Civil society leader gives victims a voice
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Work begins on international convention against corruption

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Trafficking in human beings claims over 700,000 victims annually. ODCCP embarks on a number of initiatives to curb this growing trade

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Interview with Saida Benhabyles
Ms. Benhabyles talks about her involvement in the fight against terrorism and the role of civil society organizations

Responding to Afghanistan’s new drug control challenges
ODCCP’s drug control assistance package for Afghanistan

Amphetamine-type stimulants threaten East Asia
The growing abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants calls for concerted regional action and greater support for prevention

Improved skills for treatment providers
UNDCCP and an Italian NGO are praised for their training programmes

Secretary-General visits Vienna
New appointments and visit by Secretary-General to Vienna

2001 United Nations Vienna Civil Society Award
Three individuals and one organization are honoured for contributions to the campaign against drug abuse, crime and terrorism

Make smart choices
Star basketball player Dikembe Mutombo teams up with UNDCP, UNAIDS and the NBA in new television campaign

Better future
New video is released against human trafficking for forced labour

News from the field
Latest news and developments from Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Germany

New publications
Upcoming events
Pinpointing opium cultivation in Myanmar

Myanmar’s Shan State is as large as Bangladesh and is home to most of the country’s opium poppy cultivation, which accounted for more than two-thirds of the world’s illicit opium production in 2001. UNDCP, as part of its Global Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme, is launching a 2002 opium poppy survey of the entire Shan State to collect data on illicit crop cultivation, opium yield and opium prices.

The Shan State’s size, geography and political divisions present special challenges. Within its vast territory, the region is divided into 52 townships and an unknown number of villages.

A pilot survey covering part of the region was conducted during the 2000-2001 growing season and included 11 townships, covering 685 villages and 1,700 poppy fields. Production levels in surveyed areas averaged 10.45 kilograms per hectare and opium prices in the northern Shan State (US$268) almost doubled those found in the southern regions (US$137).

Fieldwork for the new survey should be completed by March 2002 with preliminary results expected to be released by September.

Progress on Convention against Corruption

A new Ad Hoc Committee, set up by the General Assembly, started negotiating a new Convention against Corruption at the end of January in Vienna. The Committee has until the end of 2003 to complete negotiations. Its work will be challenging because of the multiple aspects of corruption and its political significance worldwide. Issues that emerged at the first session and which promise to be carefully negotiated include whether the convention will contain a standard definition of “public official”, or leave the matter up to national law, how broad the definition of “corruption” will be, and whether the new convention will cover private sector corruption. The Committee is expected to complete the first reading of the draft at its second session next June.
ODCCP fights human trafficking on multiple fronts

Trafficking in human beings claims over 700,000 victims annually. ODCCP is embarking on a number of initiatives to curb this growing trade.

Regional anti-trafficking policies
Establishing specialized police units and better training for law enforcement and immigration officials are parts of an Action Plan to fight trafficking agreed to by the Governments of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This subregional Plan, along with a Political Declaration against Trafficking in Human Beings, was adopted at the 25th Summit of ECOWAS in December 2001 following recommendations of a joint expert meeting between ODCCP's Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) and ECOWAS.

Technical assistance projects
A pilot project in the Philippines has led to the adoption of a Strategic Action Plan for a National Coalition against Trafficking in Human Beings. The project provides for the training of law enforcement officers, a study on the status of victim/witness support and an assessment of relevant legislation, regulations and trafficking-related data. A project in the Czech Republic and Poland is preparing those countries for the ratification and early implementation of the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons. A project in Brazil will assess the country's trafficking situation, increase education, improve data collection and train law enforcement officers in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases.

Anti-trafficking conferences
The fight against the sexual exploitation of children gained the commitment of over 100 countries, IGOs and NGOs at the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Yokohama, Japan in December. Over 3,000 participants attended the congress, which included the "Multi-Agency Approach to Fight Child Trafficking" workshop co-sponsored by CICP.

Exhibition
CICP's Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons and the Paris-based NGO Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne/Committee against Modern Slavery (CCEM), organized a poster exhibit in November 2001 featuring images of modern-day slavery. Posters depicting different forms of slavery such as domestic labour, forced prostitution, child labour and forced marriage were on display in the Vienna International Centre.
Substance abuse and HIV/AIDS in Africa

Seventy per cent of the world’s HIV/AIDS population is found in Africa. With over 25 million Africans affected, HIV/AIDS has become the number one killer on the continent.

