls that a man infected with the HIV virus recently asked him a haunting question — "Am I slowly dying?"

What made the question especially chilling was Mr. Costa's realization that, like countless other HIV/AIDS victims, this individual still had no clear insight into the disease which will, in all probability, end his life.

"World AIDS Day is designed to counter this lack of information, because if we have learned one thing over the past 20 years — that is, ignorance can be just as deadly as the disease," he remarked.

As AIDS is ravaging populations, targeting children, and destroying the future, HIV is a killer virus transmitted by drug use and sex, as well as by ignorance and denial.

"We have to talk openly to the people most likely to contract HIV/AIDS — to women and girls, who represent more than half of all new HIV infections, and to the world's children, the young boys and girls whose futures depend on our commitment to conquering this disease," Mr. Costa said.

He cited that this kind of dialogue is now taking place in the People's Republic of China — thanks to responsible and concerned leadership.

World AIDS Day signals a new momentum within the prevention and treatment community. It also signals the intention to fight back with education, awareness, honesty, energy and a host of medical treatments and preventive measures.

The new campaign slogan — "THINK BEFORE YOU START, BEFORE YOU SHOOT, BEFORE YOUR SHARE" — is meant to target young people. But the message is one which all can take to heart. ■

UNODC/Vienna Photo



Increased Supply of Heroin Poses Overdoses and Death

People have to be aware that there will be an inevitable rise in overdoses and related deaths. In the past, increases in the illicit supply of heroin have resulted, not in price reductions, but in a higher level of purity per dose.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa, drugs are now a clear and present danger in Afghanistan. An abundant supply of heroin from the country, and the drug's price stability in consumer countries suggest a likely increase in the purity of heroin in the coming months, and a commensurate increase in the number of deaths attributed to heroin overdose.

The UNODC is alerting health officials around the world to the looming risk, and advising broad and immediate prevention efforts. Mr. Costa is also sending detailed warnings to ministers of health and drug treatment organizations across Europe and Central Asia, regions expected to be hit hard and fast by the purer form of heroin.

More than 10,000 drug addicts die annually from overdoses involving heroin. Drug-related deaths linked to the abuse of Afghan heroin are estimated at approximately 100,000 per year. In 2002, about 7,000 deaths from drug-overdose occurred in Western Europe – down from 9,000 in 2000 when Afghan heroin was still in great supply.

Europe, the CIS nations, and neighboring regions may experience an upsurge of similar magnitude in 2005, when supply is once more expected to surge and levels of purity to rise.

Statistics correlating changes in cultivation in Afghanistan to drug-related deaths in Western Europe tell a dramatic story: in 2001, when opium poppy cultivation was banned in Afghanistan, production declined by 94%. One year later, when heroin reached Western European markets, low supplies of the drug also meant falling purity levels. In some European countries, heroin purity fell by as much as 50%. Drug-related deaths decreased by about 20% in Western Europe over the 2000-2002 period, as a result of lower consumption and lower levels of purity.

Mr. Costa added that in 2004, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has increased by 64% compared to 2003. The illicit heroin yield in Afghanistan in 2004 weighed in at more than 500 tons. Compare this to the worldwide demand for



UNODC Photos

Drug-related deaths linked to the abuse of Afghan heroin are estimated at approximately 100,000 per year.

heroin, which is cruising at between 300-400 tons.

“Given that this increase followed two previous years of high production, we know the worldwide supply will exceed demand for illicit heroin in 2005, and that an abundant supply of heroin is likely to result in rising levels of purity and substantial increases in the number of drug-related deaths. This is already happening in northern Russia,” Mr. Costa said.

While statistics on drug-related deaths in Russia and Central Asia are scarce, reports indicated that Russia has as many as 700,000 injecting drug users; Ukraine, more than 400,000; Pakistan, more than 180,000, and in India, the number of injecting drug users is estimated at more than 500,000.

“Demographics such as these translate into massive groups of individuals susceptible to heroin overdose,” said Mr. Costa. “I am calling on ministers of health and prevention organizations around the world to respond to this challenge in tangible and immediate ways.”

Mr. Costa continued, “Stable prices at a time of over-supply could mean a sudden increase in the purity of heroin sold on the streets.”

