

PRESS RELEASE

Viet Nam, Cambodia and UNODC Meet in Ho Chi Minh City for Cross-Border Cooperation to Fight Human Trafficking

Ho Chi Minh City (17 May 2006) – Today the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Ministry of Public Security in Viet Nam and the Ministry of Interior in Cambodia conducted a Cross-Border Law Enforcement Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City for police officers, border army, prosecutors and judges on human trafficking under the project entitled “Strengthening of the Legal and Law Enforcement Institutions in Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons in Viet Nam – second phase”. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Viet Nam and opened by Mr. Nguyen Viet Thanh, Deputy Director of Viet Nam Police.

The objective of this meeting was to discuss technical legal and law enforcement cooperation at the border between Tay Ninh/An Giang and Svay Rieng provinces. It is expected that the meeting will pave the way for better information exchange, evidence collection and gathering, intelligence sharing and cooperation across the border.

In October 2005, Viet Nam and Cambodia signed a new bilateral agreement on cooperation for eliminating trafficking in women and children and assisting victims of trafficking, which includes cooperation on human trafficking. UNODC Viet Nam would like to facilitate such cooperation through this cross-border law enforcement meeting in Ho Chi Minh City to better prevent and combat human trafficking between the two countries”, said Ms Narumi Yamada, Representative, UNODC Viet Nam.

UNODC Viet Nam supported a similar meeting between the two sides last year in Ho Chi Minh City.