

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Eastern Horizons

News on the fight against drugs and crime
in East Asia and the Pacific

No. 14

June 2003

**Exclusive Interview
with Australian Minister
for Foreign Affairs pg.2**



**Thai Drug Users'
Network: Toward
Partnerships in Harm
Reduction pg. 14**

**Reducing HIV
Vulnerability from
Drug Abuse pg. 16**

**Listen More Talk
Less to Youth pg. 8**



**Sex and Drugs
Sell pg. 21**

**Treating Drug Users
in Prison pg. 24**

**New Mekong River
Joint Patrol pg. 5**

Vietnam's most revealing and controversial movie Bar Girls, is not just entertainment: it's government anti-drug propoganda. Read more in "Sex and Drugs Sell" pg. 21.



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific



Foreign Affairs

for Hon. Alexander Downer MP, Minister

Question: What role does Australia want to play in the leadership process and policy making on the regional fight against drugs? What do you envision as the future contribution of the Australian government in international drug control in South East Asia?

Response: The Australian Government has consistently taken a strong regional stand against the trafficking and abuse of illegal narcotics and acknowledges the importance of effective international cooperation to combat this global challenge. We have strengthened law-enforcement cooperation with key partners in the region and are engaged in international efforts to develop practical and effective solutions to these threats. Overseas-based Australian Federal Police officers liaise with foreign law enforcement agencies to investigate, identify, disrupt and extradite known drug traffickers who target Australia.

Twenty per cent of Australia's aid expenditure (\$A 355 million in 2002 - 03) is directed toward boosting the region's standards of governance and its institutions and Australia is committed to assisting the development of regional police forces. Australia's core contribution to UNODC of \$A800,000 is split between the Vienna Office and the Bangkok Regional Office. Australia will continue to consider opportunities for providing assistance to UNODC in its fight against drugs in the Asia Pacific region. We also support other UN agencies which are addressing narcotic issues, including the WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS and WFP.

Question: How is the drug situation in South East Asia and associated transnational crime affecting Australian foreign policy in the region?

Response: Close engagement with Australia's South East Asian neighbours is an abiding priority in Australian foreign policy and proceeds on the basis of mutual respect, focusing on our

common interests. One such common interest is combating transnational crime and, increasingly, the threat of terrorism. Australia is contributing to the emerging regional architecture in key areas, including those seeking to respond to issues of transnational crime affecting the region. Australia has established a network of bilateral law enforcement relationships and security dialogues that includes most countries in South-East Asia. The Regional Ministerial Conferences on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, co-hosted in Bali by Indonesia and Australia in 2002 and in 2003 provide an important illustration of this engagement. Experts Groups established under this process have promoted regional legislative development and law enforcement cooperation to combat transnational crime.

Question: What are the current drug trends in Australia?

Response: Cannabis (marijuana) and ecstasy (MDMA) are the most abused illicit drugs in Australia, although usage is rising for cocaine, methamphetamine and other Amphetamine Type Substance (ATS). Heroin, however, remains at the forefront of concern for the law enforcement, social service, and health care communities in Australia.

Question: What are you doing to counteract the intensifying drug trade in our region? How has your Government faced this challenge?

Response: The Australian Government has taken a robust approach to tackling the drug trade in our region. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has established mobile strike teams to proactively attack drug syndicates at the highest levels, which have had an immediate and quantifiable impact on drug traffickers by both reducing supply as well as disrupting the activities of syndicates. Such domestic measures are complemented by regional capacity building activities. Our bilateral aid program supports

“Our bilateral aid program supports anti-money laundering legislation, programs that strengthen law enforcement capacity to deal with illicit drug production and trafficking, HIV/AIDS and the strengthening of customs and immigration departments.”

Hit Close to Home

for Foreign Affairs Australia

anti-money laundering legislation, programs that strengthen law enforcement capacity to deal with illicit drug production and trafficking, HIV/AIDS and the strengthening of customs and immigration departments. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) operates an international Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP) with regional partners to improve both the levels of cooperation and capacity of overseas law enforcement agencies. The AFP and the Australian Customs Service have expanded their already successful overseas liaison networks into key drug transit locations around the globe.

Question: After the seizure of 110 pounds of heroin, from the North Korean freighter Pong Su with a member of the ruling Worker's Party found on board; what is your position on North Korea at the moment, and what appears to be blatant state sponsored organized crime? What does this say about the political state of North Korea? And what does this new development mean for Australia and South East Asia?

Response: The Government shares the Australian community's anger that it has apparently been targeted by North Korean drug trafficking interests. Australia would be outraged if it were established that North Korea deliberately had been involved in such an odious trade. I instructed my Department on 2 May to call in the North Korean Ambassador to register our dismay at the Pong Su case and the presence of a Korean Workers Party political secretary on board. Investigations are continuing and the North Korean Embassy in Canberra is cooperating.

Question: Mr. Kil, a close aide to Kim Jong-il has recently defected to the United States allegedly, in fear of persecution for the failed drug trafficking attempt aboard the Pong Su last month. What is your view on this development and do you believe Mr. Kil should be pursued as a suspect in the case?

Response: I understand that media reports claiming a member of the crew of the Pong Su was linked to North Korean defector Kil Jae-gyong are false. The original source of the report has issued an apology for incorrectly reporting Kil's defection. North Korean media has also reported Kil died three years ago.

Question: U.S. Officials claim North Korea is earning between \$500 million and \$1 billion from the narcotics trade, which they fear is being used to support Pyongyang's weapons



Mr. Downer was elected Federal Member in 1984, becoming Leader of the Opposition in 1994. Mr. Downer stepped down as Liberal Party Leader in January 1995 and became Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs. In March 1996, he was appointed Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

development. The Bush administration is devising ways to choke the country's illicit exports including a possible economic embargo and interdiction of North Korean ships; what is Australia's position on this?

Response: The Australian Government shares international concerns at reports that elements in North Korea are engaging in drug-trafficking. We consider the international community needs to look at ways to intercept this trade more effectively. This would require substantial international cooperation for all the countries concerned, as well as an examination of the legal basis to possible action.

Interviewed by: Mona Mangat, UNODC, Thailand

Rehabilitation without Walls: A Journey Toward Recovery

Biju Abraham, Calcutta Samaritans, Calcutta

It was a cold winter night in Bombay. People, busy with their Christmas and New Year's shopping generally do not take enough time to look down at the sidewalk, to see if Life existed there at all. But yes, Life did exist in different shades; dirty brown to filthy black, street urchins to hopeless and helpless drug addicts, sex workers to sexually abused children walking the night. Among them sat a young man depressed and dejected. He felt that the world had abandoned him, turning him down and keeping him low. In that dark moment, in his deepest need for love and hope; a softly spoken voice said: "Come, no need to fear, I will show you the way". That was the voice of the Calcutta Samaritans. Nine years later, the same lost soul who lay helpless in the street, writes his story: of recovery and renewal, of a journey toward a holistic life and inner peace.



Calcutta Samaritan clients from Arunoday Midway Home rehabilitation centre.

The Calcutta Samaritans

Drug abuse, mixed in with the complexities of modern life: poverty, loneliness, disease, and alcohol abuse, create a dangerous cocktail that consumes the youth of the city. To combat these issues, a group called The Calcutta Samaritans (TCS), organized by Mr. and Mrs. Vijayan Pavamani in the early 1970's, established themselves in the Calcutta slums with the 'open home' concept. This philosophy invited drug users and troubled youth for a cup of tea in a home-like atmosphere, where hundreds of recoveries were nurtured in a positive and caring environment.

From their humble beginnings and a mere handful of volunteers, the TCS have grown into being one of the leading NGOs in the country, offering integrated services that help empower marginalized citizens. It is a cost effective, community integrated, recovery model of abuse. Its main objective

is to not only help users become drug-free, but to bring about change in his/her social environment which could eventually help the user empower themselves and get reintegrated into mainstream society.

The innovative 'Rehabilitation without Walls' programme, of which, I am a successfully recovered addict; attempts to apply the recovery model for substance abuse, with the love and care of a committed and involved community.

Aspects of the Model applied:

Counseling – Altruistic support is integral in helping drug-users face the intimidating task of getting clean, and not having to suffer it alone. An empathetic ear is available around the clock, providing understanding and anonymity.

Outreach and Awareness programme – Community based outreach and awareness through street plays, puppet shows, pamphlets, posters, and video shows, using the mobile provided by the UNODC, the anti-message is getting through one audience at a time. Needle exchange programmes are in effect to promote trust and health safety. Sensitization programmes are run to train key community facilitators, such as doctors, nurses, professors, teachers, etc. on issues of drugs and abuse to improve the population's access to accurate information.

Recovery Services – The addiction clinic is located on the outskirts of the city, and

accommodates 30 patients at a time. This centre is run with the help of the Indian Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. There is also a special section for female Patients; the only one is Eastern India of its kind.

Rehabilitation Services – Inaugurated in 1977, it was the first programme of its kind in Eastern India. Arunoday halfway house offers residential rehab services from six months to one year; it is run of therapeutic

community based principles. There is a comprehensive programme for holistic recovery, with systematic counseling and peer group evaluations, group interaction and integrations activities, and occupation and recreational therapies.

Harm Reduction – A large proportion of injecting drug users (IDUs) were found to be sharing needles. This practice, lead to an alarming rise in HIV infections in this community. Giving out clean syringes is expected to reduce the harm, and

increase health awareness.

HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention – In 1992, TCS launched an AIDS awareness initiative through Primary Health Care clinics (PHC's). Sexual health interventions with emphasis on STD diagnosis and treatment were sharply focused on IDU's, Migrant labourers, and Commercial Sex workers.

Advocacy – Regular sensitization programmes are held with police, bureaucracies, educational institutions and the judicial system to help prisoners with drug abuse problems with human rights issues and treatment.

Without these programs, hundreds of addicts do not have the chance to rise above addiction, nor the ability to make a productive and happy life for themselves. TCS's recovery model of substance abuse works; my recovery is living proof of that.

– **Biju Abraham is a recovered addict, and advocate for the Calcutta Samaritans; a partner with UNODC against drugs.**



Patrolling the Mekong

New Mekong River Joint Patrol

By: Mona Mangat, UNODC, Thailand

Huai Xai-Laos and Chieng Khong-Thailand Border Liaison Office's conducted an important meeting in Chieng Khong on 3 March 2003. It concerned the magnitude of the rising trend in the illicit production of, and demand for, and trafficking of narcotic and psychotropic substances. This trend threatens young people in particular, and adversely affects the economic, cultural, and political foundations of communities on both sides of the Mekong River. The meeting recognized that illicit drug trafficking is an international criminal activity, the suppression of which demands urgent attention, highest priority and close cooperation between Thailand and Lao PDR.

Drug traffickers realized that drug patrolling along the Mekong was weak, and



Signing of the "Joint Operational Agreement"

they could always escape law enforcement by jumping the river, outside the authority's district. To resolve this limitation for enforcing the law along the Mekong, the

BLOs from both sides agreed to conduct a joint patrol on the Mekong under their jurisdiction boundaries as a pilot project under the support of UNODC AD/RAS/99/D91 Project. This agreement is a historical first in its scope and cooperation.

Both sides agreed that the focus of the "Joint Patrol" team is designed to promote international cooperation in the interdiction of boats engaged in the illicit traffic on the Mekong, agreeing on its enforcement jurisdiction over the offenders. The outcome of these negotiations was a grand success, as both BLOs under the witness of representatives

from LCDDC, ONCB, and UNODC signed the "Joint Operational Agreement" for joint patrol on the Mekong in efforts to fight drug trafficking.

ACCORD Set to Monitor Outputs of Regional Cooperation

The Plan of Action

Recognizing weak regional coordination, fragmented strategies, limited data sharing and analysis and the absence of a comprehensive political and monitoring framework for regional drug control, and new devastating drug trends: the ASEAN Ministers at their 33rd ministerial meeting called for increased regional responses.

“In pursuit of a drug-free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the vision, leading the change,” 36 countries and 16 international organisations adopted the ACCORD Plan of Action (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs), which enables a cooperative partnership in responding to the dangers of new and existing drug trends.

Specifically the ACCORD Plan of Action calls for:

- Proactively advocating civic awareness on dangers of drugs and social response;
- Building consensus and sharing best practices on demand reduction;
- Strengthening the rule of law by an enhanced network of control measures and improved law enforcement cooperation and legislative review;
- Eliminating the supply of illicit drugs by boosting alternative development



programs and community participation in its eradication.

The Regional Cooperative Mechanism

A regional cooperative mechanism to monitor and execute the ‘ACCORD Plan of Action’ has been established through a project signed by ASEAN Members, China and UNODC.

With a three-year duration and budget of US\$1,333,600, the regional cooperative mechanism is executed through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

The primary aims of the regional cooperative mechanism are to a) facilitate the work of the ACCORD Task Forces and b) create an appropriate regional data col-

lection, sharing and analysis solution to monitor progress on the ‘ACCORD Plan of Action’. It links drug control stakeholders and integrates activities through regional data collection, sharing and analysis as well as through facilitation of the Task Forces.

Task Forces

Task Forces are in place for each of the ACCORD pillars with the mandate to strengthen regional coordination. Meeting annually, they create work plans identifying priority projects to implement and new areas for action. They also monitor progress. All four ACCORD Task Forces met for the first time in Bali in 2001 where TORs and action plans of

priority activities and strategies were agreed upon and finalized.

Regional Data Collection and Sharing

A drugs information data base has been established by the regional cooperative mechanism into which each participating countries and organizations contribute information related to their drug control activities and projects. The database will also facilitate the matching of recipients’ needs with available resources. Supporting focused policy research and analytical work on drug control trends and issues and evidence-based advocacy. A web site www.acCORDplan.net will soon permanently link all partners on-line.