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unodc.org>

Opium Surveys in Three Countries Show Changing Trends

In Lao PDR, opium poppy cultivation showed a 45% decline in comparison to 2003. This translates into an impressive cumulative decline of 75% since 1998. Opium poppy cultivation is estimated at 6,600 hectares in 2004 against 12,000 hectares in 2003. The production of opium is estimated at 43 metric tons, with an overall reduction with respect to 2003 of over 64%.

In Myanmar, the survey shows a 29% decline in comparison to 2003. The opium poppy cultivation this season is estimated at 44,200 hectares representing significant cumulative decline of 73% when compared to the 163,000 ha in 1996. The production of opium for the year 2004 amounted to 370 metric tons, representing a decline of 54% with respect to 2003. The Shan State traditionally has accounted for more than 90% of total opium production in Myanmar.

In Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation has increased by 64% compared to 2003. With 131,000 hectares dedicated to opium poppy farming, Afghanistan has established a double record in 2004 – the highest drug cultivation in the country's history, and the largest in the world.

“The parallel decline in opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar, and Laos is a historical achievement if sustained, and will end more than a century of opium production in the Golden Triangle”, said Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Laos reduces its opium poppy cultivation by half in one season

The Lao PDR survey also reveals that the average farm-gate price of opium has increased by 27% compared with the previous season. The increase reflects the scarcity of opium produced this season and could present an incentive for farmers to cultivate opium poppy next year. For opium poppy-growing households in Laos, the average annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is US\$62 compared with US\$309 per capita for the country as a whole.

The number of households cultivating opium poppy has declined by 43% compared to the previous year. In 2004 however, 22,800 households continue to derive a significant share of their income from the opium harvested.



UNODC Photo/ Sanong Chhinanon

Steady reduction in opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar

“Today, Myanmar faces a critical, two-fold challenge. First, the country needs a permanent decline in opium production. At the same time, Myanmar must do everything in its power to head-off the humanitarian disaster threatening opium poppy-growing families who at present live on, or below, the poverty line.” Mr. Costa said.

According to the survey, 260,000 households were involved in opium poppy cultivation in 2004. Most of them reside in remote, mountainous, and isolated areas, and opium is often their primary or sole source of income. Most importantly, the average income of non-opium producing households is 30% higher than opium producing households.

“Opium is a last resort for farmers confronting hunger and poverty,” said Mr. Costa. “If we do not provide for the basic human needs of farmers in Myanmar, they will never escape the vicious cycle of poverty and opium poppy cultivation. The opium poppy-growing communities will remain vulnerable to human rights abuses, human trafficking and forced relocation” added Mr. Costa.

The survey also indicates the average farm-gate price of opium has increased by 80% over last year's cost — in 2004 the average cost per kilogram was US\$234 as opposed to US\$130 recorded in 2003. The increase, a reflection of a scarce opium production this season, could act as an incentive for farmers to cultivate greater amounts next year.

Major increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan

Opium poppy cultivation has spread to all of Afghanistan's 32 provinces, making narcotics the main engine of economic growth and the strongest bond among previously quarrelsome peoples. Valued at US\$2.8 billion, the opium economy is now equivalent to over 60% of Afghanistan's 2003 GDP.

