

THE MOU COUNTRIES OF S.E. ASIA



"The once-notorious Golden Triangle has ceased to play a major role as an opium production area and this region can no longer be called the Golden Triangle for the reason of opium production alone."

Antonio Maria Costa (2007)

This Exhibition tells the story of how a group of countries in SE Asia has striven to contain the threat of drug production, trafficking and abuse. They have done so over the past decade and a half, through a pact called the Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**). They have done so with the support of partner countries from the international community and technical assistance from UNODC.

Their story is not over. For while there has been a qualified success in one area of drug control (opiates), a new menace has arrived in the form of synthetic drugs (ATS). The group has now turned its energy and resolve to address this new challenge with the support of its partners.



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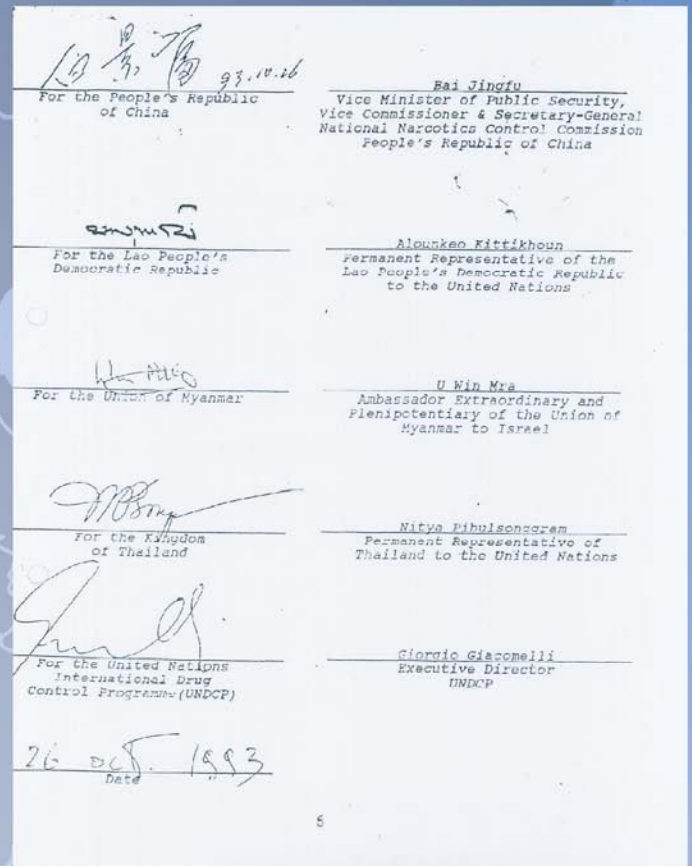
HOW IT ALL STARTED

One-and-a-half decades ago on the 26th of October 1993 representatives of the Governments of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand sat down for a meeting with the Executive Director of UNDCP (now UNODC).

They had gathered on the sidelines of General Assembly meetings with a small group of other officials to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control.

The group later raised their glasses in a toast to the future of cooperation among the Governments and the United Nations to deal with the rising tide of illicit drug problems in South East Asia.

This is the story of some of the enduring success in drug control which the M.O.U. has delivered since that time...



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Cambodia



China



Lao PDR



Myanmar



Thailand



Viet Nam

HOW IT EXPANDED

1995 - more countries

A Protocol to the MOU was signed in Beijing, China in 1995. This was done to include **Cambodia** and **Vietnam** as new Members of the MOU.



Signing ceremony, Beijing (China) - 1995

2001 - greater ownership

The "Addendum on Partnership" was signed in 2001. By signing the document, MOU partners pledged to assume a more active and protagonist role in the subregional consultation process as well as in the implementation of the rolling Sub-regional Action Plan.



Signing ceremony, Yangon (Myanmar) - 2001

In addition, the MOU member countries became contributors themselves, by funding the projects implemented within the MOU framework -- on top of their existing in-kind contributions.

MOU Countries make a pledge to contribute financially

3.2 Governments participating in future SAP projects agree, in order to facilitate project implementation, that:

- (i) In-kind contributions (e.g. personnel, administrative support, facilities, etc.) for new SAP projects will be committed to the fullest extent available in order to ensure optimal and timely project implementation.
- (ii) During the formulation of a new SAP project, the Governments will create a detailed list of all in-kind resources it will provide to meet the specified requirements for project implementation.
- (iii) The Governments will, in addition to their in-kind contributions, provide start-up financial support for new SAP projects in which they choose to participate as follows;

- Cambodia and Laos US\$ 3,000 each
- Myanmar and Vietnam US\$ 5,000 each
- China and Thailand US\$10,000 each