Establishment of the ACCORD Account

The ASEAN Secretariat has established an account that will manage unearmarked funds pledged to the ACCORD Plan of Action. All ACCORD Member Countries (ASEAN and China) have endorsed the establishment of the account.

The ACCORD Account stipulates that the funds of the account will be disbursed by the ASEAN Secretariat upon

the recommendations of the ACCORD Plan of Action Task Forces to implement the projects included in the ACCORD Business Plan.

The establishment of the account not only empowers and strengthens the existing ACCORD Task Forces mechanism – and thus the implementation of the ACCORD Plan of Action as a whole – but also serves as a milestone in terms of regional coop-

eration. The government of China has already contributed funds to the account, and Myanmar is in the process.

Though it is only a beginning, the message is clear: ASEAN and China are serious about the goal of a “Drug Free ASEAN 2015” and the foundations are being put in place for a cooperative response to the growing challenges posed by the regional trafficking and consumption of drugs.



Nations Together to Control HIV/AIDS in China

By: Wang Hongru, UNODC, China

The increasing trend of HIV/AIDS infection has not yet been curbed effectively in China. According to new research, about 64% of the HIV/AIDS infections are due to sharing needles among drug users. The emergence of ATS (Amphetamine Type Stimulant) abuse brings new challenges to HIV/AIDS control in the country. In this regard, HIV/AIDS regulation and drug control are inseparable from each other.

The Chinese government attaches high importance to HIV/AIDS control and is taking various effective measures to curb HIV/AIDS. The State Council has set up a coordinating committee for HIV/STD Control and issued its mid-term and short-term national plans. The National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), as the central coordinating body of drug control, is taking active part in the HIV/AIDS prevention. In recent years, NNCC has been cooperating with international organizations, such as the UNODC and UNTG in the field of demand reduction; acquiring practical international experience in HIV/



Right to left: Mr. Wang Gang, Deputy Secretary-General of National Narcotics Control Commission and UNODC's Mr. Marc Marival.

AIDS prevention.

Since 1998, NNCC has productively been cooperating with UNODC carrying out many demand-reduction programs throughout China. In June 2002, in cooperation with UNTG, NNCC established a "Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS Vulnerability and Multi-Sectional Task Force", which comprises of officials from the National Policy Research Center of the State Council, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Public Security, National Food & Drugs Administration, and other relevant agencies. Focal groups from NGO's such as China's All-women Federation and Youth

League, and experts in HIV/AIDS prevention, and law professors were also invited to enhance the task force. Two months after its inauguration, the task force held its first meeting, in this meeting members passed its TOR, discussed international practices in the field of demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention, such as needles exchange, and a 100% condom and methadone maintenance program.

In March 2003, the Ministries of Public Health and Public Security, and the National Food & Drugs Administration issued a joint circular, implementing the community-based methadone maintenance pilot program. At present, NNCC is cooperating with UNTG, organizing training sessions relating to the pilot program. NNCC is also planning to improve the working mechanism of the task force and make full use of it with the support of UNTG. Recently, the Ministry of Public Health and other governmental agencies have reported success with their programs, regarding 100% condom use and needle exchange targets. These programs have proved effective in reducing HIV infection and hopefully are to be extended in future.

Yunnan Tough on Precursors

By: Hoy Yuen Wong, UNODC, Thailand

Mr. Wang Qihua holds a difficult job as Section Chief of the Drug Control Bureau, Department of Public Security in Yunnan Province, China. His task is to stem the relentless tide of chemicals flowing from heroin and methamphetamine laboratories located at the border regions of Myanmar. "In 2002 we seized two hundred nineteen tons of precursors in forty four incidents.

Sharing a two thousand kilometers long border with Myanmar, Yunnan is both the gateway for precursors into Myanmar, and illicit drugs streaming out. Accounting for most of the precursors seized in China, the control of these illicit substances in Yunnan is among the toughest task in China. "Yunnan propagated regulations in

1997 for the control of precursors. Besides the strict regulations, our intensified control is manifested by the huge inputs of human, financial and material resources to enforce them. To intercept precursors gravitating towards Myanmar we have set up three defense lines – firstly at Yunnan's provincial entry points, then the cities and counties, and finally at the border with Myanmar" says Mr. Wang.

China's partnership with UNODC on precursor control started in 1996 through a sub-regional project. Since then, China has steadily strengthened legislative, administrative and operational capacities to control precursors more effectively. In addition eight provinces have introduced precursor regulations while a national precursor law is currently under review. Central authorities have also published and distributed a hun-

dred and fifty thousand posters to chemical enterprises on how to identify suspicious orders for precursors and prevent dispersion.

The UNODC sub-regional project on precursor control is also implemented in eight other countries in East Asia. It aims at strengthening control of legitimate trade in precursors, increasing the capacity to suppress illicit trafficking and enhancing regional cooperation. Priority attention is given to China whose extensive chemical industry is a major source of precursors in the region.

The latest news is that Yunnan is tightening the screws even further. Provincial authorities plan to monitor closely, controlling shipments to Myanmar. This should make life more difficult for clandestine laboratory operators.



Listen More and Talk Less to Youth

By: Wayne Bazant, UNODC, Thailand

Responses to drug abuse trends in the East Asia region have been historically linked to government programmes and the use of specialized professionals, where available. But the widening scope of the drug problem has challenged the effectiveness of those responses.

The sheer size and impact of these problems defy the capacity of governments to effectively respond alone. At a regional level, this is evident in agreements such as ACCORD, the ASEAN plan of action on drug control, and the Subregional Action Plan supporting the Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control among the six countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Governments recognize that regional partnerships must be established and sustained for an improved response.

As well, there is growing public understanding that drug affected societies in the region cannot rely on government responses alone, since the causes of drug problems have cultural and economic roots that governments cannot control. This acknowledgement runs through three of the four ACCORD pillars of action. Community leaders are beginning to recognize that the ultimate decision of youth to use or not use drugs is a personal one that cannot be stopped by government.

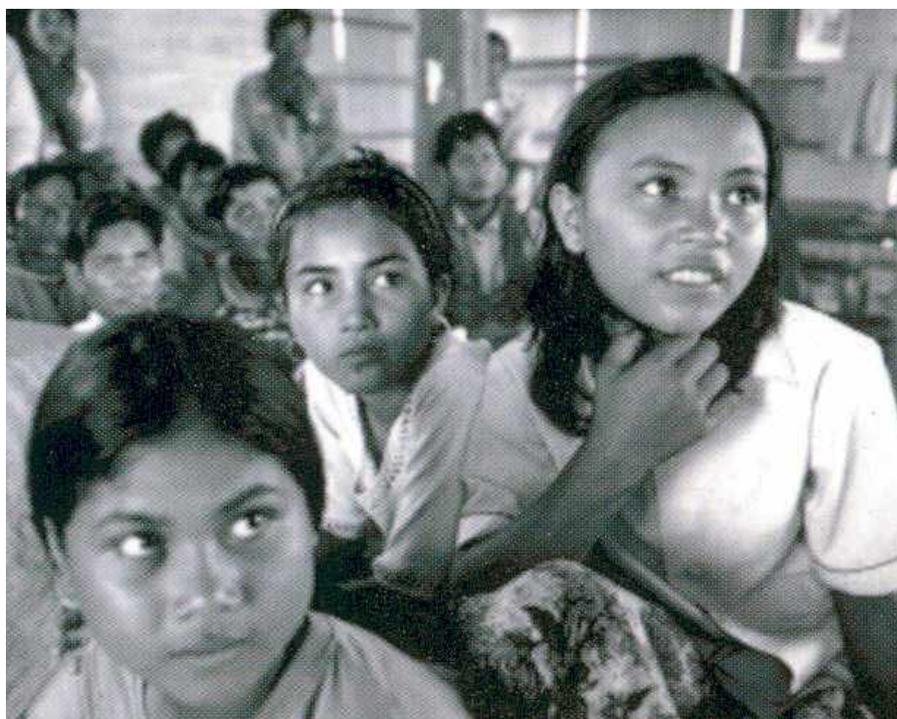
Community leaders are also beginning to take a more holistic approach to drug use determinants, abandoning fragmented strategies of treating problematic drug use as an isolated health, educational, criminal or structural problem.

Youth are a central target and resource for an improved response.

International agencies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, support numerous global and regional initiatives to facilitate improved partnerships for change within and among communities, both geographic and functional ones. And because the longer-term security of our human capital is largely determined by the health of young people, it makes

sense that adaptation to the drug problems should also focus upon young people and their development.

Some general indicators of potential success in addressing drug use problems among young people are found in the “Banff Vision” prepared in 1998, with the assistance of UNODC, by a group of young people representing 24 countries. Their vision encouraged partnerships on a number of fronts, calling for:



- Greater youth participation with parents, teachers and other in developing successful solutions to their problems;
- The need for meaningful education in order to cope with real life and to become actively involved in society, to have jobs, feel fulfilled, and included;
- The need to have fun, spend time with friends, and have opportunities to do challenging activities that develop self confidence;
- The offer to help solve problems with drugs through access to health services including treatment;
- The need for leaders to take joint action in the prevention of drug abuse among young people and to provide

opportunities for young people to be involved with drug abuse prevention programmes.

Youth in the region have critical comments surrounding aspects of the “Banff Vision”.

The measure of achievement in reaching the Banff Vision for East Asia is partially reflected in a recent set of consultations by UNICEF with young people from Indone-

sia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Vietnam. The “Banff Vision” statements were partly reflected in the organization of the focus group discussions with the young people, and their impressions give us some sense of the relative progress in the regional.

On greater youth participation with teachers and school based programmes: “These programs are generally ineffective since the programs are either based on scare tactics or are inadequate with regard to the information presented. Also teachers are not properly trained.”

On the offer to help solve problems with drugs through access to health services, including treatment, and specifically

their view of existing treatment services: "Overall young people felt that treatment programs were not effective. One (issue) concerned the availability and/or cost of accessing treatment. The second pertained to program staff – young people felt that program staff do not adequately understand drugs and drug users. They also felt that staff were judgmental, disrespectful, and mistreated drug users."

They also emphasized that many providers "gave inaccurate information about drugs (effects, short and long term consequences of use, etc.) Young people also pointed out "aftercare is an important part of treatment but is generally not available." A related issue was post treatment monitoring by police "that encouraged identification of other drug users and sellers in the community as opposed to being offered support."

On the need for leaders ... to provide opportunities for young people to be involved with drug abuse prevention programmes, specific to public 'prevention' campaigns; young people said "these campaigns are ineffective because the messages are usually too general (examples: Bad people use drugs or Don't use drugs). These messages will not work with young people, especially drug users."

Taken together the observations of the group point to a somewhat unresponsive system of prevention and treatment at best, with the reality of the situation more closely aligned, albeit inadvertently, with the isolation, stigmatization and discrimination toward the youth who are in need of special assistance. In the prevention domain there is an obvious concern about trust and respect in the sources of information.

This is the kind of information that policy makers need to respect and work with if effective programmes are to be achieved. Perhaps even more importantly these same policy makers should try to remember their own adolescent experiences when attempting to encourage young people to make successful life transitions that are free of problematic drug use. For it is the compassion, respect and sense of personal worth that policy makers sought for themselves in their own youth, that is just as important today among the new generations in East Asia.

This article is excerpted from a plenary presentation to the 4th International Conference on Drugs and Youth, Wellington, May 2003.



Opium for Rice

Addressing Cultivations's Root Cause

By: Giovanni Gallo, UNODC, Myanmar

Mong Kar, one of the five townships of the Mong Pawk District, in the Southern Wa Region, is likely to emerge as the new Wa rice bowl. In fact, in one of the most rugged and inhospitable corners of Myanmar, Mong Kar retains the largest arable valley of the Wa Region, on the Sino-Myanmar border. With its huge potential for substantial rice production, this valley has long been under-exploited due to the lack water. Without irrigation facilities farmers can only cultivate rice during the six-month long rainy season, when their fields are rain-fed. But when the dry season comes, lowland paddy fields lie fallow and slopes turn into opium poppy fields. Over 95% of poppy farmers cite 4 to 6 months rice shortage as the main reason for cultivating poppy, which is then sold for rice and other necessities.

Aware of Mong Kar's potentials, in 1998 the Wa authorities undertook the construction of an irrigation scheme. It was designed to prompt summer rice cultivation and offset the 1,700 metric tons rice deficit of the Mong Pawk District, home to some 45,000 people. Unfortunately, lacking resources and expertise, the effort failed, leaving the vast majority of the Mong Pawk population with their perennial food-security problem.

Against this background, in March 2002 the UNODC/Wa Project – active in the region since 1998 – conducted a feasibility

study to revamp the Mong Kar irrigation scheme. Estimated at US\$ 1.1 million, the project was presented to the international community and funding mobilized thanks to the Japanese-supported UN Human Security Trust Fund. The construction started in October 2002 and on 18 May 2003, the long-awaited Mong Kar canal was inaugurated in the presence of Myanmar and Wa authorities, the diplomatic community as well as national and international media representatives. It is estimated that the Km 40-long irrigation net, comprising of three major legs and a series of minor watercourses, will deliver water to 550 hectares of farmland. As a result, double-crops will yield 4,000 metric tones of paddy rice in 2004. This in itself is enough to feed 25% of the Mong Pawk District's population.

To maximize the impact of the greatest land and agricultural development work ever realized in the Southern Wa Region, water management and agricultural trainings will soon be organized by UNODC for key farmers. Furthermore, a land survey has revealed that with some additional land-preparation work the irrigated surface could expand up to 750 hectares. These undertakings, along with the construction of the irrigation net at large, represent another attempt to gradually rid the region of its food insecurity problem. For the benefit of all, another accomplishment to turn an opium-based economy into a legal profit-oriented economic system has been made.