At the same time, the abuse of illicit drugs, including cannabis, cocaine, heroin and psychotropic substances, is rising. The number of women and adolescent drug abusers is increasing and, according to studies conducted in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, intravenous drug use (IDU) appears to be higher than commonly believed.

The direct link between IDU and HIV/AIDS has been established elsewhere, but up until recently, the situation in Africa was not as clear. Information now being collected is painting a new picture—4 per cent of registered HIV/AIDS cases in North Africa are reportedly caused by IDU, and individual countries report even higher rates. While sexual HIV transmission is clearly predominant in Africa, transmission among IDUs also plays a role.

In Mauritius, where HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are lower than in other East and Southern African countries, IDU was found in 21 per cent of a sample group of HIV-infected people. An ongoing World Health Organization study in Nairobi City also revealed an unexpectedly high number of heroin abusers injecting the drug intravenously. In Nigeria, a study carried out in 2000 in Lagos revealed that the HIV prevalence rate among heroin and cocaine street users was almost twice as high as among non-drug users (9.8 per cent for the former versus 5.4 per cent for the latter).

To address this situation, UNDCP and UNAIDS recently adopted a draft Action Plan against drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in Africa. The plan focuses on incorporating prevention and awareness raising measures into existing projects. Field activities will include linking drug control master plans to national HIV/AIDS programmes, generating gender sensitive data and focusing prevention efforts on African youth. The Plan also foresees the mobilization of African governments, donors and United Nations system partners, to integrate drug abuse prevention elements into HIV/AIDS and poverty reduction programmes.

❖ BRIEFING:

A new UNDCP/UNAIDS Action Plan will focus on raising awareness about HIV/AIDS transmission and substance abuse in Africa.
Ms. Saida Benhabyles has dedicated her life to human rights, women’s rights and working with victims of terrorism in Algeria. She speaks out to ODCCP about her unrelenting fight against terrorism.

1. How did you become involved in the fight against terrorism and what were your goals?

I was born in a conservative “Chorfa” (Marabout) family. From a very young age, I fought injustice because I belonged to the indigenous class during the French colonization and because I was a woman living in a society hostile to gender equality.

Neither school, nor university nor the political parties founded in me the notions of tolerance, solidarity, freedom, equality, democracy and peace. I began to develop these deep-rooted principals, which constitute the essence of my personality, through the associative movements. My work brought me close to the most vulnerable layers of society. My primary objectives were the fight against marginalization, exclusion, poverty, social injustice, corruption and intolerance.

Toward the end of the 1970s, the religious extremist movement began to dominate schools, universities and particularly the socially vulnerable in rural communities who are strongly attached to their faith and constitute a conservative, almost fanatic, environment. An attitude of intolerance was imposed through Fatwas forbidding all symbols of progress. As a human rights advocate and president of the Solidarity Movement for Rural Families, I was faced with the darkest forms of extremism. That is when I made it my priority to fight against terrorist ideology and terrorist propaganda.

In 1990, I witnessed a terrorist act that cost a woman her home and her child. My solidarity with this poor woman’s family made me a prime target, and a year later, I received my first death threat. Because I was fully aware of the sacrifices required to establish a lawful state, these threats only reinforced my determination to fight those who choose rape, massacre of innocents and destruction to express themselves.

2. Tell us about the work of the International Federation of the Victims of Terrorism and about your involvement in it.

The International Federation is the result of information-sharing, awareness raising and relentless mobilization. My role as initiator was to channel the collective efforts of various associations into the framework of an International
Federation, to promote solidarity with the victims of terrorism and to mobilize international justice in order to eradicate terrorism.

In view of the transnational nature of terrorism, the Federation set out an effective partnership among countries to block terrorists and bring them to justice. The Federation provides material and moral support to victims and their families and works diligently to keep the issue alive in people’s memories. Member associations strive to establish links between the victims and the state in order to improve the status of these victims, raise awareness and convince public authorities to consider the involvement of civil society in the fight against terrorism.

3. Algiers recently hosted the first seminar on “The Contribution of Civil Society to the Fight against Terrorism as an International Phenomenon.” What did the seminar help achieve?