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Lao PDR



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Thailand



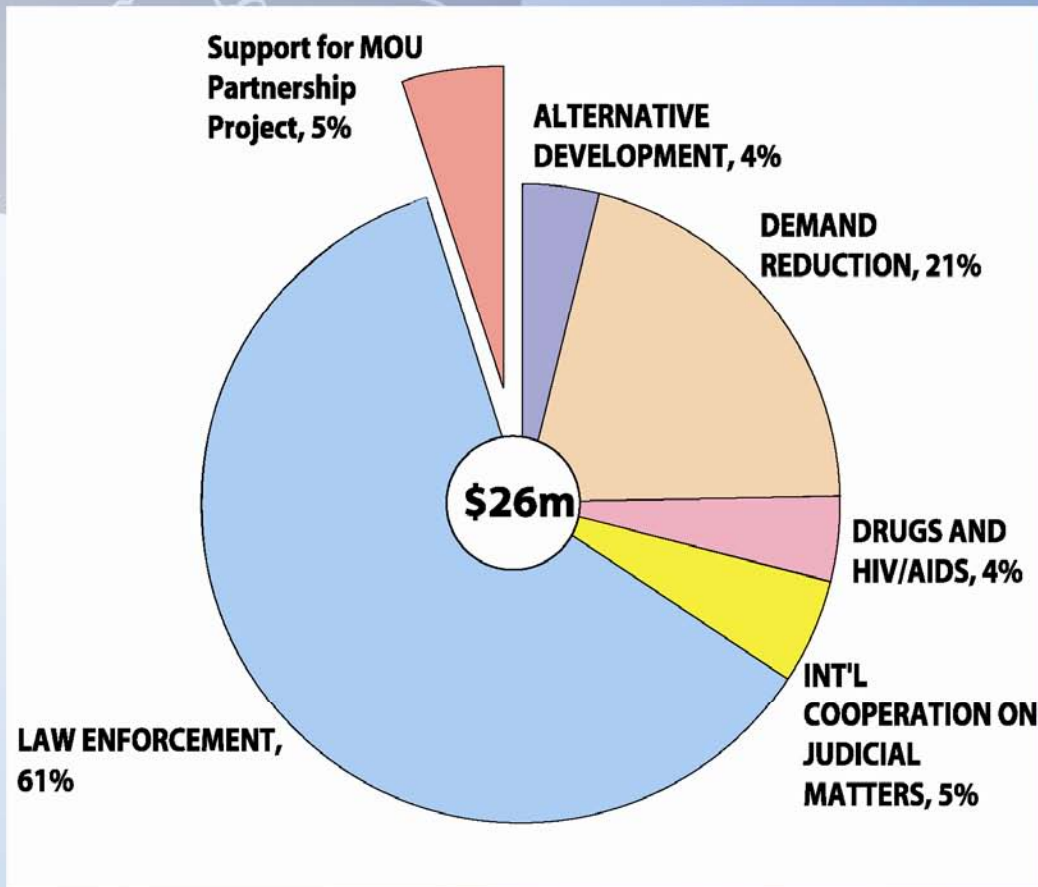
Viet Nam

MOU PRIORITIES

THE SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

The Sub-Regional Action Plan (SAP) is the very engine of the MOU process. The SAP is primarily implemented through clearly-defined projects addressing specific problems and operational weaknesses. The project activities build the legal, institutional and operational capacities of member governments.

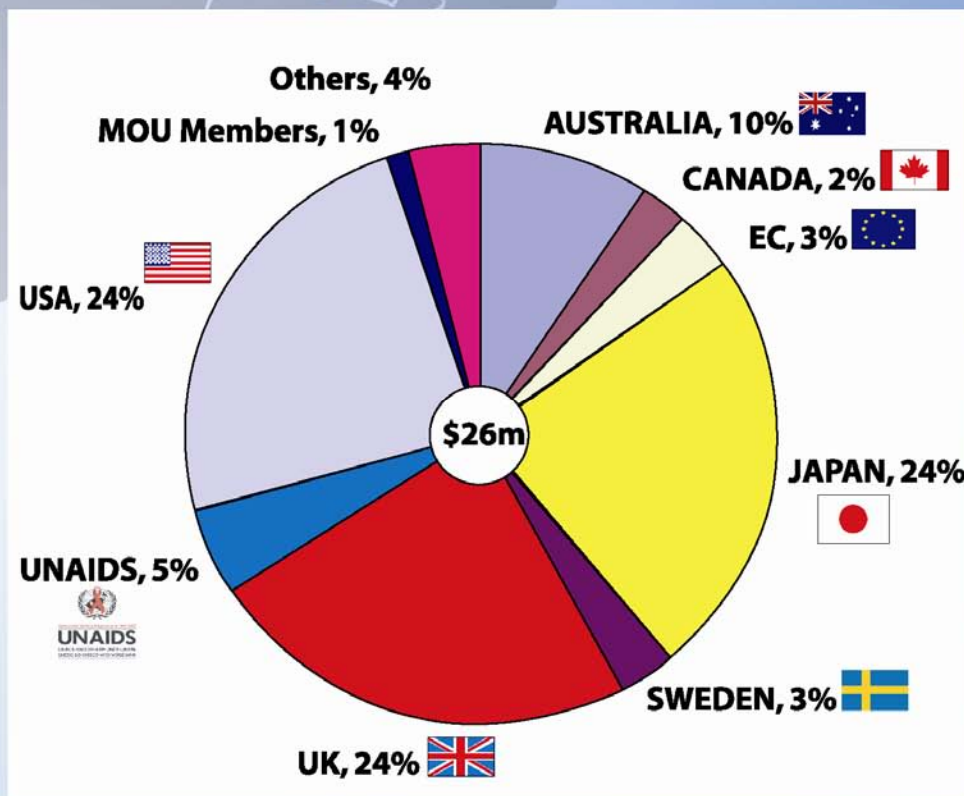
The implementation of the SAP is ensured through the project **Support for MOU partnership in East Asia**, which includes an unprecedented financial contribution from the MOU members.