Rice fields in the Mong Pawk District, Myanmar



First-Ever National Drug Meeting Seeks Ways to Fight Rising Problem in Cambodia

By: **Graham Shaw, UNODC, Cambodia**

A two-day workshop was held in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, on May 5-6, 2003, with over 550 participants, including police, customs, immigration, monks, teachers, doctors, nurses, NGO's, international organizations, UN agencies and a wide range of government agencies from all over the country. They met with regional and global experts to seek new ways of fighting the rising incidence of problematic drug use, especially by school children and youth, in urban areas.

The meeting, first of its kind to ever be held in Cambodia, was organized by the Cambodian Government's drug coordination and management agency, the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD),

with technical guidance from ODC project AD/CMB/01/F14, backed with financial support of \$20,000 from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Phnom Penh.

Keynote speakers included the ODC



PM Hun Sen

Representative for East Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Sandro Calvani, who stressed the multi-sectoral negative impact upon the socio-economic development of a country caused by problematic drug use. He also spoke of the strong linkage between the trafficking of illicit drugs and other transnational crimes such as people smuggling, money laundering, corruption and terrorism. Dr. Richard Needle of the CDC in Atlanta spoke of the potential reigniting of the rate of HIV/AIDS transmission in Cambodia through intravenous drug use and unsafe sexual practices whilst under the influence of illicit drugs. He underlined the need to take advantage of this current window of opportunity to raise awareness of these dangers and seek to implement prevention initiatives as soon as possible.

Working group discussions took place

'Quote Unquote' PM Hun Sen on Drugs and Crime

PM Hun Sen Speaks at the National Seminar on Drug Issues, May 6th, 2003, Phnom Penh.

"This seminar has taken place at a time that I believe drug trafficking and drug use among Cambodian people is rapidly increasing. Therefore, we must indicate that the fight against this danger is our highest priority activity ... While enjoying positive socio-economic development, Cambodia is facing challenges arising from the rapid increase or organized transnational crimes, which have been destroying the hard-earned achievements of our utmost efforts: namely drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism ... Nonetheless, we have come up with a concrete solution to these problems and join with neighbouring countries as well as other

partners of the international community to fight against this dark angle of society."

"With the above good will, Cambodia will try our utmost, doing whatever we can to actively participate as a member of regional and international drug control mechanisms, including the mechanism of the signatory countries to the Memorandum of Understanding of the Mekong Sub-region with the UNODC and its action plan. We will commit ourselves to achieve goals of the ACCORD towards a drug free ASEAN by 2015. This national seminar is a means of highest priority identified in our efforts to fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse, while it also provides an indication of our commitment to developing strategies, programmes and action plans for drug control, based on the ACCORD plan."

"I would like to take this opportunity to inform the law enforcement institutions

that drug-users are suffering from a disease that they have no idea how to heal. In accordance with the drug control law of Cambodia, drug addicted people must have received consultation, treatment and rehabilitation rather than being taken to court. Drug addicted people badly need health support and support from society rather than labeling them as outlawed persons of society. Yet, we are currently lacking the sufficient necessary services in consultation, treatment and rehabilitation in Cambodia. We do not have both funds and technical expertise to develop these services."

"In this regard, I would like to call on development partners of the donor community to urgently assist Cambodia to develop these services, thus enabling us to help drug addicted citizens ... Therefore, may I call on the international community and the representatives of the private sector to join us especially to participate in our coordinated strategy to fight against illicit drugs in our society and to eliminate drug trafficking into or via Cambodia."

on the second day of the workshop, following additional plenary sessions. Mr. Wayne Bazant of the ODC Regional Centre in Bangkok led a plenary session on the causes and impacts of drug use on individuals, communities and societies, and also facilitated an in-depth discussion on the linkage between HIV/AIDS and the use of illicit drugs as well as approaches to the development of various forms of drug awareness messages. Another working group, led by Dr. Calvani, discussed how to organize the mobilization of civil society that brought a plethora of comments from a wide range of participants. Those questions came from groups such as the national police, NGO's, monks, school teachers and provincial governors.

The final working group discussion was chaired by the NACD on the development of basic problematic drug use treatment and rehabilitation facilities – recognizing that Cambodia is one of the few countries of the world where no such public facilities currently exist. The outcome of all

3 discussion groups saw the formulation of 26 actions that will form the basis of a national drug control master plan to be developed in the coming months by the NACD in consultation with all interested agencies and groups, with the technical support of ODC national drug control capacity building project AD/CMB/01/F14.

The workshop was closed by Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen, who stated the Government's intention to ratify all three international drug control conventions by the end of 2003 and to, "initiate the inclusion of drug fighting as a priority issue for the coming CG [Consultative Group] meeting with the international donor community".

He also stressed that, "drug addicted people badly need health support and support from society rather than labeling them as outlawed people of society", and emphasized the linkage between HIV/AIDS and the use of illicit drugs and stated that "we have to educate this issue comprehensively among our youth with the objective to help

them to protect themselves from drugs, and to know how to use condoms".

The PM emphasized that, "the real barrier in allowing drugs to condemn our social and economic future is the people of Cambodia", and that community mobilization against illicit drugs must include the private sector and the Government. Hun Sen also referred to the need to strengthen Cambodia's capacity to coordinate its fight against illicit drug trafficking and illicit drug use through capacity building of the NACD.

"If Cambodia is left out from assistance while other countries in the region receive support for the strengthening of drug control capacity from drug consuming countries such as Australia, the European Union, and the US, then the organized transnational crimes will shift their activities to Cambodia. They would think that the inspection network in Cambodia is still weak, and through Cambodia they can transit and export dangerous merchandise to developed countries in the world".



Evidence Growing of Increased Drug Trafficking via Cambodia

By: Graham Shaw, UNODC, Cambodia

Some in the law enforcement community have remained skeptical as to the use of Cambodia by transnational organized crime syndicates for the transiting of illicit drugs from the Golden Triangle to the markets of South-east Asia and beyond. However, more evidence emerged recently to further substantiate claims that the country is increasingly becoming one of the favoured routes for drug trafficking.

In early April, Customs Officers using a new sea container x-ray facility at Port Botany in Sydney, Australia, discovered 24 kg's of heroin – valued at \$24 million – in a consignment of 358 boxes of fish paste imported in a refrigerated container from Cambodia. Australian Federal Police, with the support of the Cambodian National Police, had monitored the movement of the heroin

with the AFP seizing the consignment when a 32-year-old Vietnamese man, Chi Cao, attempted to deliver the drugs to a location in the western suburbs of Sydney. Australian Minister for Justice and Customs, Chris Ellison, commented that this was, "the biggest heroin seizure made in Australia in the past 12 months".

More illicit drugs believed to have come from the area of the Golden Triangle were seized by Cambodian Military Police on May 4 in the northwestern town of Poipet, close to Cambodia's border with Thailand, when 8,000 methamphetamine tablets were confiscated, and four Cambodian men arrested. Banteay Meanchey Provincial Military Police Chief, Roth Sreing, said that transporting the pills from Laos to Cambodia, through the northwestern province of Stung Treng, cost the traffickers around \$630 but could make them more than \$10,000 when sold on the street.

Such illicit drug seizures are an impor-

tant indicator and illustrate the ease with which such substances currently transit through Cambodia. This sends a signal to all those in the regional and global fight against drug-trafficking that failure to assist Cambodia to develop its law enforcement capacity will be rapidly exploited by transnational organized criminals. As Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen, stressed in his closing address to the recent National Workshop on Drug Issues in Cambodia, "if Cambodia is left out from assistance while other countries in the region receive support for the strengthening of drug control capacity ... then organized transnational criminals will [surely] shift their activities to Cambodia". Can any of us afford to miss this window of opportunity to quickly close one of the last remaining doors for drug traffickers, from the area of the Golden Triangle to the regional and international marketplace?

Lego Millipede: A World Record on Drug Awareness

By: Jamnan Panpatama, UNODC, Thailand

A national awareness campaign against drugs on the “Lego Millipede World Record” campaign was initiated by the private sector, Lego Intl., Diethelm & Co.Ltd and the Central Groups Supermarkets Co. Ltd, in collaboration with the Thailand Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB).

Under the theme of “concerted efforts against drugs”, the campaign invited children, teenagers and families to participate in the construction of an enormous “Lego Millipede”; in attempt to make the longest Millipede, to break the World’s largest Lego structure record. The construction of the Millipede had taken place at a number



The Minister of Justice, H.E. Mr. Pongthep Thepkanjana (left) in measuring the length of the “Lego Millipede”.



Announcement of the World’s largest Lego Millipede breaking a record in the “Guinness Book of World Records” at the new record length of 1,052 metres.

Announcement



Pol. Lt. Gen.
Chidchai Vanasatidya

Office of the Narcotics Control Board is proud to announce the appointment of a new Secretary General for the ONCB; Pol. Lt. Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya, as of February 28th 2003. Mr. Vanasatidya has his doctorate in Administration of Justice from the University of Louisville Kentucky, USA, and was recently promoted from Assistant Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police.



Students, teachers, and parents get involved in anti-drug activities.

of shopping centers in Bangkok since late March 2003.

All parts of the constructed Millipede were assembled and brought to the World Trade Centre, a business and shopping centre in the heart of Bangkok, Thailand. Fund raising was a success, with donations came from participants building the Millipede. All proceeds went to support the anti-drug work done through the ONCB.

On 27 April 2003, a ceremony to measure the length of the “Lego Millipede” was

held at the World Trade Centre. The length of the millipede turned out to be 1,052 metres which broke the “Guinness Book of World Records”. The ceremony and following celebrations were attended by the Minister of Justice of Thailand and attended by the Danish Ambassador, the Secretary-General of ONCB, the Representative of UNODC, and representatives from the private sector; celebrities as well as students, teenagers, adults and parents also happily attended.



One Sweet Tune: Anti-Ya-ba Concert

One month after Earth, Day (March 21st) Thailand could not get enough of saving their side of the planet; using the argument that ‘crazy drugs’ known as Ya-ba has become one of Thailand’s worst ‘pollutants’ of youth, concerts were organized as Earth Day events, to combat the drug. The concert was hyped as the ‘Divas and Gentlemen’ concert, held by GMM Media and GMM Grammy, in cooperation with the Royal Thai Army. They aimed at raising funds for the army’s campaign against drugs.

It is an annual event for GMM to hold a charity concert on Earth Day. “As Ya-ba

is now the most dangerous problem facing Thai society today; we want to play a leading role against it” says Saithip Montrikul na Ayudhya, managing director at GMM, speaking to the Nation on April 1st. “In dealing with it, we have two choices: wait till it gets to our children and loved ones or fight it.”

In this one battle, the concert was a great success. The turn out was spectacular. The company donated 1 million Baht to the Army’s campaign, raised from 4 female and male Thai music artists. It featured: Nanthida Laewbuasai, Viyada Komarakun na Nakorn, Saowaluck Leelabutr,

and Haruthai Muangboonsri. Jetrin Watanasin, Songsit Rungnophakhunsri, Palapol Phonkongseng, and Sirasak Itthipholpanich accompanied the ladies on stage as the Gentlemen ensemble of the performance. The anti-drug festivities took place at the Indoor Stadium Hua Mark on April 19-20th. And even though it happened a month after official Earth Day celebrations; Bangkokians thought it was a great effort to support, as it’s never too late to save the world from the devastating effects of drugs.

Excerpted from the Nation April 1st

Law, Drugs and Children

Thai Children in conflict with the Law:

By: Mona Mangat, UNODC, Thailand

There are approximately 30,000 children in detention centres in Thailand. About 75% of the children in detentions have been sentences for drug offences and most of the others for petty crimes. Children can be sentenced up to two years in detention and many find themselves in adult prisons. Although there is some provision for non-formal education and psychological and health services at detention centres, these services have been inconsistent and of low quality. Facilities are over crowded and have inadequate staff and services. Massive overcrowding particularly of the male juvenile facilities is due to the rapid increase in drug abuse among young males.

The number of juveniles indicted for

drug offences rose by 700% within a five year period (1994-1998) in Thailand, from 3,040 to 20,986 indictments. As a result of the inappropriate length of sentences, the long separation from educational opportunities, the poor conditions and the exposure to criminal elements, the level of recidivism is high. The number of girls placed in detention of drug abuse had also increased. Many of them are HIV positive, with early pregnancy, and in need of special assistance.

The number of children in detention needs to be drastically reduced. There is a dire need for nationwide use of alternatives to custodial sentencing for children in conflict with the law, at least for less serious offences. These would include a diversion. UNICEF supported a pilot project in Ubon, where the offender receives life skills training and is supervised by a village com-



mittee, has been successful in reducing re-offending. UNICEF is also sponsoring a project with the Criminal Law Institute and DPW to introduce family conferencing as an alternative to the courts and custodial sentences for children. In addition, existing facilities for detention of children need to be improved based on standards of international instruments.

Thai Drug Users' Network: Toward Partnerships in Harm Reduction

By: Sonia Bezziccheri, UNODC, Thailand

On the third day of the morning plenary session of the 14th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, 6-10 April 2003, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the members and supporters of the Thai Drug Users' Network (TDN) slowly stood up and from the end of the hall, raised high their yellow banners of protest, and steadily approached the stage on which the Minister of Public Health of Thailand, Mrs. Sudarat Keyuraphan, spoke urgently about the drug use situation in the country. "We can no longer afford to limit responses to supply and demand reduction measures. The region urgently needs to enable harm reduction policies. Lessons learned from many places in the world show that a successful way of addressing these issues is to ensure access to target groups – those individuals who use drugs."