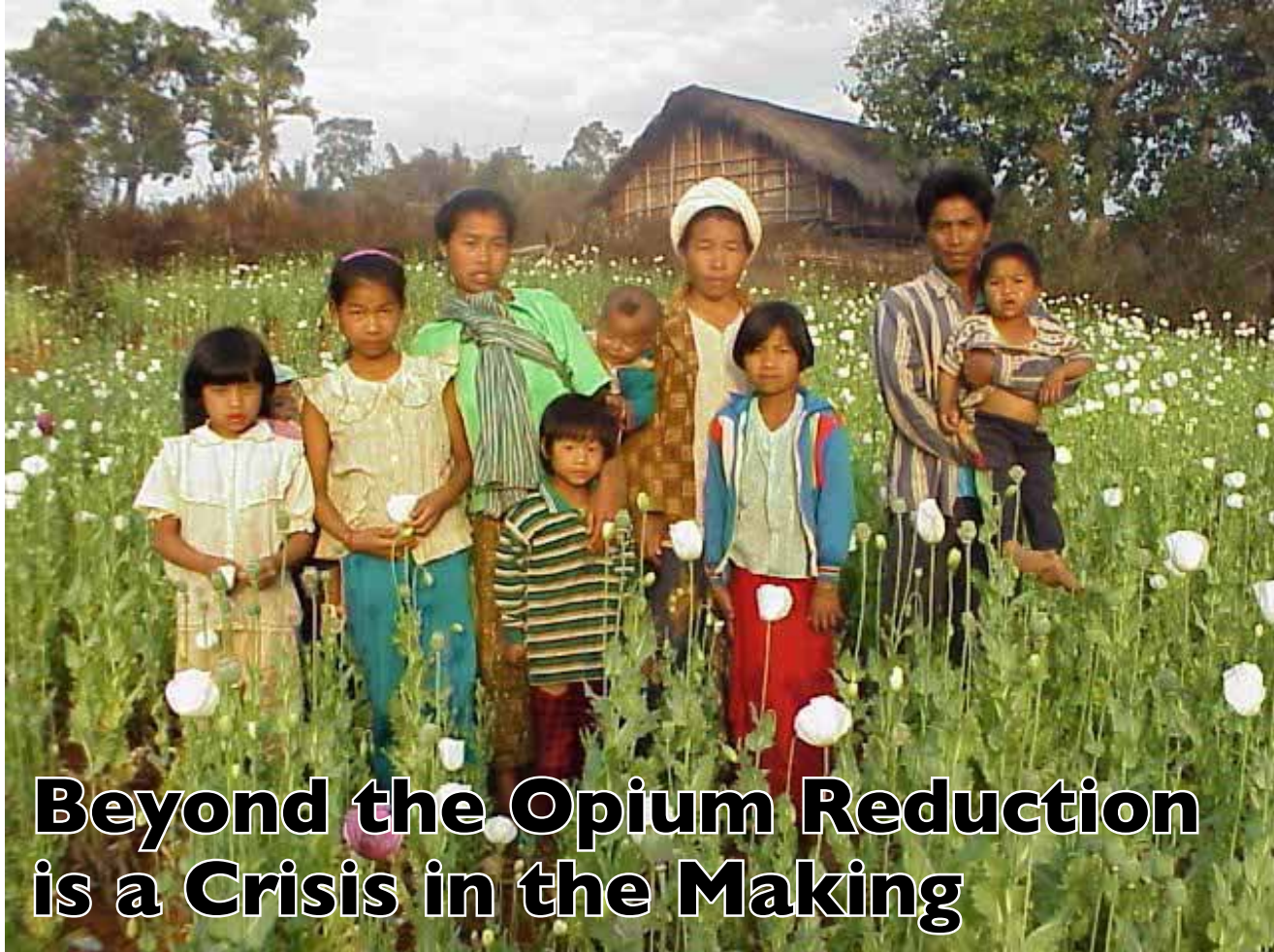
“In Afghanistan, drugs are now a clear and present danger,” stated Costa.

The Lao PDR survey was jointly carried out by UNODC and the Government of the Lao PDR, based on field work complemented with satellite imagery. Financial support was from the Governments of USA and Italy.

The Myanmar Survey was jointly carried out by UNODC and the Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. It was based on field work complemented with satellite imagery. Financial support was provided by the Governments of Japan and Italy.

The Afghanistan Survey was conducted by UNODC with financial contributions from the Governments of the United Kingdom, Italy and Finland.

For further information, please visit www.unodc.org



Beyond the Opium Reduction is a Crisis in the Making

By Inge Brees, Intern
UNODC Country Office, Myanmar

About 260,000 households in Myanmar depend on opium as their primary source of income.

The 73% drop in Myanmar's opium poppy cultivation from 160,000 hectares in the mid 1990s to 44,200 hectares in early 2004, is a welcome from a drug control point of view. Yet, this decline has significant humanitarian consequences affecting the sustainability of drug reduction in a country considered the main producer of opium in the "Golden Triangle."