MOU PARTNERS

1993 - 2009

A commitment from the Sub-Region's partners...



...to address the multiple threats of drugs



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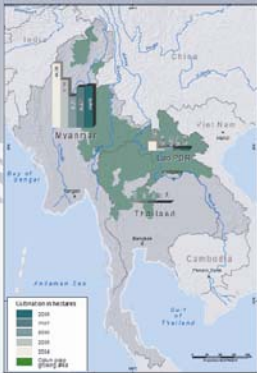
Thailand



Viet Nam

REDUCING POPPY CULTIVATION

Southeast Asia's opium poppy reduction successes have been built upon decades of successful alternative development work in rural communities. This success has been marked by the effective elimination of illicit opium production in Viet Nam (in 2000) and Thailand (in 2003). In the year 2005, Lao PDR was declared opium-free. Until recently, Myanmar had also witnessed a continuous decline of opium production.



The green area on the map represents the potential opium poppy growing area in Myanmar, Lao PDR and Thailand. The bar charts depict the amount of annual cultivation (in hectares) during 2004-2008.

RESULT:
Once notorious as heroin's Golden Triangle. Now a limited problem, concentrated in one region (Shan State), of one country (Myanmar).



BEFORE VIET NAM: Muong Long commune as a major producer of opium in 1996. Photo shows a group of young friends in a poppy field.



AFTER VIET NAM: Muong Long commune producing potatoes in 1999. Photo shows same girls in same place 3 years later.

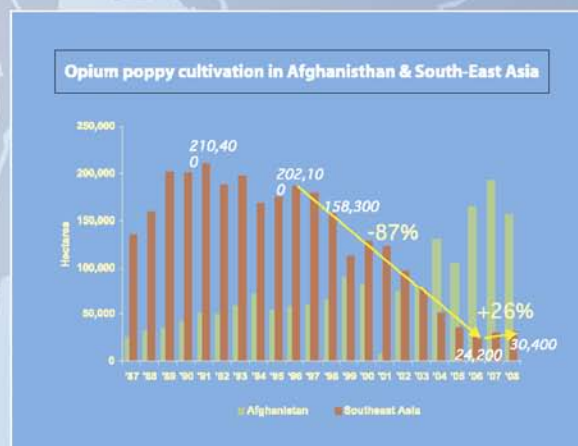
A PROBLEM CONTAINED...

● Opium in South East Asia:

1990 = 1,800 tons
2008 = 424 tons

● As percentage of global opium production:

1990 = 50%
1998 = 33%
2008 = 5%



...BUT NOT RESOLVED

- Recent increase in cultivation
- Poverty still endemic to former opium-producing regions
- Food insecurity continues
- Opium prices are rising
- Risk of resurgence
- Drug addiction continues in growing areas
- Opium production still undermines attainment of Millennium Development Goals

Photos and graphics: UNODC/ Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme and UNODC/ Hkam Noan Hsam

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

2009: WITH SUPPORT...

Significant progress has been achieved in reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region in recent decades. Overall, opium poppy cultivation has been contained. Some of the key elements in the success have been:

- Longer-term vision - no quick fixes
- Active involvement of beneficiaries
- Sequencing + timing + sufficiency of assistance.



The fundamental concept of crop replacement : Help opium poppy growers to grow useful crops and they will stop growing opium poppy.

Tea plantation in Selu of Shan State (Myanmar)



Sunflowers plantation (Myanmar)



Cabbage cropping (Thailand)



Coffee plantation (Thailand)

2009: NO SUPPORT...

Yet, much remains to be done as former poppy farmers remain poor and vulnerable. Poverty alleviation and sustainable licit income generation should continue to be the main goals of sustainable development, with food security and income generation programmes to support farmers. Political commitment, long-term financial support, in-country support, people's participation, market access, and the "balanced approach" are crucial factors for success.

The cultivation of opium poppy is contained but it needs to be monitored especially in the Shan State (Myanmar).



COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING

From regional Initiative...

E-learning has been defined as the "structured, purposeful use of electronic systems or computers in support of the learning process". The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok has become a global centre for excellence in e-learning. The Centre provides advisory services in the planning and implementation of e-learning projects to law enforcement authorities throughout the world.



A still image from the "Intelligence Cycle" module – one of the first developed and released in SE Asia.

THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

The first UNODC Computer Based Training (CBT) project started in the Greater Mekong Sub-region in 1998. The first countries to benefit were those in and around the Golden Triangle. The early training courses delivered drugs training to combat illegal drug trafficking. The training consisted of detection techniques and profiling methods at airports, seaports and border crossings. It also included search techniques relating to vehicles, containers, aircraft and people.

