Eastern Horizons

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Making the World Safer from Crime, Drugs and Terrorism
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The UNODC Regional Centre continues to assist countries in the region and strives to enhance and strengthen their capacities so that positive results in curtailing illicit drugs, crime and terrorism can be reached. In partnerships among multidisciplinary groups, government and non-governmental sectors, international organizations, and donor community, farmers who once had to rely on opium poppy are assisted to engage in alternative and sustainable sources of livelihood like upland rice farming.

Cover photo by Akira Fujino
Regional Centre’s Strategic Programme Framework

The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific works with over 30 countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region and carries out regional and national projects, and provides advisory services to complement national responses throughout the region. To that end, the Regional Centre has drawn up a renewed “Strategic Programme Framework” to guide its work through 2010. This will also set the tone and major scope of the 2007 issues of the Eastern Horizons.

We see in the region, geographically expanding impact of organized crime and diversification of criminal activity. We see shifting patterns of illicit drug trafficking and abuse. We see the spread of HIV and AIDS associated with illicit drug use. We further note weak national frameworks to counter crime and terrorism. Underlying those issues, we find data collection and reporting systems that require further fine tuning.

With those priority problems in mind, our work addresses “justice and human security”. With thematic focuses on (1) prevention, (2) rule of law, (3) treatment and reintegration, and (4) analysis, we will address drug, crime and terrorism issues. These will be translated into further concrete programmes and projects, in full association with countries, both donors and recipients. In so doing, we keep in our scope the actual delivery of services on the ground, which requires us to work further closely with civil society.

Since I assumed my duties as the Representative for East Asia and the Pacific three years ago in January 2004, I have been consistently focusing my messages on networking in various areas of common concern. That remains valid today. As, in 2007, the Regional Centre will further extend its activities substantively, particularly in crime prevention and criminal justice areas, it will continue utilizing its comparative advantages of being able to reach out to all relevant players, international, regional, national, or otherwise, in helping secure horizontal linkages to address multi-sectoral issues we face today.

Akira Fujino
Representative

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok
Making the World Safer from Crime, Drugs and Terrorism

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime, and the United Nations’ lead programme on terrorism. Established in 1997, UNODC has approximately 500 staff members worldwide. Its headquarters are in Vienna and it operates 21 field offices as well as a liaison office in New York and a permanent presence in Brussels.

UNODC works to educate the world about the dangers of drug abuse and to strengthen international action against drug production, trafficking and drug-related crime. In order to achieve this, UNODC carries out a broad range of initiatives, including alternative development projects, illicit crop monitoring and anti-money laundering programmes.

UNODC also works to improve crime prevention and to assist with criminal justice reform in a number of countries. The Office works with Member States to strengthen the rule of law, promote stable and viable criminal justice systems and combat the growing threats of transnational organized crime and corruption. Moreover, in 2002, the General Assembly approved an expanded programme of activities for the Terrorism Prevention Branch. This programme focuses on the provision of assistance to countries, upon request, for ratifying and implementing the 12 universal legal instruments against terrorism.

UNODC has country and regional field offices in 21 locations around the world, covering over 150 countries, one of which is the Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Working directly with governments and non-governmental organizations, field staff develop and implement drug control and crime prevention programmes that are tailored to the needs of assisted countries.

Counter narcotics and law enforcement

UNODC works to establish adequate, functional legal and institutional frameworks for drug control through effective implementation of international drug control conventions.

Drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

UNODC supports a number of projects, often implemented by partner organizations, to prevent drug abuse. The organization also publishes a toolkit on treatment and rehabilitation best practices.

Sustainable livelihoods

Most of the world’s coca is produced in three countries — Colombia, Peru and Bolivia — and most of the opium is produced in Afghanistan and Myanmar. UNODC works with these countries to develop alternative, sustainable livelihoods for farmers and others involved in drug production.

Research and analysis

The yearly World Drug Report provides one of the most comprehensive international overviews of illicit drug trends. UNODC produces a number of other studies and reports on drugs and crime. It also produces annual crop surveys in the main drug-producing countries.

Human trafficking

Data collection, assessment and technical cooperation are the key components of UNODC work in this area. The organization assists countries of origin, transit and destination for trafficking victims through assessment-based programmes of cooperation.

Terrorism

UNODC is the United Nations lead programme in this area. The key operational focus is to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism. This is chiefly done through providing legislative and technical assistance to Member States.

Money-laundering

UNODC encourages anti-money laundering policy development, monitors and analyses the problems and responses, and coordinates anti-money laundering initiatives with other international organizations.

Corruption

The United Nations Convention against Corruption, of which UNODC is the custodian, entered into force on 14 December 2005. UNODC helps Member States to implement the Convention, particularly through technical assistance with legislation and asset recovery.

Organized crime

UNODC trains criminal justice practitioners in a number of countries to better cope with organized crime. It also promotes information-sharing across borders and assesses and analyses organized crime trends.

HIV/AIDS

The link between injecting drug use and HIV infection is UNODC key HIV/AIDS related concern. It focuses on Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Central Asia, Eastern Asia and the Pacific, and the Southern Cone region of Latin America. UNODC is a co-sponsoring agency of UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Outreach/partnerships

The organization produces information and advocacy materials on topics such as drugs, HIV/AIDS, corruption and human trafficking. UNODC also works closely with non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups across the world.
Corruption Facts

The World Bank estimates that each year, in both and developing countries, over US$ 1 trillion is paid in bribes. Corruption reduces a government’s ability to provide basic resources and services for its citizens. Colloquial terms for bribery and the exchange of favours such as “you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours,” “una mano lava l’altra” (one hand washes the other in Italian), “coima” and “pot de vin” (a bribe in French) attest to the global reach of corruption.

Corruption causes reduced investment.

- Investment in a relatively corrupt country compared to an uncorrupt one can be as much as 20 per cent more costly.
- Nations that fight corruption and improve their rule of law could increase their national income by 400 per cent.
- Corruption occurs whenever parents pay teachers illegal fees to give their children an education, patients pay extra to get proper health care, citizens give public officials gifts or money to speed up procedures, and drivers bribe police officers to avoid a fine. What many see as simply a way to get things done is, in fact, a crime.
- Each act of corruption contributes to global poverty, obstructs development, and drives away investment.
- But corruption cannot only be measured in economic terms. Where corruption is present, society at large suffers. It debilitates the judicial and political systems that should be working for the public good by weakening the rule of law and silencing the voice of the people. As a result, citizens’ trust in government officials and national institutions dwindles.

Increasing evidence indicates widespread corruption in the judiciary in many parts of the world.

- A report examining the judiciary in 48 countries found that judicial corruption was pervasive in 30 of the countries.
- Judicial corruption undermines the rule of law and government legitimacy.
- A corrupt judiciary cripples a society’s ability to curb corruption.

Corruption allows organized crime and terrorism to flourish.

- Corrupt practices facilitate drug trafficking and organized crime.
- Corruption is associated with money-laundering and illicit international money transfers, which can be used to support mechanisms for international terrorists.

Strong political commitment is required to combat corruption.

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the first legally-binding global response to combating corruption.
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption obliges countries to criminalize certain corrupt practices, including bribery, embezzlement and money-laundering.
- One year after being approved, more than 110 countries have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and more than 10 have ratified it.
- At the World Economic Forum in 1999, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan challenged business leaders to join the Global Compact—an international initiative bringing companies together with United Nations agencies, labour and civil society to support nine principles in the areas of human rights, labour and the environment. In June 2004, the Leaders Summit of the Global Compact added action against corruption as a tenth principle. With that addition, more than 1600 companies worldwide committed to work together to fight corruption.

Hold Governments Accountable to Fight Corruption

The world’s top anti-corruption officials were urged to hold their Governments to account for the promises they have made to tackle corruption.

Addressing the newly formed International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities in Beijing, Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said the creation of the body was “the latest demonstration of the world’s eagerness to put kleptocratic government officials and greedy business leaders behind bars.”

Mr. Costa said the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which came into force in December 2005, was a powerful tool for the prevention and criminalization of corruption if governments chose to implement it.

Mr. Costa urged the anti-corruption practitioners to play an active part in the first meeting of parties to the Convention in Amman, Jordan in December. “I urge you to hold your Governments accountable for the promises they have made and, in Amman, to help us build a robust global anti-corruption regime,” he said.

UNODC is custodian of the Convention against Corruption, which has so far been ratified by 68 countries.

Mr. Costa underlined the need for all countries to adopt concrete anti-corruption measures and public sector management practices in order to prevent corruption and minimize its impact on governments, economies, and ordinary citizens. Key elements were the integrity of the judiciary, effective accounting standards, a domestic regulatory framework for financial institutions, controls on donations to political parties and financial disclosure by public officials.
Representatives of Member States of Asia and the Pacific called on Governments to strengthen support towards curbing illicit trafficking and consumption of heroin, witness protection, control of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), and drug trafficking by sea.

At the 13th meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies Asia and the Pacific (HONLEA) held 14 - 17 November 2006, in Bangkok, working groups reviewed issues of regional importance and held frank exchanges and recommended practical areas of action.

In his message, Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, urged HONLEA to develop practical recommendations on how to best move towards taking collective actions in curbing drug trafficking, and in efforts to combat crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Mr. Fujino assured HONLEA that UNODC will pursue an integrated approach to drugs, crime, and terrorism issues and that the Regional Centre is ready to offer assistance and facilitate recipient and donor country coordination of strategies to address such issues.

As a result of the discussions of various working groups at the meeting, specific recommendations were reached.

HONLEA recommended that Governments should support their drug law enforcement agencies in their efforts to strengthen cooperation with their national and international professional counterparts in the rapid exchange of information, and undertaking of joint operations. The participants also recommended for the development of information about the modus operandi of transnational organized trafficking operations; and encouraged the development of heroin signature analysis and sharing of results of lab and test samples.

In terms of witness protection, Governments should take steps that established procedures are in place to ensure the safety and protection of persons who are asked to provide court evidence as witnesses; and that adequate funding is made available to support witness protection programmes.

To control ATS and their precursors, HONLEA recommended that Governments should examine their current legislation and procedures governing control over the internally listed precursor chemicals, equipment used in clandestine manufacturing and other nationally identified chemicals commonly diverted for abuse.

HONLEA also recommended that new partnerships be developed with the chemical industry and strengthen existing regional and international cooperation and pursue the active backtracking investigations into chemicals and equipment recovered from traffickers.

To mitigate trafficking by sea and inland waterways, HONLEA recommended that Governments encourage their border authorities to undertake joint or coordinated maritime patrols with neighboring or regional partners on inland water-ways, confined waters and in surveillance of vessels in deep water transit past their territorial waters; and establish legal frameworks needed to ensure the timely exchange of information, secure receipt of intelligence and the passing of operational requests on maritime trafficking.

The 13th HONLEA meeting was attended by States representatives of Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, PR China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and the Macao Special Administrative Region of China were also represented. Belgium, Canada, Italy, and Spain were represented by observers. The International Criminal Police Organization, (Interpol), the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific of the World Customs Organization were represented by observers. UNODC served as the secretariat of the meeting.
Transnational Organized Crime in the Pacific: Acting Regionally for Human Security

By Marika McAdam
UNODC Regional Centre

Transnational crime adapts to the characteristics of the places and people it victimizes. For the small island states of the Pacific Islands and the diverse nations within it, this means taking advantage of institutional weaknesses, gaps in collaboration and socio-economic vulnerabilities. By virtue of their geographical remoteness, stuttering development and vulnerability to environmental factors, small island states are particularly susceptible to infiltration by transnational organized crime groups.

To illustrate this cycle of transnational crime and its self-perpetuating nature – corruption is both exacerbated by and exacerbates economic instability. Economic instability in turn undermines cooperative and effective law enforcement. Weak law enforcement results in easily breached borders, which enables the illegal movement of drugs, small arms, people and money between nations. This unregulated movement across borders contributes to economic instability, facilitates crime, and in continuation of the cycle, provides more opportunity for corruption.

This cycle of threat to human security must be broken.

Transnational crime in the Pacific sub-region

Information pertaining to crime trends and criminal justice responses in the Pacific Islands is currently inadequate to paint a precise picture. However, enough is known to flag the urgent need to support the region in its efforts against threats of drugs, crime and terrorism – key priorities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in working towards achieving human security.

Drugs

The Pacific has been used as a transit point and destination of illicit drug trafficking by transnational criminals. In the year 2000, 350 kg of heroin destined for Australia, Canada and New Zealand was intercepted in Suva, Fiji. In 2002, 74 kg of methamphetamine intended for Australia, Canada and New Zealand was intercepted in Suva, Fiji. In 2002, 74 kg of methamphetamine intended for Australia were seized in Singapore. In 2003, 2.5 kg of pseudoephedrine originating from Fiji, were found in Brisbane, Australia. In 2004, 5 kg of crystal methamphetamine, 700 litres of liquid methamphetamine and significant quantities of precursor chemicals were seized in Fiji.

Crime

Many forms of transnational organized crime take place in the Pacific with its easily permeated borders with reports of weapons smuggling in the region in 2005. Wildlife and marine life smuggled for financial profit, and socio-economic factors have contributed to money-laundering and corruption throughout the sub-region. The increasing use of computer networks by transnational organized criminals contribute to the proliferation of crime and is a concern for Pacific island states which as yet, do not have legislation relating to cybercrime, or the technical investigative capacity to stay abreast of cyber-criminals.

A more prolific concern than these crimes however is the unregulated movement of people throughout the region, the challenges of which are likely to escalate and diversify with shifting and fluctuating push and pull factors.

The Pacific islands have already been used as a transit point for people destined for other regions of the world. Of the 17 member countries that supplied information to the Secretariat of the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference in 2005, nine reported instances of people smuggling at their borders. In addition to smuggling routes which originate in Asia and travel via the Pacific to destinations including Australia, New Zealand and beyond to the United States, Canada and Europe, it is believed that there is increasing unauthorized movement of people whose final destination is the Pacific Islands themselves. Source countries of such migrants are as varied as the Peoples’ Republic of China, the Philippines, Indonesia, India and even countries in Africa.

While trafficking in persons is not considered to be as imminent a threat to border integrity as migrant smuggling, Pacific countries including Fiji, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu have all acknowledged that people have been traf-
ficked across their borders. It has been widely accepted that the number of people trafficked from, to, through and within the region will increase, and that the primary purpose will be for the sexual exploitation of trafficking victims. Sex tourists are already known to travel to this region to engage in commercial sexual exploitation - particularly of children - thereby providing market incentive to traffickers.

Another changing element in the push and pull factors at play will be the large-scale displacement of people resulting from rising sea levels. Some scientists speculate that the entire population of some island states will be forced to migrate. As neighboring states struggle to respond to this crisis in a way that upholds the rights of migrants without undermining their own national security, organized criminal groups will have an increased number of vulnerable people to prey on, as desperate people turn to migrant smugglers and potentially detour into the hands of human traffickers.

**Terrorism**

While one argument could suggest that the Pacific Islands offer little strategic value for terrorist groups, it could be conversely suggested that they offer a vantage point for terrorist operations in the wider Asia-Pacific region. In support of the latter viewpoint, links have been established between this sub-region and terrorist activities elsewhere.

In 2002, vessels registered in Pacific countries were intercepted carrying explosives and weapons intended to be used in terrorist attacks in other parts of the world.

A clear point emerges from this relatively sparse information about the role of terrorism in the region as well as illicit drug production and trafficking routes and the movement of people in the form of forced or smuggled migrants and trafficked victims. There is an urgent need for commitment to generating accurate data, sharing information and undertaking practical research of security threats in the region.