The 2004 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Myanmar Opium Survey showed that an estimated 260,000 households in the country are engaged in opium poppy cultivation. With opium providing about two-thirds of their income, a household with an average of five persons, earn US\$214 a year. Without opium, each household would earn only US\$86 annually.

Far below a dollar per day earning, a dignified existence at this rate is impossible.

As such, helping these families becomes a humanitarian duty.

Farmers who grow opium poppy as a last resort to avoid hunger should not bear the results of a global reduction in opium themselves. At the same time, it is in the interest of the international community to provide economic opportunities for opium poppy-growing families to ensure the sustainability of the current opium reduction programme.

The consequences of an opium ban in the Kokang Region in 2003 had a severe humanitarian impact. In the first year following the ban, there was massive migration as people moved in search for food and income. The already meagre school enrolment

dropped by 50% resulting in the closure of many community-schools. Families could no longer afford to pay for health care.

To prevent a similar situation from occurring in the Wa Region which will be implementing an opium ban in June 2005, UNODC launched the Kokang and Wa Initiative (KOWI) in 2003. KOWI is a partnership of UN agencies, non-government organizations, and bilateral aid agencies working under a single umbrella to address the region's urgent needs. By facilitating the entry of partners into this remote and inaccessible region, UNODC is working to expand the types of assistance delivered to beneficiaries as well as the areas it reaches. ■



Harvesting opium in the field is often an additional task for women.

Thailand to Host 11th Crime Congress

The Royal Thai Government will host the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 18-25 April 2005 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok. Theme for the Congress is “Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.”

The Thai Ministry of Justice in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is organizing the congress. Top justice officials from the 191 Member States of the United Nations are expected to participate in the congress. In addition, criminal justice practitioners, together with experts from institutes affiliated with the United Nations, and their counterparts from the private sector are expected to attend. Various as-

pects of crime prevention and criminal justice will be discussed.

Held every five years since 1955, crime congresses have dealt with an array of topics. They have had an impact on national policies and professional practice by promoting the sharing and dissemination of relevant expertise and experience; formulating international guidelines; facilitating collaboration between States and between practitioners in the various sectors and disciplines bearing on crime and justice; fostering innovative and viable approaches intended to renew and upgrade existing systems; mustering public opinion and advocacy; and paving the way for more humane and effective methods of crime prevention and criminal justice management.

For further information, please visit www.unodc.org ■

Past Forward: Previous Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Following the dissolution of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission (IPPC) by the General Assembly in 1950, the United Nations continued the former body's practice of holding international conferences on crime control matters.

Below is a brief information on the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders which have taken place since 1995.

- **1955: First Congress, held in Geneva**, adopts the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
- **1960: Second Congress, held in London**, focuses on the prevention of juvenile delinquency, prison labour, parole and after-care, and criminality resulting from social change and economic development.
- **1965: Third Congress held in Stockholm**, focuses on technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and criminological research for the prevention of crime and for vocational training, and recommended the employment of United Nations regional advisers.
- **1970: Fourth Congress, held in Kyoto**, discusses social defense policies in relation to development planning, public participation in crime prevention and the organization of research for policy development in social defense.
- **1975: Fifth Congress, held in Geneva**, discusses, for the first time, the concept of crime as a business (including organized crime), approves the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was subsequently developed by the Commission on Human Rights into a Convention.
- **1980: Sixth Congress, held in Caracas**, adopts a Declaration which recognizes that crime prevention programmes must be based on the social, cultural, political and economic circumstances of countries and form part of the developmental planning process.
- **1985: Seventh Congress, held in Milan**, approves the Milan Plan of Action; the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice; the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power; the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary; recommendations on the treatment of foreign prisoners and the first model bilateral treaty - the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners.
- **1990: Eighth Congress, held in Havana**, approves model treaties on extradition, mutual assistance in criminal matters, transfer of proceedings in criminal matters, transfer of supervision of offenders conditionally sentenced or conditionally released, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures, the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors; and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.
- **1995: Ninth Congress, held in Cairo**, focuses on international cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law, action against transnational and organized crime, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment, criminal justice and police systems, and crime prevention strategies as related to crime in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality.
- **2000: Tenth Congress, held in Vienna**, delivers the Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century to the Millennium General Assembly.