200 CENTRES IN EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

Later, the training programme was extended to other parts of the region. Training centres were set up in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and 5 countries in the Pacific. At present there are more than 200 centres in the East Asia and Pacific region delivering training to many thousands of law enforcement personnel.



Cambodia



China



Lao PDR



Myanmar



Thailand



Viet Nam

COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING

...to global success

The training programme is in great demand and UNODC is now delivering CBT curriculum in 52 countries, in 18 languages and via 300 CBT centres GLOBALLY.



EXPANSION: Police officers in Indonesia undergoing training. CBT programme expanded beyond the original group of SE Asian countries in 2004.



As a result of its accomplishments, the CBT project has been given the prestigious **UN 21 AWARD** for "substantial programmes and individual productivity" to UNODC by the Secretary General of the UN in 2007.

KEY STRENGTHS OF CBT

- Sustainable
- International best practice
- Standardized
- Tailored
- Cost-effective
- Interactive
- Available 24 hours

List of CBT modules

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interdiction Techniques at Land Controls <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Introduction 1.2 Risk Assessment 1.3 Risk Profiling 1.4 Questioning 1.5 Behaviour Indicators 1.6 Selection Methods 1.7 Preliminary Observations 1.8 Document Analysis 1.9 Cargo Risk Indicators 1.10 Body Carry 1.11 Passport Review 1.12 Conclusion 2. Interdiction Techniques at Airports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Introduction 2.2 Risk Assessment 2.3 Risk Profiling 2.4 Questioning 2.5 Behaviour Indicators 2.6 Selection Methods 2.7 Reviewing Airline Tickets 2.8 Reviewing Passports 2.9 Body Carry 2.10 Baggage Indicators 2.11 Cargo Risk Indicators 2.12 Conclusions 3. Interdiction Techniques at Seaports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Introduction 3.2 Risk assessment 3.3 Risk Profiling 3.4 Selection Methods 3.5 Questioning 3.6 Behaviour Indicators 3.7 Body Carry 3.8 Passport Review 3.9 Preliminary Assessment of Cargo 3.10 Cargo Documents 3.11 Conclusions 4. Risk Management for Senior Managers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Introduction 4.2 Land Controls 4.3 Airport Controls 4.4 Seaport Controls 5. Controlled Deliveries <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Understanding Controlled Deliveries 5.2 Planning and Executing Controlled Deliveries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1 Drug Identification <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1.1 Car Search 13.1.2 Container Search 13.1.3 Search of Person 13.1.4 Aircraft Search 13.1 Basic Computer Instruction for Using CBT <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1.1 Money Laundering <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1.1.1 What is money laundering? 13.1.1.2 Money laundering methods 13.1.1.3 The role of traditional financial institutions 13.1.1.4 Non-traditional financial institutions 13.1.1.5 Money laundering havens 13.1.1.6 Financial Intelligence Unit 13.1.1.7 Financial Investigations 13.1.1.8 Financial Records 13.1.1.9 Informants in the Context of Financial Investigations 13.1.1.10 Undercover Operations for Financial Investigations 13.1.1.11 Net Worth Analysis 13.1.1.12 Search Operations During Financial Investigations 13.1.1.13 Interviews for Financial Investigations 13. Intelligence <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1 Introduction to Basic Intelligence 12.2 Application of Intelligence 12.3 The Intelligence Cycle 12.4 Introduction to Basic Intelligence Analysis 12.5 The Association Matrix 12.6 The Association Link Chart 12.7 The Event Flow Chart 12.8 The Commodity Flow Chart 12.9 Developing a Conclusion 14. Precursor Chemical Control <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14.1 Detecting Precursor Trafficking 14.2 Clandestine Drug Laboratories 15. Detecting Human Trafficking Operations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15.1 Human Trafficking 15.2 The Human Trafficking Process 15.3 Identifying and Dealing with Victims
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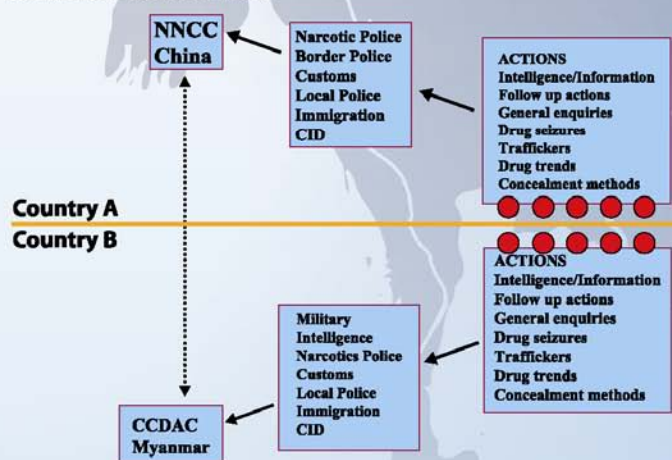
BORDER LIAISON OFFICES

WHAT ARE THEY?

A Border Liaison Office (BLO) is a co-ordinating office for national law enforcement agencies which facilitates and promotes greater cross-border cooperation among the four countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region who signed a Memorandum of Understanding on drug control in 1993.