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**Regional Cooperation for Human Security in the Pacific**

The Pacific Islands Forum was established in 1971, and comprises 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific. The administrative arm of the Pacific Islands Forum is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). As the region’s key political and economic organization, its leaders meet annually to discuss and develop collective responses to the issues affecting their region. In October 2005, they endorsed the Pacific Plan – the cornerstone of cooperative action in the sub-region aimed to achieve economic growth, sustainable development, good governance, and security.

The underlying concept offered in pursuit of these goals is ‘regionalism’, that is, joint effort and cooperation for the benefit of the region as a whole and the individual nations within it. Transnational crime compromises every pillar of the Pacific Plan and is therefore a key priority for such regionally-driven action. In furtherance of the Pacific Plan, the PIFS’s Political and Security programme acts to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies in combating transnational organized crime, border management issues, data collection and anti-money laundering mentoring. The PIFS has established a suite of model legislation designed to implement the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and its supplementary protocols, as well as drug and terrorism conventions.

The Pacific Immigration Directors’ Conference (PIDC) also acts in pursuit of the Pacific Plan. A forum of immigration agencies in the Pacific region, PIDC facilitates multilateral cooperation and mutual assistance between member agencies. As part of the PIDC’s efforts to strengthen borders in the Pacific Region, immigration directors from 17 countries met at the 10th Annual Director’s Conference in October 2006 to discuss the issue of strengthening borders and improving well-being and security in the region. Their discussions included transnational crime issues of migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, identity fraud and border security.

Such examples of regional cooperation and information sharing should be commended for their acknowledgement of the need to take collective action against collective issues. They should also act as a call for international organizations to offer technical support and expertise in areas which fall within their mandates.

**Way forward**

Action taken against transnational crimes must be as aggressive as the crimes themselves, and as strategically organized as the criminals who commit them. This means that just as transnational crime adapts to the situations and individuals it exploits, so too must the response adapt to transnational crime and its perpetrators.

A truly meaningful response to human security threat, first and foremost depend on an adequate understanding of its nature and extent. It also depends on an acknowledgement that transnational crime can only be countered by transnational solutions. The first priority for combating human security threats in the Pacific islands should therefore be data collection and research which is regional in nature. Quality information concerning one State will only be effective in overcoming regional threats if it comprises part of a bigger regional picture.

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1 Currently, Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Forum Observers are French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Tokelau, with Timor Leste as a Special Observer.
3 www.forumsec.org
5 www.picssec.org
UNODC and IOM Join Forces to Fight Human Trafficking

By Fiona Dempsey
UNODC Regional Centre

From 9 – 14 October 2006, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered with UNODC to deliver training to provincial court officials in Cambodia on human trafficking cases. Trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, has risen to the forefront of global consciousness in recent years. Resulting in the exploitation of the victim, human trafficking has a devastating effect at the national, regional and global level. Countries throughout the world are affected by human trafficking, but the effects resonate profoundly in developing communities, where the most vulnerable victims are exploited by unscrupulous criminal individuals and organizations. In the East Asia and Pacific region, the issue is of major significance. With countries of origin, transit and destination, or a combination of all three, the regional response needs to tackle the complexity and dimensions of the issue.

The issue also impacts at the individual level. Human rights violations often accompany trafficking offences, and victim support remains limited. Sexual exploitation of human trafficking victims is common, as is slavery. Criminal justice responses within this region are apparent, but often remain in infancy.

The international framework

The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the related Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children provides the international legal framework for responding to trafficking in persons. The instruments contain provisions which address various aspects of both trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime. A range of criminal justice considerations are also included, such as victim compensation and witness protection.

As the custodian of the relevant international instruments, UNODC is active globally in responding to the issue. Given the breadth and dimensions of the issue however, UNODC cannot act in isolation. Cooperation and collaboration are hallmarks of an effective response to trafficking in persons, and accordingly, UNODC looks for opportunities to partner with other organizations whenever possible.

IOM HRPTV Project

The IOM is one of the main international organizations actively working to address human trafficking globally, regionally and nationally. A strong example of their approach to the issue is the Promotion of Human Rights of Victims of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation through Legal and Policy Support (HRPTV) project in Cambodia, funded by the Italian Government. This bilateral project aims to promote anti-human trafficking measures by developing the capacity of provincial law enforcement and courts to process and respond to cases of human trafficking. Being run as a pilot project in Cambodia, IOM is working closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia and relevant Ministries and authorities in five provinces: Kampot, Koh Kong, Oddor Meanchey, Palin, and Pursat.

Training for provincial court officials in Siem Reap

As part of this project, training is provided to provincial law enforcement and court officials within the framework of a “train the trainers” approach. Recently, UNODC partnered with IOM in the delivery of training to provincial court officials in Siem Reap. IOM HRPTV Trainer Philipp Genesse, a French lawyer with extensive experience providing similar training in Cambodia, supported by Michel Bonnieu, the Regional Centre’s Senior Regional Legal Advisor delivered the content of the training. The training was attended by a range of criminal justice representatives, particularly prosecutors and judges from provincial courts. Law enforcement officials also attended, promoted by an IOM/HRPTV incentive scheme, selected on the basis of their participation in previous project activities. Additionally, a special module was targeted at legal professionals encompassing specific topics such as victim representation and civil compensation. This training session was a pioneering event in Cambodia, being the first time for representatives of all these professional groups having joined together for such a collective exercise.

The event was supported by the Italian Government, and the presence of the Bangkok-based Italian Ambassador H.E. Ignazio di Pace at the training reflected the ongoing commitment to the issue of trafficking in human beings.

In responding to the need for strong and sustainable capacity development, the training focused on a wide range of practical considerations in human trafficking cases. Participants were encouraged to actively discuss issues such as victim compensation, both at the conceptual and practical levels. The training represented a strong initiative to deal with the range of legal issues that arise in the investigation and prosecution of a human trafficking offence.

The success of the training reflected the strong national will within Cambodia to continue to build on the successes achieved thus far in developing the criminal justice response to new and emerging threats such as trafficking in persons. The initiative was a strong example of the expertise and initiative of the Royal Government of Cambodia, in particular the Ministry of Justice, as well as IOM and the HRPTV team. In particular, the efforts of Iulian Circo from IOM made the event not only possible, but also a strong example of training and collaboration.

The future

As an active player in the international response to human trafficking, UNODC, and in particular the Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific welcomes the opportunity to engage in collaborative efforts such as this training. Human trafficking continues to devastate lives and undermine the development of criminal justice systems in the region. In comprehensively responding to the issue, governments need to take steps to ensure relevant officials have the knowledge and training to effectively implement, administer and adjudicate laws which aim to respond to this dynamic threat. UNODC stands ready and able to assist Member States in achieving this.
International Cooperation to Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Children

By Marika McAdam
UNODC Regional Centre

Children have been the subject of international law since the League of Nations first adopted the Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1924. Since that time, the international community through the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its supplementary Protocols, has come to recognize the fundamental rights of children to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. In securing such rights and affording justice to child victims of crime, children are entitled to have their best interests considered by courts, administrative and legislative authorities, to not be discriminated against on any grounds, and to participate by expressing views on the matters affecting them.

The United Nations has on numerous occasions highlighted the need for the international community to increase its efforts to protect and promote the rights of children. To ensure that children are protected from exploitation, governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations must contribute, to the extent that they are able, to the multi-dimensional and transnational problem of child exploitation. As custodian of the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and the supplementary protocols thereto, and mandated to work towards security and justice, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has a role to play with respect to protecting and promoting the security of children and bringing criminal offenders to justice.

The Optional Protocol to the Transnational Organized Crime Convention (2000), to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, particularly guides the work of UNODC in respect of child victims of trafficking. The Trafficking in Persons protocol concerns the prevention of trafficking, the protection of victims and the promotion of international cooperation.

The workshop was held at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), Indonesian National Police Academy. JCLEC, opened by Her Excellency Ibu Hj. Megawati Soekarnoputri, was established as a bilateral initiative with the Australian Government. It aims to fight transnational organized crime throughout the region by conducting law enforcement training and promoting regional cooperation. As a South East Asian regional resource for fighting transnational crime, the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific commended JCLEC for the key role it plays in building regional law enforcement capacity and promoting cooperation to combat transnational organized crime.

At the workshop, the UNODC Regional Centre shared its expertise with respect to international cooperation. Given that the topic of the workshop cut across transnational organized crime, human trafficking and exploitation of children, Mr. Michel Bonnieu, Senior Regional Legal Advisor, presented Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) as necessary for the successful investigation of such crimes. Mr. Bonnieu’s presentation discussed MLA as a process for country to country assistance in evidence gathering for criminal cases and cross-border tracing, restraint and confiscation. The presentation highlighted that MLA is a highly technical process, but one that is complementary to wider law enforcement cooperation.

A practical demonstration of UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool was also delivered at the workshop. The demonstration emphasized the benefits of the tool irrespective of the criminal system in which the mutual legal assistance request is being made. The key point which participants derived from this presentation was that producing standardized MLA requests facilitates the execution of assistance. The demonstration was well-received by both participants and expert colleagues.

The participation of the Regional Centre in this high-level workshop provided an opportunity to secure key UNODC involvement in combating transnational organized crime in Indonesia. The Regional Centre offers expertise on issues such as victim protection, treatment and reintegration of child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, acting to minimize the revictimization of child victims in the criminal justice system, and the organization and functioning of juvenile justice courts. The workshop resulted in a confirmed commitment by Indonesian participants, and Indonesian and foreign experts, to pursue further collaborative seminars in 2007 and elaborate on a manual to facilitate the international cooperation of prosecutors and police officers who are fighting child sexual exploitation in Indonesia. It can be regarded as a hallmark example of encouraging the habit of cooperation against child exploitation in Indonesia. The UNODC Regional Centre looks forward to continuing its commitment to the collaborative momentum achieved at this workshop.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 34
States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:
(a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
(b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
(c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

1 Considered by Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as “every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”.
2 Article 34, Convention on the Rights of the Child.
3 Article 3(1), Convention on the Rights of the Child.
4 Article 2, Convention on the Rights of the Child.
5 Article 12, Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Legislation Enhance Precursors Control

Elevant legislation in various countries have enhanced the control of precursor chemicals and psychotropic substances.

In August 2005, the State Council of PR China promulgated the Administration Ordinance on Precursor Chemicals and the Administration Ordinance on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which provided a relatively perfect legal basis for standardizing and strengthening the administration of precursor chemicals, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as for combating relevant offences and crimes. The Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Public Security, General Administration of Customs, the General Administration of Safe Production, State Food and Drug Administration jointly promulgated the Provisional Administration Regulations on the Export of Precursor Chemicals to Special Countries and Territories, and the administration of the export of 58 types of precursor chemicals to related countries in the “Golden Triangle” area was strengthened.

In Thailand, the Precursor Chemical Control Committee, was established in 1993 to formulate national strategy on precursor control, supervise the precursor control and implementation, and integrate the efforts among concerned precursor control agencies. In accordance with the 1988 United Nations Convention, 23 chemicals have been controlled in Thailand. Moreover, in response to domestic concern, 8 additional precursors and chemicals are also now under control, comprising of Acetyl Chloride, Chloroform, Ethylidene Diacetate, Glacial Acetic Acid, Phosphorus Trichloride, Phosphorus Pentachloride, Thionyl Chloride and Caffeine. For Thailand, there are 5 laws applied to control the 31 chemical substances, including Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979), Psychotropic Substances Act B.E. 2518 (1975), Import and Export Act B.E.2522 (1979), Hazardous Substances Act B.E. 2535 (1992) and Commodities Control Act B.E.2495 (1952). Pre-Export Notification (PEN) is also conducted to discourage diversion of precursors and essential chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

In the Philippines, there are no reports yet of ketamine abuse from the country’s rehabilitation centres. Intelligence reports indicate the presence of transnational drug groups that utilize the country as a venue for the production of ketamine powder for export to other countries. In 2003 and 2005, a total of five ketamine processing facilities were discovered and dismantled in the Philippines resulting in the seizure of 39,300 vials of 10 ml ketamine hydrochloride, 54.83 kg of ketamine powder, and assorted equipment used in ketamine processing.

The problem arose from a legal loophole in the Philippine drug law that previously did not consider ketamine as a dangerous drug, thus creating an opportunity for the drug syndicates to import ketamine hydrochloride from source countries, to convert it to ketamine powder in the Philippines, and to export the substance to neighboring countries. This loophole has since been given the necessary legal remedy through the classification of ketamine as a dangerous drug by the Dangerous Drugs Board of the Philippines effective 1 October 2005.

Source Blocking Deters Drug Trafficking

The Ministry of Public Security of PR China continued to reinforce the drug source blocking and interception in the southwestern border areas neighboring foreign drug sources. By tightening drug interception network, a mechanism was formed with multi-agency participation and multi-police linkage. With the border blocking as the first frontier, the in-province checking as the second frontier, and the out-province interception as the third frontier, an effective barrier for drug trafficking was established, and foreign drugs were effectively prevented from being smuggled into the country.

In 2005, Yunnan Province solved more than 10,000 drug criminal cases, seized 5.16 tons of heroin, 157 kg of morphine, 3.05 tons of methamphetamine, 1.88 tons of opium, and captured 12,400 drug criminal suspects. In addition, 34 precursor criminal cases were solved, 44 suspects captured, and 50.4 tons of precursor chemicals seized in 2005.

Focusing on Yunnan Province, the People’s Bank of China and the Ministry of Public Security launched a special operation on combating drug-related money laundering.

On 14 April 2005, the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) launched the National People’s War on Illicit Drugs aimed to inhibit drug sources, drug harms, and the emergence of new drug addicts. The War consists of five campaigns: Campaign of Drug Prevention and Education, Campaign of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation, Campaign of Drug Source Blocking and Interception, Campaign of “Strike-Hard” Drug Law Enforcement, and Campaign of Strict Administration.

As a result, some salient drug problems were primarily contained, and traditional drugs such as heroin were principally controlled.
Strict Controls for Precursor Chemicals Import/Export

With an accumulated total of 299,363 drug addicts reported for the period 1988 - September 2006, Malaysia has continued to give emphasis to the eradication of illicit drugs as the problem remains serious.

Malaysia has imposed stringent control on the import and export of acetylating substances, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Under the Poisons Act 1952, licensed wholesalers can import and export these substances. Since 1996, the import and export of these substances required an additional approved permit (AP) for every consignment under the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) Order and Customs (Prohibition of Export) Order.

The cooperation of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries is vital to prevent diversion of precursors. Thus, in July 2005 a national seminar/workshop was held for the chemical industry. This was followed by the terminal review of the First National Action Plan (NAP) and a Workshop for the Second NAP held April 2006 which resulted in a Declaration of Cooperation to curb diversion of precursors signed by industry players and enforcement and related agencies.

Various activities as identified under the NAP such as training of more officers from various enforcement agencies in precursor control, providing booklets for identification of precursor diversion and clandestine laboratories, and making amendments in the existing Poisons Act 1952 to strengthen the control on precursors and to provide stiffer penalties for offences relating to illegal possession of precursor are being undertaken.

In July 2006, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department smashed a clandestine laboratory in the state of Kedah in the northern part of Malaysia. It was believed to be processing metamphetamine. The group were locals who were believed to have foreign connections. About 160 kg of shabu was recovered.

Malaysia continues to be a transit point for various type of drugs to be shipped out of the country. It will continue its effort to stem the illicit trade in drugs and cooperate with its regional and international partners.

New Drugs in Brunei

Several seizures made by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in 2006 showed that drugs contained pure dimethylamphetamine. Dimethylamphetamine is not regulated in Brunei Darussalam; it is not a schedule controlled drug nor listed under the poisons list.