For further information, please visit www.unodc.org ■

Regional Centre Internships: Providing Graduate Students Avenues for Professional Work Experience

Here is an opportunity for outstanding graduate and postgraduate students to acquire practical professional experience through direct exposure to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre's work in 30 countries of East Asia and the Pacific.



The UNODC Internship Programme is designed to provide international experience and enhance better understanding of United Nations multi-lateral cooperation in the following fields of drug and crime: Legislature and Law Enforcement, Computer-based Drug Law Enforcement Training, Drug Demand Reduction, Drug Supply Reduction and Alternative Development, Money Laundering, Human Trafficking, and Corruption.

Through the internship, qualified students would have the opportunity to work in cooperation with other staff members of the Regional Centre which is responsible for over 30 countries, namely, Brunei, Cambodia, Cook Islands, East Timor, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Kiribati, Korea DPR, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, PR China, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, with a responsibility for the subregional programme in Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam and for regional coordination with Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

Mr. Sanong Chinnanon, UNODC Regional Centre's Institutional/Human Resource Development Specialist said that candidates for the Internship Programme would be selected on a competitive basis. Among others, they should be enrolled in a graduate degree programme of a recognized institution in the fields related to political and social sciences, economics, public health, psychology, public and business administration, law studies or other relevant programmes. The candidates are eligible to apply before or immediately after their completion of the studies.

"The UNODC Internship programme operates on a non-remunerative basis. Costs connected with an intern's participation in the Programme must be borne by the nominating institution or government, which may provide the required financial assistance to its students, who will have to obtain financing for subsistence and make their own arrangements for travel, accommodation, etc.," Mr. Sanong explained.

Internships range from four to six months and the intern participants are required to work full-time during office hours.

The selected interns will be working with UNODC Regional Centre located in Bangkok.

Those interested in the Internship Programme should submit a letter of application together with a curriculum vitae, two letters of reference and a general statement of purpose to indicate objective of internship, areas of interest, duration, and expected outcomes. Admission will be in January for Winter session, May for Summer session, and October for Fall session. Applications should be sent to:

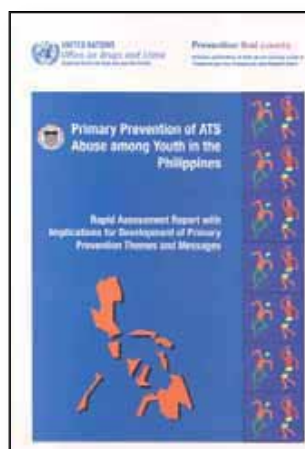
The Representative
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building, 3rd Floor,
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Fax : (662) 281 2129/ 2881075
E-mail: fo.thailand@unodc.org



Primary Prevention of ATS Abuse among Youth in Thailand

Assessment technologies provide a means to understand and influence the dynamics of community action on drug problems. This report is a testament to the effectiveness of these technologies when properly introduced and managed. Both quantitative and qualitative research approaches have been used to gain understanding of the community structure, to provide insights into community needs and aspirations, and to focus the inspiration and guidance of community members.

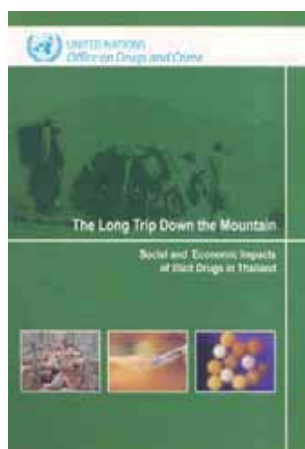
Publisher: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Bangkok (Thailand), Tel: (662) 288-2100, Fax: (662) 281-2129, E-mail: <fo.thailand@unodc.org>



Primary Prevention of ATS Abuse among Youth in the Philippines

Understanding the circumstances, behavior, beliefs and attitudes of the youth is a critical component for the development of primary prevention messages that have meaning and promote health. Assessment technology provides the tools to acquire that understanding and its effective application is evident in this report. It is hoped that readers of the document will gain insights into the behavior, attitudes and knowledge of a selected group of Filipino youth and provide one confidence in the use of assessment methodologies as fundamental prerequisite to the development of public “drug prevention” campaign messages.