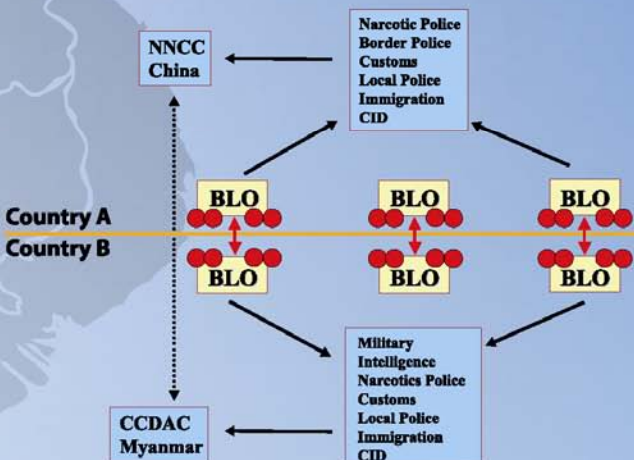
BEFORE:

This picture shows an example of how the communication among border officials was absent or used to be channeled through central national authorities.



AFTER:

This picture shows the improvement in communication and cooperation created through the BLOs mechanism.



BORDER LIAISON OFFICES

WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

BLOs promote communication and cooperation between different national law enforcement agencies working along a common border. They also foster greater cross-border law enforcement cooperation through the sharing of real-time information on drug traffickers to enable fast and effective intervention by law enforcement officers on the other side of the border. BLO counterparts meet on a regular basis to both formally and informally exchange intelligence. Periodically, regional BLO workshops are held to disseminate the latest modus operandi of traffickers and the trafficking routes.

Located close to recognized border crossings, the BLO on each side of the national border acts as a centralized clearing house for information received from the vicinity of border areas. Currently, this information relates to drug trafficking only.



● = 41 BLOs (1999 - 2006)
Established with UNODC support.

● = 11 BLOs (2007 - present)
Established with UNODC support.

● = 18 BLOs (2007 - present)
These were established through bilateral agreement between the Governments of Thailand/Cambodia and Thailand/Lao PDR.

BLO RESULTS (1999-2005)

Because of cooperation among BLOs, more than 700 cases have been registered in the region. These have often been accompanied by large seizures. Here are a few examples of some of the larger successes.

2001

Drug seizures in China

In May 2001, Chinese police at Mengla launched a joint operation with their Lao PDR counterparts. During a 2-month operation, 17 suspects, including 5 Lao PDR nationals and 14.5 kg of morphine was seized by China and Lao PDR police.



An outdoor meeting right on the border line between China and Lao PDR Police Officers, April 2001

2004

ATS haul at Thai-Cambodia border

In 2004, cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia (Aranyaprathet-Poi Pet) led to the seizure of 15,800 tablets of ATS and 2,144 bottles of ketamine.



A Cambodian in military uniform was arrested with 15,800 tablets of ATS at Poi Pet as a result of intelligence exchange between Aranyaprathet-Poi Pet BLOs.

2005

Han Yongwan syndicate busted

In 2005, China, Lao PDR Myanmar and Thailand police jointly broke the "Han Yongwan" transnational drug syndicate with the seizure of more than 400 kg of heroin. By the end of 2006, China, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam had carried out almost 100 joint operations, in the border areas. More than 800 kg of heroin, methamphetamine and various illicit drugs were arrested during the joint operations.



Handover of Han Yongwan from Lao authorities to Myanmar authorities at Vientiane, Lao PDR in September 2005.



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BLO RESULTS (2006-2008)

Improved trust and working relations among the six GMS countries result in more seizures, arrests and convictions of drug traffickers.

2006

Chiang Rai drugs raid

In May 2006 a coordinated effort by Myanmar and Thai law enforcement agencies led to the arrest of two notorious drug traffickers. They were arrested at Chiang Rai with 20,000 amphetamine tablets and 1,000 ecstasy tablets. Further joint investigations led to the recovery of a vehicle containing 80,000 amphetamine tablets.

Random check by border police for drug trafficking at the northern Thai border (around the same time as the 2006 raid).



2007

Crackdown on drugs at Lao PDR - Viet Nam border

Seven cases were solved during 2007 as a result of cooperation between Lak Xao (Lao PDR) and Cau Treo (Viet Nam). Nine offenders were arrested with over 1,000 kg of cannabis and 488 tablets of methamphetamines. By 2008, 16 cases had been solved at the same BLOs leading to the arrest of 23 offenders.



Cross-border meeting between Cau Treo BLO (Viet Nam) and LaK Xao BLO (Lao PDR)

2008

Myanmar steps up action on drug trafficking

Between January and October 2008 the Tachilek BLO in Myanmar registered 11 cases of opiates, 27 cases of methamphetamine (83,000 tablets) and a seizure of 6kg of crystal methamphetamine (ice), among other drugs and precursors.