This became a worrying trend for Brunei. Notwithstanding findings from earlier researches which found dimethylamphetamine to have a less potent effect compared to methamphetamine, NCB is taking steps for this emerging trend of substituting methylamphetamine with dimethylamphetamine. NCB is currently in the process of making a recommendation to the Attorney General’s Chambers to include dimethylamphetamine in the Misuse of Drugs Act Schedule.

NCB has also seen attempts to introduce ketamine and nimetazepam (erimin-5) into the drug scene in the country. While the seizures on ketamine and nimetazepam have been relatively small, the number of cases is increasing. NCB is also considering to place these two drugs under the drug schedule.

Cambodia Strengthens Legislation

Cambodia, through the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) has beefed up its legislations on drug abuse-related issues.

The country’s law on control of drug was amended, focusing mainly on increasing penalty for drug offenders and it entered into force in May 2005. The three United Nations Conventions on drug controls (1961, 1971 and 1988) were ratified by the National Assembly. The Five-Year National Master Plan on Drug Control has been implemented starting 2006, focusing on five major strategic areas: drug demand reduction and eradication, supply reduction and eradication, strengthening of law enforcement, harm reduction, and strengthening of international cooperation.

Sub-decrees and some Prakas (announcements) required by the Drug Control Law have been drafted, focusing on the following: sub-decree on the establishment of the anti-money laundering committee; sub-decree on the seizure of assets from drug business and national fund for drug control work; sub-decree on mutual judicial assistance; Prakas on controlled delivery, circular on implementation of eradication, treatment and rehabilitation for drug users.

Above article was based on the country report by Cambodia at the 30th Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 14-17 November 2006.
Singapore has maintained its status as a relatively drug-free society and continues to adopt a firm stand against drug trafficking. It is a non drug-producing country with no major syndicated drug activities linked to organized crime.

Heroin No. 3 had traditionally been the main drug of abuse in Singapore. In 2003, however, the number of synthetic drug abusers exceeded the number of heroin abusers for the first time to form the majority of abusers arrested. This shift was caused by the sharp fall in the number of heroin abusers. Synthetic drug abusers made up 79 per cent (or 629) of drug abusers arrested in 2005 as compared to 8 per cent for heroin abusers.

Singapore’s anti-drug strategy is targeted at reducing both drug supply and demand. To this end, it adopts a multipronged approach comprising tough legislation, vigorous enforcement, intensive preventive drug education and coordinated rehabilitation as well as aftercare in its fight against drugs.

Maintaining a Relatively Drug-Free Singapore

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), the premier drug enforcement agency in Singapore aims to achieve a drug-free Singapore through vigorous enforcement against drug offenders, active cooperation with local and foreign agencies and promoting a drug-free lifestyle through preventive drug education and active engagement of the community.

CNB’s strategy against drug trafficking is to detect and arrest all local traffickers before they band together and develop into large-scale and sophisticated players in the drug scene. To this end, CNB officers conduct periodic operations against drug suppliers, street pushers and drug addicts to curb the supply of drugs. Stiff penalties are meted out to punish those who disregard the law and to deter others from committing the same offence. In addition, close collaboration with its foreign counterparts remains critical in CNB’s fight against cross-border drug trafficking.

CNB cooperates actively with foreign law enforcement agencies on a bilateral basis. Such cooperation can range from the exchange of information and intelligence to joint investigations and operations. Much of CNB’s success in fighting drugs, particularly in stemming the inflow of synthetic drugs, would not have been possible without such bilateral cooperation.

CNB works closely with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Australian Federal Police, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department of the Royal Malaysia Police, the Thai drug enforcement agencies such as the Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau and the Office of Narcotics Control Board, and other anti-drug agencies in the region. It also maintains liaison contacts with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO), Asia and the Pacific of the World Customs Organization.

Synthetic drugs remain a major challenge for Singapore. To ensure that the drug problem remains well-contained, Singapore will continue to be vigilant and sustain its vigorous drug enforcement and preventive drug education efforts. Singapore will also continue to forge closer cooperation with various partners and the community to combat drug trafficking on both the domestic and global fronts.

Impurity Profiling of Illicit Drugs

Thailand’s Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) is conducting drug impurity profiling (IP) and signature analysis as a useful intelligence mechanism against illicit drug production and supports drug trafficking syndicate investigation. IP is a method of chemical analysis for the identification of chemical components of the drug. The analysis, together with the intelligence database of ONCB will produce connection information in drug trafficking circle and lead to more reliable intelligence for drug suppression.

Since 1999, the Narcotics Law Enforcement Bureau of ONCB started IP in cooperation with the Drug Analysis Expert from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Presently, ONCB implements Phase II of the Regional Cooperation Project on Capacity Building of Drug Analysis for Improvement of Drug Law Enforcement in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

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Above article was based on the country report by Singapore at the 30th Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 14-17 November 2006.

1 Synthetic drug abusers include abusers in ‘Yaba’, ‘Ice’, ketamine, ‘Ecstasy’ and nimetazepam.
Ten Measures against Illicit Drugs and Crime

The Prime Minister of the Lao PDR recommended ten measures to be followed to address the drug problem. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the National Campaign Against Drugs, the need to sustain the elimination of opium poppy and to address the increasing problems of illicit drug trafficking and abuse as well as related crime were listed as high national priorities.

Ten priorities

1. To ensure the sustainability of opium elimination.
2. To continue providing treatment and rehabilitation for the remaining 10,000 opium addicts as well as existing ATS abusers and to prevent relapse and new addiction.
3. To monitor and control cannabis cultivation.
4. To create awareness through national campaigns and the public media to prevent ATS trafficking and addiction.
5. To utilize the Ministry of Education and its systems to monitor and prevent drug abuse and to include drug education in the school curriculum.
6. For the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) to mobilize both the government services, mass organizations and private sector to create awareness, monitor and prevent drug trafficking and abuse.
7. For LCDC to coordinate with the Ministry of Justice and other concerned agencies to develop a new national drug law and detailed guidelines for its implementation. There is a need to collect information and keep relevant detailed data records to assist monitoring, coordination and conviction of drug-related cases.
8. The need for effective border control measure and close cooperation and coordination between law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities of neighbouring countries for prevention, control and interdiction of illegal drug trafficking.
9. The necessity for the establishment of a trust fund for drug control to be set up with assistance from the international organizations and contributions from the public.
10. The necessity to increase collaboration, cooperation and coordination with friendly countries, international organization and neighbouring countries to seek funding and support for drug control activities as well as to harmonize assistance for effective and efficient use of resources for maximum impact and result.

On 14 February 2006, the Government of the Lao PDR officially declared its success in being able to eliminate opium poppy cultivation to insignificant levels.

Myanmar Experience Drug Trafficking by Air

Myanmar has reported that a new trend of trafficking in heroin by air from the country was witnessed in 2006, while the drug trafficking route has not been changed over the past five years, with drugs trafficked out across the Thai, Chinese and Indian borders to international markets.

Air trafficking was evidenced through the following cases.

A Taiwanese lady flying from Yangon to Bangkok was arrested at Yangon International airport with 0.85 kg of heroin on 22 May 2006. On 12 October 2006, 4 female Malaysians who arrived from Yangon by air were arrested with heroin pills made with small rubber bag swallowed in their stomachs at Taiwan airport. One Zambian who flew from Yangon was arrested with the heroin pills made with small rubber bag swallowed in his stomach at Kuala Lumpur airport. The Yangon Airport anti-drug unit seized 0.42 kg of heroin concealed under the keyboard of laptop computer on 13 October 2006.

These instances show that illicit drugs are continued to be trafficked through various ways.

With Myanmar’s close cooperation with neighboring countries particularly PR China, Thailand, and Lao PDR, it was able to pursue significant seizures of drugs. Key drug traffickers were apprehended and international syndicates were dismantled.

Significant drug cases

Myanmar drug law enforcement officers made a recorded drug seizure in a successful operation that took about 4 months during the late 2005 and early 2006. Tachileik Drug Unit targeted Yang Ah Hong, a Myanmar-Chinese under surveillance on information that he was involved in drug trafficking.

The information from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand that a large consignment of small blue plastic bags from Thailand to Myanmar at Mea Sai/ Tachileik aroused suspicion of a possible drug shipment reinforced ongoing operation. In this operation, Myanmar law enforcement agency seized 14.9 million methamphetamine tablets, 50 kg of heroin, 1001 kg of No. 3 heroin, 28 kg of opium, 721.24 kg of ephedrine, 1706 kg of caffeine, 876.6 litres of lysol, 1727 litres of acetic anhydride, 196 assorted firearms, 27008 rounds of assorted ammunition, 48 hand grenades, 57 vehicles and arrested 33 suspects from February 2005 to April 2006. As a result of information sharing between Chinese and Myanmar law enforcement agencies, Chinese authorities arrested drug trafficker Yang Ah Hong who fled to PR China and rendered to Myanmar.

Law enforcement officers raided two clandestine laboratories in Mong Huaw area of Eastern Shan State on 31 May 2006 and seized 14.85 kg of heroin, 13.7 kg of morphine, 766 kg of opium, 400,000 tablets of methamphetamine, 454 kg of caffeine, 380 kg of ephedrine, 115 kg of phenyl-acetic acid and paraphernalia.

A total of 16 kg of ketamine were seized in Chan Mya Tharzi township of Mandalay division on 15 June 2006. Those ketamine were trafficked from the Indian border to Mandalay through Tamu, Kalay and Monya townships. On 16 October 2006, Taung Anti Drug Unit seized 69 amoules of ketamine hydrochloride (Trade Mark: Calypsol 690 milliliter) at a drug store in Taunggyi. The follow up action resulted in a seizures of 326 amoules of ketamine hydrochloride (3.26 litres) on 18 October 2006.

Myanmar witnessed significant successes in the fight against drugs particularly in the sectors of supply reduction of opium poppy and law enforcement. The surveys jointly undertaken annually by Myanmar and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the Global Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme indicate a continuous declining trend both in cultivation and production.

Myanmar will continue to give top priority to overcoming the threat posed to the stability and well-being of the country and the international community.
Understanding ATS
Part I: Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) can be identified through their physical forms and chemical characteristics, through drug testing laboratories. The primary forms of ATS in East Asia and the Pacific include methamphetamine tablets, powder, crystals (ice), and "baeae". These do not represent all possible forms, but provide an indication of the wide variety of ATS produced and distributed in the region, and a reasonable framework to standardize collection of ATS data. The national capacity to perform drug analysis varies widely in the region, but forensic laboratory data is beginning to acquire more importance as legal frameworks for law enforcement are developed.

**Methamphetamine tablets**

Methamphetamine tablets/pills, which are generally a composite of methamphetamine and caffeine, are often referred to by their Thai name, "ya ba" ("crazy medicine"). Tablets are the predominant form of methamphetamine used in mainland Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam). Typically, the tablets have an inscription which can provide indications of its origin, chemical composition (and thus treatment), as well as possible trafficking routes. Pills are often ingested orally, and they can also be crushed into powder and smoked.

**Ice methamphetamine**

Ice, also called shabu, crystal, or crystal meth, is a very pure, smokeable form of methamphetamine that is more addictive than other forms of the substance. Ice, manufactured in Asia, can be described as large translucent to white crystals, or crystallized coarse powder. In a method of smoking sometimes referred to as 'chasing the dragon,' a term commonly associated with smoking opium or heroin, users heat ice on a piece of aluminum foil and inhale the released vapors -- usually through a straw or similar device. It can also be administered via snorting, swallowing, or injection. The snorting of ice is associated with nasal damage due to its crystalline form.

According to the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) of the Philippines, shabu has consistently ranked first among the most abused drugs in the country since it gained popularity in 1994. Crystal is also the predominant form of methamphetamine in Japan, Brunei, Singapore, and Malaysia. Injection is the predominant route of administration only in Japan, although corresponding levels of HIV have not been seen there.

There are many substances which have a similar appearance to 'ice', and can be identified as 'fake' only through laboratory testing. Alum, d-N, N-dimethylamphetamine, and crystalline MDMA are examples of substances often misidentified as 'ice'.

**Powder methamphetamine**

Powder methamphetamine – also known as speed – is not common in Southeast Asia, although it has been found in Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand. However, it is the most popular form of methamphetamine in Australia and the United States. Powder ranges in colour from dingy white to reddish brown, depending on the chemicals used in the manufacturing process. It is usually injected or snorted; it can also be orally ingested or smoked. Due to lack of capacity to perform chemical analyses among many of the countries in the region, there is some concern that seizures of powder methamphetamine may sometimes be misidentified as heroin.

**Base methamphetamine**

The thick oil is not highly marketable as an illicit drug because it cannot be easily injected or snorted, and is often associated with vein damage among people who inject it. Therefore, manufacturers attempt to purify methamphetamine base (oil) into methamphetamine hydrochloride (crystal). To successfully complete the process requires considerable chemical expertise, so the resulting product is often a pasty, sticky powder that has a yellow or brown hue due to the presence of iodine and other organic impurities, and generally requires heating to sufficiently dissolve it for injection. Organic impurities are an indication that the purification process was not performed accurately, preventing the substance from forming into the large translucent crystals typical of 'ice'. Base is not common in Southeast Asia, but is known to be manufactured in Australia. It is usually of fairly high purity.

'Ecstasy,' or methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA), is a chemical derivative of methamphetamine. Although both are stimulating the central nervous system, they produce different chemical interactions in the brain: ecstasy affects serotonin, which mediates emotional systems, while methamphetamine causes the release of high levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine into areas of the brain that regulate feelings of pleasure. However, since ecstasy can garner higher prices, methamphetamine tablets are often sold as 'fake ecstasy', with the same weight, colour, and logo, and often include ketamine in an effort to mimic the effects of MDMA. MDMA is less common than methamphetamine in Southeast Asia, but it is still abused in most countries of the region.

A possible exception to these ATS trends is the situation in PR China. Several research studies suggest that the tablet ecstasy is the main form of ATS in PR China. However, there is a certain degree of speculation regarding the content of the ATS pills, with chemical analyses showing that the pills often contain other stimulant and hallucinogenic drugs (e.g., caffeine, methamphetamine, ketamine) either alone or in combination with MDMA.

(Source: http://www.apaic.org).
Alternative Precursors Pose New Challenge

As regulatory control of precursors such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine is strengthened by competent authorities, it is likely that clandestine laboratories will seek alternative precursors like pheny-2-propanone (P2P), benzyl cyanide and benzaldehyde to produce methamphetamine. Synthesis of methamphetamine from P2P yields the less potent racemic methamphetamine and is considered rare in this region. However, a study in the Philippines (Forensic Science International, Vol. 144, Issue 1, Aug. 2004, pages 29-36) indicated some casework methamphetamine samples were synthesized from P2P, while a survey of 74 methamphetamine samples in Malaysia in 2005 revealed that 4 samples were most probably synthesized from P2P.

This is illustrated in the dismantling of a large clandestine methamphetamine laboratory at Kulim, Malaysia in July 2006. The factory was located in an industrial zone near Kulim in the northern region of Malaysia and was, according to the police, previously manufacturing soap and cosmetics. No ephedrine or pseudoephedrine was recovered from the premises. However, the presence of various types of precursors, chemicals, equipment, documents and laboratory notes indicated that the laboratory was capable of employing various precursors and using different synthetic routes for the production of methamphetamine. Large amounts of chemicals, including benzyl cyanide, benzaldehyde, n-butyl amine, sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, thionyl chloride, ferric chloride, sodium sulphate, red phosphorus, iodine, hydriodic acid, acetic acid, ethyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ether (falseely labeled as methanol), methylamine, mercuric chloride, aluminium foil, dichloromethane, and large quantities of crude methamphetamine hydrochloride were found at the scene. Thus, depending on the precursors and chemicals available, the synthetic route would then be selected by the clandestine chemist. In this case, the precursor utilized was P2P which was converted from the chemical alpha-acetylphenylacetonitrile.