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The Long Trip Down the Mountain: Social and Economic Impacts of Illicit Drugs in Thailand

The use of methamphetamines in Thailand rose rapidly during the 1990s, and by the early 21st century had reached epidemic proportions. By the time of the peak in usage in late 2002, per capita usage of methamphetamines was the highest in the world. The research presented in this report offers some insights into the evil socio-economic impact in some aspects of human development in Thailand. The study is presented in a form that would appeal to a general audience.

The majority of the study was conducted in the later part of 2002, and during the early part of 2003, although updates continued throughout 2003, particularly in reference to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and the Thai government’s successful efforts at fighting drugs through an aggressive anti-drug campaign from February to April 2003 and thereafter.

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Lost in the Past – Early 1900’s: Another story

By Akira Fujino, UNODC Regional Centre

Letter dated 22 March 1920 from the Foreign Office, United Kingdom, to Germany: “There is a reason to believe that, in spite of the efforts of His Majesty’s Government and of the other Governments concerned, morphia produced in the United Kingdom is at present reaching the Far East in quantities largely in excess of the amount required for legitimate purposes, and His Majesty’s Government are therefore of opinion that it is desirable that steps should be taken forthwith to regulate the export to all countries, whether their Governments are parties to the Opium Convention or not, of the drugs specified in the Convention.”

The first article in this series published in the June 2004 issue of the Eastern Horizons described cases of concealed “smuggling” of drugs from Europe into Asia in the 1920’s and 1930’s. At that time, drugs licitly manufactured by pharmaceutical companies were often “diverted” into illicit channels also through what appeared to be proper “exports”. The above-cited letter refers to a remedial measure being taken and notes that an arrangement had been made with the Governments of the United States, France and Japan:

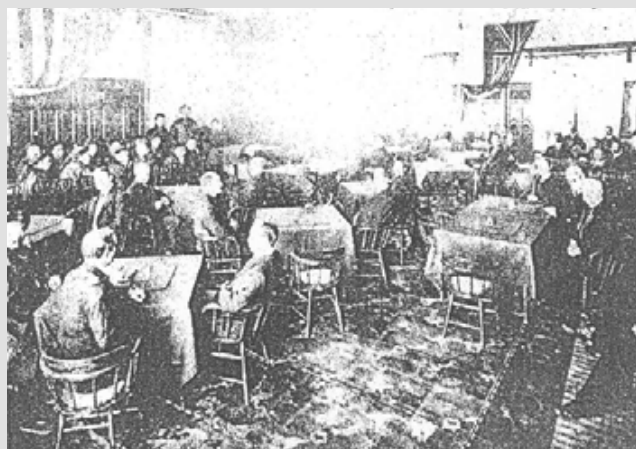
“whereby no consignment of morphia or kindred drugs is allowed to be exported from the United Kingdom to any of the countries in question except on production of a certificate from the Government concerned stating that it is satisfied that the consignment is required exclusively for legitimate medical or scientific purposes and will not be re-exported.”

The letter written in 1920, already clearly stated one of the essential principles of international drug control treaties, later to be incorporated in the 1925 Convention and carried over in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, still in force today.

At the time the letter was written in the context of the Treaty of Peace with Germany, which provided that those of the High Contracting Parties that had not yet signed or ratified the very first drug control treaty called the Opium Convention of 1912, agreed to bring that Convention into force, and for that purpose to enact the necessary legislation without delay. The world still lacked international and national control mechanisms to prevent effectively “diversion” of controlled drugs into illicit traffic.

Despite efforts of concerned Governments, import certificates were not universally required, and where demanded, they were often easy to obtain. A confidential note, dated 17 January 1923, sent from the British Embassy in Tokyo to the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom, notes, on the basis of local press reports:

“an opium-smuggling gang had conducted operations during the past year between Yokohama, Formosa and China, and has made profits amounting to millions of yen. The organiser of this trade is stated to be one S. S. [author’s note: a Japanese name], a graduate of Yale, and he appears to have acted in conjunction with the H. Pharmaceutical



Shanghai Opium Commission, 1909

Joint Stock Company, whose activities are now being investigated in accordance with [the Foreign Office’s] despatch ...”