At the end of her speech, while she stopped to greet UN officials, including Mr. Sandro Calvani, UNODC Representative for East Asia and the Pacific, and Anindya Chatterjee, UNAIDS, the TDN and its supporters surrounded the entire front of the stage. The mingled with VIP guests, government officials, UN diplomats, harm reduction professionals, experts, and the media. Their yellow banners were seen everywhere, colouring the overall mood; their world-weary faces and black shirts sent the unmistakable message: Do no harm!

The TDN is a new organization for Thailand and the region; drug users and their supporters came together only 6 months ago to protect their rights and those of their families and friends. Their objec-



The Minister of Public Health of Thailand, Mrs. Sudarat Keyuraphan, and UNODC Representative Mr. Sandro Calvani

tives can be summarized as follows:

- Influence policy makers through an increased presence of the TDN at all political levels.
- Campaign on drugs to increase public understanding of illicit substances and on how to live with drug users through increased knowledge and information sharing; eliminating discrimination



Placards read: "30 Baht must cover drug treatment and methadone;" "Protect the rights of drug users;" "Stop AIDS among drug users, their families and friends;" "Access to treatment, the right to life;" and "Harm Reduction in Thailand – 10 years too late?"

from society and the health care system.

- Increased understanding of the rights of drug users.
- Enhance the capacity of TDN's members - about 60 exist nationwide and are operating at the advocacy levels - to address harm reduction activities and services by inviting experts to provide harm reduction training, materials and translation services for education and dissemination purposes.
- Increase drug users' access to antiretroviral (ART) drugs; presently excluded from this service by law.

Mr. Wassawut Yinchuen - speaking on behalf of current and former drug users – explained in an interview: "We need greater global recognition of the fact that ostracizing and marginalizing groups of people makes them especially vulnerable to further harm and disease. No matter what our methodology or background, the starting point for all our efforts must be to ensure the basic human rights of those we wish to help." With the Thai government in the midst of its campaign against drugs, the death toll, to date, is 2,300 people, with

51 admitted extra-judicial killings by the Thai police. Mr. Wassawut's statements have set the tone of the conference, and for the future.

Mr. Sandro Calvani, UNODC Representative for East Asia and the Pacific clarified the views of the organization in his speech stating: "The main target is to prevent harm to communities in executing the task of protecting people, and to minimize HIV transmission. Anybody who wishes to heal

should first renounce causing any harm.”

Thus UNODC responded to these concerns by calling a meeting at the UNODC Regional Center in Bangkok with the representatives of the TDN on 1 May 2003. The meeting testified to the allegiance of UNODC to the UN conventions of UNGASS 1998 and HIV/AIDS Commitments of 2001, demanding the establishment of sound networking with grassroots organizations to enhance bottom-up and top-down mechanisms to address and educate, as well as cultivating a sensitive approach to the drug problem, with special attention to those who live through it.

Wayne Bazant, was invited to participate in the next UNODC Regional Task Force meeting on HIV and Drug Use, in Chiang Rai, 15-18 July 2003. This will provide additional momentum to the quest of harm reduction, and an opportunity to foster crucial partnerships among government officials, NGOs, within communities.

Drug users need to be seen as part of the solution and not as ‘an extension of the illegal production and distribution continuum.’ Indeed, it is not by chance that the Conference in Chiang Mai was packed with presentations from all over the world testi-



Thai Drug User's Network gather for a photo op.

fying to the importance of including drug users in harm reduction strategies. Best practices' success was especially correlated with the degree of involvement of this group in outreach work and treatment services. Such services work especially well in this way because the giver and the receiver happen to both know what it means to be a drug user, and they can trust each other, thus helping one another in extraordinary ways.

Research shows that drug users do not trust information about drugs that governments and the media disseminate; the reason being that this kind of information is typically exaggerated and as a result disposed of at once by users or would-be users. Instead, what drug users listen to the most

are their peers: those whom they trust. Interestingly, the second person whose advice they consider is often of the drug dealer's ... Organizing programmes on capacity building for drug dealers would be out of the ordinary – and controversial! Projects that aim at reducing harm should, however, focus on becoming ‘friends’ of drug users to gain their trust in order to help them effectively through meaningful partnerships.

UNODC is successfully establishing such relationships to foster mutual confidence and on-going dialogue. The Regional Task Force meeting on HIV and Drug Use, and the ‘Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug abuse’ project which aim at establishing linkages between public health and public security ministries, testify to this commitment.

These synergies based on strategic partnerships will set the tone for crucial harm reduction actions in curbing the dual epidemic of HIV and Drug Use in South East Asia. Keyuraphan's closing statement elaborated on this: “Once this relationship is established we can start working with clients on other issues, bearing in mind that they [drug users] are important actors in solutions we provide”.

June 26th International Day Against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

To celebrate this year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, UNODC Regional Centre is in collaboration with Thailand Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) in organizing activities under the theme of “Power of Thai Family and Youth against Drugs” with aims to raise awareness of the public, especially parents, young adults and children on the danger of drugs. It will encourage family members to become pro-active and get more involved in preventing drug abuse. The venue will be Siam Center and Siam Discovery Center, in the heart of Bangkok, Thailand. Drug counseling, booths present-

ing youth groups on anti-drug projects, and an exhibition will take place starting there on 27 June. Opening Inaugural ceremonies will be on 28 June at 13:30 hrs.

Minister of Justice, H.E. Mr. Pongthep Thepkanjana will chair the ceremony. The Secretary-General of ONCB, Pol.Lt.Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya and the Representative of UNODC Regional Centre, Dr. Sandro Calvani will be giving a speech. Various stage performances by youth groups, students, volunteers and celebrities, including music, dancing, and drama acts will follow; all focusing on the ‘Drug Prevention’ themes, giving people a venue to talk about it. Visitors will get to vote for the best anti-drug campaign produced by youth.



Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse



With participation of (left to right) the delegations from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, China, and Viet Nam; observers and consultants included WHO, UNAIDS, AHRN as well as the Center for Harm Reduction.

**By: Wayne Bazant and
Sonia Bezziccheri, UNODC, Thailand**

Introduction

On 20-21 March 2003, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Center for East Asia and the Pacific convened for the inception meeting of Project AD/RAS/02/G22, titled: Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse.

By strengthening government and non-government agencies' capacity, the project aim is to provide effective measures for the prevention and treatment of drug use with special focus on emergent vulnerability to HIV/AIDS by drug users and their partners. Over a period of two years and through a combined framework of regional

and national activities, members of the MOU on drug control envision developing improved organizational capacities to deliver integrated plans to reduce HIV vulnerability from drug use, especially injecting drug use (IDU). In the second year, national work plans will be enhanced by: (a) regional primary prevention activities through a life skills approach toward young adults and, (b) a sustainable network of national and regional interests in the area of drug use related to HIV vulnerability.

Delegates from the MOU countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, China and Viet Nam) and UNODC staff from the Regional Center in Bangkok attended the meeting. Other participants included: Dr. Nick Crofts, Director, The

Center for Harm Reduction; Mr. Drew Morgan, Regional Police Advisor; Mr. Grey Sattler, World Health Organization; Ms. Irene Lorete, Asia Harm Reduction Network; and Mr. Tony Bates, UNAIDS, SEAPICT.

Highlights of the Meeting

Opening remarks highlight the importance of the project and recognizing the political will to act in all areas through a concerted interdepartmental effort to curb HIV vulnerability from drug use, with special attention on: prevention and treatment in prison settings; institutional integration; ministerial partnerships, capacity building, advocacy, and the 'overall need to have a much more balanced approach between

“The overall need is to have a much more balanced approach between law enforcement and demand reduction to adequately curb HIV/AIDS related harm from drug use.”

law enforcement and demand reduction to adequately curb HIV/AIDS related harm from drug use'.

Nick Crofts, Director of the Center for Harm Reduction, presented a review of the regional situation, including challenges and proposed strategic responses. Outreach and education activities were mentioned as pivotal to diffuse drug users' fear of authority and decrease their marginalization and great vulnerability to the HIV pandemic, and minimize the harm provoked by incarceration.

Mr. Bazant, Regional Coordinator for the Project G22, Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse, engaged the delegations in an exercise to determine national relevance, capacity and prioritization of core services for the prevention and reduction of drug related transmission of HIV/AIDS. The results of the exercise indicated that although most services, – which included: (1) prevention programmes for HIV; (2) outreach work; (3) HIV infection



Mr. Crofts (left) and Mr. Bazant (right)

screening; (4) outpatient treatment; (5) residential treatment; (6) prison services; (7) cooperation of drug services with other facilities; and (8) accessibility to trained staff (in the above areas), – were of high relevance to each project delegation, the prioritization of new initiatives were mostly directed toward prevention programmes. This outcome indicated a need to advocate a clearer understanding of the importance of all of these services especially where there is vulnerability to infection from injecting drug use.

Mr. Drew Morgan, Regional Police Advisor, presented his research on HIV and drug use curricula development for police training; Mr. Morgan emphasized that much can be done to curb HIV related vulnerability from drug use through a reorientation of police services based on harm reduction practices and concepts. He underlined the need to focus on lessons learned especially from Australia, which used to treat drug users as criminals until



Mr. Drew Morgan

HIV/AIDS became a much bigger threat. Sharing current project experiences to improve out-puts, and gain synergies in the use of respective project resources, were highlighted.

Mr. Grey Sattler, WHO Manila, presented WHO's approach to the HIV/AIDS epidemic; he particularly focused on the organization's production of technical guides on: (a) Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR); (b) Advocacy; (c) Policy and Programming; and (d) Training (e.g. outreach). These guides – already trans-



Mr. Grey Sattler

lated for Viet Nam, Indonesia and China – are made available by WHO to assist countries in the region. Reference was made to the role of the WHO regional and country teams in terms of providing more support on the issues of advocacy, translation needs, situation assessments, contact groups, recommendations of in-country activities, and inter-sectoral collaboration.

Mr. Sattler also provided an overview of WHO/WPRO main areas of work, including: surveillance, prevention (100% Condom Use Program – CUP), care and treatment; he also elaborated on policy principles enshrined in the concept of 'harm reduction':

- (i) the application of public health principles to the reduction of the negative consequences of injecting drug use, particularly HIV, and to improve clients health and social status;
- (ii) a comprehensive set of interventions that collectively reduce the transmis-

- tion of HIV among and from drug users; and
- (iii) a supportive legislative and regulatory environment in society and at the community level.

Mr. Tony Bates, UNAIDS, SEAPICT, presented an overview of his organization's framework and approach to tackle the epidemic in East Asia and the Pacific, such as supporting the leadership role of the thematic interagency UN group and the country teams. The mandate of the Asia Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF) – arising from UNGASS 2001 – that aims at increasing political leadership for effective national and regional actions against the HIV/AIDS epidemic was explained together with an overview of UNAIDS South East Asia and Pacific Intercountry Team (SEAPICT) coordinating and implementing role for APLF.

Finally, Ms. Irene Lorete presented a review of the Asia Harm Reduction Network by highlighting its mandate, scope and



Mr. Tony Bates

modus operandi through training, information sharing, advocacy programmes, advocacy, policy support and its extensive network of health and policy professionals throughout the region. All participants were invited to register at AHRN, through the website: www.ahrn.net.

There is no doubt that the meeting was a success story; the evaluations testified to the overall satisfaction of all the participants.

The project is funded by UNAIDS, and the governments of UK and Luxembourg.



Ms. Irene Lorete

Stopping Drugs Accross Borders

My name is Samarn Polnok, and I am 57 years old. I am a Planning and Policy Analyst at the Drug Prevention and Suppression Unit, National Office of Narcotic Control Board (ONCB) Thailand. I have been working with ONCB for 24 years, since 1979.

Currently, I am a Director of the Cross-Border Coordination Centre (CBCC), located in Chang Rai Province, Thailand. I am also a National Project Coordinator (NPC) for the UNODC Cross-Border Cooperation for Development of Drug Law Enforcement in South East Asia Project. There are 4 staff working under my direct supervision and 40 contacts from 5 Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) under my support and cooperation in working with Thailand's neighboring countries; namely Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

As a National Project Coordinator, I backup the project by providing policy

guidelines for drug prevention and suppression for all five BLOs in all respective high-risk areas at the border zones. I also coordinate, monitor and provide technical support and advice to all drug law enforcement staff at the border zones. In addition, I provide advice for their annual action plan and budgeting. The most challenging aspect of my job is to promote and facilitate all the established BLOs to be included in the ONCB regular annual action and budget plans; to ensure the sustainability of all BLOs beyond their project life.

Under the support of the project, five Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) have been established since January 2002. It was the result from the Cross Border Cooperation Workshops organized between Thailand with neighboring countries as mentioned above. In supporting the establishment and operation of BLOs, the ONCB provides

CBCC (my office) staff to coordinate with all BLOs, all running cost and vehicles. The project provides basic office equipment, communication equipment, vehicles, technical support; i.e. Computer Based Training and promote networking among BLOs through study trips.

The BLOs comprise local drug law enforcement officials existing at border zones and office locations. The establishment of the BLOs is fully integrated in the Thailand National Policy in the fight against drugs under the master plan of cooperation with Thailand's neighboring countries. I would like to emphasize that Thailand and all the neighboring countries benefited from this project. Previously, there were many factors hindering the cooperation among these countries in fighting drugs i.e. lack of trust, different priorities, lack of interest in each country, and lack of political will.



Mr. Polnok and equipment support at BLOs



Fake Myanmar Monk was arrested in Mae Sot with 90,000 methamphetamine tablets, 19 July 2002



Computer Based Training at BLOs

Development of Cross Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia

Project Name: Development of Cross Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91)

Starting/End Date: Jul 1999-Dec 2003

Funding: USD 1,819,100.00

Donor: Japan

Project Objectives:

1. Promote cross border cooperation mechanism
2. Strengthen drug law enforcement through front line staff through modern techniques in controlling the borders

Key project components:

1. Workshops and meeting
2. Facilitate cross-border cooperation agreement and workplan

3. Promote cross-border cooperation mechanism through BLOs
4. Provide technical support through Computer Based Training (CBT) and other forms of training as needs require
5. Provide basic BLO equipment, communication, and transportation

What has been done?