The ability of clandestine laboratories to use alternative precursors to produce illicit synthetic drugs poses another great challenge for the region.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific is currently implementing a project aimed at improving the forensic capabilities in the area of drug characterization/impurity profiling and promote utilization of standardized laboratory data as a primary source of information in support of law enforcement, regulatory and health authorities in their operational activities. The project, with funding from Japan, will harness best practices for analysis of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and their precursors, and introduce working mechanisms for the systematic use of the data and information generated through application of best practices.

There exists a lack of capacity both at the national and regional levels to effectively suppress the manufacture of illicit drugs and prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals. Not all countries have developed the legal provisions, operating procedures and working mechanisms to detect the diversion of precursors and while there are several instruments available to facilitate regional cooperation for their effective control, utilization has been limited.

Currently the majority of national drug control authorities in the region acknowledge that ATS is and will continue to be the main drug of concern. The demographic groups most affected by ATS abuse are youth in urban areas and workers engaged in transport and fishing as well as commercial sex workers. However, the move of ATS abuse towards rural areas has also been reported in some places. Due to its low cost, high level of availability and addictive potential, ATS presents major challenges to national health authorities and their drug-prevention efforts.

An equal concern is the low availability of ATS-specific treatment services and reintegration modalities that are based on reliable methodologies.

The abuse of ATS has continued to increase annually across the region over the past decade. Crystalline methamphetamine (“ice”) is abused in Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Australia, while methamphetamine pills dominate in Cambodia, PR China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Recent information also points to a growing availability of ATS for abuse in the island countries of the Pacific as well as Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

The shifting patterns in illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse pose continuing challenges to control efforts. There is also a tendency to relocate sites of illicit substance production closer to the point of abuse. This increasing complexity of illicit drug production, movement and abuse is evident throughout the entire region. Illicit production of ATS is increasing. Major production areas remain in Northeast part of Myanmar (Shan State) and Southeast part of PR China (Guangdong and Fujian Provinces). Recent joint international investigations on clandestine ATS laboratories demonstrated the developing trends that illicit production is moving from East Asia down to Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The Philippines and Indonesia are increasingly identified as the new production sites, with recent raids revealing large quantities of illicit substance.
Region Has Varied Drug Data Capacities

Given the complexity of drug abuse, including its outbreak characteristics and patterns of change, its seductive appeal to vulnerable groups, its global scope, its consequences to individuals both debilitating and sometimes fatal, and to societies both in terms of lost productivity and the immense costs for treatment and rehabilitation, it is important that countries incorporate operational and ongoing epidemiologic surveillance programmes into their public health and public safety systems that are capable of detecting changes in drug patterns and consequences and are able to identify emerging trends. Similar to its surveillance programme counterparts in other areas of chronic and acute diseases, accurate and timely data on drug abuse patterns and trends upon which to base immediate informed decisions and to set long-term health and other public policy is both vital and apparent.

However, the capabilities of countries in the region to access, collect, compile, analyze, publish, and disseminate accurate and timely data on patterns and trends of drug abuse vary enormously. Some countries, such as Australia and Japan, have well-established and well-funded research capacity to measure and monitor the epidemiology, correlates, and consequences of drug abuse, both nationally and regionally, through surveys, indicators, and focused research projects, involving both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Other countries lack dedicated resources, both personnel and budgets, technical skills, a knowledge base, and, in some cases, a commitment to information system development. In the area of knowledge and technical skills development, improvement should occur incrementally as further training and experience lead to improved overall performance. In terms of funding, countries should be encouraged to make an effort to redirect a modest amount of their annual budgets to invest in their own national interest by expanding drug abuse data systems and improving data collection. But considering the economic realities of some of the developing countries in the region, potential donor nations need to realize the strategic world value in having an effective and ongoing drug abuse surveillance system in the region and provide the necessary funding assistance.

Administrative interphase

At the same time, one major drawback to establishing a comprehensive system for monitoring drug abuse patterns and trends that can be addressed immediately, and one that can noticeably improve the quality of regional surveillance, involves administrative interface, i.e., establishing more effective and efficient inter-office and interdepartmental communication and cooperation within member countries. Government agencies often act independently of each other, sometimes with minimum interaction. As a result, information concerning drug abuse which has strategic importance to their national well-being is not communicated in a timely and complete manner, if at all. Whether the absence of communication is intentional or the result of idiosyncrasies within the complex of various governmental institutions, efforts have to be made by officials in each country to establish effective lines of communication with their counterparts in other relevant offices and agencies, and explain the mutual benefit of shared information. Even more importantly, ministers of departments and agencies among the member countries have to provide a clear and unmistakable message that the health and welfare of the population and, to a large extent, the reputation of the country as an effective partner, depends on the prompt provision of accurate and up-to-date information.
A look at the region

An analysis of a number of countries participating in the Improving ATS Data and Information Systems project, “Analysis of eight national drug information systems in East Asia and the Pacific” showed varying results.

In the eight countries participating in the UNODC Regional Centre project, “Improving ATS Data and Information Systems” (AD/RAS/01/F97), the data collection networks of PR China and Thailand are the most well-developed and produce the highest quality data. These countries also produce indepth drug situation analyses with the participation of well-established academic networks which are utilized for drug control policy development. In Thailand, and to a lesser extent in PR China, the responsibility to monitor and manage the network is somewhat diffused across different agencies, so that there is some difficulty verifying that all data sources are providing data routinely and according to the reporting schedule. The major problem for PR China is the high degree of autonomy of the provincial governments, complicating efforts to ensure timely and complete data submission. These issues limit the scope of action the national drug control agencies can carry out to strengthen the data collection networks. Nevertheless, the data collection networks produce extensive amounts of quality information, which is routinely shared with domestic stakeholders, although infrequently with international stakeholders. The lack of translated material is the principal problem.

The networks of Indonesia and the Philippines are still developing, but are well-monitored and managed, so that it is feasible to identify and implement activities to strengthen the networks. Among the countries in the region, the Philippines has shown the greatest ability to facilitate cooperation between ministries and data providers. Furthermore, the Philippines Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) has shown significant capacity to analyze collected data and produce useful policy recommendations. Improvement in the quality of data remains the major task for the Philippines, although funding is a particularly severe constraint. In Indonesia, increased provincial autonomy is complicating the management of the data collection network. The geographic characteristics of these island nations further complicate data collection. Nevertheless, the staff managing the networks for both the Philippines and Indonesia are aware of the possibilities and challenges and are doing good work developing their networks.

New networks

The networks of Lao PDR and Cambodia were recently established. With a well-defined network structure and staff assigned to monitor and manage the networks, there are clear activities to carry out for these countries to progress to the next stage of development. At this early stage, both networks are still trying to resolve basic issues such as ensuring that data sources have forms, know-how to fill them out and submit them routinely. Staff are still learning skills and techniques to monitor network activities in terms of form submission rates and data quality. The networks are still in their infancy and are under-funded, so sustainability is still not assured. These countries currently have no experience performing drug data analysis that can be converted to policy formulation.

In Myanmar, the government is assisted by the UNODC-funded Technical Coordination Unit (TCU), which has well-qualified staff to manage the development of the data collection system. The network is based in sentinel sites and does not provide a comprehensive picture of the national drug situation. The Myanmar data collection network is making significant progress. There is, however, the issue of sustainability of the data collection network in the absence of TCU. Drug data analysis is in its infancy in Myanmar, and so is the experience of using information to formulate drug policy.

The network that is currently least developed is in Viet Nam as the Standing Office on Drug Control (SODC) is not in a position to direct other agencies to participate in the data collection agency. In addition, staff have not been assigned to monitor and manage the network. In February 2006, a drug data unit was established at SODC with staff dedicated to carrying out data collection activities. Until SODC is strengthened, however, data collection efforts will likely remain limited.
Public Awareness Initiatives: Complementing Thailand’s Drug Control Programme

By Tanita Nakin
Office of the Narcotics Control Board Thailand

In 2006, the Kingdom of Thailand celebrates the 60th Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. His Majesty is one of the most beloved monarchs in Thai history. The Thai people adore H.M. the King and his Royal Family for their hardwork, sacrifices, initiatives, love and care for their well-being.

It is very fortunate that drug abuse is one of the Royal concerns.

H.M. King Bhumibol has initiated the first drug crop substitution project in a remote mountainous opium poppy cultivation area of hill tribes in the north of Thailand. The Royal project, implemented for more than 35 years, has become a model for a comprehensive sustainable alternative social and economic development project. The late Princess Mother had initiated another alternative highland development project in Doi Tung mountain with a drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation component. Moreover, Princess Ubonrattana, the eldest daughter of H.M. the King, is a leading figure in raising public awareness especially among the youth through her “To Be Number One” project. The Government urges the public to pursue the Royal initiatives in drug abuse control.
Campaign strategy

Thailand’s “War on Drugs” Programme, a campaign strategy, was developed targeting the general public and persons who are related with addicts/abusers such as families, service providers, owners and workplace managers, social and community leaders, educators and students, and other addicts/abusers.

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) presented the concerns and initiatives of the Royal family in drug abuse control to raise public awareness and seek advocacy, including prominent public figures reassuring the public of the commitments to continue the Royal initiatives. Stories of drug abuse control activities were told to help shape public activities. Support and alliances from social leaders, media personnel, and civil society were mobilized.

The public awareness campaigns carried two main themes: (a) public awareness raising and social participation mobilization and (b) social integration facilitation.

Public awareness raising and social participation mobilization

The first set of messages aimed to show the Royal Family, H.M. the King and the Queen, as the centre of the Thai people to remind the public that all sectors of Thai society should follow their Royal Highness good examples. The second set of messages was the concern and initiatives of the Royal Family in drug abuse control. H. M. the King, in his past two messages during his birthday initiated Royal concerns in the widespread abuse of drugs which were highlighted in several alternative development projects in poppy growing areas since 1969. The initiatives of the late Princess Mother through the Doi Tung Project emphasizes treatment and rehabilitation of addicted hill tribes.

The “To Be Number One Project” initiated by Princess Ubonrattana, the eldest daughter of H.M. the King is now the largest public awareness raising project in Thailand with more than 29 million members in schools, workplaces, and communities. The project has two components, i.e., to campaign against drug abuse and to encourage persons with drug abuse problem to seek treatment and rehabilitation.

Other public figures and government authorities reassure the public that the Government and concerned agencies will continue the Royal initiatives in drug abuse as well as urge all Thai people to join the Government in supporting these initiatives. Information that has been provided to the public for this purpose, i.e., outcomes of the war on drugs, operation campaigns, social reintegration facilitation, the Mother of the Nation trust fund, other activities that show strengths of the country.

Other initiatives of communities, youth groups, workplaces, and individuals against drugs, include the expansion and recruitment of youth leaders networks in the North, fund raising activities such as the “One Million Baht from One Million Hearts in Tribute to the Great Monarch”, Thai Folk Band against Drugs Contest, Junior Creative Award Contest, To Be Number One Fair, and Country’s Unity for Victory over Drugs.

Social integration facilitation

To solve the problem of relapse in rehabilitation, concerned agencies have been trying to modify public attitude that addiction is an illness and that addicted persons are patients, not criminals. Recovering addicts must be given a second chance for social reintegration. Information on addiction treatment facilities, aftercare and relapse prevention services, and success stories of recovered addicts/abusers have been disseminated.

Evaluating the campaign

The Research Department of Thammasat University was engaged by ONCB to evaluate the outcome and impact of the campaign, specifically looking into the following:

1. The access of information regarding attitude changes toward the reintegration of recovering addicts/abusers.
2. The knowledge, understanding and acceptance of social integration of recovering addicts/abusers; and
3. To identify weaknesses of the campaign.

Data was obtained from 2,535 sampled subjects in 19 cities in Thailand including Bangkok. Results of the evaluation showed the following:

1. The sampled subjects understood very well that the society should accept recovering addicts/abusers back and provide them with support so that they can become productive members of society. The degree of understanding of the sampled subjects is shown in the table.
2. Mass media that can reach the target audience were ranked from high to low as follows: television spots and scoops, newspapers articles and ads, radio spots and documentaries, magazine articles and ads, and supplementary media such as cinema ads and internet.

It was further found that 93.59 per cent of the sampled subjects accepted the social integration of recovering addicts/abusers. However, it was recommended that there should be a continuous campaign.
Campaign channels

Information has been disseminated through mass media and specific events. Television spots, special scoops, in programme, tie-in, and short messages from celebrities were endorsed. Radio spots and announcements have been aired. Printed media such as special scoop articles, documentary ads in newspapers, magazines and pamphlets have been distributed. Free media and internet were tapped. Bus stop posters, electric sign boards, cut-outs, etc. were provided. Special events to mobilize or raise public awareness such as a get together of recovering addicts/abusers and their families were organized. An exhibition of the Royal Family initiatives in drug abuse control in the “Exhibition in Honour of H.M. the King to Celebrate His 60th Year on the Throne” was held.

Thailand will launch a civic awareness campaign under a similar theme in 2007 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of H.M. the King.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Understand that emotional support, love, understanding and sincerity from family members, peers, relatives, and community enable recovering addicts/abusers to effectively take care of themselves, have a better quality of life and happily reintegrate in the society.</td>
<td>81.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Understand that recovering addicts/abusers are patients who need social support in the recovery process to reintegrate happily into society.</td>
<td>78.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Have confidence that the acceptance of recovering addicts/abusers back to the society will enable these patients to effectively take care of themselves, have a better quality of life and capable of reintegration into society.</td>
<td>74.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Acceptance of recovering addicts/abusers for social integration.</td>
<td>73.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alteration of attitude and behaviour toward the reintegration of recovering addicts/abusers.</td>
<td>72.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Understand that the real dangers are in the drugs, not the addict; and that these drugs have control over the mechanisms inside the brain. When there are triggers, patients may not be able to control their drug behaviours.</td>
<td>69.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Y CAB (Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa), the Indonesian anti-drug NGO, has been implementing a new set of modules known as the 'Basic Prevention' (BP) Programme.

In 2004, YCAB worked with the University of Indonesia’s Faculty of Psychology to create a new programme adapted from the previous Youth Against Drug Abuse (YADA) Workshop. YCAB’s evaluation of YADA showed that kids found that the programme emphasized too much on information content while they preferred interactive activities and games.

The BP Programme is a life skills-based series of modules which includes elements of self-esteem building, communication and decision making skills. The new feature used as the main approach is the Multiple Intelligence (MI) approach, e.g., people smart, word smart, nature smart, etc.

“Group discussions, and games empower the students by being creative when it comes to giving information about drugs. Evaluation results showed that participants did increase their knowledge about drugs and how to protect themselves. This was determined through the pre- and post-tests done at every campaign. This increase of knowledge seems significant,” said Gilbert Claymond, YCAB’s Campaign Manager.

Participants are challenged to set their individual goals in life through the AKU Module (‘A’ for the Indonesian word for “ambition”, ‘K’ for “kenya-taan” or “reality” and ‘U’ for “usaha” which means “effort”). By realizing one’s ambitions, and the reality of one’s situation, a person can then set targets. By putting efforts into it, one’s goals can be achieved.

“The BP programme is about exploring our own selves. We believe in the power of knowledge. We hope that knowledge will bring wisdom to these youth when they are faced with choices in life. It is also important for them to know themselves before setting any goals in their lives. This is why BP is popular because many youth found out what they’re good at, who they are and where they’re going”, said Ms. Veronica Colondam, founder and CEO of YCAB. She added that by keeping the youth busy with activities, while having fun in the process, drug abuse is no longer an alternative for them.

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“Everyone can be smart, everyone can be healthy, everyone can be active. Everyone has their own strength. We are using the four modules of the BP Programme to help them find their own strengths and how to use them to achieve their goals,” said Ms. Colondam.