“This company bought, in 1920 and 1921, 2000 boxes of opium, valued at 4,000,000 yen, from the R.L.F. Drug Company, New York.”

“The opium was normally consigned to Vladivostok. .. In commenting on the case, the newspapers draw attention to the note which this Embassy addressed to the Imperial Japanese Government, suggesting that the imports of opium into Vladivostok should be restricted. This note arose out of information received from Vladivostok that the [local] Government had granted imported certificates freely.”

At the same time, such efforts of some Governments also drove bogus companies and traffickers away to other countries where controls were lax, as we see today. Another note, dated 26 April 1922, from the British Embassy in Tokyo to the Foreign Office notes:

“a statement [of the Home Office] to the effect that consignees in Japan of opium and dangerous drugs find it practically impossible to obtain special import certificates from the Japanese Government and suggesting that owing to the action of the British authorities in insisting on the production of these certificates, the trade is being driven into other than British channels.”

The world gradually saw the development in international law in drug control, and yet even with a further treaty, the Geneva Convention of 1925, the same issues continued to pose problems after several years. A letter from the “International Anti-Opium Association, Peking” to the Editor of “Peking & Tientsin Times”, entitled “The Shanghai Morphia Scandal” and published on 22 February 1926, notes:

“it must be remembered that the process by which this deplorable importation was made was perfectly legitimate, and fulfils all the demands of the League of Nations System of Importation by certificate. Those familiar with the details of the Geneva Convention of 1925 are aware of the very heated discussion which took place when the British delegation claimed the right to refuse export if they considered that the quantities demanded were excessive, even though the certificate to import was presented in a bona fide manner from the Government of an importing country.”

This issue leads subsequently to the adoption of a new treaty in 1931. The third part of the series will look into further details of those cases of diversion from licit channels.

Author’s Note: Texts in italics were reproduced verbatim. Names of individuals are withheld.



10-14 January

National Financial Investigation Training for Law Enforcement Officers
Shanghai, PR China

10-25 January

ACCORD Project Evaluation
Bangkok, Thailand
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Yangon, Myanmar
Jakarta, Indonesia

24 January-4 February

National Financial Investigation Training for Law Enforcement Officers
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

25-28 January

Regional Drug Data Collection and Sharing Meeting for the Eleven ACCORD Countries
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

26-28 January

Workshop on the Situation of Cross-Border Cooperation Mechanism for Drug Law Enforcement Officers
Pattaya, Thailand

15-17 February

National Mutual Legal Assistance Training for Law Enforcement Officers
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

24-25 February

Review Meeting of Indonesian National Action Plan for Precursor Control
Jakarta, Indonesia

1 March

Launch of 2004 Annual Report of the International Narcotics Control Board
Bangkok, Thailand

2 March

Launch of 2004 Annual Report of the International Narcotics Control Board
Manila, Philippines

14-18 March

National Prosecutors' Training for Public Attorneys
Manila, Philippines

17-18 March

Review Meeting of China's National Action Plan for Precursor Control
PR China

21-24 March

Cambodia-Thailand Cross-Border Cooperation Refresher Training for Drug Law Enforcement Officers
Koh Kong, Poi Pet, Cambodia

29-31 March

Meeting of Lao PDR National Drug Information Network
Savannakhet, Lao PDR

8 April, 11-12 April

National Assets Management Training for Thailand's Anti-Money Laundering Office
Bangkok, Thailand

11-15 April

National Prosecutors' Training for Public Attorneys
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

11-15 April

Clandestine Lab Investigations Training on Illicit Manufacture of ATS in Particular Methamphetamine and MDMA
Manila, Philippines

25-29 April

Regional Judicial Training on Anti-Money Laundering for Judges
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

April

Regional Training Meeting on the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

16-20 May

Ministerial and Senior Officials Memorandum of Understanding Meeting
Siem Reap, Cambodia

6-9 June

Satellite Meetings on ACCORD Plan of Action
Bangkok, Thailand

* Meetings, training programmes, workshops, and launchings organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with various partners from January to June 2005. Dates and venues may change.

For further information, please contact

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