Seizure of precursors



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Lao PDR



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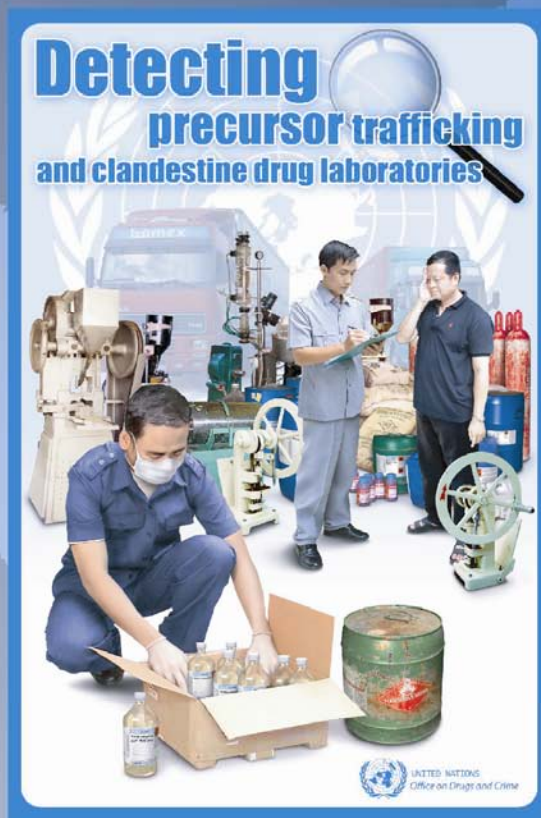
Thailand



Viet Nam

PRECURSOR CHEMICAL CONTROL

Precursor control is a strategy to reduce the availability of narcotic drugs by preventing illicit drug manufacturers from obtaining the chemicals they require to manufacture them. Through the MOU, an effective precursor control strategy has been established for East and SE Asia.



SUCCESS IN 1994-2008

1994-1996

Project RAS/770-990:
Sensitizes East/Southwest Asian countries about the need to control precursors and initiate precursor control measures.

1996-2000

Project RAS/B38:
Improves the ability to counter precursor diversion and trafficking.

2001-2006

Project RAS/F34:
Prepares national plans to strengthen precursor control, mobilizes the chemical industry, Enhances regional cooperation among MOU countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines to prevent shipments of illicit precursors, and investigate clandestine laboratories.

2006-2008

Project XAPI63:
Reduces risk of safrole-oil diversion, forges cooperation between oil producing, trading and importing countries in the region.



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DATA GATHERING & ANALYSIS

In 1998, United Nations Member States adopted a Political Declaration to Eliminate or Significantly Reduce Illicit Drug Abuse by 2008. Monitoring progress toward this goal requires reliable and systematic drug-related data that was unavailable at that time. As a response to this need, UNODC, in collaboration with regional governments, undertook to harmonize regional drug data collection and analysis in East and SE Asia.



Increasing capacity to generate drug-related information



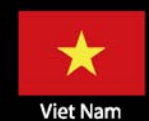
DAINAP:
Providing a user-friendly platform for regional drug information ex-change



APAIC:
Sharing ATS information on-line through a customer-friendly clearing house www.apaic.org



QUALITY REPORTS:
Producing annually on ATS for the first time anywhere



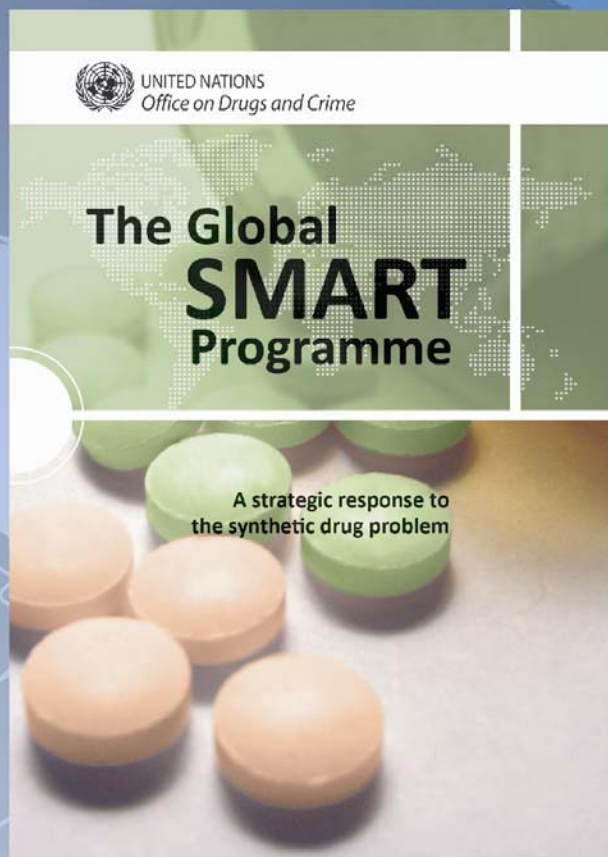
DATA GATHERING & ANALYSIS

PROBLEM:

The use of synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) like methamphetamine and ecstasy, has been one of the most significant drug problems worldwide in recent years. ATS abuse has affected societies in East and SE Asia particularly harshly.

SOLUTION:

As a response to the synthetic drug problem, UNODC has developed the Global SMART programme. This programme will enhance the capacity of Member States and authorities in priority regions (starting in East and SE Asia) to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information to design effective policy and programme interventions.