In 2005, BP was conducted to 15,345 students in Indonesia. In 2006, it was conducted for 16,346 students. YCAB monitors the students to determine the impact of the programme after six months from completing the modules.

YCAB has high hopes that the programme will have an impact on the lives of the students involved. Since 1999, YCAB has been active in the field of drug abuse prevention. BP is one of YCAB’s campaign tools, along with Community-Based Prevention, interschool mass campaign, the Life Education Programme and the YADA Club. Aside from campaigning, YCAB also does counselling and research into the drug situation in Indonesia and youth trends. For out-of-school children, YCAB established a learning house called “Rumah Belajar” which caters to the needs of school drop outs and at-risk youth (e.g., street kids). Rumah Belajar offers vocational trainings for poor out-of-school youths so they could earn legitimate income for their living.

BP takes six hours to complete. The time is usually spread over several weeks according to the school’s available schedule. There are four modules:

1. Medical Perspective (provides facts about drugs and influence on the mind and body)
2. AKU (helps foster self-awareness and knowing one’s goals)
3. Pro-active lifestyle (encourages a healthy and active life)
4. How to say NO (gives instructions and shares practices of being assertive)

A pre- and a post-questionnaire are given to the students to evaluate their knowledge and attitudes towards illicit drugs and determine their level of risk. Youth identified as high-risk are also referred to YCAB’s counselling service with the aim of providing them long-term individual counselling. Counsellors are evaluated every three months to monitor progress. During counselling, a client’s parent/guardian, could also be contacted if it would help. Counselling usually takes place weekly for the first three months and every two weeks after three months.

Upon completing the BP modules, the students can join the YADA Club. Club membership gives the students the chance to make new friends, participate in activities and have fun. Through YADA, YCAB has the platform to hold follow-up prevention programmes and ensure the kids stay safe from drugs.
Young Anti-Drug Ambassadors in Singapore

By Olivia Sylvia Inciong and Yvonne Wang
UNODC Regional Centre and Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore, respectively

Unlike diplomats, they did not complete formal schooling in international studies nor passed foreign service career examinations. Yet, they are ambassadors in their own right.

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) of Singapore was very creative and innovative to award the special title of Anti-Drug Ambassadors to qualified young students.

The ambassadors are primary students, aged between 10-12 years. Compared to older students, they have lesser curriculum subjects and have more time to complete required activities. They are also able to better develop their understanding on the topic on drugs as compared to the younger ones.

The Anti-Drug Ambassador Scheme aims to reach out to large student populations by targeting students who have completed a range of anti-drug activities. These activities are outlined in activity booklets required for Anti-Drug Ambassadors to qualified young students.

The ambassadors are primary students, aged between 10-12 years. Compared to older students, they have lesser curriculum subjects and have more time to complete required activities. They are also able to better develop their understanding on the topic on drugs as compared to the younger ones.

School involvement

Teachers implement the programme by encouraging their students to take part in the scheme. They work closely with CNB and assist in verifying the completion of the booklets, and collate the list of participating students in their schools.

As of 2006, the Anti-Drug Ambassador Scheme has attracted a total of 26,602 students from 136 primary schools, which makes up about 76 per cent of the primary schools nationwide.

“Through the anti-drug activities in the booklet, we aim to promote greater understanding of the dangers of drug abuse,” Ms. Sei Yue Theng, Head of Prevention Unit, CNB explained.

Implementation

The activity was piloted between February to mid-April 2006. The activities were developed with the assistance of the Ministry of Education. Activity booklets were distributed to schools with the help of teachers.

Students’ activities

The activity booklet indicates the activities for students to engage in. For example, the “Visit Our Website < www.cnb.gov.sg/kidpower >” encourages students to check CNB’s website and to learn facts of drug abuse in a fun, interactive manner. The “Create an Anti-Drug Rap” titled “Taking up Drugs isn’t Cool!” enables the students to come up with creative raps and internalize the anti-drug abuse message. Another activity, the “Match the effects of drugs to the body” enables students to have a better understanding of different types of drugs and their harmful effects on one’s body.

“I am currently on my way to becoming an Anti-Drug ambassador. When I read the activity booklet, I was very impressed. I think that the activities can really relate to students. For example, the anti-drug rap and the activity on the two friends exchanging SMSes. It’s good to know that you have figured out how we think! Anyway, I want to say thanks for doing a really great job and that you are starting to penetrate teens’ often thick skulls. Cheers to everything anti-drugs!,” said S. Sadhika, a student from the Methodist Girls’ School.
Post-activity

To recognize students’ efforts in attaining sufficient credits, they are appointed as Anti-Drug Ambassadors and receive Anti-Drug Ambassador collar pins. The collar pins are attractively packaged in cardholders along with an ambassador pledge and a certificate.

Based on feedback received, teachers felt that the activities catered to different groups and abilities of the students and provided a good platform for parents’ involvement. Students stated that they had enjoyed the activities.

The Anti-Drug Ambassador scheme has shown to be a good platform in reaching out to a large student population with anti-drug messages.

The high response rates from schools taking part in a non-mandatory anti-drug programme showed their support for anti-drug cause.

“I love the games which have been created. It was fun. I hope that you will create more games, so that all of us will destroy drugs. The booklet is very exciting and I like the last page most (collection of signature pledges). Thanks a lot for creating such a fun game!”, said Freddy Yeo, student.

According to Ms. Sei Yue Theng, the high participation rate in this second run of the ambassador scheme and the encouragement from parents and teachers made CNB improve the programme. “It is truly a gratifying experience for our team. We would like to thank the Psychological and Services Branch of the Ministry of Education for sharing with us those valuable tips to enhance our ideas and the principals and teachers for making time to encourage the students to participate,” Ms. Yue Theng added.

School authorities also had good feedback on the scheme.

“This programme has been well-organized. I am certainly glad that the teachers’ jobs has been made easier. It’s a very good idea to give the pupils a more open approach at getting their activities verified. They not only can approach their teachers, but also their parents, family or peers. I am sure the teachers appreciate this very much,” a teacher from the Marsiling Primary School said.

Myanmar has waged a relentless war on illicit drugs since regaining her independence in 1948. It is currently implementing its 15-Year Narcotics Elimination Plan including a keen interest and persistent concentration on civic awareness to assist in preventing drug abuse as well as drug trafficking.

Committee for educating the students and youths

To take effective measurements on civic awareness activities, a working committee for educating the students and youths was organized by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), composed of representatives from concerned departments of respective Ministries. The Committee for Educating the Students and Youths (Ministry of Education) is responsible for drug demand reduction. Priority is given in implementing school-based activities. The Committee has recommended major strategies in implementing activities: enhancing good practices and behaviour for healthy lifestyle; educating students and youth to reduce and eliminate drug abuse; and cooperating with NGOs, and local communities in prevention and protection measures.

Public awareness activities target teachers, students, parents and out-of-school youths. These include:

- Formation of the Drug Prevention Education Committee in every school
- Holding of talks on the ill-effects of narcotic drugs in classrooms or in assembly halls.
- Talks on drug education programmes in the agenda of the monthly Parents and Teachers Associations’ Meetings.
- Holding of talks on the dangers of narcotic drugs in the community for teachers and parents.
- Monthly competitions and exhibitions on drug preventive education organized in schools, townships, district levels with the participation of teachers, students, parents and NGOs.
- Holding of exhibitions and competitions with themes on the dangers of narcotic drugs during the annual celebration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), World AIDS Day (1 December), World No Tobacco Day (31 October).
- Encouraging students to participate in school activities such as sports games, physical exercise, and arts to enhance team spirit and strengthen physical and mental resistance.

Strengthening quality of training for teachers

Central level and multiplier level training courses on drug prevention were conducted for 2,085 basic education teachers of the 20 project townships included in the 15-Year Narcotics Elimination Plan.
Civic Awareness Activities in Myanmar

By Mr. Htay Aung
Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Myanmar

Civic awareness activities in remote areas

The committee is implementing activities in both urban and rural remote areas, especially in the border. The committee has constructed new schools which offer short-term summer literacy programmes. Ethnic languages were employed to educate local people. Kachin language was used for hand outs and pamphlets in the Kachin State; Shan language for Shan ethnic groups; and Chinese language for the “Wa” region.

Civic awareness through public information channels and media

Public information channels and media have important roles to achieve targeted goals.

On behalf of the Working Committee for Education and Public Relations, the Directorate of Information and Public Relations and the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) jointly telecast films about anti-narcotics as well as aired a series of teleplays. In 2005, the Directorate of Information and Public Relations organized and carried out talks, wall posters, pamphlets, set up photo exhibitions and held cinema shows.

The radio and TV broadcasts give direct exposure to the public about the dangers of drugs. The MRTV broadcasts in Myanmar, English and National Races Programmes (including MRTV-4) following anti narcotics news, talks, educational songs and plays.

The newspaper under the News and Periodical Enterprise of the “New Light of Myanmar” (Myanmar and English), the “Mirror” (Myanmar) publish news and photographs on the activities and efforts made in combating the dangers of narcotic drugs.

The Printing and Publishing Enterprise has published the Thuta Padatha (General Knowledge) magazine, the Shwethwe Journal (Children Journal), articles, and slogans on the dangers of narcotic drugs and print books, journals, wall posters and pamphlets.

The motion picture and documentaries of the Motion Picture Enterprise on the dangers of narcotic drugs and anti-drug activities are also regularly screened.

The destruction of narcotic drugs is one of the major civic awareness activities in Myanmar, aimed to inform the people of the Government’s efforts to combat drug abuse. As of 2006, 20 destruction ceremonies were held in Yangon.

Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association

The Myanmar Anti Narcotics Association (MANA), a non-governmental organization, has been helping the Government in drug abuse education by holding talks for students and youths and the general public.

With assistance of the CCDAC and local authorities, MANA held talks to commemorate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the World HIV/AIDS Day as well as organized contests for essays, slogans, poems, cartoons, paintings and extemporaneous talks, and photographs.

Establishment of drug elimination museums

Three Drug Elimination Museums have been established in Myanmar, specifically in Kokant Special Region 1, Northern Shan State, Yangon, and Mongla, Eastern Shan State.

People of all ages and in all classes come and study at these museums. All museums propagate the laws and regulations on drug abuse and drug trafficking. Posters, signboards, wall sheets, sculptures, and paintings are arranged to share the knowledge about the dangers of drugs and narcotics as well as the law enforcement activities on drug abuse. The drug reduction activities in Myanmar are also displayed at these museums. By means of Drug Elimination Museums, the country has achieved much progress in civic awareness activities.

Photos by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Myanmar
Constructing Great Wall

By National Narcotics Control Commission, PR China

The Chinese Government has always paid great attention to drug control preventive education. For the Government, the first important work to be done for drug control is education.

In the 2004-2008 Work Plan for Drug Control of the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), the goals for drug control preventive education were described as: drug control awareness of the public should be further raised; the speed of the emergence of new addicts should be slowed down; thorough rehabilitation rate should be remarkably raised; the harm done by drugs to the society will be gradually reduced.

Drug control preventive education

The basic task of drug control preventive education covers: the introduction of drug situation; the spread of knowledge related to drug control; the publicity of laws and regulations concerning drug control; the mobilization of the public to be involved in the drug control war. The focus is to raise drug control awareness of the public, increase cognitive and defensive ability of the public against drugs and the harm of drugs to the society.

Targets for the preventive education programme are youngsters; high-risk people; people who have had the experience of drugs; residents in areas where drug problem is serious; migrant people; and civil servants.

Every year, an intensive drug control publicity and education activities are held all over the country between 3 June (commemoration day of the destruction of drugs in Humen in Opium War) and 26 June (International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking).

Reaching all sectors

To reach all sectors of society for a drug control prevention education, PR China established an institution for coordination. There should be an instructing group for coordination in NNCC and the drug control committee of each province. The instructing groups for coordination at different levels are made up of members from the departments of publicity, public security, culture, education, justice, trade union and women’s federation.

The second is to form groups of specialists. A drug control education group, composed of specialists from education, law, media, sociology, medicine, and psychology, should be formed under the supervision of NNCC and drug control committee of each province. This group is responsible for studying the major problems drug control education is facing, the principles and guidelines for drug control education and participation in the evaluation of the drug control education nationwide.

The third is to set up working teams.
1. In every city and district, under the leadership of the local drug control institution, a special team on the education of drug control should be formed.
2. In every residential district, every village and town, school, community medical institution and special places (prisons, education-through-labor rehabilitation centres, house of detention, drug rehabilitation centre, collecting post) there should be a drug control education instructor who could provide consulting service.
3. A special team of people from media, medicine and social work does the job of educating the public.
4. Develop drug control education volunteers team.

Drug preventive programme

PR China encourages and supports non-governmental organizations such as the trade union, the Communist Youth League, women’s federations and self-employed labourers’ association to participate in the drug control education work.

Trade unions at all levels launched a campaign of drug control, “zero plan”, for the workers. Drug control knowledge is part of the pre-job training. Through education, many workers, especially the young ones, temporary workers and peasant workers, increase their drug control awareness. At the same time, a number of workers who had been drug addicts got help in the process of rehabilitation and started back their normal life. In 2005, only 5.72 per cent of the registered drug addicts nationwide were workers, a 4.1 per cent decrease compared to the previous year.

Women’s federations at all levels launched a campaign named “Do Not Let Drugs Enter My Family”. The schools, families and communities are actively involved in this drug control education programme. Drug control volunteers, parents, drug control experts and teenagers attend discussions and training classes to help parents establish right family drug control education notion and improve family members’ awareness against drugs.

Self-employed labourers’ associations at all levels and private-owned enterprises/associations unfolded an activity called “Drug-free Association at Lowest Level”. They cooperated with departments from the public security and industrial and commercial administration to strengthen the education and training of members from entertainment and service trades.

There is a drug control voluntary team all over the country. They share the same symbol. According to incomplete statistics, there are over 600 teams, comprising of more than 300,000 people. To support their work, between 2004-2006, the Office of NNCC held an activity for three consecutive years named “Five Thousand Kilometres Long March of Cars by Chinese Drug Control Volunteers”. It covered more than 20 provinces and cities where drug problem is serious.
Raising funds for drug preventive education

In order to mobilize members from different social strata and the masses to participate in the drug control war, raise and accept donations to support the country’s drug control cause, develop international non-governmental drug control cooperation, the Ministry of Public Security of China set up the Drug Control Foundation of China, which is non-profit and has an independent status of a legal person. In recent years, it has raised a large sum of money to support drug control preventive education.

Keeping the public informed

In order to keep people timely informed of the drug control situation, NNCC attaches great importance to the work of releasing news to the public.

First, the Annual Report on Drug Control in PR China is compiled every year to introduce the drug situation and what has been done the previous year. Apart from the printed edition of the report, the China Central TV and government website also release the report.

Second, press conferences are held to introduce the drug situation of the country and related events. From 2005 to present, the News Office of the State Council of China held press conferences on drug control. The Ministry of Public Security held eight conferences and organized reporters from different countries to go to Yunnan province where the drug problem is serious to gather news.

Third is to make publicity materials for the public, teenage students and high-risk people. Since 2005, the Office of NNCC has compiled and printed the textbook of Drug Prevention and Education for the General People, Handbook on How to Guard against New Type of Drugs, Handbook for Drug Control Volunteers of China, publicity posters and VCDs on the harm of new drugs. A total of 1,000,000 sets of these materials have been sent to different regions. At the same time, “Memory of Black and White” on drug control education has been filmed. Local drug control departments have printed and distributed more than 10,000,000 sets of drug control publicity materials.

employing a comprehensive approach

PR China advocates healthy ways in the anti-drug war.

In 2005, the Office of NNCC and the Beijing Municipal Narcotics Control committee organized a long walking activity with 10,000 people showing their determination against drugs.