1. National Project Coordinators were appointed by all 6 MOU countries
2. Initial Needs Analysis was conducted in all identified high risk areas
3. 10 National and 8 cross-border cooperation workshops with 630 participants were conducted
4. 22 BLOs have been established and fully operating

5. Office equipment, communication, and transportation equipment have been provided
6. Computer Based Training (CBT) has been installed in 16 BLOs

What are the future plans?

1. Continue the installation of CBT for the remaining BLOs
2. Networking and promoting cooperative information exchange among all BLOs
3. Support the establishment of new BLOs as planned
4. Continue providing equipment to the existing BLOs as planned
5. Promote MOU countries in replicating the establishment of new BLOs with minimum support from UNODC Regional Centre resources
6. Monitor and facilitate (if needed) the BLOs operation and cross-border cooperation meetings



JB' Quang: Agent B07

By: Nguyen Tuong Dung, UNODC, Vietnam

Quang was watching a James Bond movie when a group of people from the local authorities visited. He felt ill at ease at the sight of a policeman. Such a visit to a drug addict was never pleasant; it meant either a complaint, a reprimand, a warning or a notice for compulsory institutional treatment was being heralded. However, the attitude of the visitors, especially the friendly look of the policeman in charge, surprised him. "What the hell are these guys doing here?" Quang nervously asked himself. After the usual inquiry about his health and family, came the reason for the visit. It dawned upon him with relief that they came to ask for help.

He was told that the UN International Drug Control Programme in Viet Nam launched a project with an innovative approach to reduce harm related to drug use. This was in relation to HIV prevention among high-risk target groups. This was UNODC's first initiative ever executed in Viet Nam, let alone one with such a controversial approach. The project had experienced enormous difficulties in its appraisal process before it finally acquired the nod from the Government in 1997 to implement a draft of daring initiatives in 11 wards of five northern cities and provinces in Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Lang Son, Thai Nguyen, and Nghe An.

The project idea amazed Quang! At least within the project setting, drug users were no longer stigmatized and discriminated against, opportunities were given to drug users, also those with HIV/AIDS, to play a positive role in the community. In addition, the project number B07 piqued his interest as it sounded similar to his favourite movie icon "Agent 007"; he liked adventure and was nicknamed JB Quang, after James Bond since childhood. Though still doubtful and skeptical about the project's potential for success, he was too curious to not participate. He decided to accept the offer.

Since that unforgettable day, Quang joined other drug users from various project



sites to take part in several training workshops for peer motivators. At the workshops, not only was information about drug problems, drug injection-harm and unprotected sex in relation to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, and other STDs infection provided, but interpersonal communication and life building skills were made available through training with a view to achieving behavioral change. To this end, they learned how to clean needles and syringes, and to use condoms. He could not help laughing while the others practiced putting condoms over bananas.

After the training, armed with updated

"At least within the project setting, drug users were no longer stigmatized and discriminated, and opportunities were given to drug users. Also those with HIV/AIDS, will play a positive role in the community."

knowledge everyone was very excited and eager to go back to their communities. Each peer educator was provided with a communication kit containing information handbook, publicity materials, pamphlets, handouts, pens, first-aid kit, blue shirt, raincoat, and matching cap. These were products developed by the project for field work clearly imprinted with the B07 logo.

It was not easy at all for Quang and

his 44 fellows to conduct project outreach activities, since harm reduction was a new concept that was still unknown or unacceptable to many government officials. Another project stakeholder UNAIDS supplied syringes and condoms for distribution among drug injectors. Some peer educators were arrested while distributing disposable syringes and condoms in the streets and the paraphernalia that they carried around were used as obvious evidence against their activities which were dubbed as 'social evil'. At times, Quang as the team leader had to resort to the police for help. Only then did he realize why the project had to involve law enforcement officials, right from the beginning, providing them with appropriate training.

Later on, on a winter's day, returning home from a monitoring visit and a weekly briefing where information about drug-related harms, clean syringes and condoms were disseminated; Quang found his wife holding their six-year-old son in her arms with a worried look. With tears in her eyes, his wife told him that someone had stopped their son in the street and threatened to beat him if Quang continued to be involved with the police in relation to the project.

Knowing who was behind this hoax, he went out without a word. Reaching a dimly lit kiosk at the river bank, he found himself amongst some gangsters who were playing cards over beer. "Hey look! Our hero is back. Any 'white goods' (heroin) for you as usual? Or are you son of a bitch, selling us out to the cops, eh?" said a middle-aged man in black. "No, only some syringes for you all. Trust me, pals. I would like to help myself and you too, and do it my way". Quang said calmly to the mob. Then he turned to the man in black, he threatened back with clenched teeth, "Dare to touch my son again, and I will help you to your grave". With these words he took a deep breath and left. Outside, the darkness was already passing over for daybreak. Another hectic day full of challenges and excitement awaited him and his fellows, fighting the good fight, and in turning over a new leaf in life.

Seeing is Believing for the B93 Clubs in Hanoi

By Nguyen Tuong Dung, UNODC Vietnam

“What is B93? That is a question often asked whenever someone hears about the clubs for the first time,” said Mr. Nguyen Vi Hung, Director of the Hanoi Department for Social Evils Prevention. “In fact, it is the UNODC-supported demand reduction project VIE/98/B93 that provides us with the inspiration to adopt a new approach in rendering aftercare and support to former drug addicts”.

The establishment of the first 5 clubs dates back to April 2000 when UNODC kicked off pilot project activities in 7 cities and provinces; Hanoi being one of the beneficiary areas. In the revalorization of oriental traditions and its societal / cultural resources, the project tested a community-based approach to promote self-help and mutual support among former drug users in the field. Promising results obtained from the first 34 drug users in 2000 led to the expansion of the activities to another 10 more project sites in 2001 and 41 others in 2002. Currently, 56 such clubs have been set up in 228 city wards and suburban communities in Hanoi, with 434 drug users (only 4 female) as permanent members. A preliminary survey conducted in August 2001 (after 16 months of implementation) revealed that 71.3 percent of the club members had successfully kicked off their addictive habits. 87 members (20%) remain with the clubs participating fully in all activities undertaken since 2000, while others come and go. There are 124 drop-outs accounting for 22.2 percent of the total.

Average membership in each club comprises 5-7 ex-addicts; the Club in the Nguyen Trung Truc ward has the highest rate with 15 members. All clubs usually meet once a week (except Yen Hoa Club meeting twice weekly), which scored a total

of 2,272 sessions amongst drug users, and 601 meetings with their families during a thirty-month period. Many ex-addicts now earn their living from the ‘fish-rods’ provided by the Club, working at motorcycle-repair garages, motorbike-wash stalls; making incense-sticks and aquariums; or assembling aluminum construction frames.

The fame of B93 Clubs in Hanoi is nationally renowned. One evening in 2001, a great honor to Yen Hoa district was brought by this notoriety when Vice PM Pham Gia Khiem, Chairman of the National



Drug Control Commission dropped in to attend a meeting session of the club. He listened to the report of the club management, and particularly with great interest to the discussion amongst the drug users. At the end, deeply moved by the amazing efforts made by the drug users, local leaders and populations; before leaving, Vice PM gave a big cash donation of his own to the club members as a reward to their past work, and encouraged the club to continue its worthy effort in future.

As, “seeing is believing” I asked to be taken to the field to talk with real people. The first club member I met was Mr. Nguyen Tien Dat, 30 years old, at his barber shop on Thuy Khue street. Dat used drugs in 1994 and received treatment at home until 1998.

After that, the B93 Club helped him with getting trained in hair-cutting. “Working as a coiffeur now, I can earn 500,000 – 700,000 dong every month. This income is only one-third of the money I can get from leasing out the shop. But my family does not care they are more concerned about giving me a new lease on life; as work keeps me busy, no longer idle and victim to drug abuse. I am actually still recovering. Yet, my family is always an anchor for me whenever my sobriety is at stake”, Dat said confidently with a broad smile.

Driving along the newly-paved embankment of the West Lake, I met a young man busy painting a huge billboard. He introduced himself as Cao Xuan Son, born in 1974, a resident in Phu Thuong, Tay Ho. Son used drugs for two years before getting treatment in 1999. He became a B93 Club member afterward and was assigned with IEC activities in the community. He was painting a poster from a catalogue published by UNODC in Vietnam for an anti-drug publicity campaign in the community. “Realizing that I was skillful at painting, the club management asked the neighboring Art School to support us with brushes and paints so I could do the job”. Dat relayed the story to me in an appreciative manner.

Later on, I managed to meet most of the B93 club members at a morning exercise rehearsal to celebrate the International Day Against Drugs. As a rule, the club members in the same community meet every day early in the morning for physical training or a sport’s game. It’s also an effective way of “training the troops”; if someone does not show up they are checked on in order to find out the reason for their absence; to identify necessary support if someone is using drugs again.

I noticed that everyone greeted each

“B93 Club is our family where our honest intentions are genuinely valued without fraud or deception. It is a place to bolster drug addicts up. It is a place where we entered into a human bond – the bonds of friendship and affection, not the bonds of oppression and tyranny.”

other with the familiar 'Chao gia dinh' (Good morning, family). "What we mean is that the B93 Club is our family where our honest intentions are genuinely valued without fraud or deception. It is a place to bolster drug addicts up. It is a place where we entered into a human bond – the bonds of friendship and affection, not the bonds of oppression and tyranny", said one club member who requested not to be identified.

The members of Giang Vo B93 Club were still very excited after a picnic on the week-end. Truong Kim Thuy proudly showed off her sun-tanned skin as she described the drug abuse she was involved in from 1993 to 1999. She had been arrested by the police and put to the drug treatment centre. With the support from the club, she opened a tea-stall on Lane 2 in Giang Vo. Nguyen Duy Long, a resident in Lane 1 added that local authorities and the institutions based in the same area provided the group with a van and a box of 'La Vie' water for the trip.

I tried to find a drug user from Yen Hoa whose name was Nguyen Van Giang and his wife Hoang Thi Cham in the crowd. Talks about this "swan-couple" made me curious to see them both. At first, Cham was very reluctant to marry Giang because he used drugs. The club members decided to help. They encouraged Giang not to shoot heroin, but to shoot his habit. He made his final effort to have treatment at home and show his commitment, while coaxing Cham to support her lover. Giang was successful and owed his conjugal happiness to the 'match-makers' of the B93 Club. "The club has given me a gift that is my wife Cham, in addition to the freedom from drugs".

On the way back home, Mr. Vi Hung made an amusing remark, "In Vietnam, people are used to hearing of B40, B41 Russian-made anti-tank rockets, or B52 US bomber planes dubbed as the 'flying fortress', but rarely do we hear of such UNODC projects BO7, B08, BO9, B54. Apart from those mentioned, B93 is exclusively something new, also meaning 'weapon', but in a humanitarian sense, a non-lethal and curative weapon against drug addiction.

Overwhelmed with pride and optimism, I urged him along the hard road ahead. "If only B93 Clubs would not be a short term wonder and not soon be forgotten, but developed into BXXI Clubs, meaning a "plan for the XXI Century". It's attitudes like Mr. Vi Hung's that will contribute to achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, in Viet

Sex and Drugs Sell

Vietnam's government pushing the anti-drug message.



By: Mona Mangat, UNODC, Thailand

Watching *Bar Girls*; no one would ever believe that Viet Nam's hottest movie is government propaganda. Vietnamese paid triple price to scalpers and ticket lines went around the block when the movie was released this past February.

It taken in more than \$1 million to become Vietnam's highest-grossing film ever, smashing records set by Korean, Hollywood, and Bollywood imports. The film about prostitution and drugs was produced by the People's Army who run the major motion picture studio Ho Chi Minh City's Liberation Films in Viet Nam.

This film is a new chapter in Vietnamese state-sanctioned cinema that focuses on taboo story lines with the Communist Party's campaign message embedded in the fabric of the film: *Bar Girls'* message is against social evils that lurk in the dark. It is entertainment with a strict warning: drugs kill. Set in the nightclubs and slums of Ho Chi Minh City, the film follows doomed prostitutes Hoa (My Duyen), a heroin-addicted rich girl who works nightclubs for kicks, and Hanh (Minh Thu), a gentle soul who dreams of a better life. The only anti-climatic feature of the film is obvious: how could anti-drug propaganda ever really have a fairytale ending?

Bar Girls, though attempting to elucidate the dangers of a drugged out lifestyle, it also manages to titillate as much as it educates. Satisfied with the anti-drug message,

censors allowed an unprecedented amount of skin and sin to show in the movie. There are many scenes of vomiting in toilets and a heroin overdoses, but there are also two catfights (one in mud), girls in bikinis jumping up and down, and Vietnam's first government-approved topless shot. It makes one wonder if the government is using shady tactics to lure in the crowds? Director and co-writer Le Hoang has been quoted in Time, saying. "Nowadays, if your film is not appealing enough, your propaganda efforts will fail."

Vietnam will probably be seeing a lot more 'Propatainment' in the time to come. Has the anti-drug message reached its audience? Ticket sales would corroborate that possibility. Making people face the erosion of society and their families played out in a gripping drama, can have a greater impact than boring propaganda. The government's real challenge is finding ways to appeal to this MTV generation who is at risk for potential drug use and sexual exploitation. 60% of Vietnam's population is under the age of 25.