SMART: Synthetics Monitoring, Analysis, Reporting and Trends

PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO SYNTHETIC DRUGS MARKETS:

1. Production does not depend on raw plant material.
2. There are a variety of starting materials and manufacturing processes.
3. Production is mobile.
4. Trafficking routes and use patterns change rapidly.
5. Market chain from supply to demand is often very short, which limits the possibility of interdiction.

THE GLOBAL SMART PROGRAMME:

1. Started in East and SE Asia.
2. Provides quality information on synthetic drugs, including patterns of trafficking and use.
3. Provides support to Member States to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information.
4. Provides mechanisms to detect and report on emerging trends.



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CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

A SUCCESS STORY OF COOPERATION

Since 2001, metamphetamine and some 'ecstasy' laboratories have been reported in China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Clandestine laboratories in SE Asia are often large-scale facilities capable of industrial-scale manufacture.

Notable developments in detecting laboratories were observed in 2007, with larger numbers of seizures in China and Indonesia, including the first time large-scale manufacture seized in Cambodia.



First clan lab identified in Cambodia (2007) in the back of a cattle farm



Drug production equipment seized in the clan lab

CAMBODIA (2007)

One of the most remarkable drug operations within the MOU countries took place near to Phnom Penh. In a cattle ranch, the Anti-Drug Department identified a methamphetamine clandestine laboratory. Test results conducted by the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) in the laboratory indicated that about 30 kg of substances in buckets were chloroephedrine, an intermediate in the synthesis of methamphetamine.



Thionyl Chloride neutralization

To assist in the Government's efforts in follow up investigations and action, the NACD requested technical assistance from UNODC Regional Centre and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

NACD also requested assistance in disposing large quantities of hazardous substances. The results of the cooperation were:

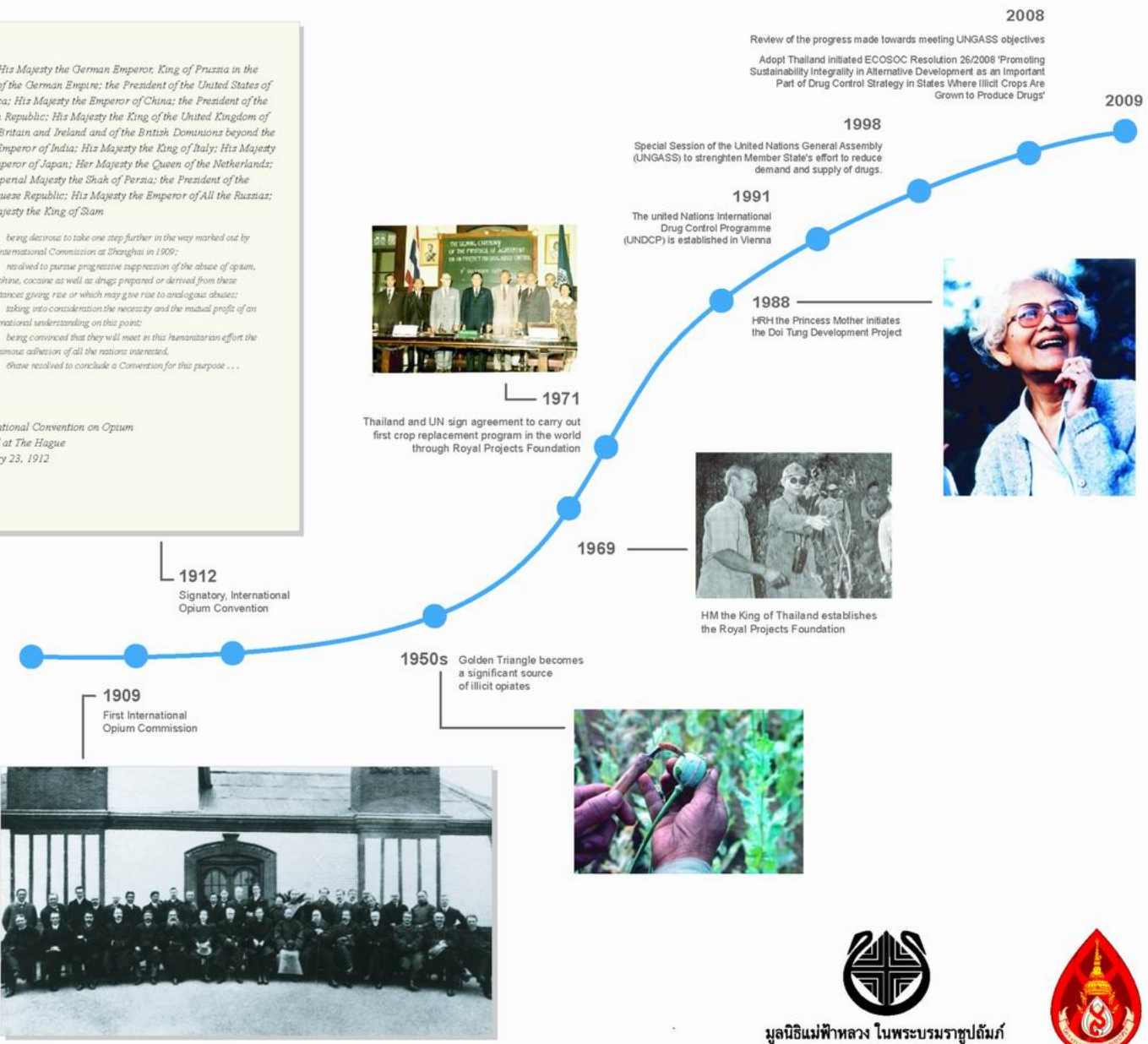
- accelerated steps to ensure the safe disposal of chemicals at the lab site;
- regional and international support to assist NACD in the safe disposal of the dismantled lab.