“Cry from the Mountains”

PR China has always made full use of all kinds of performances to publicize knowledge on drug control. Since 2000, the Office of NNCC and CCTV have organized five large-scale parties to publicize drug control knowledge during the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. At the same time, a TV series on drug control was produced. Different provinces employed local dramas to publicize drug control.

Since 2005, NNCC invited famous stars to be drug control publicity image ambassadors and voluntary publicists. Pu Cunxin and Zhao Benshan, famous actors; and Yan Weiwen and Liu Huan, famous singers, are among them.

Under the leadership of NNCC, the image ambassadors and voluntary publicists on drug control participated in the Five Thousand Kilometres Long March of Cars by Chinese Drug Control Volunteers and a party called “Away From New Type Drugs”. Public-interest ads were made based on these activities.

To make full use of the influence of the mass media, NNCC has attached importance to drug control publicity. Every year, there are three periods of momentum during the plenary session of NNCC and the national video-conference on drug control. This year, during the week of 19-26 June, the Office of NNCC, the Publicity Bureau
of the Ministry of Public Security and CCTV planned the publicity for the week. Among all the programmes, “Frontline on Drug Control”, was broadcast live by CCTV news channel which lasted for 5.5 hours. Every day, CCTV broadcast news on drug control. On 22 June, the Information Office of State Council held a press conference on the latest developments of the National People’s War on Illicit Drugs.

According to incomplete statistics, in 2005, more than 4,500 news items or articles were issued and broadcast by the main central press and media. In CCTV, more than 30 famous columns were produced in 80 issues with about 100 chapters of drug control special programmes. For the first six months of this year, more than 3,600 pieces of news or articles were issued and broadcast by the main central press and media. In CCTV, more than 50 issues of drug control special programmes were produced.

On the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Office of NNCC, the Publicity Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security and the Information Office of State Council organized large-scale drug control publicity through the internet. CCTV broadcast public-interest ads on drug control for about 100 times and Central People’s Broadcasting Station of China for 1,000 times. Local TV stations repeatedly broadcast these ads.

In making use of media to publicize the knowledge on drug control, NNCC mainly relies on three ways. The first is through the central media, including CCTV, CPBS, People’s Daily, Xinhua News Agency, etc. In the second quarter of every year, the central media will be required to include drug control education publicity in the programme. Second is to set up websites. On the education website of the Ministry of Education, there is a drug control distance learning webpage. More than 10 provinces also set up their drug control websites. The third way is through newspapers. The Office of NNCC has a special column on drug control every week in the People’s Public Security Daily. Besides, there is the Drug Control Weekly. The Ministry of Justice also has its magazine which often releases news on drug control.

For people to get knowledge about drug control, the Office of NNCC and local drug control departments organized competitions on the knowledge of drug control through the media. In 2005, the Office of NNCC and CCTV organized a drug control knowledge competition. About 100,000 people took part in the competition for juveniles through the Internet organized by the Office of NNCC and the Central Committee of Communist Youth League. The Office of NNCC and the Publicity Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security organized a photography competition on drug control. A total of 5,045 pieces of slogans and 685 paintings and photographs were collected. Ten photographs and paintings and ten excellent slogans were picked. Every year, the Office of NNCC gives rewards to the best news on drug control.

In 2005, an educational film on drug control, “Memory of Black and White”, produced by the Office of NNCC and other departments, was awarded the Nomination Prize as an excellent film for juveniles. The “China Drug Control Action”, which is about the drug control work in PR China in the past 20 years and produced by the Office of NNCC and CCTV, got a prize for TV series on special subject.

The way forward

PR China has made obvious achievements in drug control preventive work over years of persistent publicity and education. The annual rate of increase of registered drug addicts has been reduced from 30 per cent during 1993-1997 to 13 per cent during 1998-2002, and down to 5 per cent till 2003. In 2004, the number of newly emerged drug addicts dropped to 19.7 per cent compared with that of 2003. The number of newly emerged drug addicts in 2005 was equivalent to that of the previous year.

The percentage of registered drug addicts under the age of 35 dropped from 85 per cent in 1998 to 70 per cent in 2004 and 2005.

In 2004, Chinese President Hu Jintao called on the launch- ing of the National People’s War on Illicit Drugs. In April 2006, the Office of NNCC commended ten non-governmental people for their outstanding work on drug control prevention and education, and rehabilitation and aftercare. More than 1.4 million people were moved by their deeds.

On 1 August 2002, Li Jidong, an entrepreneur in the city of Simao in Yunnan province, opened his private-owned factory making prefabricated board. In three years, it accepted 179 ex-drug addicts, making up 4.2 per cent of the whole addicts in the city with 90 per cent of them HIV positive. He took care of them under paramilitary management and established a pattern of “no drugs, no discrimination, self-reliance, rehabilitation through working and a refreshed man”.

On 26 June 2006, State Councilor and Commissioner of NNCC, Zhou Yong-kang interviewed them. To encourage more people to participate in drug control work, every year the Office of NNCC will commend those who have done an exceptionally good job.

PR China’s experience

1. Faced with the serious situation of the abuse of new type of drugs in the region, importance should be placed on the education and knowledge on how to guard against them. Juveniles and other high-risk groups should be the first to receive such education. On one hand, materials on how to guard against new type of drugs should be produced; on the other hand, famous actors should give performances on the topic.

2. In order to encourage the media to participate in the publicity of drug control, their knowledge on drug control should be enriched through training courses. At the same time, recognition should be given.

3. Full attention and support to non-governmental drug control efforts should be given. Apart from money and materials, the learning and sharing of experiences among non-governmental strengths of different nations should be encouraged.
Together We Can Stop Corruption

By Antonio Maria Costa
UNODC Headquarters, Vienna

Corruption is not a vast impersonal force. It is a crime that involves at least two guilty parties. When money changes hands between them, we all pay the price. Since corruption affects us all, we all have a role to play in stopping it.

Companies should follow ethical business practices and live up to effective accounting and auditing standards.

Banks should cooperate with money laundering investigations to protect victims rather than shielding crooks behind secrecy laws.

Financial experts should assist each other across borders to recover stolen assets.

Development agencies should include anti-corruption conditions into their aid programmes to prevent badly needed assistance from being diverted.

Parliaments can exercise an oversight authority to ensure that governments work effectively, particularly concerning the controls on funding of political parties and electoral campaigns.

Independent anti-corruption agencies should keep the public sector honest.

Non-governmental organizations can be strong advocates for demanding transparency, openness and integrity.

The media can raise awareness and uncover corruption scandals.

Doctors, lawyers, bankers and accountants should uphold the integrity of their professions by not becoming involved in the black economy.

Local governments - which are the point of delivery for many public services - should ensure openness.

International civil servants as well as religious and community leaders should lead by example.

And concerned citizens should not become passive victims of the corrosive effects of corruption.

Around the world, intolerance of corruption is growing. Corrupt politicians and chief executives are being tried and convicted. Corrupt governments are being voted out of office.

The momentum to prevent and combat corruption can accelerate if more states accede to and implement the United Nations Convention Against Corruption which came into force one year ago. As the sole global instrument for fighting corruption, it should be the backbone for all national and international anti-corruption initiatives.

Together, we can stop corruption.

9 December: International Anti-Corruption Day

In 2000, the General Assembly established an ad hoc committee for the negotiation of an effective international legal instrument against corruption and requested the Secretary-General to convene an intergovernmental open-ended expert group to examine and prepare draft terms of reference for the negotiation of such an instrument. In the same year, it invited the intergovernmental open-ended expert group to be convened and examine the question of illegally transferred funds and the return of such funds to the countries of origin.

In 2002, the Government of Mexico hosted a high-level political conference for the purpose of signing the convention.

The Monterrey Consensus, adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002 underlined that fighting corruption at all levels was a priority.

The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 declared corruption as a threat to the sustainable development of people.

The problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law are serious.

By resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, the General Assembly designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day. This decision was taken in order to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in combating and preventing it.

The Assembly urged all States and competent regional economic integration organizations to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible in order to ensure its rapid entry into force.

Effective action against corruption is the responsibility of Governments, and implementation of the Convention rests in the hands of States. Civil society and the private sector also have an active role to play in these efforts by supporting governments and holding them accountable. However, the capacity to take these actions does not always exist in many developing and least developed countries. For this reason, UNODC provides technical assistance through legal advisory services for the ratification of the Convention and technical cooperation projects focusing on preventive measures. The Convention provides the legal framework for countries to criminalize corrupt practices, as well as to cooperate to deny safe havens to corrupt officials and to help each other recover illicitly acquired assets.
Reducing HIV and Human Trafficking Vulnerability among Mobile Populations in the GMS

By Celine Artal
UNODC Regional Centre

The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) is at cross-roads: 80,000 lives were lost to AIDS and two million more were infected with HIV at the end of 2004. Meanwhile unprecedented internal and cross-border migration, including human trafficking, raise concerns on the HIV vulnerability of mobile populations.

Migration in itself does not constitute a risk factor to HIV and trafficking. Rather, the conditions in which people migrate and the availability of health services along migratory paths can undermine their ability to protect themselves from severe health conditions and exploitation.

A lack of HIV awareness, unsafe migratory paths and limited migration health policies heighten the vulnerability of mobile populations to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), particularly HIV, and to exploitative forms of labour constituting trafficking.

Within the GMS, Thailand is a major destination country for labour migrants due to its booming economy. Because immigration laws and policies do not sufficiently reflect a strong reality of labour migration inflows, many people will choose irregular migration channels. There are an estimated “two million irregular migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and the Lao PDR” living now in Thailand. While economic opportunities become readily available, many administrative and legal issues limit migrants’ access to universal health services, including HIV prevention, care and treatment.

Irregular migration channels increase the vulnerability of mobile populations to trafficking at the point of movement or destination. Forced labour and sexual exploitation (both of which are main components of human trafficking), exacerbate HIV infection risks as it is difficult for trafficked persons to reach health services facilities and to ensure safe sex. Trafficked and sexually exploited women and children have little, if no negotiation power over sexual practices. Drug use among trafficked persons and migrant populations in general may also constitute a significant risk factor for HIV infection.

In order to reduce the vulnerability of mobile populations to HIV infection risks and trafficking on the onset, joint HIV/AIDS and human trafficking prevention strategies have to address pre-, during and post-migration risk situations. In post-trafficking situations, the challenge remains to combine a criminal justice approach traditionally used in anti-trafficking policies with holistic care and support programmes for trafficked persons.

Building effective joint HIV and human trafficking interventions for communities and people on the move

Scaling up responses towards HIV and human trafficking prevention among communities with high mobility rates and mobile populations call for a greater understanding of the interplay between migration, human trafficking and HIV/AIDS. Anti-trafficking initiatives in the GMS and other parts of the world have been plagued by unsubstantiated numbers and vague assumptions of the scope of the issue. In parallel, data on HIV/AIDS infection rates among mobile populations and trafficked persons is lacking. Data collection processes have to be improved to effectively target areas at risk and to provide mobile populations and trafficked persons with health services specific to their needs.

Key questions remain to be answered: a) What are the factors leading to the vulnerability of migrants to trafficking and HIV in the GMS and where are vulnerable

1 Canada South East Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Programme (CSEARHAP), "HIV and Mobility Demands Regional Action": CSEARHAP Snapshot, Vol. 1, No. 01, 2005.

30 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
areas located?; b) How can we distinguish trafficked persons from migrants?; c) What are HIV epidemiological trends along trafficking routes, and what is the scale of HIV infection among migrants and trafficked persons?; d) What are migrants’ health needs and the specific health needs of trafficked persons?; and e) How can mobile populations have a greater access to health services?

Service providers, law enforcement officials and community members are key partners in answering these questions. Importantly, voices from communities, especially from women and men who fell prey into the exploitative nets of trafficking and/or who are HIV positive, have to be heard with greater attention. Those voices have the potential to help assess the actual health needs of people on the move and to give a human face to HIV/AIDS and anti-trafficking-related activities.

A comprehensive package of pre-, during and post-migration prevention interventions needs to be developed to offset HIV and human trafficking vulnerability in communities with high mobility rates and among people on the move. Community-level interventions focusing on pre- and post departure counseling, and combined HIV and trafficking awareness raising and education campaigns, are preconditions to reach safe mobility in origin, transit and destination countries. Because migration is a continuing and dynamic phenomenon, ongoing and flexible prevention and migration health mechanisms need to be put in place to reach both communities with high mobility rates and people on the move. Participatory approaches in prevention programmes and a sense of ownership are key to empowering communities against HIV and human trafficking risk situations in the short- and long-term. In addition, it is important that pre-, during and post-migration prevention campaigns and health services are delivered in a language and context understood by local communities and mobile populations.

Disparities in public health capacities among GMS countries challenge the sustainable provision of universal health services for mobile populations along their migratory paths, including return and settlement. In addition, insufficient inclusion of mobile populations in public health policies and HIV/AIDS National Action Plans weakens national responses to the epidemic.

In post-trafficking cases, universal health services, including HIV voluntary counselling, testing, care, treatment and support, and specific health and psychological assistance should be granted to trafficked persons. Gender sensitive cooperation mechanisms between origin, transit and destination countries are necessary to provide specific psychological and health services to trafficked persons at the point of identification, interception and/or repatriation. In the case of social reintegration, health services have to be combined with vocational training to avoid re-victimization at the community level.

There is a need to provide law enforcement officials with ongoing training on how to identify trafficked persons and how to facilitate their access to health services. Service providers should also be provided with comprehensive training on psychological support and health services for trafficked persons. Discrimination and stigmatization, which often affect the ability of trafficked persons to access health services also need to be addressed in training.

**Achieving human protection in communities on the move**

HIV/AIDS and human trafficking leave indelible scars on those who are directly affected, but also on communities in general. Little has been done to understand and address these issues in a broader migration framework and to ensure the protection of communities at risk and mobile populations. The integration of HIV/AIDS and human trafficking prevention strategies and the attainment of universal access to health services among vulnerable communities and mobile populations are essential to offset risk situations. On the one hand, vulnerable groups have to be empowered with the right tools to protect themselves, primarily through knowledge of risk situations and means to avoid them. On the other hand, GMS countries have to take greater responsibility for developing safe mobility mechanisms and for ensuring that mobile populations are included in the spectrum of public health policies. Extending protection to mobile populations in the broader context of migration is necessary to curtail the alarming spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to combat the exploitation of people.

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Tapping School Directors to Strengthen School-based Responses to HIV/AIDS

By Jan Wijngaarden, Arun Mallik and Sheldon Shaffer
UNESCO Bangkok
Educators have a unique opportunity to influence young people’s ideas about sex and romantic relationships, and to provide them with skills to avoid taking risks.

The education sector can do a lot to prevent HIV/AIDS/STI by assisting young people in acquiring the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to delay sexual intercourse, reduce their number of sex partners and avoid infection by using condoms. Educators need to teach behaviours that will empower children and adolescents to make healthy choices related to sex and other health issues. Encouraging boys and girls to respect themselves and one another is an important first step. They must impress on all children the idea that sexual intercourse may only proceed when there is mutual consent. The curriculum needs to provide children with opportunities to learn and practice life skills, such as decision-making and communication skills, which can strengthen other important areas of child and adolescent development. Different aspects of comprehensive HIV/AIDS/STI education must be integrated into all appropriate subject areas, such as reproductive health, home economics, family life, social studies and science.

Furthermore, the education sector needs to reduce the fear of HIV/AIDS and of people who have HIV/AIDS by promoting care, compassion and non-judgmental attitudes among students so that stigma and discrimination of this group is lessened. Schools should be enabled to learn how to play an active role in looking for HIV-affected and infected children in their communities, and in persuading them (or their parents/guardians to allow them) to come back or remain in school.