Since 11 September 2001, the international community has put in place mechanisms to eradicate terrorism at the national level. These mechanisms can only be effective if they are supported by civil society. In this context, the International Federation organized in Algiers the first international colloquium on the contribution of civil society to the fight against terrorism. The following recommendations were adopted by the participants: (a) the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373; (b) the adoption of an international convention against terrorism; (c) the convening of an international conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations; (d) the convening of an international conference for NGOs to adopt a strategy to improve their role in the global fight; (e) the creation of an international day against terrorism; (f) the mobilization of public opinion to stop any support to terrorist groups that still exist in Europe and the United States; (g) ensuring that NGOs accredited to the United Nations have no links to terrorist activities; (h) supporting the struggle of oppressed peoples, their right to self-determination and recognizing that their struggles should not be confused with terrorism.

4. Now more than ever, terrorism is high on the global agenda. How do you think this will reflect on the efforts of civil society organizations who are working on this issue?

This will reinforce the efforts of associations. They will work more closely with governments to set prevention strategies aimed at addressing the root cause of the problem and at establishing a more equitable world order. This entails the eradication of poverty and the settlement of conflicts away from the policy of double standards, which are causing many people to endure violence on a daily basis.

As a primary link for the mobilization of popular support against intolerance, associations reflect the concerns of all segments of society. Under the current circumstances, the vigilance of civil society will halt any attempt to deviate from the fight against terrorism and from the objectives of its eradication, the dismantling of its networks and the drying up of its funding sources.

The role of civil society also includes the opposition of discriminatory and selective approaches toward this phenomenon. Civil society should confront all those who spread confusion and who try to discredit peoples and nations that are waging a brave struggle against terrorism.

Finally, the mobilization of civil society is crucial in promoting a dialogue between cultures and bringing peoples and nations closer together. Eradicating terrorism will be in vain if civil society, States and the international community fail to combine their efforts in a united front against terrorism.

5. As a woman from the Arab world, what are the challenges you have faced throughout your career?

I worked harder to be more serious, more committed, more competent and more efficient than a man would need to be in order to succeed professionally. I faced a backward mentality even in seemingly modern and democratic political contexts that supposedly supported the advancement of women. I was challenged by the discrepancy between the political rhetoric and the reality on the ground. Contradictions even existed between the Constitution, which established equality among men and women, and the family code, which restricted certain rights. However, the biggest challenge was to reach the position of minister and member of parliament at a time when terrorism was ravaging Algeria and to be part of a political movement aimed at preventing the rise to power of a backward terrorist ideology detrimental to all universal values. This was a challenge backed by all Algerian women at all social levels – to whom I once again wish to pay tribute.

6. What did winning the UN Civil Society Award in 2001 represent to you?

The UN Civil Society Award is of great significance to me for the simple reason that it is recognition from the international community validating the fight against terrorism in Algeria. It is a tribute to all the victims and their families and all those who have the courage to stand up against the scourge of terrorism and work toward its eradication.

It is also recognition of the role of women in the spreading of a culture of peace and their readiness to sacrifice their lives to save the lives of others. Finally, it represents hope that the United Nations takes a fair stance toward all victims of all types of violence.

❖ BRIEFING:

Responding to Afghanistan’s n control challenges

Opium poppy cultivation and drug trafficking are potential roadblocks to Afghanistan’s economic and social development. The UNDCP pre-assessment survey recently confirmed the resurgence of poppy cultivation to 1998 levels. An estimated 45,000 to 65,000 hectares under cultivation are capable of producing approximately 2,000 tons of opium. To combat these problems, ODCCP has proposed a drug control assistance package to give Afghanistan a boost as the country enters the early stages of recovery and reconstruction. ODCCP introduced its programme at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan held in Tokyo last January.

As an initial priority, ODCCP identified the creation of a viable law enforcement environment within the Afghan Interim Administration as essential for imposing the government’s ban on opium poppy cultivation and drug trafficking. To do this, the programme calls for setting up a Drug Control Commission in Kabul as a policy-making institution with support from Drug Control Coordination Departments in selected provinces. Also needed are drug enforcement agencies within the Afghan Police Security Force to enforce measures against drug traders and traffickers who provide opportunities for opium farmers and hamper the development of licit activities.