Holding onto their audience has prompted the government to decree that private film studios may form for the first time since 1975. Six companies have already applied for permits. The government will still censor the finished films, carrying various messages against social evils, but competition could mean better films from Viet Nam People will buy a ticket to see, no doubt, after films like *Bar Girls* they'll line up to do so.

Distinguishing between Human Trafficking and People Smuggling

By: Melanie Adams, UNODC, Thailand

“Tackling human traffickers: call for action against those who smuggle people”

“Trafficking: A human tragedy; the numbers of those seeking asylum or wanting to enter the EU illegally is increasing”

These headlines are just some of the numerous reports that have appeared recently in newspapers. The world is seeing a massive growth in media reports on trafficking, people smuggling, illegal migration, and asylum-seeking. But there is not a great deal of common understanding of these terms, in fact they are often used synonymously. Since these are all different phenomena, fusing the terms together are far from being correct. Briefly outlined below are the important distinctions that need to be made.

Legal Definitions

Human Trafficking: “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

People Smuggling: “The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a state Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.”

Asylum Seeking: An asylum seeker is a person who meets the UN criteria for consideration of refugee status, and has begun the process of being accepted as such in order to obtain the protections and rights to which refugees are entitled. Seeking Asylum is not a criminal act.

The two most confused terms are however, human trafficking and people smuggling. The key differences are detailed as follows:

Victim Identity

Human Trafficking: An identifiable human victim; a person subjected to exploitation going beyond what other illegal migrants might experience. Exploitation is part of the process of trafficking and does not come from outside sources. Trafficking is a crime against the person.

People Smuggling: A smuggler is paid by the person wanting to move from one country to another. This smuggler provides a



service the person being moved is a client of the smuggler. It is an illegal, but essentially commercial relationship between the smuggler and the intending immigrant. The only victim is a State victim –crime against public order.

Consent

Human Trafficking: All trafficking is undertaken without valid consent. A trafficked person will often consent to the movement, to get to the place of promised employment.

People Smuggling: Occurs with complete consent. This consent is often conditional, that the intending migrant will consent to the facilitation of the smuggler within the scope of the activity.

The Purpose of Movement- Intent

For law enforcement purposes it is important to be able to distinguish between the intentions of parties to a crime.

Human Trafficking: The purpose of moving people is the intended exploitation at destination.

People Smugglers: The purpose of moving people is in furtherance of a contract with a migrant, to steal them across a national border. This is a facilitative purpose.

The Destination

Human Trafficking: International or domestic. As noted, the reason for the trafficking is exploitation. The trafficker must therefore, control the victim to the point of exploitation. The destination in trafficking cases is the actual site of exploitation.

People Smuggling: International. Illegal entry of an intending migrant is the sole purpose. It is further the case in people smuggling that often the task of the smuggler is simply the crossing of the border.

Recruitment and Procurement

Human Trafficking: Traffickers “recruit,” people who fit a profile in demand, for example; pretty young girls for brothels. A trafficker will go out and find potential victims, with their exploitation in mind.

People Smuggling: Does not “recruit.” But may ‘advertise’ services, or tout for business. A smuggler waits for people to find him.

The Customer Relationship

Human Trafficking: The customer relationship exists between the recruiter sourcing the right type of individual, and the exploiter, for example a brothel or plantation owner. The victim takes on the role of a commodity, something to be brought and sold.

People Smuggling: The customer relationship is between the smuggler and the intending migrant.

Victim or Customer?

Human Trafficking: Victim possesses attributes which make him/her attractive to the trafficker according to the intended industry for which they are being recruited, i.e. good looks, youth, strength etc. In trafficking, the identity of the victim is often directly relevant to the purpose of the movement.

People Smuggling: The identity of the customer is not relevant to the purpose of the movement.

Knowledge and Control

Human Trafficking: Traffickers possess knowledge of the means and process of the movement. The individual has no decision-making power. A victim will often not know that they have no control until it is too late.

People Smuggling: Customer has both knowledge and control over the situation. As a general rule, it is a characteristic of people smuggling that the smuggled person retains control over what happens.

Profit

Human Trafficking: Most profit is generated from the continuing exploitation of the victim although profit is also made from the initial sale of the victims.

People Smuggling: Profits come from payments made by the customer for being transported across the borders.

Violence

Human Trafficking: Violence is part of the trafficking process, victims need to be subdued, forced into compliance and then adequately controlled.

People Smuggling: Do not need to use violence. People smuggling is not classed a violent crime, and does not involve deprivation of liberty.

The Arrival

Human Trafficking: Victims are sold or put to work in the industry she/he was brought to service. She will continue to be owned by someone in a controlling position. A trafficked victim is captive.

People Smuggling: Customer is free upon arrival to do and go where he/she pleases, constrained perhaps only by illegal status.

A significant step towards empowering immigration and police officers to detect and detain traffickers and smugglers is to start with a very clear and practical understanding of the differences between the two crimes. Only with this starting point will we see that victims are each treated appropriately, and the people who profit from the vulnerability of others can be dealt with accordingly.



LAO PDR Adopts National Drug Demand Reduction Strategy



By: Marc Morival, UNODC, Lao PDR

The recent emergence and rapid spread of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) among young people in both urban and rural area was confirmed by surveys among students and high risk groups. The spread of ATS abuse was accelerated by increasing transit trafficking from neighboring producing countries. Due to more intensive law enforcement in Thailand and sporadic border closures along the Myanmar/Thai border, drug traffic is now increasingly diverted through Lao PDR. The availability of raw materials, chemists in the region, mobility of production, high profits to be made, limited Lao enforcement capacity, puts Lao PDR at high risk of being used for illicit production of drugs, in particular, ATS and heroin, thereby further increasing availability. Abuse of ATS and other drugs, as well as levels of crime have not reached that of other countries in the sub-region and injecting drug use is very low. However the rapid spread of drug abuse and drug related crimes countrywide, especially during the past 2 years, has put the highest Lao authorities on full alert.

A national Steering Committee for the campaign against drugs was established on 12 October 2001 chaired by the Prime Minister. A national Anti-Drug Fund has been established as well for supporting a National Drug Abuse approach after the VII National Assembly Congress of April 2001 endorsed the amended article 135 of the criminal code applying harsher penal-

ties for drug related crimes, including the life penalty.

A key drug control institution, the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) established in 1990 as an inter-ministerial body, has been instrumental in coordinating drug control activities, initiatives and programs in Lao PDR and is chaired by H.E. Soubanh Sritirath, Minister to the President's Office.

The Government views the fast changing drug and related crime situation seriously, and a National Drug Demand Reduction Strategy has been formulated by LCDC with technical assistance from UNODC. The national Drug Demand Reduction Strategy (DRS) was discussed during a national seminar on 17-18 December 2002, and adopted on 1 April 2003 by order of the Prime Minister.

The Drug Demand Reduction Strategy aims at prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of opium abusers, abusers of ATS (Yaba), and other drugs, along with cross cutting issues as data collection, training, networking and dissemination. Injection drug use is still very low in Laos but ATS abuse is becoming a potential contributing factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS especially among out-of-school risk groups as CSWs and night club patrons. The strategy gives attention to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and reduction of HIV/AIDS vulnerability from drug abuse.

Most ATS abusers are presently incarcerated in police camps but the DRS foresees itself gradually treating drug abusers - who are not involved in serious crimes - outside the Criminal Justice system. A national Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for ATS with a capacity of 60 beds opened mid 2002 in Vientiane. The USG has funded the clinic and the government of Japan funds the Rehabilitation Center. One more ATS Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Champasak province - funded by USG - focusing on 5 southern provinces, is currently being constructed.

A National Drug Demand Reduction Programme is presently under formulation.

Treating Drug Users in Prison

In a recent briefing from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, an urgent need for policy initiatives has been called in treating drug users in prison; a critical area for health promotion and crime reduction policy.

Estimates suggest that at least half the EU's 356 000 prison populations has a drug use history, and many of those entering prison have a severe drug problem. Relatively high rates of HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis are also found among prisoners. For many prisoners, a return to dependent drug use and regular offending on release is a common outcome. Addressing the need of those with drug problems within prison is therefore a critical challenge for both public-health and crime reduction policy.

The importance of drug problems in prison has been increasingly recognized internationally. In the "Declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction", which accompanied the most recent UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in 1998, were identified explicitly as an important group for demand-reduction activities.

The EU strategy on drugs 2000-04 requires Member States to implement preventative measures for drug use in prison as well as provide facilities for addicted prisoners with an explicit commitment is made to making healthcare opportunities available to prisoners similar to those found outside prison.

Key Policy Issues and their Considerations

1. A disproportionate number of prisoners have histories of drug use, drug problems, or drug injection. Few countries routinely monitor drug use in prison; trends in time are difficult to assess and remain poorly understood.

➔ In order to understand the scale and

nature of drug use within prisons, a clear need exists, to invest in the research and monitoring necessary for informed policy formation and to facilitate the development, targeting interventions.

2. Just as no single model exists of how to respond to drug problems in the community, no single model will be appropriate to drug users in prison.



➔ Complex nature of drugs and crime problems requires complex policy responses. There is an urgent need for better awareness of good practice; to develop and evaluate model programmes.

3. Two key problems hinder the development of drug services; first, the difficulties of balancing health goals with the disciplinary and security issues; second, the recognition by prison staff of the role they can play in addressing drug control problems.

➔ Addressing drug problems in prisons require the involvement of prison staff, a

balancing of control and therapeutic goals and close coordination with health and social support agencies.

4. There is a relatively high rate of HIV and hepatitis infection among prisoners. Prisoners may therefore be at risk of contracting these diseases and of spreading them on release. Public-health interventions in prison can be effective and have an impact on the well being of both prisoners and the wider community.

➔ Reducing the risk of HIV should be explicit policy goal. Effective interventions are required to protect the health of prisoners. Policy has to consider how to manage prisoners who are infected with HIV and other infectious diseases.

5. Despite a general recognition that drug strategies of care inside should equal that outside a prison, in practice this is seldom the case. In many prisons, the availability of services for drug users is extremely limited.

➔ Policy commitment to providing equivalence of care in prison to the health and social support available to those with drug problems outside is only meaningful if it is accompanied by the necessary investment in resources.

6. Many prisoners with drug problems are poorly prepared for their release and do not maintain contact with drug and social services.

➔ A key test for drug services in prison is the ability to offer continuation of care after release. The considerable risk of rapid release into crime and drugs are only likely to be reduced if contact is maintained with drug treatment services.

Excerpted from 'Dugs in Focus', a series of briefings published by the EMCDDA Lisbon, Portugal

"Addressing the need of those with drug problems within prison is therefore a critical challenge for both public-health and crime reduction policy."



Heroin Seizure Sparks World Controversy



By: Mona Mangat, UNODC, Thailand

Australian Special Forces boarded a North Korean drug boat off Sydney on 20 April, ending a dramatic chase in mountainous seas by an Australian frigate and three police boats.

The ship's captain and 29 crew on the bulk carrier *Pong Su*, surrendered without resistance and sailed to Sydney where they were charged with transporting heroin to Australia. They appeared in a Melbourne court on 7 May charged with drug trafficking charges. They have been charged with aiding and abetting the importation of a prohibited import, in relation to the haul of the high-grade heroin.

Australian Federal Police (AFP) also revealed that on May 7 they found 75kg of heroin buried in bushes about 15km west of the Victorian coastal town of Lorne. The latest drug find takes the total quantity of drugs seized in the operation to 125kg, which has an estimated street value of \$220 million. Police say it is the largest seizure of heroin in Victoria and the sixth largest seizure in Australia.

The arrests were the result of a long surveillance operation, called Operation



Tartan, which Tony Negus of the Australian Federal Police said would be a major disruption for the international drug syndicate." The removal of such a large quantity of drugs and the seizure of the alleged mother ship represents a significant disruption to the activities of an illegal drug syndicate," he said. Graham Ashton, AFP general manager, was quoted as saying; "We have sent a very strong message to drug traffickers that Australia is not an easy target for the importation of illegal substances."

The seizure of drugs has caused a diplomatic row, with the federal government giving Pyongyang's ambassador a warning because of the alleged involvement of North Korean officials in the trafficking. Opposition foreign affairs spokesman Kevin Rudd

later urged the federal government to expel the North Korean ambassador if evidence linked the regime with the *Pong Su*.

This possible connection to North Korean government involvement has caused a worldwide political stir. Andre Hollis, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counter-narcotics of the U.S. government, following the seizure was quoted as saying Pyongyang had boosted its arms spending by trafficking drugs to Japan, Taiwan, China, Russia and Australia. One of the men on board was believed to be a former senior envoy in Pyongyang's Beijing embassy. North Korea has been involved in the drug trade since at least 1976, when a Pyongyang diplomat in Egypt was arrested with a large cache of hashish. Since then, there have been 50 documented arrests or drug seizures involving North Koreans in more than 20 countries.

The Australian seizure sparked strong anti-North Korean sentiments in the U.S. Senate. Republican Senator Peter Fitzgerald said: "Given the nexus between its state-level drug production and trafficking business and its weapons programmes, North Korea is essentially a crime syndicate with nuclear bombs". The investigation and controversy continues.

A One-stop Shop for ATS Information in Asia Pacific

By: Jeremy Douglas and Danielle Fraser, UNODC, Thailand

www.apaic.org has now been launched. The Asia & Pacific Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Information Centre (APAIC) is a place to gather, collate, and present data and information on amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), focusing on East Asia and the Pacific. ATS drug pharmacology, drug control, drug treatment and prevention, regional statistics, and regional trends can all be found on the website.

Divided into 2 sections: ATS information and project planning, apaic.org is designed to be a centre of information on amphetamine-type stimulants for drug policy makers, health workers, researchers, participant country coordinators, and



the general public. In addition, apaic.org will form the basis for a clearinghouse of ATS information in the region, and as an information system it will become a drug control and strategic planning tool. As a part of the concept of a one-stop shop for ATS information, an on-line ATS Library will be available with research articles, drug

statistics (data, studies, trends, etc.), and surveys. ATS library users may request documents via an on-line request form.