In order to help mobilize the potential of the education sector, in 2002, the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education developed a generic advocacy and information toolkit on HIV/AIDS and education aimed at sensitizing and helping mid- to senior level officials in Ministries of Education to strengthen education responses to HIV/AIDS. After the Toolkit for Ministries of Education on HIV/AIDS and Education was developed, countries have successfully translated and adapted the Toolkit for use in their particular country context.

During the adaptation process in several countries, it became clear that key stakeholders – while mostly recognizing the need for strengthened high-level education sector commitment – would like to see a toolkit targeting headmasters, school administrators, and teachers. School directors and teachers could play an important role in reducing fear and ignorance surrounding HIV/AIDS, in general, and stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS, in particular.

The argument for advocacy at the school level becomes even more compelling considering the global trend of decentralization in education, allowing for greater school autonomy. While it is also important to reach young people, parents, and teachers with relevant information and skills, there is a strong need to focus on strengthened support for and advocacy with school directors, since they are often important gatekeepers and influencers – especially in countries where part of the school curriculum is determined at the district level, and where HIV/AIDS is not, or not sufficiently, mainstreamed in the core curriculum.

Why focus on school directors?

Apart from the trend towards more school autonomy in most countries, there are seven good reasons to focus on school directors:

1. School directors are often influential people in the community, and can be role models for good practice – both for HIV prevention (promoting responsible behaviour and a healthy lifestyle) and stigma/discrimination reduction, as well as for promoting care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS. Several initiatives such as the Sampatong project in Northern Thailand have convincingly shown this potential by turning the community around towards embracing and supporting affected or infected community members.

2. In some countries, school directors and the teachers have an important say in defining parts of the curriculum. Especially in countries where HIV/AIDS is not, or not sufficiently, integrated in the curriculum and where part of the curriculum planning is decentralized (i.e., for the school/district to determine), educators may be an important channel for increasing students’ exposure to HIV/AIDS prevention in the classroom.

3. In countries where sex education is culturally highly sensitive, school directors may need to deal with community resistance (including from religious groups). They need to be armed with arguments, as well as with scientific information and knowledge, to defend their decision to provide young people with information, attitudes, and skills for HIV prevention.

4. In case the curriculum is overloaded, school directors can be instrumental facilitators in the establishment of ‘youth clubs’ or other forms of extra-curricular activities like non-formal, peer-based education on HIV/AIDS prevention, possibly by linking up with Community Learning Centres or with local NGOs or youth groups.

5. School directors often need to deal with fear-based resistance of parents against allowing infected or affected pupils to share a classroom with their children. They need to be able to fight these fears of parents (and possibly teachers) and explain clearly that there are no risks involved in sharing a classroom with HIV-infected pupils as long as some basic precautions are taken.

6. School directors are often responsible for following up on policies and guidelines from the central or provincial level. In many countries (including Cambodia, Viet Nam, Thailand, and the Philippines), excellent laws and policies exist on, for instance, non-discrimination of teachers and administrators infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, on upholding each child’s right to education, on including children from AIDS-affected families, or on the right of teachers to apply for assistance or treatment when they are ill. However, most of the time these rules and regulations never reach the school level, and school directors and teachers are, therefore, not aware of them. The Toolkit would ‘translate’ existing rules, laws, and regulations at the country level to the school level, and attach them for reference.

7. School directors could play a major role as fund-raisers in under resourced environments affected by HIV/AIDS, especially in countries where the education system is insufficiently guided or resourced from the central level.

The article was based on the Discussion Paper No. III (HIV/AIDS and Education), which was originally prepared for the SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference, December 2004 by the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education.
1 December – World AIDS Day

Over 41 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. The United Nations General Assembly, in 1988, stated its deep concern about the pandemic proportions of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Noting that the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared 1 December 1988 World AIDS Day, the Assembly stressed the importance of observing that occasion.

AIDS has assumed pandemic proportions affecting all regions of the world and represents a threat to the attainment of health for all.

The development and implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS prepared by WHO, include the establishment of appropriate inter-agency mechanisms.

The struggle against AIDS should be consistent with and not divert attention from other national public health priorities and development goals or divert international efforts and resources needed for overall health priorities. The United Nations calls upon all States, in addressing the AIDS problem, to take into account the legitimate concerns of other countries and the interests of inter-State relations.

Appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies and non-governmental and voluntary organizations, are urged to continue to support the worldwide struggle against AIDS.

I n the 25 years since the first case was reported, AIDS has changed the world. It has killed 25 million people, and infected 40 million more. It has become the world’s leading cause of death among both women and men aged 15 to 59. It has inflicted the single greatest reversal in the history of human development. In other words, it has become the greatest challenge of our generation.

Accountability – the theme of this World AIDS Day – requires every President and Prime Minister, every parliamentarian and politician, to decide and declare that “AIDS stops with me”. It requires them to strengthen protection for all vulnerable groups – whether people living with HIV, young people, sex workers, injecting drug users, or men who have sex with men. It requires them to work hand in hand with civil society groups, who are so crucial to the struggle. It requires them to work for real, positive change that will give more power and confidence to women and girls, and transform relations between women and men at all levels of society.

But accountability applies not only to those who hold positions of power. It also applies to all of us. It requires business leaders to work for HIV prevention in the workplace and in the wider community, and to care for affected workers and their families. It requires health workers, community leaders and faith-based groups to listen and care, without passing judgment. It requires fathers, husbands, sons and brothers to support and affirm the rights of women. It requires teachers to nurture the dreams and aspirations of girls. It requires men to help ensure that other men assume their responsibility – and understand that real manhood means protecting others from risk. And it requires every one of us help bring AIDS out of the shadows, and spread the message that silence is death.

I will soon be stepping down as Secretary-General of the United Nations. But as long as I have strength, I will keep spreading that message. That is why World AIDS Day will always be special to me. On this World AIDS Day, let us vow to keep the promise -- not only this day, or this year, or next year -- but every day, until the epidemic is conquered.

Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations

Behind the Red Ribbon

The red ribbon has been an international symbol of AIDS awareness since 1991. It is worn as a sign of support for people living with HIV. Wearing a red ribbon is a simple and powerful way to challenge the stigma and prejudice surrounding HIV and AIDS that prevents people from tackling the global epidemic.

The first international celebrity to wear a red ribbon was Jeremy Irons at the 1991 Tony Awards. The symbol came to Europe on a mass scale on Easter Monday in 1992, when more than 100,000 red ribbons were distributed during the Freddie Mercury AIDS Awareness Tribute Concert at Wembley Stadium. More than 1 billion people in more than 70 countries worldwide watched the show on television. Throughout the nineties, many celebrities wore red ribbons, encouraged by Princess Diana’s high profile support for AIDS.

The Red Ribbon Project was created by the New York-based organization Visual AIDS, which brought together artists to create a symbol of support for the growing number of people living with HIV in the United States. These community artists wanted to create a non-copyrighted image that could be used as an awareness-raising tool by people across the world.
Human trafficking is a particular concern given that countries in East Asia and the Pacific have become source, transit and destination countries, with some countries being used as all three.\(^1\) The problem is interrelated by the distinct issue of migrant smuggling and is one that affects every country in the region. State sovereignty is undermined by migrant smugglers and their clients, and migrants themselves are rendered vulnerable to exploitation by opportunistic criminals who often target illegal migrants for trafficking. The fact that illicit movement of people occurs not only throughout the region but also beyond it, necessitates that cooperation in combating crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling occur at both inter as well as the intra-regional levels.

Recognizing the geographically expanding impact of organized crime in East Asia and the Pacific, the diversification of criminal activities across the region, and under developed data collection and reporting systems, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific has identified four strategic areas of programmatic action. These are: prevention, rule of law, treatment and reintegration, and analysis.

In response to these escalating concerns, UNODC has translated its four thematic areas into practical targets. In preventing cross-border trafficking in persons in the Greater Mekong sub-region, the Regional Centre aims to strengthen cross-border responses, by strengthening awareness and expertise along and across borders.

With regard to rule of law, the Regional Centre offers assistance in implementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the region, particularly in relation to the Protocols on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants. It will also build capacity of law enforcement officers to better address these issues, by offering targeted training, including anti-trafficking computer-based training modules. With regard to the treatment and reintegration of victims and witnesses of trafficking, the success that UNODC has achieved in the Philippines will be expanded into Indonesia. And in specific relation to analysis, UNODC aims to apply its expertise to cross-cutting issues, such as the relationship between HIV transmission among human trafficking victims, to replace speculation with information.

UNODC strives to make the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism. The Regional Centre aims to strengthen efforts in the East Asia and Pacific region to combat the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, by offering its regional perspective and expertise to regional problems. \(^\text{iii}\)

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\(^1\) "Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns?" UNODC, 2006, p.24.
Brunei Enacts MLA Order

Starting 2006, Brunei Darussalam enacted the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Order, 2005 that enables the facilitation of provisions and obtaining of mutual legal assistance to and from other countries on criminal matters and for related purposes. Under this order, request can be facilitated subject to mutual assistance treaty between a country and Brunei Darussalam. This Order, however, does not prevent the provision or obtaining of international assistance in criminal matters to and from the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) or any other international organizations. Under the Order, Brunei Darussalam can also render assistance if the foreign country gives assurance that it will entertain a similar request for assistance in criminal matters.

In January 2006, Brunei Darussalam ratified the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. For this purpose, the MLA secretariat which will act as the central authority for the purpose of MLA has been set up within the Attorney General’s Chambers.

A new Extradition Order 2006 came into force in February 2006 repealing the old extradition Act 1993. Under this Order, the request for extradition applies to any listed Commonwealth country, designated country, a treaty country or any other country or entity certified by the Attorney General to be an extradition country. [11]

Above article was based on the country report by Brunei Darussalam at the 30th Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 14-17 November 2006.

Training for Cambodian Provincial Court Officials Held

While it is impossible to develop trainers in six days, the bases on which further training can be built have been established in Cambodia.

Lawyers and Provincial Court Officials received training from the International Organization for Migration: Promotion of Human Rights of Victims of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation through Legal/Policy Support project (IOM HRPTV) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific on various aspects of the practical administration of States Parties obligations under the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the related Protocol against Trafficking in Human Beings during 8 to 14 October 2006. Specific topics included gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses and other victim-related issues such as criminal compensation.

By adopting a practical and interactive approach, trainers were able to identify the overall capacity of the group, with participants independently and correctly applying principles to case studies presented. Participants were able to identify all salient factors of the relevant scene in the practical scenario which encompassed all stages of investigations from preliminary inquiry to court trial, and responding to this by reference to the relevant and existing international and domestic provisions.

The training enabled UNODC to partner with IOM HRPTV in the development of a pool of legally trained experts specializing in human trafficking.

Mr. Michel Bonnieu, Senior Regional Legal Adviser of the UNODC Regional Centre noted that in the light of the training, it was necessary to build upon and reinforce the results of the current activities. He noted that given the nature of this particular training format, it is likely that the programme could be replicated in other jurisdictions.

“UNODC should continue to seek out opportunities to raise the profile of its various tools such as the Mutual Legal Assistance software and make it available to countries to assist them with the implementation of various international obligations”, Mr. Bonnieu said. The Mutual Legal Assistance tool should also be used as a means to recall and emphasize the provisions of the United Nations Conventions related to MLA (drugs, terrorism and corruption). He added that efforts should be made to translate the MLA tool into Khmer.

(Olivia Sylvia Inciong) [11]

UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Request Writer Tool

• Computer-based request writer tool
• User-friendly, adjustable to State’s substantive and procedural law and practices
• Requires no prior MLA knowledge or experience
• Prompts users when vital information has been omitted
• When data entry is finished, it is consolidated and automatically drafted into a correct, complete and effective request in Microsoft Word

www.unodc.org/mla/index.html

For more information contact
Mr. Michel Bonnieu
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UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
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4-8 September 2006, Manila, Philippines

The above seminar was organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Maritime and Ocean Affairs Centre, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Philippines. Through IMO Regional Coordinator, the seminar was organized for law enforcement in the region after the adoption of the 2005 protocols. Participants were from various agencies, including the Department of Justice (DOJ), DFA, and the Philippine Coast Guard.

At the seminar, Mr. Vipon Kitiasnasorchai of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific presented the key common elements and legal requirements pursuant to the 12 conventions/protocols against terrorism, including the legal obligation which stemmed from the Security Council Resolution 1373. The presentation emphasized on the legal requirements on criminalization, jurisdiction and international legal cooperation that require proper national legislation and implementation for member states to have effective criminal justice system to combat terrorism. The presentation also briefly reviewed the Philippine extradition law.

During the discussions, Mr. Kitiasnasorchai clarified certain legal issues, such as how the dual criminality principle interplays with the issue of extraditable offences and the offences under SUAs should be incorporated into the domestic law without any change to the wording of the offence.

“Philippine participants were also keen to learn if the bill against terrorism pending in the House of Senate (Bill No. 2137) is truly in line with the international requirements”, Mr. Kititasnasorchai said.

A key concern raised was that the Philippines existing extradition law provides political exception as a mandatory ground to refuse extradition and the anti-terrorism bill seems not to address this issue.

IMO Regional Coordinator, Atty. Brenda Pimentel, said that IMO was keen to continue this kind of complementing role in the region with UNODC.

Mr. Kititasnasorchai explained that UNODC/Terrorism Prevention Branch shall continue working closely with related international organizations, including IMO, in order to ensure that key legal points concerning international terrorism, especially issues on extradition and mutual legal assistance, are properly included in related legal workshops or seminars.

UNODC/Wa Project Staff Join Residents of Pang Kham in World AIDS Day March

On 1 December, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Staff and The Kokang and Wa Initiative (KOWI) partners in Wa Special Region 2 joined hundreds of residents and students in the World AIDS Day march.

Students and residents of Pang Kham area, like many all over the world, enthusiastically participated in the march organized to commemorate this important day to show their support to people living with HIV, as well as to raise awareness. The students were especially eager to chant the official slogan while marching through town.

This year’s slogan ‘Stop AIDS, Keep the promise’ is exactly the same as last year’s, and is a reminder for all stakeholders to continue their much needed work and efforts in the global fight against the AIDS epidemic.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that there are between 170,000 and 620,000 people infected with the HIV virus in Myanmar, of which and estimated 30 per cent have contracted it through injecting drug use.
Sports Day for ‘Tsunami Children’

Duang Prateep Foundation (DPF) of Thailand organized a sports day for 120 children in the Phru Teaw community, where the Foundation’s Baan Tharn Namchay orphanage and tsunami relief centre is located.

Traditional Thai games and sports, and football were played, providing a full day of fun for the participants aged 6 to 17.

Children at the orphanage and those in Phru Teaw have created New Year cards, which DPF sends to friends and benefactors around the world.

The school vacation was also an opportunity to educate children about hygiene and sexual health issues.

Dr. Sunyaratana Ratjatawan from the Tsunami Children Foundation led a one-day course for 22 girls aged 9 to 17, training them about good hygiene practices.

Meanwhile, 150 teachers from Phang-nga Province attended a three-day course hosted by the Nithan Caravan puppet troupes based in Bangkok and Phang-nga. The teachers from 30 schools were taught how to make and use puppets and songs in stimulating children’s learning.

In collaboration with UNODC and the Embassy of Germany, Duang Prateep Foundation (DPF) organized sport events to promote drug prevention awareness among children and youths who have suffered from post traumatic stress during the aftermath of the tsunami in three affected villages, namely Phru Teaw, Bangmuang and Bangsak in Phangnga Province of Thailand. DPF supported local communities to engage 200 children and young people in sport events as a means to recover their mental health and to prevent them from drug abuse.