Additionally, after more than two decades of war resulting in a ravaged economy, the radical abandon of opium

From New York to Kabul via Bonn and Tokyo—Afghanistan’s drug issue on the political agenda

14 November 2001
United Nations Security Council Resolution 1378 expresses strong support for the efforts of the Afghan people to establish a new and transitional administration leading to the formation of a government, which:

“. . . should respect Afghanistan’s international obligations, including by cooperating fully in international efforts to combat terrorism and illicit drug trafficking within and from Afghanistan . . .”

5 December 2001
The Bonn Agreement emphasizes the drug issue by stating:

“The Interim Authority shall cooperate with the international community in the fight against terrorism, drugs and organized crime. It shall commit itself to respect international law . . .”

Furthermore, Annex III indicates:

“The participants in the UN Talks on Afghanistan strongly urge that the United Nations, the international community and regional organizations cooperate with the Interim Authority to combat international terrorism, cultivation and trafficking of illicit drugs and provide Afghan farmers with financial, material and technical resources for alternative production.”

21 January 2002
Conclusions of the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, Tokyo:

Paragraph 6: “. . . Assistance will be conditional on all Afghan parties particularly contributing to the process and goals agreed to in Bonn with the aim of establishing peace, representative governance and eliminating terrorism and narcotics production and trafficking.”

Paragraph 11: “The Conference recognized the vital importance of security and counter narcotics issues to the success of reconstruction and placed special emphasis on providing systematic follow-up and sufficient assistance to ensure steady and irreversible progress.”
ew drug

poppy cultivation requires the rapid build-up of sustainable livelihoods through large-scale rehabilitation projects. To maximize the impact of the United Nations, the drug problem is considered as a cross-cutting issue in development initiatives, such as those involving food security, health, education, infrastructure, refugees and governance.

Implementation of the ban on opium poppy cultivation depends on a concerted and coordinated effort by development agencies and international financial institutions, geographical prioritization by political authorities to target opium poppy growing provinces and funds to create incentives to deter farmers from planting poppy.

So far, the donor community has pledged US$1.8 billion for 2002—matching the requirements for immediate and transitional assistance for Afghanistan, including US $30 million needed for drug control.
Amphetamine-type stimulants threaten East Asia

Over the last decade, abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) has made its way into the mainstream culture in some countries. Younger people, especially, have a false sense of safety about the substances. Meanwhile, ATS are becoming a serious danger to the health, social and economic fabric of families, communities and nations.

Recently, ATS use in the Americas and Europe has plateaued or declined, while the highest levels of abuse worldwide have emerged in East Asia and Oceania. Countries scattered throughout the region registered strong increases (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam), and others reported at least some increase (Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Japan). Reports from China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Cambodia and Viet Nam indicate that those countries also face a growing problem, although the prevalence level is uncertain.

 Trafficking and abuse patterns are closely connected

In East Asian and Pacific regions, ATS manufacturing, trafficking and use has grown faster than similar activities involving plant based opiates, like opium and heroin. Heroin manufacturers in the region have diversified to include making synthetic drugs with the production of those drugs replacing the production of heroin, in some cases. This shift may be due to the fact that ATS can be manufactured in small and portable laboratories and because of the flexible nature of precursors required for the manufacture of the drug. Information is limited, but China, Myanmar and the Philippines appear to be the main sources of the finished product with China the largest supplier of precursors for manufacturing ATS.

Smoking, sniffing and inhaling are the most popular methods of ATS use, but ways to take the drug vary widely across the region. In countries like Australia, where over 90 per cent of those who report using ATS inject, the drug represents a significant risk factor in the transmission of blood borne viruses. The Philippines and Viet Nam are also reporting signs that injecting ATS is increasing while in Thailand, the number of methamphetamine users now represents the majority of all new drug treatment cases.

Regional and national priorities are established

The importance of the ATS issue is evident in the recent development of the ACCORD (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs). Endorsed at an international congress in 2000, this plan recognizes the importance of addressing the emergent ATS trends and issues on multiple fronts.

Three thematic areas provide the core for the planning of ATS demand reduction programmes. Within each area, specific targets are established for programme activities:

- Raising awareness of the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants
  - Auditing of current ATS demand reduction activities
  - Monitoring and surveillance of ATS use and risks

- Providing accurate information on ATS
  - Establishment of a regional clearing house for information relating to ATS in the region
  - An established process for sharing of expertise and experience within the region

- Reducing demand for illicit ATS
  - Implementation of primary prevention activities
  - Identification of evidence based models of secondary and tertiary prevention
  - Strengthening Non Governmental Organization collaboration
  - Development of coordinated ATS strategies that are integrated into broader health, social welfare, education and law enforcement policy

More support for regional and national programmes needed

Within the region, Thailand’s new national policy uses supply reduction strategies to direct more attention to...
the issues of ATS abuse. To a lesser extent, prevention and community-based strategies have also been given more attention. However, these areas have not been emphasized in other developing countries because technical and financial support is lacking. A significant boost in support to the programmes will be needed in order to retard and reduce regional trends of ATS abuse over the next five years.

Abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Improved skills for treatment providers

A project to improve substance abuse treatment in Central and Eastern Europe in the face of rising drug abuse received positive reviews. At the concluding session in December 2001, participants met in Sicily, Italy, to share the programme’s effectiveness and to consider useful follow-up efforts.

The project, Professional Training for Drug Abuse Treatment Providers in the Russian Federation, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, is the result of a joint effort begun in 1994 by UNDCP and the Italian NGO Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta (ACFR), with the financial support of the United States.

Participants evaluated the programme and signed a statement advocating several key issues, including:

- Greater financial involvement by the concerned Governments for treatment services;
- The need to increase practical and theoretical training for medical, psychological and educational staff concerning the treatment of substance abusers and HIV/AIDS infected persons; and
- Continuing work on the development of early intervention and rehabilitation assistance to young substance abusers.

As a benchmark of its usefulness, participants supported continuing the training programme to build on the initial success of these efforts.

Secretary-General visits Vienna

The Secretary-General has designated Mr. Steinar B. Bjornsson (Iceland) as Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) and ODCCP until a new Director-General/Executive Director has been appointed. The former Executive Director of ODCCP, Mr. Pino Arlacchi, relinquished his duties effective 1 January 2002.

Mr. Kofi Annan, addressed the staff at the Vienna International Centre on 30 January and met with senior staff from ODCCP. The Secretary General highlighted ODCCP’s key role in helping Afghanistan end illicit opium cultivation as well as ODCCP’s work to combat transnational crime and money laundering as an essential component of the United Nations effort to fight terrorism.

The Secretary-General appointed Ms. Sumru Noyan (Turkey) as Director of the Division of Operations and Analysis (UNDCP) in November 2001. Ms. Noyan also serves as Acting Deputy Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

The Secretary-General appointed Mr. James Callahan (USA) as Director of the Division for Treaty Implementation and Support to Drug Control Organs (UNDCP) in January 2002.
The United Nations at Vienna, along with the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna, honoured three individuals and one organization for their outstanding contributions to the global campaign against drug abuse, crime and terrorism at a ceremony on 5 December 2001, in the Vienna City Hall.

The four recipients of the 2001 Award—chosen from more than 100 nominees from around the world—are:

**Saida Benlabyles**, has focused her civil society efforts in Algeria on human rights, women’s rights and working with victims of terrorism. Despite continuous death threats from Algerian terrorist groups and her daughter’s kidnapping, she remained active and was the driving force behind the Federation of Associations of Victims of Terrorism.

**Athanase Rwamo**, after witnessing the effects of war on children in Burundi, founded *Oeuvres Humanitaire pour la Protection et le Dévelopement de l’Enfant en Difficulté* (OPDE) to protect children from hunger, exploitation and the effects of drug abuse. Recognizing the link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, he organized a second NGO, *Association pour la Prise en Charge des Orphelins du SIDA* (APÉCOS), to care for children whose parents have died from AIDS.

**Veronica Colondam**, deeply concerned about rising drug abuse cases in her country, Indonesia, founded *Yayasab Cinta Amak Bangsa* (YCAB), which means “loving the nation’s children”. Among the means used to communicate the group’s preventive messages is its youth band “Youth Against Drug Abuse (YADA)” that has spread the theme “Turn on music, turn off drugs” to millions of Indonesians.

**Instituto Mundo Libre**, a Peruvian non-governmental organization which assists the nation’s youth—particularly street children—to escape from drug abuse. The programme has an 89 per cent success rate and has rehabilitated more than 700 street children. It has also trained some 65,000 people in 14 Peruvian cities on the prevention and treatment of drug abuse.

“We want to show to the world that civil courage and private initiative in the service of others is recognized by the international community”.

Benita Ferrero Waldner, Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Make smart choices

Growing up in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the 218 cm (7’2”) Dikembe Mutombo used to work as a food vendor making a dollar a day.

