

U N D C P

# Eastern Horizons

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

No. 2

June 2000

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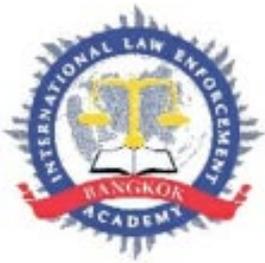
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## An Academy for the Rule of Law

The International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok (ILEA) is the outcome of a bilateral agreement between Thailand and the United States of America and has just celebrated their one year anniversary. The objectives of ILEA are:

- To support criminal justice institution-building in Asia, with an emphasis on the rule of law and the building of law enforcement capacity;
- To strengthen partnerships among countries in Asia;
- To address problems of narcotics and other transnational crime.

These goals are achieved through training and institution-building. Some of the courses that were taught in ILEA's first year were entitled "White Collar Crime," "International Investigations and Controlled Deliveries," "Post Blast Investigation" and "Criminal Analysis Training." Happy anniversary!

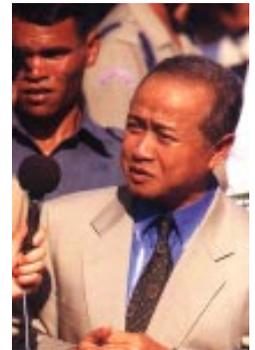
More information can be obtained at ILEA's Web Page <http://www.ileabangkok.com>

# INTERNATIONAL CRIME

## is a Threat to Human Rights and Development in East Asia

HRH. Prince Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh:\*

In recent years, we have seen the increasing activities of transnational crime in our region. Trafficking of drugs, human (women and children), and arms are not just threats to human rights alone but to human security. With globalization, transnational crime is becoming increasingly active and widespread. It has been difficult for all countries, especially those nations in transition, to deal with this issue because of the lack of resources, expertise, and sufficient legal framework. There is a growing recognition that each and every nation-state could not manage this issue alone. Rather, we need to work together more in order to fight the rise of transnational crime in our region.



\* *Prince Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Excerpt from his keynote address at the seminar on Human Rights Responsibilities and Development, organised by the United Nations Development Programme, on Monday, 17 April 2000 in Bangkok, Thailand*

## Still Possible to Apply for this Year's UN CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD

The United Nations Civil Society Award 2000 has been postponed until autumn and consequently, the UN Office at Vienna has extended the deadline for nominations to 15 May 2000.

Nominations are open to individuals or organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to the fight against crime, drug abuse and terrorism or who have fostered justice and social progress. Organisations and individuals cannot nominate themselves for the award.

Winners will be selected by a panel of prominent persons and invited to Vienna for the award ceremony. Last year, drug prevention organisations in Japan and Mexico and individual activists from India and Uganda received medals, certificates and shared \$ 100,000 in prize money.

For additional information, visit the web site of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention at <http://www.odccp.org> or contact the office at Fax: (+43) 1 26060 5866, E-mail: [seze@undcp.org](mailto:seze@undcp.org)

## UN Secretary-General KOFI ANNAN VISITS BANGKOK

The Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan visited Bangkok in February to participate in the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on

Trade and Development (UNCTAD X) held at Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok and meet with the regional leaders attending the event.

During his visit, the Secretary-General Kofi Annan also came to the United Nations Building in Bangkok on February 11, 2000 to meet the staff and to have a short meeting with most senior colleagues.



*The UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan together with Asean leaders. Source: UN photo archive*

# AWARENESS CREATES RESISTANCE

Triggered by the recent UN offshore Forum Plenary, the Bangkok Post has published one of its most insightful editorials on the subject of international crime.

It highlighted the damaging effects on countries subjected to the activities of transnational criminals and exposed the true exploitive character of their “business.”

A “business” which includes drug dealing, prostitution (including child prostitution), and the slave trade of human beings.

The editor’s conclusion was specifically note-worthy: there cannot be too much co-operation among the countries of East Asia and the Pacific to shut out international crime.



## METHAMPHETAMINE THE PREFERRED DRUG AMONG THAI STUDENTS

A recent study in Thailand commissioned by the ONCB (Office of Narcotics Control Board) has revealed that 12.45 percent of Thailand’s students have been involved with illicit drugs. Among the drug users, methamphetamine seemed to be top of choice as 54.8 percent of the students admitted to taking the drug.

The second choice was marijuana which was preferred by 20 percent of the students and inhalants came in third at 18.1 percent. Other drugs, such as opium, heroin and cocaine, were used to a limited extent.

## STRENGTHENING FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar on “Building Capacities for Fighting Transnational Organized Crime” held in Bangkok on the 20-21 March 2000, proved to be a great success.

Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Thai Government in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), the Seminar convened Ministers and experts from 20 nations within the region.

There was a general consensus that every nation, irrespective of its geographical, political, or economic situation, is affected from transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, money laundering, trafficking of human beings, smuggling of migrants, corruption, transfer of illegal firearms, and

fraud.

As a result, a Joint Ministerial Statement was adopted after two days of intense discussions. Pledging their commitment to work together, the Governments agreed to undertake all possible measures to combat transnational crime. They further stressed the need to reinforce cooperative regional measures, including matters of mutual legal assistance and extradition, and emphasized their dedication to assist victims and society at large.

The Statement was brought to the attention of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders that was held in Vienna on the 10-17 of April 2000.

# Sex , drugs and corruption

SOME worrying crime trends in the world:

- Approximately 600,000 women and children are trapped in illegal sex trade in Europe and the United States. About 70 per cent of them are controlled by Asian crime gangs.
- The amount of money laundered annually by organized crime syndicates in the financial system worldwide is estimated to be about US\$500 billion.
- Up to US\$30 billion in international aid for countries in Africa has ended up in bank accounts of Corrupt officials.
- More than two million people in western Africa have been killed using smuggled firearms in the last decade alone.
- About three quarters of the world’s opium supply comes from Afghanistan. Crime lords exported about 4,600 metric tones of raw opium last year.
- Consumers worldwide lose about US\$500 million to hackers who steal and make use of their credit and calling card information from online accounts.

# UNDCP in the heart of OPIUM LAND

**The Wa area is a semi-autonomous region along the Myanmar China border. It is part of a broader region that has not known peace or stability since the outbreak of the Second World War and has continuously changed hands among a series of warring factions including the Kuomintang and the Communist Party of Burma. The area is now controlled by the United Wa State Army.**

Few foreigners have had an opportunity to meet with local authorities from inside Wa territory or to travel through the major poppy cultivating areas. A recent trip provided considerable first hand information concerning the opium cultivation and initiated contact between the isolated communities and UNDCP.

From Mandalay, two days driving is required to reach the town of Nam Tit, situated on the northern border of the Wa territory abutting China. The town has, like many other towns near China, expanded rapidly in the past few years with an influx of new buildings, stores and businesses that have been established by Chinese businessmen.

Around Nam Tit, the local leaders have established large plantations of rubber, longuan, lichee and mango trees with the products to be marketed in China. To date 300,000 rubber and 100,000 fruit trees have been planted. A large labour force will be required when these plantations are ready to be harvested. The intention is to attract people from the opium cultivating areas into Nam Tit and provide them with irrigated land on which to grow rice and Soya bean. They will also be employed in the plantations. Irrigation canals and water control systems have been or are being constructed to ensure the land can be cultivated.

## Driving through steep jungles on a riverbed

Leaving the town of Nam Tit, the terrain is one of jungle-covered hills that rise steeply from the valley bottoms. Conse-



quently roads are cut into the hillsides. The roads twist and turn rise and fall as they traverse hill after hill. Waterways continually cross these roads and if the design is not adequate much of the road surface will be washed away during the rainy season. The road passes through steeper jungle clad hills when arriving to the village of Pan Khun. The road is in very poor condition with travel limited to a few km/h. On the way only small plots of poppy were visible, mostly in the small valleys or in hollows high on the hillsides.

Leaving Pan Khun one enters Kyin Chang Township driving eastwards towards the Chinese border. This road was even worse than before often resembling a dry riverbed. Large areas on the hillsides on the way to the village of Kyin Chang had been prepared for opium poppies however the weather had seriously impeded germination and growth. Most of these huge fields (whole hillsides) have only 25 – 30% plant

coverage and many of these were straggly and weak. Large areas remain fallow though they had originally been seeded for opium. The harvest, which should have been in full operation, was only just starting due to delays caused by the poor weather.