The foundation received a donation of 500,000 Thai Baht from a small city in the Southern part of Germany to run the campaign in 2005 and 2006.

Photo shows the cheque presented by Mr. Bernhard Fritschi, representing the city to Ms. Mingporn Ungsongtham of DPF. Others in the photo are Mr. Otto Duffner, and Ms. Kornshulee Traisaksuriya from the German Embassy; Mr. Burkhard Dammann and Ms. Jamnan Panpatama of UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific; and Mr. Nicholas Holloway of DPF.
DDB Ok’s Plan for Alternative Development

The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) has approved a national plan of action for the eradication of marijuana plantations through alternative development.

The plan involves the creation of the Alternative Development Committee which assists DDB in the formulation and implementation of a national plan of action to significantly reduce production of marijuana and eventually eliminate its cultivation through sustainable rural development and alternative livelihood programmes.

Several activities planned to redirect marijuana producing areas back to the country’s mainstream economic and social development through lawful alternative livelihood activities include handicraft-making, livestock/poultry raising, short vocational courses and other trade activities unique and feasible in local settings. Necessary infrastructure such as farm-to-market roads, water systems, and school buildings will be constructed or rehabilitated. Promotion of community awareness and advocacy against drug abuse, with emphasis on marijuana, will be intensified in barangay meetings, farmers association cooperative assemblies, and local peace and order council meetings.

Studies have shown that marijuana is grown naturally in the mountainous regions of the country. Its availability in the market can be gleaned from the rise of discovered cultivation sites and seizures of the drug in big quantities. Marijuana cultivation sites were reportedly located in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Regions 1 and 4 in Luzon, Regions 6 and 7 in the Visayas, and Regions 10, 11, 12 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Duang Prateep Foundation to Establish Community IT Centres

The Duang Prateep Foundation (DPF) and Microsoft Thailand will jointly establish Information Technology (IT) centres in five Bangkok slum communities.

The centres - one each in the slum communities in Khlong Toei, Yan Nawa and Taling Chan districts, with two in Prawet District communities will receive used and new computers donated by Microsoft.

DPF will provide the technical support for the programme and will train the trainers from each community who will be running the centres.

DPF has seen how Khlong Toei community residents have benefited from IT training and are looking forward to working with Microsoft to bring the same opportunities to other communities.

Myanmar to Assess ATS Situation

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) intends to complete an assessment of the amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) situation in Myanmar before March 2007. In this regard, CCDAC requested support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in providing information, and technical support. The ATS assessment will look at the supply and demand situation providing a foundation for future programmes and project development.

With the support of the Regional Project “Improving ATS Data and Information Systems”, CCDAC would organize a meeting on national data sources on ATS.

Chinese Named UNODC National Goodwill Ambassador

Colonel Yang Liwei, National Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) will promote the goals and achievements of both organizations among governments, civil society and the general public.

As UNODC Goodwill Ambassador, Colonel Yang Liwei will raise awareness about drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in East Asia and the Pacific, highlighting the link between the two issues and UNODC work with prison inmates and intravenous drug users.

As UNODC and OOSA Ambassador, he will promote healthy lifestyles among young people, specifically during the launch of regional campaigns focusing on people at risk. He will also participate in campaign-related events and activities in PR China and other countries in the region and actively take part in UNODC regional anti-drugs events, including the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), and World AIDS Day (1 December).
Philippines Observes Drug Prevention Week

The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) led the Philippines in observing the 2006 drug abuse prevention and control (DAPC) week, as several local government units and non-government organizations joined in raising public awareness on the dangers of illicit drugs. DAPC week (12 to 18 November) was celebrated pursuant to Proclamation No. 124, signed by President Gloria M. Arroyo, enjoining all government, professional, civic, and religious organizations and media to increase awareness on the adverse effects of drug abuse and to cooperate and support in the national anti-drug campaign.

According to Secretary Anselmo S. Avenido, Jr., DDB Chairman, DAPC week has been observed since 1973. He added that other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries, during the 9th ASEAN meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Matters in 1985 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia agreed to follow the Philippines and do the same yearly observance.

Focusing on the theme, “Challenge Yourself-Be Drug Free”, the DDB enlisted the support of different sectors in its anti-drug crusade. Activities for the week were co-hosted by the Taguig local government.

Secretary Avenido cited the need for a continuing cooperation among various sectors to ensure the success of the campaign against drugs and illicit trafficking. He urged the youth to take on the lifetime challenge to remain drug-free and maintain healthy, productive lifestyles.

Special recognition rites were held to award individuals and institutions from the government, private, and media sectors which have contributed to the success of the anti-drug abuse campaign which include the government’s programme on drug and supply reduction, random drug testing in schools, drug prevention initiatives in the workplaces, and drugs and HIV-related issues.

Other key cities in Metro Manila and other parts of the country sponsored different activities such as photo exhibits, on-the-spot mural painting contests, walk for a cause, sports festival, seminars and colloquium on drug abuse, and burning of effigies which highlighted the week-long affair. Luningning Gotera

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Street Names for ATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Methamphetamine</th>
<th>Methamphetamine</th>
<th>MDMA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tablets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>ice, ya ba chakk, ya ma, chakk, ma chakk (chakk = injectable)</td>
<td>ya ba, ya ma, ma</td>
<td>thnam krovee kbai (shake-head drug) some young people say &quot;ecstasy&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR China</td>
<td>bingdu (ice)</td>
<td>bingdu pian</td>
<td>yao tou ubin (head-shaking pill)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>shabu</td>
<td></td>
<td>XTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td></td>
<td>ya ba, ya ma</td>
<td>ya-E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>shabu, &quot;S&quot;, ice, speed anpon (particular to Kyushu region) philopoon (liquid methamphetamine)</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;X&quot;, &quot;ecstasy&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>ya ma, seik kwya say, myin say</td>
<td>shabu, bato, sha, siopao</td>
<td>Seik kwya say (head-shaking pill)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>XTC, love drug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>ice</td>
<td>ya ba</td>
<td>ya-E, ya-Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>shaking pill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: http://www.apaic.org)
Staff Updates

Dr. Anand Chaudhuri, Indian, joined the Regional Centre in October 2006 as project coordinator for Development of Community-Based Drug Abuse Counselling, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Cambodia, based at the Project Office in Cambodia. He has a public health background and is a medical graduate, and served the World Health Organization in India on Polio Eradication. As Sector Director, Nutrition and Health of CARE India, he integrated development and health across 1,000 development blocks in 7 Indian states reaching a population of 3 million with USAID support. Dr. Chaudhuri joined UNODC Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) in 2000 as the UNAIDS Technical Focal Point on IDU/HIV and was part of the earlier Inter-country Team Technical Working Group (TWG) for HIV/AIDS South Asia. He was also a member of the TWG for UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific. Dr. Chaudhuri was Regional Project Coordinator for UNODC ROSA “Prevention of Transmission of HIV among Drug Users in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Countries”, supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

Ms. Benchaporin Nimsuwon, Thai, joined the Regional Centre in October 2006 as a project assistant for Project: “Scientific support to strengthen regulatory and law enforcement control of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and their precursors in East, South and South-East Asia” and H84 project: “Regional Collaboration on Community-based Alternative Development to Eliminate Opium Production in Southeast Asia”. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French language from Kasetsart University.

Ms. Megan Hansford, Australian, joined the Regional Centre in October 2006 to work on prevention of HIV during her placement as Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. Prior to joining UNODC, Ms. Hansford worked with a national network of organizations to support general practitioners in preventing chronic disease. She has experience in policy and programme development in relation to illicit drugs. While working for the Australian Government, she managed the implementation of a national illicit drug and mental health co-morbidity initiative. Over the last four years, Ms. Hansford has been an active volunteer in local community AIDS Council activities, including serving on the Board of Management and Executive Committee. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Australian National University and a Graduate Diploma in Community Health Promotion, University of Canberra, Australia.

Ms. Supattra Kaewchana, Thai, joined the Regional Centre in October 2006 as a project assistant, assisting the “Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse” project. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in English from Chulalongkorn University and a Master’s Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Thammasat University. Before joining UNODC, she worked with Peace Corps Thailand, United Nations Development Programme, and United Nations World Food Programme.

Ms. Natsuda Suwatthanabunpot, Thai, joined the Regional Centre in October 2006 as a project assistant to Computer-Based Training (CBT) projects. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in English from Thammasat University and holds a Master of Arts in Marketing from London Metropolitan University. While taking her master’s degree in 2005, she worked part-time as an international office assistant.

Ms. Parinya Keerakamonchai, Thai, joined the Regional Centre in October 2006 as the assistant finance/procurement clerk in supporting the office financial management and monitoring programme. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from Thammasat University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Auditing from Chulalongkorn University. Over the past six years, she has worked in the private sector as well as with the Thai Government in both accounting and auditing related work.

Ms. Helen Au, Malaysian, joined the Regional Centre in November 2006 as a project assistant based at the Project Office in Malaysia, assisting the Precursor Control in East Asia project. In 1989, she worked as project secretary with the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) in Kuala Lumpur for three years before joining the private sector for 17 years. She holds a Diploma in LCCI Private Secretaryship from Stamford College, Malaysia and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management, University of Lincolnshire and Humberside, UK.
Lost in the Past: Early 1900s – Early days of advocacy efforts

Shanghai, October 8th, 1930, Anti-opium Commission – “Shanghai began the work of opium suppression, and it has been taken up throughout the country. Although very little has been achieved so far, we must not be discouraged, but strive for ultimate success. Our efforts are not limited to this one week; the work of saving the country must be carried on unremittingly on the lines laid down during the Anti-Opium Week…”  

Shanghai was a major point of drug trafficking route. In 1924, Shanghai started a “National Anti-Opium Week”. It was the year before the first international drug control treaty with “binding measures”, the International Opium Convention of 1925, was adopted as well as a number of initiatives implemented.

Various activities for the National Anti-Opium Week continued to take place. In 1930, the seventh event was held from 1 to 7 October with a specific theme for each day. The inaugural meeting of the event in Shanghai was presided over by the President of the National Anti-Opium Association, reflecting the importance of the event. It was held at the Chamber of Commerce, and attended by a wide variety of multi-disciplinary agencies, including the Shanghai Municipal Government; the Bureaus of Health, Public Safety, Public Works, and Social Affairs; the Shanghai Special District Court; and over 40 other bodies.

At the end of the week, the Anti-Opium Commission issued the above comment on 8 October 1930. The “lines laid down” during the Week referred to the theme of each day and the corresponding proposals made. It is worthy to examine the proposals made, particularly, for advocacy, as these were pioneers in the field, and today we continue to do so.
The first day was styled “Delivery from disgrace” day. Among others, it was decided to petition to the Central Government “to publish Anti-Opium books for use in schools.”

The second day was “Obey the Law” day. “In a manifesto in the local press the Commission drew attention to past corruptness in the judiciary, whereby people of wealth and influence disobeyed the law with immunity.” The proposals made on that day included “Posters to be affixed to hoardings and distributed to shops, railway stations and Post Offices for display”.

The third day was “Opium Suppression and Health” day. “A contributed article in the local press explained the evil effects of opium on the nation’s health. The people must help one another in fighting addition to opium; the work to be directed on the following lines”, which included “the production of plays, films, etc; demonstrating the evils of opium.” A proposal included “School children must be warned of the opium peril in their lessons on hygiene.”

The fourth day was called “Opium Suppression and the Home” day. The proposals of the day were all for advocacy efforts: “(1) To arrange singing meetings to which men, women and children are invited to attend. (2) To send girl students to investigate the home conditions of opium addicts. (3) To organize a Womens’ Anti-Opium Propaganda Association. (4) To publish an anti-opium magazine for women. (5) To appeal to women to take an oath to combat opium.”

The fifth day had a theme “Opium Suppression and Relief of Distress” day. A proposal was to “request the foreign missions to arrange lectures and the taking of oaths in their halls.”

The sixth day was “Build up the Race” day. Proposals of the day included “Advertise the harm done in China by foreign narcotics” and “Form an Anti-Opium Propaganda Association.”

The final day had the theme of “National Prosperity” day. And the proposals of the day encompassed a wide range of advocacy activities. A proposal of the day says, “Explain the evils of opium to school children at their morning assembly.” Another says, “Divide the students into groups, and send them to every district to conduct anti-opium propaganda.” They continue: “Arrange debates on opium suppression for the students.” and “Arrange essay-writing competitions for the students.” Others proposed, “Students to form recreation societies in interests of opium suppression” and “Students to compete in the sale of copies of “Opium” (a monthly magazine).”

Those forerunners before our time, at the turn of the last century, struggled to promote advocacy in the face of the already large drug dependent population in the country. They knew that prevention and education was the key. They had to be innovative, as there had been no one before them to provide guidance. They needed to be realistic, as supply reduction and treatment alone were not sufficient, and those were not yet successful. Today, we have lessons to learn from the efforts of the past, at time, early 1900s - as it is those that we need to do now, learning from the pioneers, before the situation becomes too late.

Author’s note: Texts in italics are reproduced verbatim. Names of individuals are withheld.
FACT SHEET
GOLDEN TRIANGLE OPIUM SURVEYS 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opium poppy cultivation¹</td>
<td>34,719 ha</td>
<td>24,157 ha</td>
<td>-29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>1,800 ha</td>
<td>2,500 ha</td>
<td>+39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand²</td>
<td>119 ha</td>
<td>157 ha</td>
<td>+34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>32,800 ha</td>
<td>21,500 ha</td>
<td>-34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighted average opium yield</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>8 kg / ha</td>
<td>8 kg / ha</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>15.6 kg / ha</td>
<td>15.6 kg / ha</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>9.5 kg / ha</td>
<td>14.7 kg / ha</td>
<td>+55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential production of opium¹</td>
<td>328 mt</td>
<td>337 mt</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>14.4 mt</td>
<td>20 mt</td>
<td>+40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1.8 mt</td>
<td>2.4 mt</td>
<td>+33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>312 mt</td>
<td>315 mt</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opium poppy eradication</td>
<td>6,592 ha</td>
<td>5,641 ha</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>2,575 ha</td>
<td>1,518 ha</td>
<td>-41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>110 ha</td>
<td>153 ha</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>3,907 ha</td>
<td>3,970 ha</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average farm gate price of opium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>US$ 521 / kg</td>
<td>US$ 550 / kg</td>
<td>+6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>US$ 1000 / kg</td>
<td>US$ 1015 / kg</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>US$ 187 / kg</td>
<td>US$ 230 / kg</td>
<td>+22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total potential value of opium production</td>
<td>US$ 65.4 millions</td>
<td>US$ 85.4 millions</td>
<td>+31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>US$ 7.4 million</td>
<td>US$ 11 million</td>
<td>+49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>US$ 1.8 million</td>
<td>US$ 2.4 million</td>
<td>+33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>US$ 58 million</td>
<td>US$ 72 million</td>
<td>+24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households involved in opium poppy cultivation</td>
<td>200,190</td>
<td>133,600</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>+32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>193,000</td>
<td>126,500</td>
<td>-34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearly income in opium production households</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>US$ 139</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>US$ 300</td>
<td>US$ 300</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>US$ 292</td>
<td>US$ 437</td>
<td>+50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which from opium sale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>US$ 14</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>US$ 30</td>
<td>US$30</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>US$ 152</td>
<td>US$ 217</td>
<td>+43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addiction rate in opium poppy growing regions³</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>0.57%</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For details, please contact Mr. Xavier Bouan, Regional Illicit Crop Monitoring Expert, UNODC Country Office, Myanmar, E-mail: <xavier.bouan@unodc.org>

¹ These figures differ slightly from those published in the World Drug Report 2006, which subsumes Thailand under the category of "other countries".
² As reported by the Government of Thailand.
³ Surveyed areas of 2005 and 2006 are not comparable.