The website is a creation of the UNODC Improving ATS Data and Information Systems project team. In addition to a clearinghouse it is a method of communication and evaluation between 7 signatory project countries and UNODC Bangkok. Project documents, outputs, and generalized participant country workplans are available for public viewing. Not only will this site inform the public of the UNODC Bangkok's project status but it will also provide participant countries with an incentive to fulfill project commitments. Complete detailed workplans will be accessible for participant countries via a secure password.

Smoking Out the Drug Lords

Lao border: Vietnamese guards' ongoing battle against trans-national drug trade.

After four hours of trekking through the jungle, Nam Giai Border Station Captain, Tran Van Tai ordered his four men to take a rest from their mission, which can often last for up to a week. After resting, they broke off into two groups to hide in the foliage around the path snaking through the forest, in preparation for an ambush on probable smugglers coming over from Laos.

Deep in the jungle, the men face multiple threats, from water shortages to leeches and mosquitoes, but these are tolerable in respect to the danger to come from the heavily armed traffickers they are pitted against.

This time the operation revolves around an area in the Pu Que jungle, a far thrown region that sees few tourists and visitors. Drug prices in this border area fluctuate between VND2.2 and VND2.5 million (US\$170) per kilo of opium paste.

By the time it reaches Kim Son town in the lowlands of the Nghe An province, it is usually changing hands at the rate of VND3.5-4 million (US\$220-270) per kilo; as it moves towards the big cities, its price inflates exponentially.

At the police station in the hills, Lieutenant Que Van Duong works as a translator between Vietnamese and Laos, and his language skills have made him one of the more formidable members of the anti-drug team.

Ambush

His most recent success was last March. After hiding with his colleague Van Tai in the jungle's undergrowth, weathering heavy rain for several days, the pair made a midnight swoop on a local drug baron named Lu Van Thuy.

Thuy was accompanied by five other men when Duong and his team heard them from their vantage point approaching from 100m away.

The guards were faced with a dilemma; attack at once and risk scattering the smugglers and losing them, or stalk them through the forest and wait for a more opportune moment which might never materialize. After hushed discussion, the men decided on the latter strategy.

Unaware they were being followed, the



smugglers sat down to rest at midnight. Jungle nights are notoriously dark as the trees block out any light source from the moon, and the two guards had to negotiate their way in the dark with the lights on their watches.

Despite their uniforms designed to hold off mosquitoes and insects, the men's faces and necks were covered with leeches. Yet they faithfully remained crouched in the undergrowth until 4.30am, when the smugglers resumed their journey to the village.

The guards were wary of pouncing on the man leading the smugglers, as he generally scouted for traps and ambushes, and if he is attacked the rest of the men will be signaled to immediately disappear into the undergrowth.

The guards were also aware that the traffickers outnumbered them by nearly three to one, and were probably using heroin to bolster their moral strength.

Duong and Tai decided to leave their electric batons and capsicum spray behind, relying instead on their martial art skills to take out the man in the middle of a group

carrying a heavy backpack they believed to be stashed with opium. When they pinned him down they saw their intuition had been correct. His pack contained 10kg of opium, 100 red opiate pills, worth VND 450,000 (US\$30) and various other illegal weapons.

Over the last four years the border guards have conducted dozens of similar ambushes, six of which led to the arrests of prominent local drug lords.

Most of the smugglers apprehended were cunning and reckless; Lo Van Dai and Vi Van Thuyen were two prime examples. The pair was arrested on 9 May, 2000 after an ambush in the province's Kim Son town. The guards spent a week in hiding waiting to apprehend them.

After pinning down Dai, the guards were shaken to find that he wasn't actually carrying any drugs. This was soon rectified, when they noticed he had a distinct red mark on his shoulder, suggesting he had recently been carrying a heavy pack. Retracing Dai's steps, the guards retreated into the undergrowth and emerged with an 8 kilogram bag of opium.

Bribery

That night the smuggler approached Tai, offering him VND 80 million (US\$5,500) in exchange for his release. It was enough money to completely change the captain's life, but he refused it and returned Dai to the station.

The guards say this is not an isolated incident, and that they frequently decline bribes offered by captured smugglers. In recognition of their honorable attitude, the team received the State's Exploits Order, 2nd Class, and some guards have even been decorated by the Defense Ministry and the Border Guard Command.

The fight against the drug trade typically reaches a crescendo each April, when poppies are harvested. The guards carry AK47s as well as electric batons, and the struggle is increasingly becoming more violent and dangerous. Tai however remains optimistic, "This case is particularly heated, but in the end, we will win."

Original report by VNS, 17 May 2003.
<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn>

Strengthening East Timor's Justice System

The objective of the National Development Plan project is to strengthen the criminal justice system of East Timor, including correctional services. The Dutch Government have pledged funds for the prisons, rehabilitating prisons and activities related to vocational training for inmates. The UN standards and norms (Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, The Tokyo Rules, alternatives to imprisonment, due process, rights of prisoners, etc.) have greatly enhanced the project and will be taken into serious consideration when these projects are implemented in East Timor.

The project is assisting the prosecution and public defense offices to ascertain their own structures and constitutional assignments. Due to language barriers as most public defenders, prosecutors and judges do not speak Portuguese, a great deal of special legal training is being organized. The lack of national legislation (they still use the Indonesian Penal Code) also calls for technical assistance on legislative matters, including the ratification of the UN Conventions such as the Transnational Organized Crime Convention, and implementing universal international policies related on terrorism.

News: UN Launches Pilot to Support NGOs

The UN is launching a project for "Building non-governmental support structures for victims of violent crime, including victims of trafficking in persons". The project will fund five pilot schemes with demonstrable practical outcomes for victims of violent crime in general, or violence against women with respect to trafficking in women and girls for sexual or other forms of exploitation. Applications are restricted to projects originating from developing countries or countries in transition with a maximum of US\$ 35,000 for each project. For more information go to: http://www.unodc.org/trafficking_victim_suppport.html

The Strategic Concept to Combat the Drug Menace in Pursuit of a Drug Free Indonesia - 2015, was presented at the Second meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) Fact Finding Committee on 12-15 March 2003, in Yogyakarta Indonesia. Recommendations were made to improve Indonesia's chances of becoming drug-free by 2015. The challenges that were identified were geographic concerns due to Indonesia being the largest archipelagic country.

Economic concerns were identified due to the 1997 crisis, which has effected Indonesia's government to implement anti-drug initiatives. Political instability, territorial separation and conflicts, and also threats of transnational terrorism hinder progress. Recommendations included an increase in resources to be applied to the programme: manpower, money and material must be allocated. Full participation in community activities for prevention, and creating law enforcement partnerships with ASEAN countries was also a high priority. The study identifies approaches and initiatives that will allow Indonesia to attain Drug-Free ASEAN 2015.

The Second Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Person and Related Crime took place in Bali Indonesia on 28-30 April 2003. 323 participants from 30 member countries, UNHCR and IOM, and 28 delegations at the ministerial level attended the 3 day events. Key note speeches were given by Hon. Alexander Downer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, Hon. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, and Mr. Ludd Lubbers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. They addressed the process of consultation, consensus building and decision making, established by the Bali II Working group during the last 14 month after the Bali I Conference. Building on International and Regional Cooperation was a subject of bold debate. UNHCR and IOM underlined that better management of refugee and illicit migration would significantly reduce or prevent the growth trend of trafficking persons. Also, a consultation group of "Experts on Human Trafficking" from the European Union is set to cooperate with the Bali process.

United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Concluded its 12th session in Vienna 13-22 May 2003. Delegates reviewed the activities of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), focusing on human trafficking - the session's main theme - terrorism, kidnapping, the ratification of the Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and on Corruption, urban security, technical cooperation for crime prevention and other relevant matters. Key resolutions adopted by the Commission call for action on transnational organized crime, terrorism, human trafficking, prevention of urban crime, and on a model treaty for the prevention of crimes against a country's cultural heritage.

The Second International Muslim Leader's Consultation on HIV/AIDS took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 19-23 May 2003. Successful plenary sessions were conducted covering experiences and approaches that impact HIV/AIDS within the context of Islam. The feasibility of creating a Muslim leader's HIV/AIDS network, discussing the role faith plays in responding to prevention and harm reduction and addressing the vulnerability and impact of HIV/AIDS on women, orphans and children, was also highlighted. Mrs. Soltani of UNODC Iran spoke specifically on "Women and Drugs" under the theme of "Drug Use: What is the Islamic Perspective on Harm Reduction?"

ASEAN Program in HIV/AIDS held its Planning forum in Bangkok on 21 February 2003. Law and policies were reviewed, increasing awareness and support of policy makers was a need that was outlined. Collaboration to build capacity and training in program development and evaluation were also key issues. Progress was reported in areas of collaboration of training and developing advocacy tools, assistance in review of proposals, and the AHRN promotion of public health approach. Emerging needs identified were; to strengthen youth networks for prevention and support for HIV/AIDS, more collaboration with youth committees, and joining forces with other youth networks in the region.

A Best Practice Model of Harm Reduction

A Study by Dave Burrows

“A Best Practice Model of Harm Reduction” is the published version of the final project report of a study commissioned by the World Bank in 2001 to examine best practice harm reduction for HIV prevention among injecting drug users (IDUs) in community and prison settings in the Russian Federation, and to recommend best practice harm reduction measures. The report is based on 26 surveys completed by needle and syringe exchange projects (NSEPs) in the Russian Federation (RF), interviews with NSEP and key informants, and other research.

Results:

By early 2001, there were at least 48 NSEPs in RF. Key features of these NSEPs included:

- NSEPs surveyed were all funded, with an average funding of US\$ 28,000 per program.
- The average number of needles and syringes distributed in the previous

- month was 6258 per program.
- The mean regular reach of the NSEPs to IDUs was 0.74%.
- Main strengths of the program were considered to be support from local authorities and institutions; caring attitude and pragmatic approach of NSEPs; international technical support and funding peer education.
- Weaknesses cited included: insufficient funds to meet needs; low reach; management problems; patchy quality of services.

By early 2001, there was at least 6 prison harm reduction projects in RF. Key features included:

- Commitment at the highest levels.
- Training for senior prison authorities, middle management in prisons, custodial staff, medical staff and the prisoners themselves.

Educational materials tailored to the needs of staff and prisoners, provision of peer education programmes, and linkage between prisons and communities.

Accession of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Intl. Drug Control Conventions

I
Council of Ministers
Council of Jurists
Cabinet Office
DRAFT NATIONAL LAW
March 28th, 2003

II
National Assembly
Administrative Department

III
National Assembly
Special Committee
FOR REVIEW

IV
National Assembly
President Norodom Ranariddh
FOR INCLUSION IN N.A. TIMETABLE

V
National Assembly
REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE BY MEMBERS

VI
Senate
REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE BY MEMBERS

VII
Head of State
King Norodom Sihanouk
FOR SIGNATURE OF NEW NATIONAL LAW

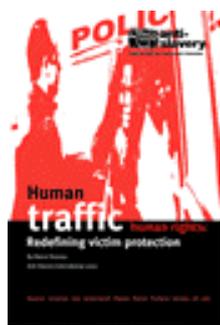


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2003 MOU Ministerial Meeting Postponed due to SARS

The Ministerial and Senior Officials Committee Meetings of the six countries (Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) and UNODC, (signatory to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Cooperation in Drug Control), has been postponed to a later date in 2003, due to the situation related to SARS. It was originally planned to have taken place in May, hosted by the Government of Vietnam. The Meetings will not only review the progress made and issues confronted by the countries in the region but also celebrate the 10th year Anniversary of subregional cooperation under the MOU, which has become an example to other countries and regions.



Human Traffic, Human Rights: Redefining Victim Protection

By Elaine Pearson

Funded by the European Community, researched by a number of different groups in 10 countries, this work comprises perhaps the first and certainly a very interesting comparative study of different anti-human trafficking measures. It takes a victim protection perspective, and focuses on the roles played by law enforcement and more broadly by the criminal justice system. It is about informed change, focuses on learning from other's experiences, and making sure the victim is not squashed by inhumane responses to trafficking cases. It should be considered an 'effective' publication if even one of its 45 recommendations are taken into account in any one jurisdiction. This publication is not mainstream; a shame many of the people who should read it, will miss it.

If there is one failing of this book, playing devil's advocate, it is the seeming deliberateness and limited number of samples analysed, and the subsequent induction based upon the lessons learned from those samples. It is entirely possible to discount the lessons from any of the cases as being somehow not representative. Certainly if there are those who would object to its findings and recommendations, these limitations might provide them sufficient ammunition to discount the study.

However, that would be irresponsible and unfair to the researchers. This was a very worthwhile undertaking, a great concept, and a massive task. It is likely that no agency in the world would have sufficient resource and connections to undertake such a comparative survey and be able to take a more representative and more random sample from each jurisdiction. Given this, it is surely worth our while to view this as a very fine and unique attempt to identify good practices in law and enforcement.

The book takes a problem-oriented approach to various parts of the victim protection 'system':

- Investigation and prosecution of traffickers;
- Contradiction between laws concern-

ing undocumented migrants and those affecting trafficked persons;

- Residency rights for trafficked persons;
- Protection from Reprisals;
- In-court evidentiary protection;
- Role of lawyers;
- Legal redress and compensation; and
- Return and repatriation.

The researchers examine the programmes and policies of victim protection measures in each thematic area within the 10 jurisdictions. They then analyse a small number of case in each jurisdiction to determine the degree of concordance between policy and practice, to identify the gap between rhetoric and reality.