THAILAND: 100 Years of Drug Control

His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia in the name of the German Empire; the President of the United States of America; His Majesty the Emperor of China; the President of the French Republic; His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India; His Majesty the King of Italy; His Majesty the Emperor of Japan; Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands; His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia; the President of the Portuguese Republic; His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias; His Majesty the King of Siam

being desirous to take one step further in the way marked out by the International Commission at Shanghai in 1909; resolved to pursue progressive suppression of the abuse of opium, morphine, cocaine as well as drugs prepared or derived from these substances giving rise or which may give rise to analogous abuses; taking into consideration the necessity and the mutual profit of an international understanding on this point; being convinced that they will meet in this humanitarian effort the unanimous adhesion of all the nations interested, have resolved to conclude a Convention for this purpose...

International Convention on Opium Signed at The Hague January 23, 1912



มูลนิธิแม่ฟ้าหลวง ในพระบรมราชูปถัมภ์
Mac Fah Luang Foundation Under Royal Patronage



THAILAND: Reducing drug demand through Edutainment

Origins of the Opium Problem

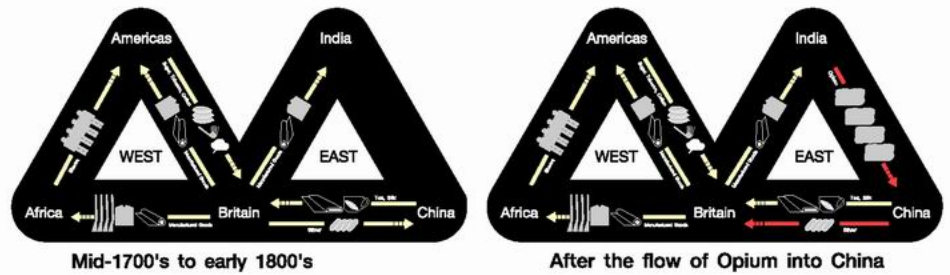


มูลนิธิอินเมฟี่ทลวง ในพระบรมราชูปถัมภ์
Mac Fah Luang Foundation Under Royal Patronage



Opium as a Commodity in International Trade

A new method of consumption, by smoking, and the rise in European dominated international trade contributed to the rapid spread of recreational opium use. It became a key commodity in European trade with the East.



The Industrial Revolution in Britain in the mid-1700's radically changed international consumption and trade patterns. Two important "triangles" of trade developed: one between Britain, Africa, and the Americas; the other between Britain, India, and China. Every aspect of the trade favored Britain or other industrialized countries, all except trade with China. Money flowed from the West into China . . . until the opium trade reversed the flow of silver.

Opium abuse became a worldwide problem in the late 19th Century. Millions were addicted to opium smoking, and millions more were addicted to morphine and other opiates.

Drug Abuse and Addiction in the 21st Century

The Rise and Fall of the Golden Triangle

In 1971, a U.S. official first used the term "Golden Triangle" to describe the opium growing areas of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand. The name soon stuck.

Opium trade fuelled instability and drug addiction in the region, but by the end of the 20th Century, due to effective policies against illegal cultivation through alternative development, the world saw significant reduction in opium cultivation in the Golden Triangle. While demand for opium continues; in recent years, the balloon effect has shifted illegal opium cultivation to the Golden Crescent



International agreements permit the legal production of opium in India, Turkey, and Australia for a wide range of pharmaceutical drugs based on morphine and codeine. Legal morphine use increased from an estimated 5.8 metric tons in 1988 to over 39 metric tons in 2007 providing much-needed pain relief for patients. Yet even this is dwarfed by illegal opium production. In 1990, an estimated 3,760 metric tons of opium or 376 metric tons of heroin were produced, --over half came from the Golden Triangle. By 2007, an estimated 8,870 metric tons of illegal opium, which can produce or 733 metric tons of heroin, were grown. Over 90 percent of that came from Afghanistan. The effects are devastating. More than 16 million people worldwide are addicted to opiates. Many more are vulnerable to their easy availability

While efforts in the region to control opium growing and opium addiction have met with considerable success, new drugs -notably methamphetamines - have become a serious problem. Many new types of drugs and the wide range of prices allow them to reach far beyond their initial capability. Our children are increasingly at risk. Education is a key tool for demand reduction showing the ramifications of illegal drug use on individuals, their families and society, through creative and interactive means. It is necessary to teach future generations the dangers of narcotics, to help them avoid drug abuse and addiction, thereby curbing the demand. Younger generations must be able to take charge of their future and claim a new way forward.

