UNODC helps countries and its people to reduce illegal drugs and crime throughout the world and to address justice and human security. It helps Member States with technical assistance, legal advice and research within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the three United Nations Conventions on Drugs.

UNODC South Asia is present in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka

South Asia: UNODC – UN Women develop a legal and policy review of responses to human trafficking

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplements the United Nations Convention on Transnational Crime (UNTOC). The Protocol criminalizes trafficking in persons and urges member States to adopt legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish trafficking as a criminal offence.

The laws on human trafficking are diverse within the countries of South Asia, where the ratification status of the UNTOC is generally still low. In addition to domestic efforts, international cooperation is a must for successfully responding to human trafficking across the region. There is a need to examine country specific laws to understand where the gaps in responses lie, and also, how Member States in South Asia can be assisted to fill those gaps. In this regard, a legal and policy review of responses to human trafficking in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka was commissioned jointly by UNODC and UN WOMEN, under the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT).

To read the document, visit the link: http://www.unodc.org/documents/southasia/reports/LEGAL_AND_POLICY_REVIEW_human Trafficking_-_2011.pdf

Bangladesh: Building national training capacities to counter financing of terrorism and money laundering

In August 2010, the UNODC Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML) initiated a capacity building programme for law enforcement training institutions and related experts in Bangladesh, to develop in-country expertise to deliver training for ‘Countering financing of terrorism and anti money laundering’ (CFT/AML) in the country. Under this initiative, twenty one personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department of the Bangladesh Police, the Anti Corruption Commission, the Anti Money Laundering Department of the Bangladesh Bank and the Attorney General’s Office were selected and trained as national trainers. Through three training programmes, they learnt how to design and deliver effective trainings along with learning about the technical aspects of investigating financing of terrorism and money laundering. Thereafter, seven of the trainers conducted a five-day CFT/AML training program from 27 – 31 March 2011 for fifteen personnel from the above mentioned organizations.

This initiative was financially supported by the Canadian Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Program. H.E. the Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr. Robert McDougall, was present during the closing ceremony of the workshop, where he handed over the course curriculum, workbook and course modules developed as part of the initiative to the Detective Training School of the Bangladesh Police and the Anti Corruption Commission in Bangladesh. The new national trainers would be involved in delivering AML/CFT training courses at the Detective Training School in Dhaka, using the new course material developed in partnership with UNODC.

UNODC’s participation in events in South and South East Asia

- **Indonesia**: The Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, took place in Bali, Indonesia, on 30 March 2011. The Bali Process is an inter-governmental dialogue on migrant smuggling and human trafficking covering mainly West, South, South East Asia and East Asia, as well as the Pacific. UNODC has an observer status in the Bali Process. To know more about the event and read the statement by Ms Cristina Albertin, UNODC Representative for South Asia, visit: http://www.unodc.org/eastasiaandpacific/en/2011/04/som-indonesia/story.html

- **Nepal**: UNODC contributed a presentation on Cross-border trafficking – linkages between arms and drug trafficking in a regional seminar on ‘Armed Violence Reduction and Prevention for South and Southeast Asia’, held in Kathmandu from 16-18 March 2011. The seminar was organized by the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) and co-hosted by the Government of Nepal.

- **India**: UNODC, together with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, organized a stakeholders’ consultation on ‘Cyber crime and its effect on children’ on 5 April 2011 at the UNODC ROSA premises in New Delhi. The meeting was held in preparation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (held from 11 – 15 April 2011) in Vienna. The Crime Commission this year particularly focused on cyber crime and safety of children.

- **India**: UNODC made a presentation on the need for addressing substance use at workplaces at the ‘International Consultation on Healthy Workplaces’ organized by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The meeting was held from 16 - 18 March 2011 in New Delhi to review the ‘Global Framework for Healthy Workplaces’ currently being developed by WHO. Participants agreed that substance use at the workplace, going beyond tobacco and alcohol consumption, is a growing concern, which calls for effective workplace programmes to address the issue.

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER

Our Office bids farewell to our colleague, Mr K Raghavan. Mr Raghavan joined UNODC in July 2007 as Project Officer. Prior to joining UNODC, he was an officer with the Indian Customs and Excise Department. He also worked on counter narcotics with the Narcotics Control Bureau, Government of India in various capacities.

Mr Raghavan brought his invaluable knowledge and expertise to the UNODC projects on drug law enforcement and precursor chemical control, which he was part of. He also conducted research on topics such as the Afghan opiate trade and the drugs-arms nexus in South Asia.

Mr Raghavan will soon be joining UNODC Indonesia as a consultant. We wish him all the very best for his new assignment and life ahead.