This study's greatest overall success is the identification of the need to address human trafficking as a very specific crime, with special needs, and with an entirely new take on the role law enforcement can play. The study comes close with many of its recommendations, but never states it baldly: that the criminal justice systems in all jurisdictions must re-tool, changing the way they approach this crime type if there are to be more success cases than failures.

At several points in the book, the writer draws out some very interesting correlations, which definitely suggest that a criminal justice system that cares for and protects victims of trafficking will see better enforcement results than one that treats victims poorly. This comes through often enough to be considered a theme. The book identifies a correlation between successful enforcement outcomes (defined by successful prosecutions) and the higher quality protection of victims. Making these observations is critical. It demonstrates an understanding of what makes law enforcement tick; increasing successful prosecutions is the law enforcement equivalent of improving the bottom line. If we are ever to convince criminal justice experts that more should be done to improve victim protection, it is to show there is a dividend. This study maturely demonstrates a realistic and perhaps politically astute appre-

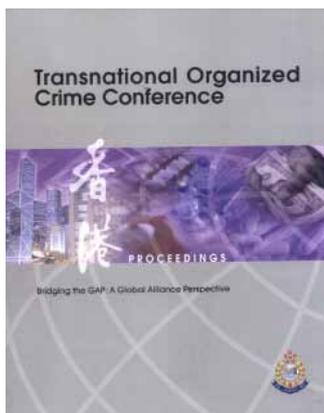
ciation that to 'sell' to a State the idea of enhanced victim protection, it cannot be only for the sake of protecting victims. The prospect of a dividend for States is an important tool for advocating change in favour of the victim of crime.

It is important in this field that not too much negative energy is created, and left unspent. Observation of problems must be balanced by positive suggestions for the way forward. This book achieves this balance very well. The writer poses a large number of recommendations, most of which are aimed at responsible States. Most relate to re-training, improved training and understanding in law enforcement personnel. Of course there are very good indications about which aspects of which legislative regimes works best, and what features maximise both victim protection and the likelihood of successful prosecutions. Linking, for example, the notion of 'a reflection delay' (where victims are given a period of time in destination country where they can be counselled, rehabilitated to a degree and made more comfortable with their new environment) with the increased likelihood that those granted this delay are more likely to testify against their traffickers, is a powerful argument for investigators to be more patient if they seek a successful prosecution.

Most recommendations come at quite some cost though and, in most countries, the criminal justice system is a poor brother to other budget programmes. It will take quite some political will to change the course of budgetary responses to trafficking. Of course the question about whether all States will really 'buy into' the anti-trafficking effort is perhaps the hardest to answer. Sensibly, this study leaves the question unanswered – perhaps for the rest of us to work at.

For purchases of the study, go to:
www.antislavery.org

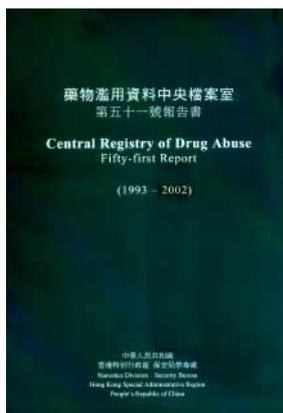
Book Review by: Brian Iselin, Regional Legal Expert – Human Trafficking, UN Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok



TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME PROCEEDINGS: BRIDGING THE GAP, A GLOBAL ALLIANCE PERSPECTIVE

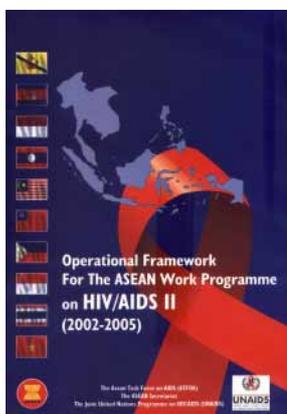
The 2002 edition is a record of proceedings, which aspires to create a continuation of the reflection on ideas and inquiries of the discussion that took place at the Transnational Organized Crime Conference in Hong Kong 18-21 March 2002. Contents include papers that address problems encountered in confronting organized crime or serious criminal

networks in the era of globalization. **Publisher:** Hong Kong Police Force of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. The publication is available through their website: www.info.gov.hk/police.



CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE: FIFTY-FIRST REPORT (1993-2002)

The Fifty-first report of the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA) covers its findings in identifying trends in drug addiction, coordinating statistics of addicted populations, assessment of drug abuse patterns, comparative analysis and public dissemination of information activities. **Publisher:** Narcotics Division Government Secretariat, Hong Kong, High Block, 30th Floor 66 Queensway, Tel: (852) 2867 1079 Fax: (852) 2537 2575 Email: sb_stat@sb.gov.hk.

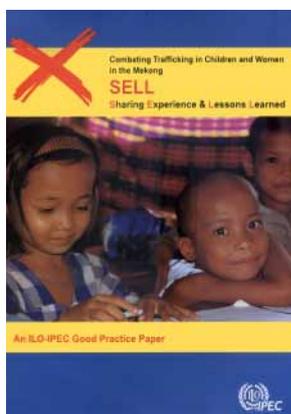


OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASEAN WORK PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS 2002-2005

The ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) and the ASEAN Secretariat have published its operational framework to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and mitigate the social and economic impact of the disease in ASEAN member countries. The report covers the objectives of the Task Force, covering strategies and potential outcomes of the proposed programmes for 2005.

Publisher: The ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, 70A Jl. Sisingamangaraja,

Indonesia 12110, Tel: (6221) 724 3372 Fax: (6221) 739 8234 Email: public@aseansec.org Web: www.aseansec.org.

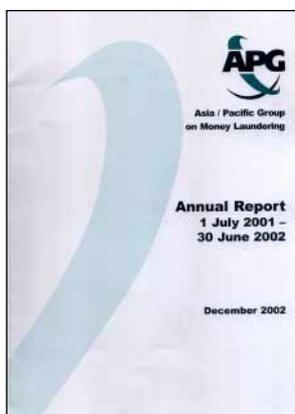


COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN THE MEKONG: SELL SHARING, EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

The International Labour Organization has published a Good Practice Paper on its Mekong sub-regional project to combat trafficking in children and women to document lessons learned based on three years of interventions. It is a third series of documents by the project, following the '12 Technical Intervention Area Tools' and various situation analysis reports of trafficking.

Publisher: International Labour

Organization, (ILO) Bangkok, United Nations Service Building, 2nd floor, Rajdamnern Nok Ave. P.O Box 2-349, 10200 Thailand. Tel: (66 2) 288 2218 Fax: (66 2) 288 3063 Web: www.ilo.org/asia/child/trafficking.

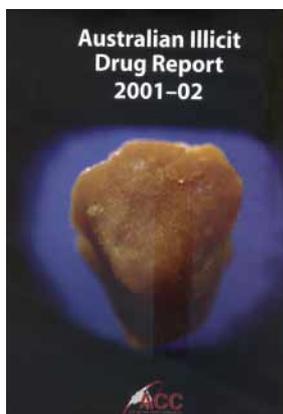


ASIA PACIFIC GROUP ON MONEY LAUNDERING, ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

This Third Annual report's primary purpose is to provide a regional focus for cooperation against money laundering and terrorist financing, including the implementation of internationally accepted anti-money laundering standards in legal, financial and law enforcement sectors. This report summarizes and analyzes the APG's yearly progress and achievements.

Publisher: Asia Pacific Group, (APG) Sydney, 201 Elizabeth Street

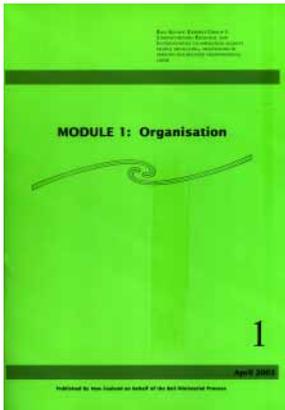
2000 Australia. Tel: (61) 2 9373 2438 Fax: (61) 2 9373 2499 Email: mail@apgml.org Web: www.apgml.org.



AUSTRALIAN ILLICIT DRUG REPORT 2001-2002

The report published by the Australian Crime Commission provides a strategic overview of the Australian illicit drug market from a law enforcement perspective for the previous financial year and represents the collaborative efforts of a wide range of law enforcement agencies.

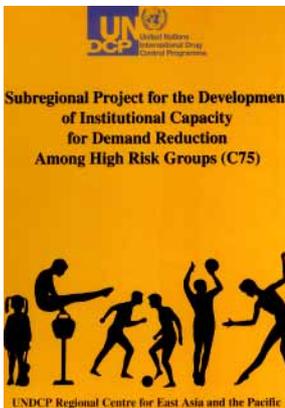
Publisher: Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Canberra City, PO Box 1936, 2601 Australia, Tel: (61 2) 6243 5666 Fax: (61 2) 6247 5380 email: acc@crimecommissiion.gov.au.



BALI AD-HOC EXPERTS GROUP 1: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MODULE 1 AND 2, APRIL 2003

This publication describes initiatives in which participating States are involved at the international, regional and bilateral level to exchange information about, or to support operational action against, people smuggling, trafficking in persons or related transnational crime.

Publisher: New Zealand on behalf of the Bali Ministerial Process, Wellington, 195 Lambton Quay Private Bag 18-901, Tel: (64 4) 439 8000 Fax: (64 4) 472 9596.

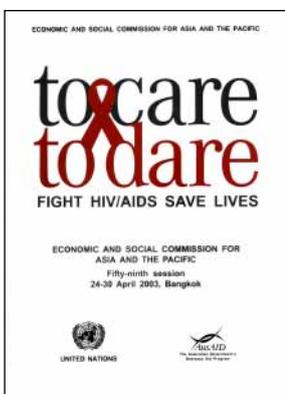


SUBREGIONAL PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR DEMAND REDUC- TION AMONG HIGH RISK GROUPS (C75)

UN Office on Drugs Crime's (UNODC) country-by-country programme reports for 2002 in Demand Reduction among youth and high risk groups in the topic areas of: 'Thai Schools Free of Drugs' and 'Surveying Myanmar Schools'. 'Drug Use at the Margins of Vietnam', Drug Use by the Youth of Vietnam', and 'Drug Abuse Among Youth in Vientiane'.

Publisher: UNODC Regional Centre

for East Asia and Pacific, Bangkok, United Nations Building, 6th Floor Rajdamnern Nok Ave. 10200 Thailand. Web: www.unodc.un.or.th



TO CARE, TO DARE: FIGHT HIV/ AIDS SAVES LIVES

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has published their Fifty-ninth session report which took place on 24-30 April in Bangkok Thailand. The study looks at the HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region, analyzing economic and social progress and targeting the theme of 'integrating economic and social concerns in meeting the needs of HIV/AIDS in the region'.

Publisher: United Nations ESCAP Secretariat, Emerging Social Issues

Division, Bangkok, United Nations Building, 6th Floor Rajdamnern Nok Ave. 10200 Thailand. Tel: (66 2) 288 1502 Fax: (66 2) 288 3031 Email: escap-healthdev@un.org Web: www.unescap-healthdev.org.

NEW TO BANGKOK



Mona Mangat

(Canada) has joined the Regional Centre as the Research and Information Expert, and is the current Editor for Eastern Horizons magazine.

Her primary responsibilities are publishing EH on a quarterly basis, and dealing with Public information issues. She recently moved from Prague, Czech Republic where she worked as a journalist covering politics in post-communist and CIS countries. She has also lived and worked in Italy, as a Project Coordinator for the Canadian Studies Centre at the Università di Genova.



Gerson H. Bergeth

(Norway) has joined the Regional Center after working as Program Developer for an Indonesian NGO for three years. He will work with

the Partnership Unit to develop the capacity of the Regional Center in the building of partnerships with the private and public sector. He will also assist in the strengthening of the ACCORD, particularly in the field of multilateral partnerships. He holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology. He has also worked on various humanitarian projects in Eastern Europe.



Danielle Fraser

(Canada) has joined the Regional Centre as the Project Associate for the Improving Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) Data and Information Systems project.

Her primary responsibilities include information management, website development, building a regional clearinghouse, and establishing a network of regional ATS contacts. She is affiliated with the Institute for Leadership Development at York University in Toronto. She has previous experience in project management and information handling, as well as in cross-cultural communication.

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME & TERRORISM

Spring Program 2003

September 21 – October 3
Northern Territory University, Darwin

Summer Program 2004

January 5 – 23 and January 27 – February 13
The University of Adelaide

Dr. Andreas Schloenhardt

Contents

- Transnational Organised Crime
- Drug Trafficking
- Migrant Smuggling
- Trafficking in Women and Children
- Terrorism
- Money Laundering
- Law Enforcement
- Role of International Organisations
- UN Crime Prevention & Justice Program

Assessment

- Participation 20%
- Working Group Project Presentation 40%
- Assignment (research/discussion paper) 40%

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andreas.schloenhardt@adelaide.edu.au

Applications Close:

AUGUST 29, 2003

www.law.adelaide.edu.au/courses/crime



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UNODC EASTERN HORIZONS is published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Bangkok, Thailand with contributions from the country offices in Vietnam, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Articles, comments and relevant information with photos or tables attached are welcomed. Submissions should not exceed 500 words. Full name and signature must accompany all letters to the editor. Articles and letters may be edited for purposes of space and clarity.

Editor: **Mona Mangat**, Tel: (66 2) 288-1445 Email: mona.mangat@unodc.un.or.th Distribution: **Ajarie Salilasiri**, Tel: (66 2) 288-2083, Email: ajarie.salilasiri@unodc.un.or.th For further information, please contact: UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, 14th Floor, United Nations Building Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand Tel: (+66-2) 288-2091 Fax: (+66-2) 281-2129 Website: <http://www.unodc.un.or.th>

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