## An eagle's nest surrounded by poppy fields

The village of Kyin Chang is situated at about 2000 m with the surrounding hills rising to over 3,000 m. (Photo) In contrast to the hillside fields, the poppy plots surrounding the village of Kyin Chang are lush and green and the poppies well cared for with cabbage grown between the poppy plants. The fields around Kyin Chang are expected to yield 8 viss per acre but there is not a large area under cultivation.

The village originally had 50-60 families however most had been moved to the Mong Hsat area in the southern Wa and only ten families remain. The Nam Tit au-



thorities plan to move some of the villagers from Kyin Chang township to lower elevations and have surveyed and designed five irrigation canals that will make the lower land suitable for food crop cultivation.

Kyin Chang Township extends along the border of Yunnan Province, China. Chinese people receive licenses to mine the ore that yields lead, zinc, copper and some silver. Once again, with the exception of a tology to haul the excavated ore, the work is carried out with hand tools. All of the ore is collected at a central point and shipped to China for smelting.

In recent years the opium yield has been in the range of 6 viss (1.6 kgs) per acre although many farmers judge that this year the yield will be lower. When talking to the authorities, farmers report 3-4 viss per acre to minimize the tax payments. 1 viss will sell for an average of 4,000 Yuan in the local markets from which the farmer has to pay for the seeds and taxes. This year's price rise is due to reduced supply and increasing demand.

### Deeper into the Wa area

The road from Pang Khun driving south to Mong Maw Township is in very bad condition with 15kms taking almost 2.5hours to traverse. The road passes through untouched hardwood forests with little sign of people or poppy cultivation. The poor condition of the road inhibits trade and transportation between Nam Tit and the more heavily populated areas of the Wa territory in the south.

A major bridge is being built across the Nam Tit river marking the border with Mong Maw Township. From the bridge to the town of Mong Maw the road has been upgraded and can be traveled at speeds of 40 kph. Mong Maw town is clustered in a valley surrounded by steep hills. A hydroelectric power station supplies the town with electricity. The township appears to be financially better off than Nam Tit Township al-

though no explanation for this was forthcoming other than it is the base for the Chairman's elder brother.

As in Nam Tit the local authorities have formed companies and are in the process of developing rubber and tea plantations. With the aid of an expert from Yunnan 200, acres of tea have already been planted and seedlings for an additional 300 acres are being cultivated. The tea plantations have irrigation sprinkling system, which was not seen in other locations. The township has developed a granite tile business, quarrying the stone, cutting and polishing again with equipment and training from China.

The road through Mong Maw Township travels east to Kunmae and Wanlin before heading south and east into Pang Sang. Throughout the entire route the hills on both sides of the road have been cultivated for poppy. As in Kyin Chang less than 40% of the plants germinated and other than small patches are poor specimens. Every village grows poppy around their houses and these are in good condition having been tended and fertilized. Many of the hill-sides show large expanses of brown fallow land that had been expected to produce poppy. The condition of the road improves as we near the capital of Pang Sang.

### In the capital of the Wa

The town is the Wa military capital and is situated in the centre of Wa territory on the border with China. The town has a distinct Chinese flavour with all signs being in Chinese, Wa, Myanmar and sometimes English. The town has expanded in the past two years with the main streets being poured concrete. The central part of the town is well laid out and includes a covered sewer system although this empties into the nearby river. A large casino, one Chinese department store and two banks operate in the downtown area. Vehicles with Wa, Myanmar, Chinese and Thailand license plates are commonly seen. Many of the Wa

men carry handguns tucked into their waistbands.

### An isolated area facing many problems

Vast areas cultivated and planted with poppy were seen during the mission. Opium is clearly the economic backbone of the villagers who plant and harvest these fields. Opium is traded in the local markets which means farmers do not have to travel long distances to sell their crop. Until irrigation systems are constructed the amount of land suitable for rice or other crops will be limited. Most of the villagers do not produce sufficient food to meet a basic level of sustenance. Health problems are exacerbated by the lack of water and sanitary systems, which in turn promotes the need for opium as a medicine. Despite a reported increase in the area under cultivation, a small yield is expected due to the adverse weather.

It is doubtful the Wa can eradicate opium cultivation by 2005 given the lack of alternative sources of income and the limited international assistance.

Most of the current economic ventures being implemented will benefit primarily the leaders and wealthy Chinese investors. The poor farmers will receive land and employment but their overall living conditions are not likely to substantially improve.

Illiteracy, health, inaccessibility to finances all work to keep the local people in poverty. The UNDCP project in the Mong Pawk area is having an effect by allowing the local villagers to organize and plan their futures. Unfortunately the project can only affect a very small number of people and with limited funds the results will be equally constrained. UNDCP's reputation is good and local leaders, with some notable, exceptions are beginning to trust and seek advice for project personnel. The project also serves to build a working relationship between the Wa and the Government. These improvements have been hard won with demands starting to come from the village headmen. – **Information provided by UNDCP Country Office in Myanmar.**



## Renewed **UNDCP** Efforts towards Increased Project Design and Management Training

**A**s part of the Project on Technical Assistance for Subregional Co-operation and Interagency Collaboration in East Asia, the Regional Centre has established a training programme on Project Design and Management (PDM) to strengthen the knowledge and capabilities of drug control personnel in the MOU countries.

From mid 1997 to early 1999, the Regional Centre completed a regional "training-of-trainers" workshop that was followed by national PDM workshops in each country. This series of workshops trained key officials and project managers who have been involved in drug control projects and activities at the central and field levels.

Most of the subregional projects are now operational and an increasing number of national personnel are involved in the planning and implementation of the drug control projects; therefore the need for project design and management training is increasing.

Recognising this need, all MOU coun-

tries have made formal requests for additional training on planning and management of drug control projects. In line with Regional Centre policy and in order to meet the national requirements, a second phase of the PDM training has now been organised.

The objective of phase two will be to further strengthen the knowledge of project design and management among drug control officials and project personnel so that they can effectively contribute to the project process.

Specific topics concerning the on-going projects will be added to meet the needs required for effective project delivery in each country. A total of six national workshops are scheduled to be conducted and it is expected that approximately 35-40 participants will be selected to attend each of the seven day workshops.

Due to shortage of funds, the second phase of the PDM training will be covered collectively by the national governments and the participating projects. •

## Preventing Drugs and Delinquency

Since 1994, the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre (DAPC) in Japan has provided donations to UNDCP in order to support drug abuse prevention and education projects sponsored by non-government organisations (NGOs) in developing countries.

In 1999, one of the NGOs in Thailand, the Institute for Juvenile and Family Justice Development, was selected by UNDCP for the award of the DAPC Grant to implement the project entitled, "Drug and Delinquency Prevention Programme".

The project started in January 2000 with a proposed period of five years. It aims to prevent drug abuse among juveniles and specifically targets youths who have drug addiction problems and/or have been released from reformatory or juvenile delinquent facilities.

The proposed strategies of the project include training of key personnel, such as judges and probation officers, and provisions of drug prevention education for vulnerable juveniles.

## World Children's Parliament Wants to Fight Drugs



*Decisive children want to fight*

The voices of children from 32 countries sang out at the Children's Parliament of the World (CPW). Held in Thailand, the two-day seminar encouraged children to share ideas and experiences on critical issues such as drugs, poverty, child labour, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and the environment.

Despite the young age of the participants (the majority of the youths were in their mid-teens), the knowledge, maturity, and understanding they had of these issues was evident.

One of the main concerns raised by several of the young par-

ticipants was the growing availability of drugs in all countries around the world. According to the youths, the accessibility of illicit substances is intensifying and as a result, the total number of young lives lost is increasing.

An alarming number of children are becoming addicted to drugs and the economic conditions of many of the developing countries hinder the promotion of awareness and prevention campaigns.

Nevertheless, the children proposed several viable solutions. After listening to the various per-

Globalization and technology have paved the way for criminal activity and as a result, one of the most daunting concerns facing the international community today is the lack of appropriate controls over offshore financial centers (OFC's) that serve as platforms for money laundering operations. It is estimated that hundreds of billions of dollars are laundered annually through the 60 to 90 OFC's located around the world.

In response, the global programme

## Countries and UN Join Action Against Money Laundering

against money-laundering of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) has launched an initiative called the United Nations Offshore Forum to prevent the misuse of the offshore financial sector for the laundering of criminal proceeds.

To achieve this objective, each jurisdiction is urged to establish appropriate and internationally acceptable anti-money laundering measures and commit to the

spectives of the other delegates, one young woman from Thailand concluded that education was the key to address the dilemma of drug abuse and other problems such as child labour and teen pregnancy. It was also concluded that these issues must be made an integral part of the school curriculum.

And finally, one student from Lithuania proposed that everyone must work together to help one another if differences were going to be achieved. The children of today represent the future, and it is apparent that they are prepared to stand up to the challenge.

*(Adapted from an article by Ms. Anjira Assavanondam, published in the Bangkok Post)*

supervision and regulation of financial services within its territory. Accordingly, the Forum has established minimum performance standards that must be adopted by all OFC's, and intends to work closely with experts from the more developed offshore centers and multi-national organizations to ensure its goals are achieved.

"The very nature of offshore financial centers makes them attractive to criminals who are looking for tools, such as shell companies and trusts, to hide the true

ownership of criminal proceeds," Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of ODCCP. It is predicted that at least three years will be required to fully implement the Forum's objectives.

To assess the political commitment and the criteria of the OFC's, a two-day UN Offshore Plenary meeting was held on March 30 and 31 in the Cayman Islands. One hundred participants from 37 jurisdictions, including several observer countries, attended the event to express their concern over criminals' access to the global financial markets.

According to Mr. Pino Arlacchi, the meeting was a success. "The consensus reached today represents a groundbreaking step in the global fight against money laundering," he concluded at the end of the Plenary. ODCCP emphasized their commitment to support the jurisdictions' implementation of the minimum standards through provisions of technical assistance and research programmes.

The delegates also demonstrated their commitment by emphasizing the need for the free exchange of information to ensure effective financial regulations and anti-money laundering measures are exercised on a global basis. It was further recognized that seized asset sharing agreements could contribute to a strong incentive for cooperation in the pursuit of those en-

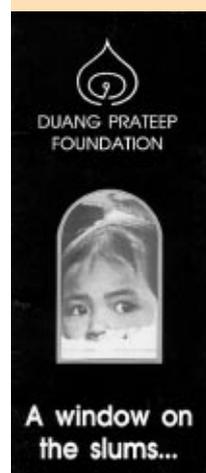
## DUANG PRATEEP FOUNDATION'S LEADER BECOMES A SENATOR

The Duang Prateep Foundation is officially registered as a charity in Thailand and was founded in 1978. It grew out of the efforts of slum people to address the problems that confronted them; problems that have their roots in poverty and deprivation.

The name "Duang Prateep" means "flame of enlightenment" and this flame is the Foundation's symbol. It offers a promise that they try hard to live up to with the help of friends and supporters in Thailand and overseas.

The voice of Duang Prateep Foundation will now be heard on the political scene too.

Its Secretary General, Prateep Ungsong-tham Hata, has won a seat in Thailand's first ever elected senate. Polling was on March 4, Prateep will be one of 18 senators from Bangkok and was the only female elected.



More information on the Duang Prateep Foundation is available on <http://www.sfc.keio.ac.jp/~thiesmey/duangprateep.html>

gaged in financial crime.

"I strongly believe that as we move forward together, we can make rapid progress in denying access to criminals seeking to legitimize proceeds from illicit activities," Mr. Arlacchi commented. All delegates agreed that every financial center should be invited to enter into a formal governmental commitment to the UN Offshore Forum proposed minimum standards no later than September 30, 2000. ●

# Cyber Crime Threat

Speaking on the 10<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Vienna, Dr Peter Grabosky, Director of Research at the Australian Institute of Criminology, warned that the exponential take up of digital technology is contributing to a larger pool of potential offenders and increasing the number of new targets.

Specific types of crime which are committed were outlined including vandalism, theft of information services and fraud.

A significant aspect of computer based crimes are, according to Dr Grabosky, out of global reach as they can be committed as easily from the other side of the world as from within one's own jurisdiction.

Consequently in order to face the challenge, law enforcement agencies and justice authorities must engage in an unprecedented degree of cooperation.

The full paper by Dr Grabosky is available from the Australian Institute of Criminology's website at <http://www.aic.gov.au>

(ODCCP) Global Programme Against Money Laundering. It is hopeful that this type of training will be delivered to countries throughout the Pacific region.

The possibility of delivering other types of law enforcement training has been considered by other organizations. The Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) recently expressed interest in the development of Internet-based systems training that would be targeted at the Pacific islands. The delivery of this type of training could be a revolutionary method in areas like the Pacific where travelling between islands is extremely costly and time consuming.

Discussions have also been held with representatives of DPC Digital Port after the UNDCP Regional Centre presented its Computer-Based Law Enforcement Training Programme (CBT) at the OCO conference in Sa-

## Partnership, Training and Technology to Confront

# MONEY LAUNDERING RISKS in the Pacific

**I**ncreasingly, organized crime syndicates are using offshore financial centres (OFCs) in the Pacific as platforms for money laundering operations and one of the main challenges facing the region is the lack of appropriate controls in a number of the small island States. In view of the situation, UNDCP and the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) are looking to establish a partnership that will strengthen cooperative efforts in the fight against money laundering.

APG is a voluntary, autonomous, and cooperative organization that provides a focus for anti-money laundering efforts in the Pacific region. Recently, they attempted to secure agreements from the governments of Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Cook Islands to establish small domestic Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) which would accelerate the receipt, analysis, and dissemination of financial information related to money laundering in-

vestigations.

The governments have agreed in principle and proposed that a regional FIU be established in the Pacific. The report is now under preparation and the goal is to gain approval at the next Pacific Forum Regional Meeting in June 2000.

It was proposed by APG that UNDCP take part in the training to be delivered when the national and regional FIU is established in the Pacific. Nevertheless, UNDCP has already begun to take steps to effectively combat the growing money laundering phenomenon in the Pacific region.

Currently, UNDCP is in the process of designing and developing training on money laundering as a component of the project on computer-based law enforcement training in cooperation with Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

moa this past March.

It was decided that the CBT programme on law enforcement would be suitable to be delivered by a computerized Regional Clearance System (RSC 2000) developed for the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC) that records the arrival and departure of all vessels in a regional data base which is subsequently shared in an encrypted data based via the Internet.

Consultations are planned to take place between the CCLEC and UNDCP offices in Barbados and Bangkok in the near future. A similar project, funded by UNDCP but executed and implemented by CCLEC Permanent Secretariat, is currently underway in St. Lucia and it is possible that the system could be adapted to suit the needs of the Pacific region. ●

# WHO IS FIGHTING DRUGS AND CRIME in East Asia and the Pacific

Fighting drugs and crime demands a balanced approach of law enforcement, demand reduction, drug prevention and rehabilitation strategies. Some of the international organisations carrying out this task in East Asia and the Pacific are mentioned below:

■ **ACPF: Asian Crime Prevention Foundation**, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation is an international NGO with a special consultative status to the United Nations. Their mandate is to promote peace and stability in Asia and the world through effective crime prevention, criminal justice policies and practices, mutual cooperation, and sustainable development.

Address: Programme Management Bureau, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Kameoka bldg., 94-6 Yurai-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0805, Japan, Phone & Fax: 81-3-3267-4171, E-mail: [info@acpf.org](mailto:info@acpf.org) Web page <http://www.acpf.org>

■ **AHRN: Asian Harm Reduction Network**. A network created to link and support the people and programs working in Asia to stop HIV among injecting drug users.

Address: PO. Box 235, Phrasingha Post Office, Chiangmai, Thailand 50200, Phone: 66 53 801494, Fax: 66 53 801495, E-mail: [ahrn@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:ahrn@loxinfo.co.th) or [resources@ahrn.net](mailto:resources@ahrn.net) Web page <http://www.ahrn.net>

■ **FATF Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering Secretariat**: The FATF (Financial Action Task Force) is a creation of the G7 group of industrial nations. The FATF provides a focus for anti-money laundering efforts in the region.

Address: FATF Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering Secretariat, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney 2000, Australia. Phone: (+61) 2 9373 2438, Fax: (+61) 2 9373 2499, E-mail: [fatfasia@zip.com.au](mailto:fatfasia@zip.com.au)

■ **HONLEA: Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies**. HONLEA is the Annual Asian Meeting of the Subsidiary bodies of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Address: CND Secretariat, Vienna International Centre. P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. Phone: (+43) 1 26060 0, Fax: (+43) 1 26060 5898, E-mail: [undcp\\_hq@undcp.un.or.at](mailto:undcp_hq@undcp.un.or.at)

■ **ILEA: International Law Enforcement Academy**, Bangkok. ILEA is the outcome of a bilateral agreement between Thailand and the United States of America and has just had its one year anniversary.

Address: International Law Enforcement Academy 47/101 Building 3, Floor 4, Suite 3404, Tiwanont Road, Muang Nontaburi, Nontaburi 11000, Thailand, Phone: (662) 527-7500, Facsimile: (662) 527-7506, Web page: <http://www.ileabangkok.com>

■ **OCO: Oceania Customs Organisation**. Since their establishment in 1998, OCO has been a key player in the control of drug trafficking in the Pacific. Their mission is to promote efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects of customs administration.

Address: OCO Secretariat GPO Box 1464, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia, Phone: 61 7 3835 3464, Facsimile: 61 7 3835 3466, E-mail: [oco@ocosec.com](mailto:oco@ocosec.com) Web page <http://www.ocosec.com>

■ **South Pacific Forum**: A body for regional corporation in the Pacific directed to work in support of Forum Member governments to enhance the economic and social well-being of the people of the South Pacific by fostering cooperation between

governments and international agencies.

Address: Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji, Phone: (+679) 312 600, Fax: (+679) 305 573, Email: [info@forumsec.org.fj](mailto:info@forumsec.org.fj) Web page: <http://www.forumsec.org.fj>

■ **UNAFEI: United Nations Asia and Far East Institute For the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders**. A regional association that aims at promoting the development of criminal justice systems through the cooperation of Asian and Pacific countries.

Address: 1-26, Harumi-cho, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo, Japan 183-0057, Phone: 81-42-333-7021, Fax: 81-42-333-7024, E-Mail: [staff@unafei.or.jp](mailto:staff@unafei.or.jp) Web page: <http://www.unafei.or.jp>

■ **UNDCP: United Nations Drug Control Programme**, Regional Centre Bangkok.

Address: 14th Floor, United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand, Phone: (66-2) 288-2083, Fax: (66-2) 281-2129, E-mail: [rcdcp.undcp@undp.org](mailto:rcdcp.undcp@undp.org) Web page: <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>

■ **WCO: World Customs Organisation**. The role of the WCO is to aid the national economic wealth and social protection of its members by promoting an honest, transparent and predictable customs environment.

Address: Rue du Marche 30, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium, Phone: (+32) 2 209 92 11, Fax: (+32) 2 209 92 92, Web page: <http://www.wcoomd.org>

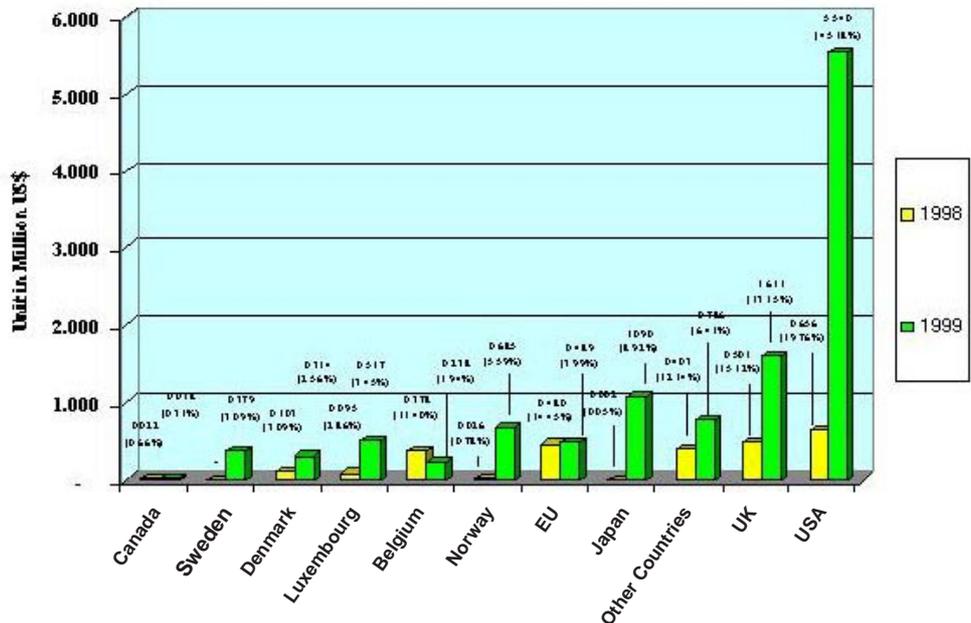


UNDCP REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:

STATUS OF DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL PROGRAMMES PLUS COUNTRY PROGRAMMES: 98-99 (WITH PERCENTAGES OVER TOTAL UNDCP PROGRAMME)

WHO IS PAYING FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC?

The table reveals the UN Member Countries' contribution to the fight against drugs in East Asia and the Pacific in 1998 and 1999.



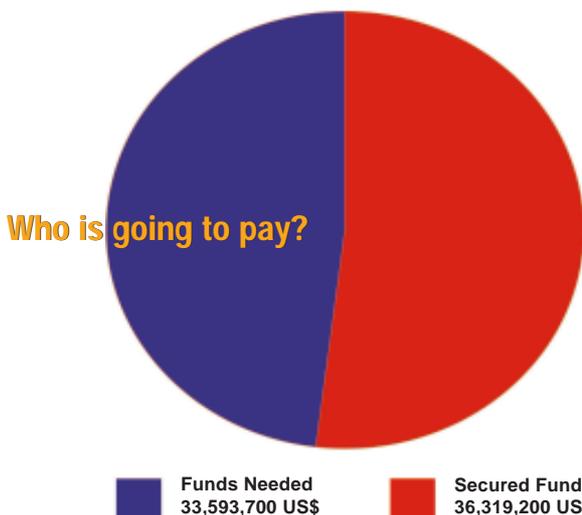
Funding for the fight against drugs urgently needed

Some observers have noticed the minimal financial contribution from High Income Asian Nations to multilateral efforts in the region despite a very strong political support to the fight against drugs and crime at international conferences and UN summits. Projections for the year 2000 - Funds are required urgently to respond to the changing trends of drug abuse in the Region.

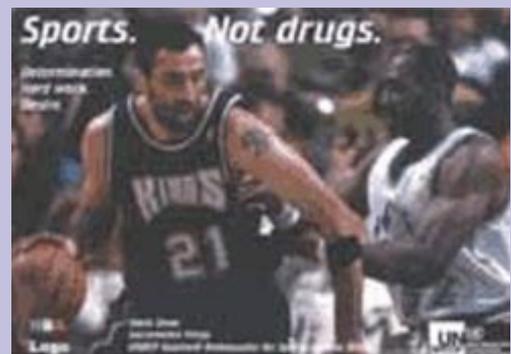
Updated figures on drug seizures

- China:** Total figures for 1999.
  - 5,300 kg of heroin, · 16,000 kg of ATS
- Myanmar:** The following seizures were made in January 2000
  - 27 kg of opium, · 2.4 kg of heroin, · 240 kg of marijuana, · 660,000 tablets of ATS, · 545 kg of ephedrine
- Philippines:** In March 2000, the Philippines seized 140 kg of methamphetamine or 'ice' brought by fishing boats from China. The seizure was connected to the arrest of a local drug ring in the northern province of Ilocos Sur.

TOTAL PROGRAMME REQUIREMENT: 69,912,900 US\$



SPORTS AGAINST DRUGS



The ODCCP has teamed up with sports against drugs and NBA star Vlade Divac has become UNDCP Goodwill Ambassador for Sports against Drugs.



## BANGKOK TO PARTICIPATE IN UNDCP/UNICRI GLOBAL STUDY ON ILLEGAL DRUG MARKETS

*UNDCP launched a new project in January 1999, involving empirical research into the question of how the various economic components of illegal drug markets interact. This project has been designed and launched by the UNDCP Research Section and will be executed by the United Nations Interregional Crime & Justice Research Institute UNICRI. It examines twenty urban markets at different stages of maturity. The central research question addressed in this global study is: what are the factors that lead to*

*the emergence of illegal drug market? In addition to available criminological and drug data, economic, social, demographic, political and cultural trends will be examined in twenty cities around the world. Cities likely to participate in this project include Bangkok, Bogota, Cairo, Casablanca, Dakar, Dushanbe, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Johannesburg, La Paz, Lima, Moscow, New Delhi, Odessa, Peshawar, Rio de Janeiro, Tehran, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, as well as five cities in Europe.*

# Local findings, GLOBAL PROJECT

**A**s part of the Global Study on Illegal Drugs, the research in Bangkok aimed at investigating the illegal drug market and the decisions made by the drug related actors that constitute the illegal drug market. The study also provided a basis for the development of drug policies at both national and international levels.

The study revealed that, while heroin abuse appears to be stable, the problem of amphetamine has posed a very serious threat to the communities

in Bangkok, particularly among youth and student groups.

The study indicated that the amphetamine and heroin users took drugs for different reasons. Heroin addiction was mostly caused by tension from personal and social problems but amphetamine abuse was a result of curiosity, persuasion by peers and other neo-social factors.

Amphetamine is currently available everywhere in Bangkok due to the high demand, high profit margins and effective multi-level marketing strategies.

The study recommended that national policy to cope with drug issue should be broadened to cover other measures such as economic improvement, rebuilding community and restructuring the education system.

Another recommendation was for the authorities and media to disseminate accurate information to the public. The study suggested that the classification of drugs, usage and legal penalties be reviewed and redefined. The drug offenders should receive more severe

penalties.

The law enforcement authorities must be serious in prosecuting and incarcerating officials found guilty of drug offenses. The treatment and rehabilitation of amphetamine addicts should be different from those of the heroin addicts.

Finally, the study recommended that the industrial policy of Thailand emphasize labour productivity growth and the laws on labour usage in the workplace need to be seriously enforced. ●

# Death along the heroin highways

The trafficking of heroin from Myanmar, and to a lesser extent Laos, has been proven by a recent study published in January to be the most important source of the spreading of HIV/AIDS in South and South-East Asia. Since the early 1990s, heroin trafficking into China, India, and Vietnam has increased. Many of these routes were earlier understood as merely transit routes, but local use of heroin along trafficking routes has become common, followed by predictable, but nonetheless disturbing outbreaks of HIV infection among local IDU (intravenous drugs user) in each of these regions. Using molecular epidemiology, the research showed that trafficking routes of heroin from Myanmar can be used to predict the spread of HIV among IDU in south and south east Asia. This inference could result in critical implications for HIV control in this and other regions where heroin trafficking occurs. Research that was conducted along four main routes of heroin trafficking, indicated similar results. Virtually all HIV infections along a particular heroin trafficking route belonged to the same HIV-1 subtype suggesting that the HIV-1 infections had the same origin and were spreading along the trafficking routes together with IDU heroin addiction.

## Eastern Myanmar to Kunming, Yunnan Province and then further east.

HIV became widespread in the three Yunnanese border countries at a time when HIV, for the rest of China, was a problem associated with the outside world. In 1994, these three countries, with only a fraction of the Chinese population, accounted for 60% of all HIV infections and 80% of all AIDS cases. HIV infection continued to spread along this route as a result of an epidemic of local heroin injection use that had emerged. At present, both heroin addiction and HIV infection have reached China's export ports in Guangdong Province. The HIV infection among the survey group was entirely HIV-1 subtype C with a very low genetic variation suggesting a quite recent spread.

## Eastern Myanmar to north-western China.

This route goes from Myanmar to Kunming in Yunnan Province and then north through Chengdu to Urumqi in Xinjiang Province and then across the Chinese border to Kazakhstan. In 1997,

HIV was first detected among a cluster of IDU in Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang. HIV-1 subtype C was first identified, but later B/C recombinants were detected and now appears predominant in Urumqi. This type was also common to the north into Kazakhstan and to the south all the way from Urumqi down to Kunming.

## Myanmar/Laos to northern Vietnam and into southern China.

The HIV infection along this route was exclusively subtype E as in neighbouring Cambodia. This also holds true for Pingxiang on the Chinese Vietnamese border, representing a striking contrast to the C subtype infections on the Yunnan route a few kilometres away. According to informants, this phenomenon was due to trade and needle sharing that occurred across the border and not in connection with the Yunnan route.

## Western Myanmar to Manipur State north-east India.

Locals officials in Manipur and drug users reported that heroin from Myanmar began to appear between 1982-84. Supplies increased steadily and use reached epidemic proportions after 1990. The subtypes found in Manipur equalled those found in Myanmar, supporting reports of cross border heroin trade and consequent self-tests and needle sharing. Heroin trafficking has had devastating effects on Manipur, which now has the highest HIV rate of any Indian state.

Based on the strong relationship between heroin trafficking and the spread of HIV infection, the authors believed that if a country is subjected to trafficking, an epidemic of heroin abuse and HIV infection will follow.

The available evidence of heroin abuse and HIV infections suggested that the domestic use of heroin has been as devastating for the people of Myanmar as exports have been for their neighbours. The available evidence led the research group to conclude that since 1988 heroin production has increased dramatically in Myanmar, and because this trend "coincides with the suppression of the country's democracy movement, and the consolidation of authoritarian rule under the current military junta, then the current regime bears, if not culpability, at least responsibility for this public health crisis."

This led the research group to two conclusions. First, the junta's failure to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic among the people of Myanmar, and their inability to decrease the economic dependence on heroin, does not predict any major contribution from Myanmar to cooperation in narcotics control in the region. And second, that despite the junta's incapacities, for border nations including China, India and other nations in the region, reduction in the export of heroin from Myanmar may be the key to controlling their dual epidemics of heroin and HIV infection.

In the meantime the countries in the region that are subjected to heroin trafficking will have to consider how to utilize the preventive approaches available in order to reduce the spread of HIV among IDU and their sex partners.

**-Source: Beyrer, Razak, Lisam, Chen, Lui and Yu "Heroin trafficking and HIV in Asia", *AIDS*, Vol. 14, No 1, 2000.**



**Brunei:**

■ A scandal reaches its peak as the brother of the Sultan of Brunei is being sued. Prince Jefri has been sued for "improper withdrawal and the use of substantial funds from the Brunei Investment Agency" – stealing the government's money. There is no exact figure on the amount missing but foreign estimates are counting in billions of US \$.

**Cambodia:**

■ The Cambodian government has decided to clamp down on illegal road blocks as part of its anti-corruption drive. It is the practice of some police officers and other officials to establish illicit road blocks on major highways in order to extort money from travellers and transport companies. Such illicit practices have been highly unpopular among Cambodians and very damaging to the reputation of Cambodian officials.

**China:**

■ China is willing to strengthen cooperation in the fight against organised crime. This was the message the Chinese Minister of Justice gave while addressing the 10<sup>th</sup> UN congress on crime prevention and offenders treatment.

**Myanmar:**

■ The Anti Narcotics Unit in Mandalay seized 1.9 million tablets of ATS and 100 kilograms of precursor chemicals in vehicles near Hpa-an, capital of the Kayin State in Southern Myanmar.

**Philippines:**

■ The drug problem in the Philippines is, according to the Philippines National Police (PNP), not as menacing as the drug-enforcement authorities have portrayed it to be. The

PNP chief revealed that earlier claims which stated 1.7 million Filipinos were hooked on illegal drugs, especially methamphetamine, were unfounded.

**Thailand:**

■ On the 1-3 of March 2000, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies organised a Regional Seminar on Population Movements and Migration in Bangkok. The UNDCP Regional Centre was invited to participate and contributed with a presentation on "ODCCP Strategies to Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings".

**Vietnam:**

■ The People's Supreme Court has ruled judges cannot hand down further immediate death sentences for any of the 13 capital crimes currently being given lesser levels of punishments in the revised Criminal Code adopted by the National Assembly last month. "Using force or seduction to make others use drugs illegally" is one of the crimes which is no longer subject to the death penalty.

■ Border guards in Ky Song district of Nghe An province have arrested a Hmong couple for transporting 1,000 heroin tablets and 1,100 counterfeit US dollar notes from Laos into Vietnam.

■ A seminar on narcotics detection technology was organized on the 19 of January in Hanoi by VNDCC in collaboration with Baringer Technologies Incorporation - Teamwork Co. Baringer is the leading supplier of advanced technologies for the security forces in Vietnam. Explosive and narcotic detection instruments including IONSCAN 400B, GC-IONSCAN, and portable SA-

## Enthusiastic participation in **Vientiane**



In the framework of project C74 "Strengthening of Judicial and Prosecutorial Drug Control Capacity in East Asia", a very successful workshop was conducted in Vientiane on 5 - 8 April 2000.

A total of 34 participants, including 25 judges and prosecutors, were trained in the basics of international and domestic drug Law. The agenda included information on drugs as such, and on drug and precursor trafficking as a phenomenon.

The participants displayed a high level of enthusiasm throughout the workshop. They were very curious about the

subject, highly motivated, never missed any of the sessions or the group studies, and the ensued discussions were very vivid.

The workshop in Laos followed a similar one which took place a couple of weeks earlier (21 - 24 March) in Hanoi. Prior to that, project C74 conducted workshops in Cambodia and Thailand.

The basic objective of these workshops is to familiarize court officials with the phenomenon and the law of drugs and other related issues, such as money laundering and organised crime. Also, C74 workshops purport to promote understanding between court and law enforcement officials. Therefore, about 1/3 of the participants are always police investigators dealing with drug-related offences.

The need to educate the judiciary in drug-related issues is enormous. This is often demonstrated during workshops and seminars: many a judge or prosecutor are called to adjudicate drug offences without being equipped with the necessary background knowledge on drugs, and this thirst for basic knowledge comes clearly through during the ensuing discussions. ●

BRE 2000 were presented at the seminar.

■ Regional drug counsellors participated in a training course addressing the prevention of drug abuse in Hanoi. The training course falls under the framework of the *Global Programme on Primary Prevention of Drug Abuse Among Youth* which is financed by UNDCP and WHO and implemented in southern Africa, middle and eastern Europe, southern Asia and the western Pacific Rim.

## The **INCB** report was launched in **CAMBODIA** for the first time



The launch of the INCB Report 1999 was conducted at the Council of Ministers conference room on the 28 February, within the context of a broader press conference on drugs. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 people from the press and television media, government officials and representatives from embassies, non-governmental organisations and the civil society. Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the National Police and the NACD (National Authority for Combating Drugs) also attended. UNDCP was represented by Mr. Bengt Juhlin.

Several key issues were highlighted by the debate. First, Cambodia has remained relatively unaffected by the drug trade; however the situation is rapidly changing. Increasingly, traffickers are using the country as a transit route and authorities fear that drug production will become a frightening reality. As a result, effective preventive measures must be adapted and it was emphasized that NACD's strategy for combatting drug abuse will focus on education, capacity building of

law enforcement institutions and international cooperation.

Second, in the majority of the 1999 police "crack down activities", amphetamine was the leading drug seized. The growing involvement of foreigners in drug production and trafficking and the increasing rate of drug-related crimes was specifically addressed.

Third, the use of inhalants among street children has drastically intensified over the last two years. Recent research showed an increasing use of ATS and injectable drugs like "black water opium," substances that were virtually non-existent 12 months ago. This trend calls for a coordinated approach to tackle the spread of substance abuse among youth and stresses the urgency for such action as the pace of change is rapid and unlikely to be reversed in the short term.

All speakers shared the view that increased inter-institutional cooperation was needed and advocated for UNDCP's guidance in the development and implementation of strategies to fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

The press conference was followed by a public drug-burn-

## Increased public awareness in East Asia and the Pacific about **INCB** REPORT

This year the UNDCP Regional Centre chose to simultaneously launch the annual INCB report in four countries – Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines and Thailand – two more than last year.

The launches were timed with the publication of the report in order to generate interest from the local and international media present in the four countries respectively.

In all countries the press releases were well attended with representatives from embassies, NGOs and news agencies. UNDCP was represented by senior staff members, who created media interest and had promoted the main conclusions of the INCB report to the public.

The report is available on the web page [www.incb.org/e/ar/1999/menu.htm](http://www.incb.org/e/ar/1999/menu.htm)



ing ceremony at Hun Sen Park which was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Co-Minister of Interior Sar Kheng.

Previously court evidence, the drugs burned included heroin, opium alkaloids and methamphetamine. •

## **INCB** report launched in **CHINA** for the first time

This year the INCB report was launched for the first time in Beijing. The press release was arranged by the UNDCP Regional Centre, Bangkok with assistance from the UNDP in Beijing. Dr. Sandro Calvani, Representative of the Regional Centre, attended the launch along with representatives from embassies, the local media including television, radio and the foreign media in Beijing.

After Calvani's speech, which focussed on the sub-

jects highlighted in this year's INCB report, the press took great interest in asking a wide range of questions. The most important point was that the report was launched in Beijing in order to create public awareness about drug problems. It was highlighted that awareness was specifically needed concerning the abuse, trafficking production and demand of heroin and methamphetamine. Calvani used the opportunity to underline the importance of the Chinese contribution to international drug control efforts.

# For the second year in a row the **INCB** report was launched in the **PHILIPPINES**

On 24 February, the launch of the 1999 Annual Report of INCB was conducted at the Holiday Inn as a special subject within the framework of a weekly roundtable forum concerning drug issues in the Philippines.

The meeting was attended by approximately 35 people, principally from the press, radio and television media. Representatives of the Dangerous Drugs Board and the National Centre for Law Enforcement and Pre-

vention were also in attendance.

Notable participants were Dr. Rey San Pedro, Executive Director of the Dangerous Drugs Board who provided introductory comments relating to the Philippines situation; Dr. Nelia Marambe, INCB Representative, who provided a detailed but summative analysis of the INCB report, particularly in relation to Philippines treatment data; Wayne Bazant, who provided a short regional overview of emerging drug abuse

trends as well as specific comments on the ATS situation and regional situation concerning cannabis, precursor trafficking, and drug injection rooms; and Police Chief Superintendent (General) Patrick Madayag, Deputy Executive of NDEP, who provided a power point presentation on the work and accomplishments of the Centre over the past year.

Following the presentations, issues and questions were raised by the moderators and participants. The subjects

included: government capacity to protect the shore line from illicit imports (using a community based/baranga coast watch system); the appropriateness of painting/marketing the houses of drug traffickers and users (ruled against human rights by the Philippines judiciary); neonatal effects of ATS use; the role of the Ministry of Education in primary prevention; and the need for objective information about drug effects. •

Finally, to address the question of the involvement in drug trafficking by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Calvani informed the press that isolated and poor countries faced a greater risk of being used as transit countries by drug traffickers and that some intelligence reports suggested the involvement of fishing ships from DPR of Korea in the trafficking of methamphetamine to Japan.

Two other notes were made on DPR of Korea. First, it was considered promising that DPR of Korea and Malaysia were now cooperating in the training of Korean Customs and Drug Control Officers to increase the quality of their work and second, that DPR of Korea and Cambodia have yet to sign the international drug control treaties.

## **INCB** report launched at the Foreign Correspondents Club in **THAILAND**

The INCB report was once again launched at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Bangkok. It was a lively evening and included the following highlights.

First, two videos were shown including a documentary on border raids of methamphetamine. Second, one of the award winners of the "Turn on Music, Turn off Drugs" campaign performed live at the venue. Finally, there was a panel discussion about recent drug trends in Thailand and the rest of the region. The panel's presentation was followed by a debate on the drug control situation in the area.



### LAUNCH OF THE MANUAL FOR REDUCING DRUG RELATED HARM IN ASIA

The launch of *The Manual for Reducing Drug Related Harm* in Asia was convened on 17 March 2000 in Thailand. Organized by the Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN), the launch addressed the dangerous harms associated with the injecting of illegal drugs and facilitated networking among those employed in the field of drug control. The launch of the Manual was particularly noted as a landmark event in the fight against AIDS in Asia.

The Manual provides a detailed background to the epidemic of HIV/AIDS among drug users, a strong rationale for swift action, and AHRN's guidelines on how to develop and maintain harm reduction programmes and to work with the community in fighting the epidemic.

### NDS 4.0 - A new tool for drug control

Monitoring and managing movements of psychoactive drugs and their precursors is a complex process involving numerous partners. Typically, information needs to be exchanged between commercial companies, national drug control administrations, customs officials and the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

To aid this process, a computer-based system, Computer and Telecommunication System for International and National Drug Control (NDS) has been developed by UNDCP. Specifically, the system has been designed to facilitate management and control over licit movements of psychoactive drugs and precursor chemicals and to enhance timeliness of information exchange at the national and international levels. It offers a means for electronic communication and data exchange between national drug control authorities, companies and customs officials.

As well, the system enables authorizations, certificates and data to be transmitted electronically between importing and exporting countries and all relevant statistics to be reported electronically to INCB.

The drug control authorities of Thailand has recently shown a strong interest in the NDS system, and we might see its arrival in the region within this year.

# EXPLORING NEW GROUND in the Pacific

The Government of Samoa and the Samoa Customs Department hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Customs Heads of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) (formerly known as the Customs Heads of Administration Regional Meeting – CHARM), in Apia from the 27-31 March 2000. Law enforcement officers from 23 Pacific countries attended, including the UNDCP Law Enforcement Advisor, among other international bodies.

The main purpose of the meeting was to foster harmonization, cooperation, and assistance between its members on Customs administration matters and to ensure that their interests and concerns are projected effectively to governments, non-government organisations (NGOs), and the private sector, both within and beyond the region.

At the Conference several key issues were stressed, including trade facilitation/

revenue collection, law enforcement and human resource development, and delegates formally adopted in the OCO Strategic/Work Plan for 2000-2002.

Of particular interest was the acknowledgment that customs has a key role in protecting the community against significant threats: the illicit trafficking of drugs, revenue fraud, people smuggling, and prohibited firearms. The Conference agreed to continue to address these issues through information sharing at a national and regional level as well as between agencies and administrations.

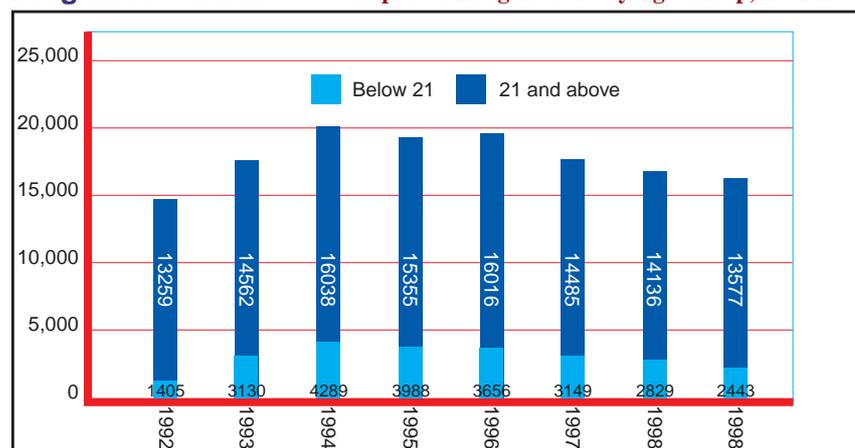
Finally, OCO expressed interest in continuing the liaison with UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok in order to coordinate computer-based training initiatives and possible links to other systems.

## Trend towards fewer registered drug users in Hong Kong

There are fewer drug users in Hong Kong according to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse. Since a peak was reached in 1994 of more than 20,000 registered drug users, the trend has declined and the present number of drug users is approximately 16,000.

However, of notable concern is the rise in the share of female drug users which has steadily increased from 8.35 percent to 13.2 percent in 1999.

Drug Abuse Trend Reported Drug Abusers by Age Group, 1992-1999





## Hong Kong's Beat Drugs Fund

The Beat Drugs Fund has provided an impressive source of capital for anti-drug projects in Hong Kong. The Objectives of the Fund are to promote anti-drug activities which help reduce the problem of drug abuse, particularly amongst youths, and to promote community-wide efforts and programmes in the campaign against drugs in Hong Kong.

The Beat Drugs Fund with a capital base of \$350 million was established in March 1996 to provide funding support for worthwhile anti-drug projects. The actual amount of funds to be allocated each year depends on the level of income generated from the Fund during that year and the decision of the Beat Drugs Fund Association.

The Fund is administered by the Association (incorporated under the Company's Ordinance on the advice of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN)). The Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau provides secretariat support for the administration and management of the Fund.

More information about the Beat the Drugs Fund on <http://www.info.gov.hk/nd/funding>

### MYANMAR:

## ALTERNATIVE CROPS ready for sale

A project between the Governments of Japan and Myanmar to develop the production of Buckwheat (sorba) in opium cultivation areas of the Kokang region celebrated its first commercial shipment to Japan.

The project, which has been in a pilot phase for the past four years, has now moved into commercial production. Unfortunately due to poor weather conditions, the yield was lower than expected. Nevertheless an 18 ton shipment of buckwheat was sent to Japan on 8 March and following a tasting ceremony, the Japanese purchasers agreed to pay US\$ 300 per ton which was considered a fair price.

Although the project has finally reached a commercial level, it still needs to obtain the full support of farmers in the area. The price paid for the crop was lower than initially promised which naturally affects their willingness to continue its cultivation.

## TREATY ADHERENCE

A number of countries in East Asia and the Pacific are not yet parties to the Single convention on Narcotics Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol:

Cambodia, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

The Convention of Psychotropic Substances of 1971:

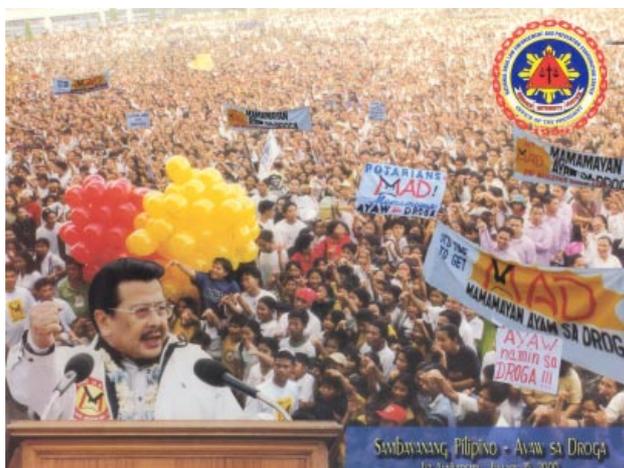
Cambodia, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988:

Cambodia, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Marshall Islands, Micronesia FSM, Mongolia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

## ANNIVERSARY IN THE PHILIPPINES



The National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Centre (DEP Centre) has completed its first year of operations.

The task of the DEP Centre is to orchestrate and consolidate drug law enforcement efforts of all government agencies, local government units,

and non-government organisations for a more effective anti-drug campaign from the national to the village levels.

According to their annual report, a noteworthy result of their efforts was the seizure of more than 900 kilos of methamphetamine. Happy anniversary.

# COMPUTER based training pays off



In the previous edition of Eastern Horizons we highlighted the fact that the UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok was breaking new ground in the area of drug law enforcement training. We explained that the training will ultimately be delivered using computer based training in the countries of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.



From 1 December 1999 to 31 January 2000 UNDCP field - tested some of the training products in Northern Thailand. Fifteen computers were installed at 10 locations in the provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Tak and Phitsanaluk .

The training was aimed at front line staff and managers involved in the interdiction of

drugs at border crossings and inland checkpoints. The participants included personnel from the:

- Police
- Border Patrol Police
- Customs Department
- Office of the Narcotics Control Board
- Third Army

Topics included interdiction techniques at land border controls and inland checkpoints. This interdiction training programme consisted of 10 training modules including:

- Risk assessment
- Profiling
- Selection methods such as preliminary observations, document analysis and risk indicators

Other topics included:

- Questioning
- Behaviour indicators



- Car search
- Risk management

The field testing was necessary to establish whether this training methodology was effective, suitable and acceptable in a drug law enforcement environment in East Asia. It was only necessary test out the management information that captures student data including courses undertaken and student examination results.

To assess the outcome UNDCP:

- analysed data captured by the management information system
- analysed questionnaires completed by the students
- visited the various training sites and observed the training being delivered
- interviewed supervisors, training managers and students



Overall the pilot was big success. Despite the fact that more than 60% of the 1022 students who enrolled for the training had never used a computer before, feedback was very positive. For example:

- The students enjoyed what for them was a new training application. They were motivated and stimulated by the interactive nature of the training so much so that 90% of them said that computer based training

was more effective than classroom training

- 91% said that they had learned a great deal and 94% said that they would be more effective at work as the result of the training

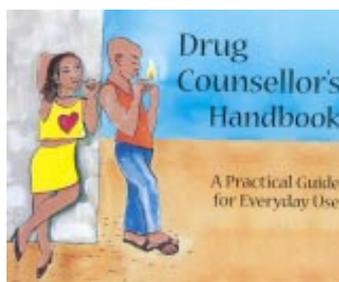
- As a direct result of this training a substantial number of drug seizures have been made by students

- The pre and post course examination results demonstrated a significant knowledge gain

Although the assessment of the field testing ended as of 31 January 2000 the computers have remained on site and continue to deliver much needed drug law enforcement training. UNDCP will use its field-testing experiences when implementing the training programme across the whole sub-region.

UNDCP would like to express its appreciation to the all the drug law enforcement agencies that participated in this exercise and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board for coordinating the process.





*Drug Counsellor's Handbook: A Practical Guide for Everyday Use*, Nairobi: UNDCP, 2000

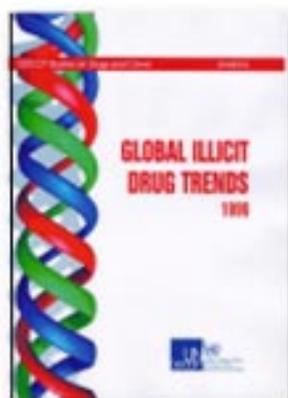
Funded by the governments of Denmark, Finland and Sweden, this handbook was developed as a component of the UNDCP project "Mobilization of NGOs in Demand Reduction in Eastern and Southern Africa." It is a hands-on guide intended as a user-friendly tool for drug counsellors, nurses, social workers and others who may meet drug or other substance abusers during the performance of their duties.

The comprehensive guide covers, among other subjects, an overview of drug abuse in Africa, the art of being a drug counsellor – emphasising the interpersonal skills needed for such a task – rehabilitation and relapse prevention, and termination and follow-up in different stages of the helping process.

The book is printed in English, but translations into

French and Portuguese are under way.

The book is available from the UNDCP, Regional Office for Eastern Africa, United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Block A-209, P.O. Box 30218, Nairobi, Kenya. Phone: (+254) 2 623739, Fax: (+254) 2 623667, E-mail: UNDCP.Kenya@undcp.unon.org



*Global Illicit Drug Trends*, Vienna: ODCCP, 2000

This 300 page report contains comprehensive statistical information on the new trends in illicit drug supply, trafficking, and the demand for drugs. The data is obtained primarily from the annual reports questionnaires received by UNDCP in February 1999.

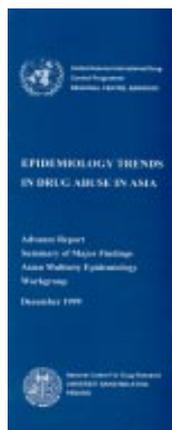
The report is available at the Internet at the address: [http://www.odccp.org/reports\\_and\\_publications.html](http://www.odccp.org/reports_and_publications.html)

*Epidemiology Trends in Drug Abuse in Asia: Advance Report Summary of Major Findings Asian Multicity Epidemiology Workgroup*,

Penang: National Centre For Drug Research, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 1999.

This summary of the findings by AMCEWG (Asian Multicity Epidemiology Work Group) presents the latest drug abuse developments from 23 Asian cities. Regional trends are also compiled and priority areas of intervention are identified.

For further information please contact Prof. (Dr.) V. Navaratnam, Program Director, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia. Phone: (+604) 657 9022, Fax: (+604) 657 7957, E-mail: nava@usm.my



*The Drug Searching Dog Manual*, Dunakeszi: The Hungarian National Police Force HQ Dog Handlers Training School, 2000.

The Drug Searching Dog Manual was produced as a component of a UNDCP project in Central Europe. Whilst some of the specific training methods outlined in the manual may not be applicable to all states in all regions, the manual does contain some sound fundamental information that will be valuable to most drug law enforcement agencies around the world.

The book is available at the UNDCP Headquarters, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Phone: (+43) 1 26060 0, Fax: (+43) 1 26060 5866, E-mail: [undcp\\_hq@undcp.un.or.at](mailto:undcp_hq@undcp.un.or.at)



*Precursors*, Phnom Penh: UNDCP/NACD, 2000

The purpose of this handbook is to equip law enforcement officers with the necessary knowledge to enable them to control and prevent the illicit trafficking of precursor chemicals. It deals with questions such as which precursors are frequently trafficked, how to identify them and which hazards are connected to the different chemicals.

Written in English and Khmer, the handbook was written based on the information provided by UNDCP and adapted by the NACD (National Authority on Combatting Drugs) to suit the specific needs of Cambodia. Similar handbooks have already been published in the national languages of China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and should be available from each country's national drug control authority.



*Manual for Reducing Drug Related Harm in Asia*, Fairfield: The Centre for Harm Reduction, 1999.

This extensive 330 plus page manual for reducing drug related harm in Asia aims to curb the devastating epidemic of HIV and AIDS among drug users. The rationale behind the manual is that nowhere is the HIV epidemic more rapid devastating than among people who inject drugs. But at the same time, nowhere in the field of AIDS prevention are there such dazzling success stories than with the prevention of HIV among injecting drug users. The manual grew out of combined efforts of many people battling in Asia to stop HIV. It contains a decade of accumulated experience, collected from several countries in Asia, of the attempts to change policy and implement programmes to stop this devastating scourge.

Further information is available at The Centre for Harm Reduction, The Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research, PO Box 254 Fairfield VIC 3078, Australia, Phone: (+61) 3 9282 2169, Fax: (+61) 3 9482 3123, E-mail: [crofts@burnet.edu.au](mailto:crofts@burnet.edu.au) Web site: <http://www.chr.asn.au>

or at Asian Harm Reduction Network. P.O. Box 235 Phrasingha Post Office, Chiangmai 50200, Thailand, Phone: (+66) 53 801 494, Fax: (+66) 53 801 495, E-mail: [ahrn@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:ahrn@loxinfo.co.th) Web site: <http://www.ahrn.net>



## partners

Mr. Richard Dickins has left his position as UNDCP Representative in Myanmar retiring from UN service. Richard's hard work and extensive contributions to the region will be deeply remembered with sincere gratitude.

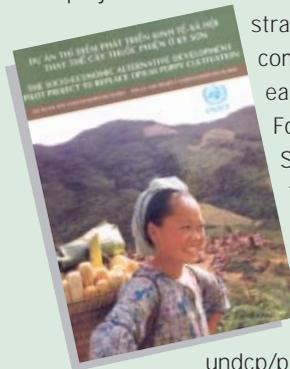
Mr. Sorasit Sangprasert has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the Thai ONCB (Office of the Narcotics Control Board) and has already spend two decades fighting the trade in illicit drugs. He will now be given the opportunity to continue this long and dedicated effort as the head of Thailand's drug control efforts. Congratulations!

Mr. Wang Qing Rong has been promoted to Deputy Director General of the Chinese NNCC. Mr. Wang Qing Rong has served with the National Narcotics Control Commission for many years and is known for his dedicated efforts in drug control. Congratulations!

## new publications

*The Socio-Economic Alternative Development Pilot Project to Replace Opium Poppy Cultivation*, Hanoi: UNDCP, 2000.

This fascinating story of a very successful alternative development project in Vietnam is told in English and Vietnamese. The Ky Son project in northern Vietnam has been able to demonstrate that farmers, whose major cash income used to come from opium, actually can earn more by producing new crops.



For further information please contact: Ky Son Project Office, Building B3, Room 103, Van Phuc Diplomatic Compound, Hanoi, Vietnam, Phone: (+84) 4 846 2306, Fax: (+84) 4 846 2309, E-mail: [Kysonpro@netnam.org.vn](mailto:Kysonpro@netnam.org.vn)

Web site: <http://www.un.org.vn/undcp/projects/kyson/index.htm>

## Lights on Denial



Your car's lights on June 26, 2000 of the harm of drugs, corruption and violence.

In a statement on 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2000, the United Nations Representative for drug control in East Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Sandro Calvani, invited the people of some Asian cities to send the signal to policy makers of the countries in the Region that they support stronger human security in East Asia.

By putting our cars' lights on (morning June 26, 2000) we propose bolder national and international efforts in the fight against illicit drugs. We call for more transparency and clarity in fighting organized crime, less emotions and more science and understanding of what drug addiction really means to people. Those who are aware that the dark forces of globalization are destroying the social fabric of society feel strongly that an international effort to put drugs under control must be generated.

The United Nations believes that the key to success is to...

**“PUT THE PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF EVERYTHING WE DO”**

(U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, Millennium Report, April 2000, p. 7)

On June 26, 2000, millions of people around the world will celebrate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The theme of the year 2000 is “Facing Reality: denial, corruption and violence”.

Solutions are feasible but not often recognized. The United Nations and the governments have a joint plan of action but they need the people's support.

Therefore, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2000: SWITCH YOUR CARS' LIGHTS ON IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLD'S EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS, CORRUPTION, AND VIOLENCE.

United we make a difference!

## List of documents previously distributed by UNDCP Regional Centre (Bangkok)

- 1/1999 Subregional Action Plan on Drug Control
- 1/2000 Summary of the Meeting on the Regional Centre's Strategies for the Pacific Region
- 2/2000 Report of the Conference on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in East and South-East Asia, Tokyo, Japan, 24-27 January 2000
- 3/2000 Training Materials for Training Workshop in MOU Countries, I. Intelligence
- 4/2000 Annual Field Report 1999
- 5/2000 Eastern Horizons No.1 March 2000
- 6/2000 Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia: External Sub-regional Appraisal Report
- 7/2000 China Country Profile (in preparation)
- 8/2000 Mission Report on Project Advocacy Mission (B53)
- 9/2000 UNDCP and ASEAN Drug Demand Reduction Strategies
- 10/2000 Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia: Project Performance and Evaluation Report, January-December 1999
- 11/2000 Status of donor contributions to all projects as of the end of March 2000

*The above documents can be obtained through the website of UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific (<http://www.undcp.un.or.th>)*