Fast-forward twenty years. Mutombo has a degree in Linguistics and Diplomacy from Georgetown University, speaks four languages and five African dialects and is recognized as one of the best basketball players in the world, but he’s never forgotten his homeland. He says he’s “tired of seeing people dying.” Mutombo has donated US$3 million of his own money for a new hospital in Kinshasa and created a foundation to provide humanitarian assistance for Africa. He is featured in a new UNDCP/UNAIDS video spot in which he talks to young people about making smart choices about drugs and the links between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

“Using condoms and not sharing needles are intelligent decisions that can help you live a longer, healthier life,” said Mutombo in the video. The 30-second spot will be broadcast in English, French, Portuguese and Swahili and shown worldwide during NBA broadcasts and through UNDCP field contacts.

Better future

As part of ODCCP’s global television campaign against human trafficking, a new video was released in February on the trafficking of humans for bonded and forced labour activities, such as factory work, fieldwork or as domestic servants. The 30- and 60-second versions of the video spot aim to provide a stark warning to potential victims about the dangers of trafficking and to raise consciousness among the general public about the epidemic growth of this modern-day slavery.

The new video spot follows on the success of a previously released video highlighting the trafficking of women for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The first spot has been broadcast on national networks in over 35 countries, as well as on global and regional networks, such as CNN and MTV. The new video spot on trafficking for bonded and forced labour is available in nine languages: English, Russian, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Swahili, Hausa and German and can be viewed and ordered at www.odccp.org.
Germany

The International Conference on The Role of Alternative Development in Drug Control and Development Cooperation was held in January in Feldafing, Germany with over 100 participants including officials from the Andean region and Asia, experts, multilateral organizations, development institutions and non-governmental organizations. The final declaration and conference documents can be found on www.alternative-development.net.

Trinidad and Tobago

Ministers of National Security, Attorneys-General, heads of national drug councils, and collaborating international partners from 30 countries and Caribbean territories met in Trinidad under UNDCP auspices to examine the continuing threats and linkages between drug and arms trafficking, corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing. UNDCP has been asked to assist in the formulation of a new Drugs and Crime Strategy for the region.

Thailand

A team of 6,000 volunteer bicyclists participated in a campaign across Thailand bringing anti-drug information and performances to the provinces across the nation. They carried back to Bangkok around 600,000 signatures against drugs contained in a book which is now a candidate for the Guinness Book of Records. The initiative was a successful venture between the civil society and the United Nations in promoting public awareness and community participation in South East Asia.

Uzbekistan

Following the reopening of the bridge connecting Uzbekistan and Afghanistan to allow the passage of humanitarian relief, UNDCP is providing assistance to re-establish border crossing activities and upgrade legal trade. The bridge connecting the two countries has been closed for several years and its border checking capacities are not adequate enough to face the risk of a resumption of drug trafficking and other illegal goods.
New publications

Opium Reduction in Thailand—A Thirty-Year Journey
The book describes how Thailand effectively reduced the production of opium inside its borders, from 245,600 kilos in 1965 to under 4,000 by the turn of the century. The book highlights the stages in Thailand’s effort to discover new options for subsistence and development that would benefit both the isolated hill tribe villagers as well as the country at large.

Illicit Drug Markets in Greater Cairo
This report contains information on the outcome of the illicit drug market study in Greater Cairo. It provides a detailed presentation of findings and analyses of the demand for and supply of drugs. The study was undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

Equal Partners—Organizing “For Youth by Youth” Events
Effective youth-focused events happen when adults and young people work together during event planning and execution. This guide is intended to support what, for many adults, will be a new way of working with youth. It will also help adults to assist young people in developing and running youth-focused events.

Drugs—Do you know the risks?
The publication focuses on young people and adults, presenting the different kinds of drugs and the risks associated with their consumption. Available in Portuguese only, it uses reader-friendly language to approach scientific information on drugs, drug-related behaviour and its consequences. The publication is meant to attract young audiences with its colourful images and contemporary design.

Upcoming events

11-15 March 2002
Fourty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Vienna, Austria.

21-22 March 2002

6-17 May 2002
Seventy-fourth session of the International Narcotics Control Board. Vienna, Austria.

17-28 June 2002
Ad Hoc Committee on the Convention against Corruption, Vienna, Austria.

26 June 2002
International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The theme for 2002 is: Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS.