

U N D C P

Eastern Horizons

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

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Preventing the transmission of HIV AMONG DRUG ABUSERS

The problem of HIV/AIDS cuts across much of the daily work of the United Nations. For this reason, it is important to find ways to prevent the spreading of the disease and provide the best possible care to those who are infected.

One of the most effective ways to spread HIV/AIDS is by injection with contaminated needles. Currently, 114 countries have reported HIV infection among drug injectors. Injecting drug abuse is the main or a major mode for transmission of HIV infection in many countries including Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America.

Even though the problem is severe, there are means to improve the situation. Studies have demonstrated that through AIDS education, access to condoms and clean injecting equipment, and counselling and drug abuse treatment, HIV transmis-

sion can be prevented and epidemics controlled or reversed in some areas.

However, the programmes must be broadly based and comprehensive to produce results. Integration into broader social welfare and health promotion policies is also a key factor. Criminal justice, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation should all be given adequate and balanced attention.

Last but not least, the programmes need to be based on the actual situation and views of the drug abusers and their communities. This can be achieved by active participation of the target group in all phases of programme development and implementation.

A position paper of the United Nations System, Annex to the Report of 8th Session of ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control 28-29 September 2000.

South East Asia facing THE CHALLENGE OF HIV/AIDS

A recent meeting of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) had the issue of HIV/AIDS high on the agenda.

The meeting opened with experts trying to devise a common strategy for controlling HIV/AIDS. Urgency was brought to the task by warnings of a possible explosion of HIV infection in the region.

Currently, the HIV detection rates are low among the general population but are quite high among the high-risk groups like prostitutes and intravenous drug-users. Because these groups do not take adequate precautions (i.e. the use of condoms or clean needles), there is a major risk of infection spreading to the general population. Delegates widely agreed with a recent World Bank report, which claimed that rising intravenous drug use is the main source of HIV transmission in

the region.

For example, in Vietnam, the HIV infection rate among high-risk groups is five per cent, whereas among the general population the rate is less than one per cent. Also in Indonesia, according to a Health Ministry study, the conditions for spreading HIV are very favourable, including high-risk sexual behaviour, poverty, high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, and increasing migration and urbanization.

Delegates warned that HIV infection remains seriously under-reported in the region because screenings only cover a small minority of the population due to the lack of resources. This casts a long shadow over the official figures of HIV infections in the region. For example, in Laos, figures indicated that the number of HIV positive people is 632; however, only 47,762 persons have been tested in a population of more than 5 million.

III GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON

Drug Abuse Prevention

To globalize the initiative of effective Drug Abuse Primary Prevention throughout the world, the Third Global Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention was hosted by Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta in Terrasini-Palermo, Sicily, Italy, from 25-29 September 2000.

This Conference was a follow-up to previous two International Conferences – “The America-Asia Dialogue” (Lima, Peru, 26-30 May 1998) and the Second Conference hosted by the Asia-Pacific NGOs (Bangkok, Thailand, 8-12 November 1999).

The Conference was attended by more than 500 delegates representing 72 nations of the world. The participants at the Conference unanimously endorsed the Palermo Declaration that delivers principles and messages toward drug free societies.

“CREATING DRUG FREE SOCIETIES”

We the members of the Third Global Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention representing 72 nations of the world do declare that the use of illegal drugs suffocates human aspirations, pollutes both body and soul, and corrupts society.

We also declare that drug prevention is the corner stone of all strategies in resolving our global drug crisis.

Therefore, we resolve and commit ourselves to creating drug free societies throughout the world.

We also advocate no use of illegal drugs and no abuse of legal drugs.

Therefore, we oppose and resist all activities that would increase the use of illegal drugs such as legalization and harm reduction.

Closing Statement (Led by Don Vincenzo Sorce and recited by all the participants) 3rd Global Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention, 25-29 September 2000, Terrasini-Palermo, Italy

TURNING THE TIDE on Transnational ORGANIZED CRIME

“We can now affirm that the tide is turning on cross-border crime.” Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP).

Information technology and globalization have generated new opportunities and enriched the standard of living for people, community, governments, and nations across the globe. The challenge that currently faces the United Nations member states is to ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared equitably with all people because globalization has also brought an increasing threat to human security and encouraged the spread of crime.

It is for this reason that the Ad Hoc Committee, with participation of 120 countries, unanimously approved the draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its

tenth session held in Vienna from July 17 to 28, 2000.

The Convention, which is intended to serve as blueprint for countries to strengthen their abilities to fight transnational organized crime organizations, protect victims and witnesses, and block money laundering, was subsequently sent to the 55th Session of the General Assembly, the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations, where it was adopted in early November.

The final draft provides clear definitions of “organized criminal group”, “serious crime”, and “structured group” and would require member countries to establish in their

domestic laws four criminal offenses:

- participation in an organized criminal group
- money laundering
- corruption
- obstruction of justice

The Convention also highlights how countries can improve cooperation on matters such as extradition, mutual legal assistance, the transfer of proceedings, and joint investigations. Complementing the Convention will be two protocols that outline in-depth measures to combat trafficking in humans, especially women and children, and the smuggling of migrants.

Both protocols were finalized during the eleventh session of the Ad Hoc Committee, held from October 2-27, 2000 in Vienna. Over four million people are moved as human

cargo worldwide with annual earnings reaching an astronomical 5 to 7 billion US dollars each year.

A third protocol on the illicit manufacturing and trade of firearms, which also poses a growing threat to human security and plays an increasing role in civilian violence, terrorism, and organized crime, is projected to be finalized by early 2001.

The Convention, with its two protocols, will be open for signature at a high-level conference held in Palermo, Italy from December 12 to 15, 2000 and represents the first legally binding UN instrument in the field of crime. A copy of the Convention can be downloaded at <http://www.uncjin.org/CICP/cicp.html> (General Assembly documents: A/55/383).

CATHA EDULIS (KHAT)

- The Drug of Choice in Eastern Africa and Southern Arabia

Catha edulis is a plant commonly cultivated in Eastern Africa and Southern Arabia in high altitudes. The plant grows as a shrub, reaching 10 to 20 feet in height, or as a small tree.

To the general public, *catha edulis* is commonly known as khat, qat or African Tea. *Khat* contains two active constituents being psychoactive substances, namely *cathine*, a relatively moderate stimulant comparable to *ephedrine*, and *cathinone*, which has stimulating and relaxing properties similar to those of *amphetamines*. Of the two, *cathinone* is several times stronger than *cathine*. In areas where the plant

grows naturally, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen, Somalia, and Saudi Arabia, *Khat* is socially accepted and commonly used like alcohol and tobacco in many other cultures.

The most potent parts of the *Khat* plant are the leaves found at the tips of the branches and the young shoots. Typically, it is consumed by chewing the leaves, smoking them or through cooking, added as an ingredient in stews or ground up and sprinkled on soup as a powder. Fresh leaves provide the best effects and therefore they are often wrapped in banana leaves. Common daily consumption is 250-400 grams per user, and a chewing session can take up to four hours in order to reach the desired result, which in turn can last more than

24 hours. After 20 minutes of chewing, the user feels euphoria, cheerfulness, and an enhanced imagination. After two hours, these feelings change into anxiety, irritability and emotional tension.

Many medical problems can also occur including peptic ulceration and mental illness and regular use can lead to anorexia, hallucinations, impotence, excitation, and outbreaks of irrational violence. The use of *Khat* increases markedly during the Muslim holy period of Ramadan, when it is used to suppress appetite in order to maintain fasting between sunrise and sunset.

Source: *Catha edulis (Khat)* by Mark O’Toole. New Zealand Customs Service Intelligence Bulletin.



ASEAN AND CHINA Join For **FREE ASEAN** by 2015

The ten ASEAN Governments and the People's Republic of China (PRC) have agreed to launch a coordinated Plan of Action aimed at eliminating or drastically reducing illicit drugs in ASEAN by the year 2015.

This agreement was forged during an international congress held on 11-13 October 2000 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok where in a political declaration more than 30 governments and 16 international organizations expressed their strong support.

The International Congress entitled "In Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 Sharing the Vi-

sion, Leading the Change" had been jointly convened by Royal Thai Government, ASEAN and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) (which is comprised of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention).

The Congress was initiated

largely as a result of the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok three months earlier in July.

At that meeting the ASEAN Ministers had agreed that drug abuse and drug trafficking constituted a threat to the security and stability of the ASEAN region and had urged member governments to enhance their joint efforts against drugs, in particular the newly emerging drugs including the amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). They also agreed to advance the previously agreed target year for realizing a drug-free

ASEAN from 2020 to 2015.

As an indication of the importance the Thai Government placed on the International Congress, the meeting was opened with an address by Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan responded to the unanimous request of the gathering to serve as its Chairperson.

Several other delegations were also led by ministerial level officials and the delegation from the People's Republic of China was headed by the country's third highest government offi-



In the international congress held on 11-13 October 2000 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, 380 people from 36 countries participated and shared their opinion and support towards an action plan in pursuit of a drug free ASEAN in the year 2015.

Forces in Pursuit of a **DRUG**

ACCORD

ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations
in Response to Dangerous Drugs

The Plan of Action
"In pursuit of a drug-free ASEAN 2015"
enables a cooperative network
to respond to the dangers of new drugs
and measure the progress

ACCORD establishes a dynamic Plan of Action,
which rests on four pillars :

- ↓ 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 co-operation and legislative review
- ↑ Eliminating the supply of illicit drugs by boosting alternative development programmes and community participation in the eradication of illicit crops

The achievement of the Plan will be continually measured through a regional monitoring mechanism owned by all the stakeholders.

cial, State Councillor Luo Gan. In his keynote speech Mr. Luo Gan praised the collaborative efforts of the ASEAN Governments to deal with illicit drugs and expressed China's support for their objective of creating a drug-free ASEAN by the year 2015.

In initiating the Plan of Action, entitled *ACCORD, ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs*, the ASEAN Governments and the PRC have agreed to strengthen the coordination of their efforts in four major areas of activity:

- to promote public awareness of the dangers of drugs

and adequate responses within their societies;

- to address drug abuse and related HIV problems among injecting drug users through improved data collection, preventive and treatment programmes and the sharing of information;

- to attack illicit production and trafficking through the strengthening of law enforcement efforts and international cooperation and the development of up-to-date legislation and other control measures; and

- to eliminate illicit drug crops through alternative development programmes and related community participation.

Key elements of the Plan of Action are intended to give



China and the ASEAN states, as well as other governments and organizations supporting the exercise, full ownership of the process in pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN. These include the inclusion of target dates for specific actions and the establishment of a monitoring mechanism that will measure the progress of all drug control activities in the region undertaken in support of the Plan of Action.

Two existing major drug control initiatives in the region will constitute an important part of the ACCORD Plan of Action. These are: (1) the cooperative efforts among the ASEAN States now being carried out under a Three-Year Plan of Action and

(2) the Drug Control Memorandum of Understanding which brings together six states — Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand — with UNDCP in a broad programme of cooperation to deal with illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse.

In moving forward with the ACCORD Plan of Action, the Participating Governments are hopeful that this collaborative initiative will help them attract additional international support and financing for those regional programmes and new required activities.

In his opening statement at the International Congress, Minister Soubanh Srihirath, Chair-

man of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, went so far as to indicate that the successful completion of the ACCORD Plan of Action would be possible only with increased financial support from the international community.

With regard to financial support, there has already been some encouraging signs. First, in what is called the "Bangkok Political Declaration," the governments participating in the International Congress committed themselves to consider providing financial support through the existing mechanisms of grants to the United Nations and ASEAN.

In addition, in a statement during the International Congress lauding the efforts to create a Drug-Free ASEAN, ODCCP Executive Director Pino Arlacchi pledged the full cooperation and support of his organization.

Lastly, during a press conference following the International Congress, Mr. Sandro Calvani, Representative, the UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, noted that a rough estimate of the external financial requirements for the Accord Plan over the next five years was about \$80 million. He added that the representatives of some major donor countries had told him that they thought the figure might represent an appropriate base for negotiations.

SOLUTIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – An **Alternative Approach** to Drug Addiction by the Mirror Art Group

The Mirror Art Group was founded in 1991 by a small assembly of volunteers interested in addressing common social problems rooted in Thailand's tribal communities. In 1998, the eight members of the group developed a pilot project targeting tribal villages located at least 18 km from a city in the following districts —Ban Huay Khom; Tambon Maeyao, Muang District; and Chiang Rai Province. Seven key social problems were identified that were common among the tribal communities:

- Members of a minority group
- Lacked Thai nationality
- Health problems
- Lack of education
- Extreme poverty
- AIDS and prostitution problems
- Drug addiction

The first phase of the pilot project focused on education. Acting as volunteer teachers, the group began a programme for children who did not have access to the traditional school system because of distance and lack of transportation to the nearest city. In order to sustain the successful initiative, the Mirror Art Group made an appeal to the international community using the Internet to recruit volunteer teachers. Currently, they receive over 2000 applications.

As the pilot project continued, the group addressed other problems faced by the selected tribal regions through the enhancement of vocational skills and community development. Intriguingly, a re-occurring theme began to emerge after each meeting with the villagers – drugs. Tragic stories were revealed about men, women, and children who had become victims of the drug trade.

One little girl who was to enter grade three told the group how she had to quit school to work in a factory because her father spent all their money on drugs. Another

older girl who worked as a teacher at a daycare center was forced to turn to the drug trade when the center closed and she lost her job. For these girls and many others, there were simply no other options.

The root cause of the villager's drug problems was their lack of nationality status. An investigation conducted by the Mirror Art Group determined that a large number of traditionally law-abiding citizens had turned to drug trafficking in order to "purchase" Thai nationality status. Without citizenship, most villagers could not exercise legitimate means to make ends meet.

Consequently, parents began pushing their older children into the drug trade because of the guaranteed income. Others simply turned to drugs as an escape from poverty, illness, and reality. Cunning strategies were also employed to lure villagers into the drug trade. Dealers would flaunt the huge sums of cash they collected every day and samples of pills were handed out to the villagers knowing that it only took one taste to develop an addiction. Frightened of both the drug gangs and the police who frequented the tribal communities in search of drugs, the majority of villagers hid in their homes, afraid of anyone that approached.

Without diminishing the importance of the villagers' drug problems, the Mirror Art Group believed that the focus of their interventions should not concentrate on the drug situation as a primary objective. Instead, the Group chose to employ a community-based approach centered on education, cooperation, and development.

As a result, families were strengthened, a water irrigation system was built, and the village started to create traditional crafts which, through the Mirror Art Group's assistance, are sold via the Internet. The villagers became united and determined as society to fight drug trafficking and addiction. Over 45 drug addicts were detoxified

and through the mental and physical support of their communities, the majority of villagers managed to guard against relapse and the temptation of drugs. As a result of their efforts, 10 villages who participated in the pilot project have regained the hope and solidarity that once represented the heart of their communities.

Based on the Mirror Art Group's experience with the pilot project, several observations and recommendations were proposed:

- Drug addiction should not be the primary focus of intervention – several key factors play major roles.
- Communities must be committed and believe in the activities they are implementing.
- Communities must discuss and acknowledge their problems.
- Community needs must be supported through education, vocational training, and treatment of drug addicts.
- Villagers should be encouraged to solve problems through their own initiatives, with solutions based upon community traditions.
- Community efforts lead to continuous learning.
- Strong family values help people fight drug addiction.
- Development activities help bring communities together and can serve as a tool for villagers to solve drug addiction problems.
- Thai nationality must be available to tribal villagers through attainable means.
- Governments must work more closely with tribal villagers to provide services including health care, education, law enforcement etc.

Based on an article written by Dr. Wantanee Jun – Eam entitled "Drug Addiction Prevention and Solution Development Process and Community Development of the Mirror Art Group".

Building COMMUNITY BASED RESPONSES to Demand for Drugs

A. Community based approaches are an integral part of drug control policy

Community based approaches have been a mainstay of the socio-economic development process in Thailand's highlands, and emerging experience in the elimination of illicit poppy crops has shown these approaches to be essential to the "alternative development strategy" used by UNDCP and partner governments such as that of Thailand.

Over the past ten years, community based approaches have also been increasingly used to achieve drug demand reduction and HIV prevention objectives in Thailand and other countries in the region. The expanded use of the approach and transition from purely economic aims to more inclusive attention to human development

substances, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) including methamphetamine and ecstasy, an amphetamine type derivative.

These trends suggest the need for a variety of community interventions; some directed at educational institutions and their students; others at selected workplace communities where occupations use of drugs is most evident, and other communities that may share economic and cultural characteristics, such as those of ethnic minorities in the highland areas.

C. UNDCP's experience in a regional approach toward community based interventions in the highlands has been positive

Over the past four years, UNDCP, in collabo-

D. Sustained success is dependent on participation, partnership and perseverance

The experience has also highlighted and reinforced the need for some core conditions in order to achieve sustained positive effects. These include:

- Participation, consensus, commitment and action at the individual, family and community levels
- A community managed and owned process
- Empowerment through the provision of information, programme planning and delivery skills, financing and technical support
- Multiple levels of enduring government support
- A system for prevention, treatment, follow-up home care and socio-economic rehabilitation that is integrated into a single community managed process

There have been significant results with the integration of demand reduction activities for primary prevention, and the treatment and social reintegration of addicted people into mainstream community life.

and resolution of social issues is partly attributed to the direct favorable impact of many different projects.

B. The overall drug problem in the region is worsening

The need for community based approaches within these pillars is underscored by the overall emergence of increasing drug problems in Southeast Asia. Despite some evident decreases in the abuse of opium, there continues to be a problem of heroin abuse in Thailand along with rising trends in China, Myanmar and Vietnam. Parallel increases in the use of drug injection are creating serious risks to public health through the transmission of HIV from shared injection equipment and unprotected sex among the infected. More than 50 percent of identified HIV carriers in China, Myanmar and Vietnam attribute their infection to injection drug use.

A further significant contribution to the regional drug problem is the emergence of trends toward the abuse of synthetic

ration with the Thai government and non government organizations and other governments of the Greater Mekong Subregion, has used community based approaches in a special regional initiative to reduce illicit drug use in the highlands of East Asia. At 16 project sites in five countries, there have been significant results with the integration of demand reduction activities for primary prevention, and the treatment and social reintegration of addicted people into mainstream community life.

All project communities achieved over 90 percent relapse prevention at 22 months from entry to treatment. This extraordinary achievement has been sustained through individual and collective actions in supportive and caring community environments. The impact on family poverty has been positive and dramatic; partly attributable to the process of community engagement, integrating demand reduction into community social and economic priorities and the promotion on micro credit schemes.

These conditions will be necessary ingredients to the ACCORD Plan of Action as ASEAN and China move forward in the pursuit of a drug free region by 2015. The ACCORD countries recognize that government intervention by itself is not sufficient for a reversal and sustained reduction of the current drug trends. Communities must be engaged as full partners in the identification, ownership and resolution of the drug problem according to their particular situation.

This process must extend in practice to non-government and community based organizations as well as the private sector. The process of community mobilization as an element of national drug control policy is also critical to success as are operational procedures and budgets of concerned government departments to provide ongoing support to the process.

By Wayne Bazant, Demand Reduction Advisor, UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.

INJECTION DRUG USERS at High Risk of HIV Infection

Multiple drug use and high risk behaviour are two common trends in the Asian region, according to a recently released special report on the study of drug use and HIV vulnerability.

The report pointed out that in many countries throughout the region, there are serious legal and political barriers that impede the implementation of effective prevention interventions targeting the spread of HIV infection among intravenous drug users. Such interventions include needle and syringe exchange/distribution and drug treatment as part of a comprehensive package.

Measures to prevent the spread of HIV among drug users are frequently localized, short term, under funded and insufficient in scope. Moreover, adherence to traditional values is strong, lending sensitivity to the debate on HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual behavior.

The report also identified the low funding priority toward drug problems in the region, with the exception of law enforcement, and the inadequate dialogue between drug control and HIV/prevention agencies. As a result, few programmes in the region directly address the link between drug use and HIV vulnerability.

On a more positive note, the study also showed that governments may be ready to review their policies concerning interventions to reduce HIV transmission among injecting drug users if there were mechanisms to build consensus and collaborate among the main stakeholders.

The report was completed in May 1999 under the guidance of a regional task force of experts in drug control and public health. Participating countries included China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam.

Its conclusions have been reviewed under the context of UNDCP's mandate for drug control and its status as a co-sponsor of UNAIDS. Subsequently, both agencies are developing a major new initiative for the reduction of HIV vulnerability in the Greater Mekong Subregion. Currently, the UNAIDS Asia Pacific Inter-country Team and the UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific are seeking international donor support for the initiative.



SUBSTITUTE DRUGS SUCCESSFUL in Reducing Illicit Heroin Use

NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse, USA) reports of a recent study, which showed that levomethadyl acetate (LAAM), buprenorphine, and high doses of methadone (60-100 mg.) were much more effective in treating heroin addiction than low-dose methadone maintenance (20 mg.).

Methadone maintenance is a widely used, but in many countries it is also a controversial method of treatment for heroin addiction. Heroin addiction is notorious for being very difficult to cure and methadone is used to give the addict a chance of a relatively normal lifestyle without having the need to use heroin. One of the main problems with methadone is that despite treatment, relapses to heroin are very common.

A research team led by Dr. Rolley E. Johnson at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine conducted the study in which 220 heroin addicts between the ages 21 to 55 were randomly assigned to four different treatment groups – LAAM, buprenorphine, high-dose methadone (60 to 100 mg), or low dose methadone (20 mg). Each group had 55 members.

In all groups, heroin use decreased by 90% after entering the programme. Remarkably, all other measures (length of time remaining in the study, heroin use during the study, and ratings of drug problem severity) were better for subjects in the LAAM, buprenorphine, and high-dose methadone groups than for those in the low-dose methadone group. All three treatments succeeded in reducing illicit heroin use significantly and only minor differences were detected among the treatment results of the LAAM, buprenorphine, and high-dose methadone groups.

The study lasted for 17 weeks, and the retention rate ranged from 72.7 percent (the high-dose methadone group) to 20 percent (the low-dose methadone group). Also, LAAM, buprenorphine, and high-

dose methadone groups submitted fewer heroin-positive urine samples than the low-dose group did. The percentage of subjects with 12 or more consecutive heroin-negative urine specimens differed significantly across the groups. More than one-third of the LAAM patients had 12 or more consecutive negative urine specimens, while only 8 percent of the low-dose methadone patients achieved this number. The percentage of high-dose methadone and buprenorphine patients reaching the mark was only slightly less than the LAAM group.

Patients in the LAAM and buprenorphine groups were given treatment three times a week, whereas both methadone groups received treatment every day. According to Dr. Johnson, LAAM and buprenorphine had a clinical advantage. "Less-than-daily dosing," he says, "reduces the need for take-home medication, requires fewer clinic visits and allows a more normal lifestyle".

According to Dr. Alan I. Leshner (director of the NIDA, which provided funding for the research), the "study is important because it helps to identify the most effective treatments for this devastating addiction". These and other new, more effective treatment options may ultimately be available to physicians. At the moment, LAAM and methadone are available for US clinicians to prescribe. Buprenorphine is currently under review by the Food and Drug Administration and is used only in research studies.

Source: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/MedAdv/00/NR11-1.html>

UNDP and Australia support the fight against HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam

UNDP and the National AIDS Standing Bureau of Viet Nam are launching a new project to combat the increasing spread of HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam and the Government of Australia is providing \$820,000 to support the initiative.

Since the first HIV/AIDS case was detected in Ho Chi Minh City in 1990, the disease has spread rapidly throughout Viet Nam. The exact number of people currently living with HIV/AIDS is unknown because many people who carry the virus are not aware of their HIV-positive status. However, according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), an estimated 100,000 people living in Viet Nam were HIV-positive by the end of 1999.

At the signing ceremony held last month, Edouard Wattez, Resident Representative of UNDP in Viet Nam, explained that the project focuses on providing technical assistance to enhance the capacity of Vietnamese institutions working on HIV/AIDS. UNDP plans to work closely with the National AIDS Standing Bureau, which leads the Government's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to implement the project. UNAIDS will also be directly involved, illustrating the collaborative efforts of UNDP, UNAIDS, and Australia to support the government in the battle against the disease. Mr. Wattez noted that, "Strengthened capacity and better trained staff will enable Viet Nam to formulate and implement more effective policies and strategies to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and to prevent further spread of the disease."

Australian Ambassador Michael Mann noted his country's history of cooperation with Viet Nam in the fight against HIV/AIDS and recounted Australia's own domestic experiences. "The successes of the partnership model in Australia underscores the importance of ensuring the views and perspectives of those most affected by HIV/

AIDS are respected," said Mr. Mann. He emphasized how HIV/AIDS also posed a problem for economic development in any community. "Both Australia and Viet Nam recognize that HIV/AIDS is not just a public health concern, but presents serious social and economic challenges," he commented.

Building on the lessons learned from a previous UNDP HIV/AIDS project, a comprehensive evaluation of the Viet Nam project will be undertaken, assessing both its effectiveness and constraints. Recommendations will be offered relating to aspects of implementation, management and staff training needs. The Provincial People's Committees of Hai Duong, Lang Son and Da Nang will be directly involved in the project as implementation agencies. This approach to decentralize the project will help step up the fight against HIV/AIDS at the provincial and local levels.

Recently, Australia announced a six-year \$120 million Global HIV/AIDS initiative that coincides with recent calls for greater commitment of ASEAN resources to address HIV/AIDS. Australia aims to work closely with its ASEAN partners on this issue, recognizing the threat HIV/AIDS presents to sustained economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to UNAIDS, 34 million adults and children are infected by the HIV/AIDS virus worldwide. The overwhelming majority of these cases are found in Sub-Saharan Africa (24.5 million) and in South and South-East Asia (5.6 million). In 1999, there were an estimated 5.4 million new HIV infections reported and 2.8 million deaths stemming from the deadly disease.

For more information, contact Bruce Edwards, Public Information Officer, UNDP Viet Nam.

VIETNAM appeals for UN help with heroin problem

Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem has asked the UN International Drug Control Programme to help the country control its rapidly escalating heroin problem.

Official figures show a 50% increase in registered heroin addicts in the first six months of this year, recording 160,000 registered users at the end of June, up from 104,000 at the end of last year. But international drug control agencies in Hanoi estimate the actual number is closer to 500,000.

According to international drug agents, Vietnam's police could do more

to combat the problem. Although courts have sentenced 41 drug traffickers to death this year and in spite of a new two-month anti-drug campaign, a low volume of seizures and alleged police corruption have led to doubts that Vietnam is doing all it can to stop the illicit trade and production of drugs, the South China Morning Post reports.

"There is evidence of drug recycling, where police make seizures but cut the offender loose and then sell the drugs themselves," one foreign drug agent said.

In addition to an already high number of heroin addicts, Vietnam is also increasingly being used as a transit country for opiates from Myanmar.

Rapid Steps Towards **Increased** **ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT** **COOPERATION** in East Asia

Alternative Development Projects are a cornerstone in the fight against illicit opium cultivation.

Presently, South East Asia has a number of projects throughout the region, including countries such as Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam. However, no systematic analysis of experience or lessons learned throughout the region has ever been carried out and the formal sharing of best practices is

a rare occurrence between projects and countries.

This is about to change. A new UNDCP project entitled "Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia" has taken off after a two-day inception meeting and workshop held on 26-27 October 2000 at the Doi Tung Development Project in Chiang Rai. The meeting was an important first step in the establishment of a work plan for the project.

Best practices within the field of alternative development were also exchanged with the goal to encourage an increased flow of information among national institutions, alternative development projects, and other organisations engaged in alternative development.

Photo and text by Peter Lunding, Programme Officer, UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.



"Sa" paper production at the Doi Tung Development Project. "Sa" paper decorated with flowers and leaves. View of Doi Tung.

Drugs Transiting South Pacific Nations:

FIJI POSSIBLY RE-EMERGED TO BE A **stepping stone for cocaine trafficking**

On 29 October, the law enforcement authorities at Frankfurt Airport intercepted a TNT air parcel sent from Colombia via Chile, Brazil and Spain. The parcel was found to contain 31 computer hard drives, examination of which led to the discovery of 2 kilograms cocaine.

The TNT package provided a consignee's name which seemed to be a company located at Nadi Airport, Fiji. Further investigation conducted by Fijian authorities revealed that the name of the company was believed to be a part of an airport service company comprising porters, caterers, passenger handling and ramp services. The consignee was believed

to be an employee of the said company.

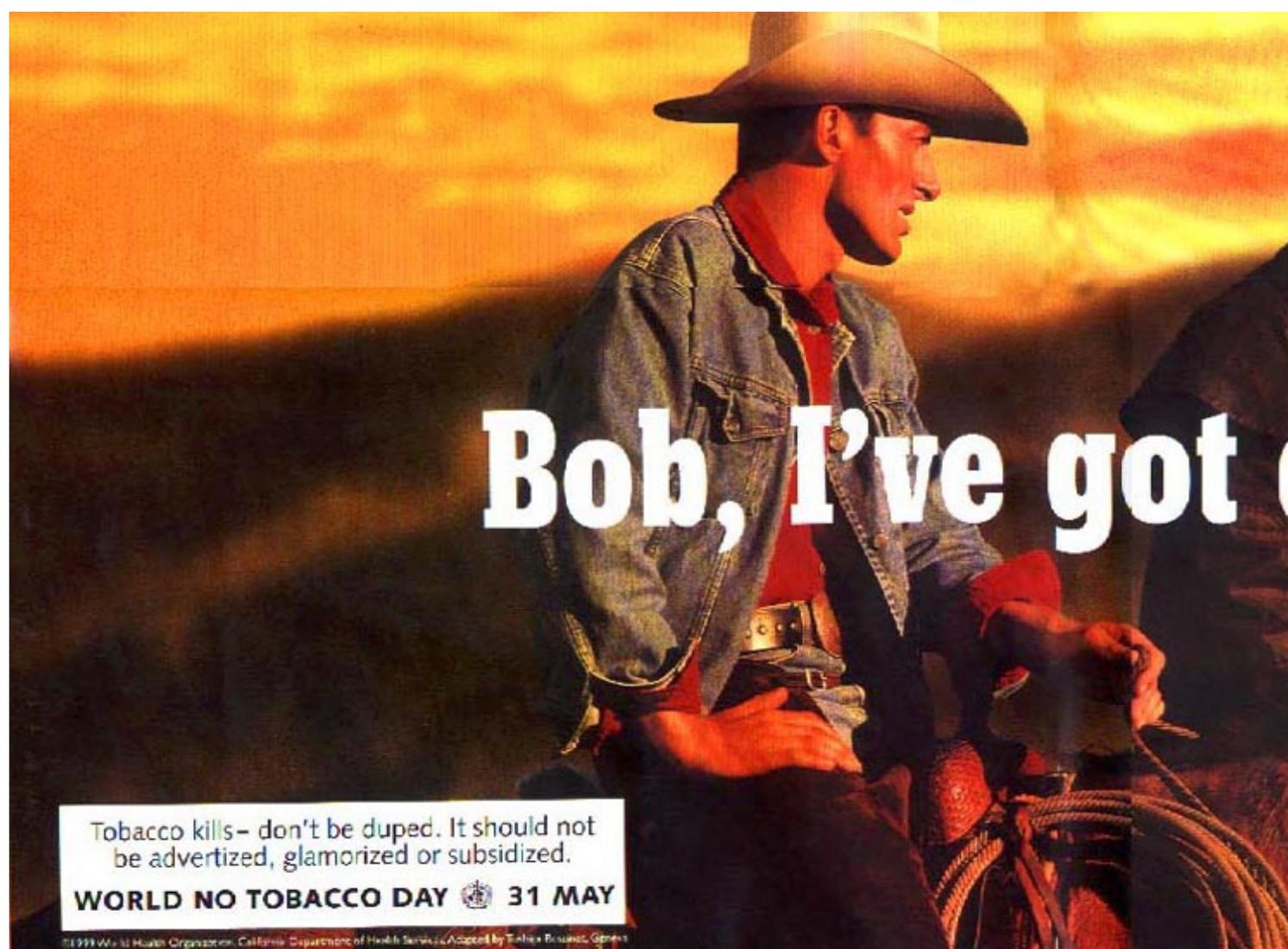
Unfortunately the final destination of the cocaine has not yet been confirmed. However, previous records suggest that there is a possibility that the drug was destined for Australia. In mid 1997, the trend of cocaine trafficking to Australia from South Pacific Islands including Fiji emerged. A total of 6 incidents, involving Fiji and Tonga as shipping points for cocaine trafficking, were detected at both Brisbane and Sydney airports.

While the tropical climate makes the South Pacific Islands suitable for the cultivation of cannabis, these seizures suggested that these had increasingly been

used by international traffickers as transit points for other drugs, particularly cocaine *en route* to Australia.

This incident in October 1999, is worth noting because after several years' interval, drug traffickers are again attempting to smuggle cocaine toward Fiji. However, this time they are going through Europe instead of using direct routes from South American sources in order to prevent detection by enforcement agencies.

Source: Stacey Mitchell, Analyst Intelligence, New Zealand Customs Service. The article was first printed in "OCO Regional Intelligence Network Analysis Report, Issue No 4, 2000 and has been reprinted with permission.



So do millions of other smokers around the world. An estimated 1.15 billion people smoke regularly and every year 4 million of them pay for their habit with their lives. By 2030, this number is likely to increase to 10 million annually. Tobacco not only kills people, it creates numerous diseases, brings enormous losses to national economies, destroys environments, and endangers non-smokers, including children. Tobacco is the only consumer product which when consumed, as recommended by its manufacturers, kills half of its regular customers.

WHO (World Health Organization) has stepped up efforts to stop the tobacco pandemic. The WHO cabinet has launched a project called the "Tobacco Free Initiative" that aims to focus international attention and resources on the global tobacco epidemic. As part of the project, an international Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) is being developed. It would be the first international convention adopted by WHO and provide an extensive basis for countries to formulate their tobacco policies.

The FCTC is expected to address such issues as tobacco advertising and promotion, agricultural diversification, regulation, smuggling, excise tax levels, treatment of tobacco dependence, and smoke-free areas. Full ministerial negotiations are currently underway and the Convention will be ready for signature by no later than 2003. WHO has also extended an

invitation of participation to general public by conducting public hearings on the FCTC, 12-13 October in Geneva. Over 170 organizations took part and made a verbal testimony before the hearings panel.

The FCTC will be an international treaty and a legal instrument with broadly stated goals on tobacco control. Separate protocols will address each of the goals individually, and define specific measures, including plans and timetables. After joining the Convention, member states can decide which protocols they want to sign and implement in their own countries.

At the moment only a few countries exercise any comprehensive tobacco control. It is for this reason that the expected benefits of the FCTC are numerous. The Convention would facilitate and encourage states to strengthen their own national control policies. As well, it also provides ample opportunities for countries to share information and work in cooperation with each other to implement the provisions. This is especially important in the era of globalization when the efforts of one country can easily be undermined by the circumstances of neighboring countries. Good examples that illustrate this point are tobacco smuggling, advertising, duty-free sales, tobacco pricing, and taxation.

Despite all this, WHO hopes that the FCTC will not remain just as an ordinary convention – in turn, they hope that it will become a public health movement across the world.



SHORT NEWS FROM THE REGION

Cambodia:
Japan to Train Police

The Japanese government is joining the struggle to encourage Cambodian civilians to part with their firearms by improving the country's police force. Based on the notion, that in a society where people's social security is not assured, they will never surrender their weapons voluntarily, the Japanese aid is to achieve exactly that. The Japanese National Police Agency plans to send two experts to instruct Cambodian police in the "Koban" Japanese police-post system, in which police officers operate out of small posts in many neighbourhoods, instead of patrolling from a central station. The system has reduced crime and boosted arrests in Japan. It has also already been implemented in Singapore.

10 New Patrol Boats to Help Scuttle Gasoline Smugglers

The Cambodian Customs Department expects to buy 10 patrol boats to bolster its under-powered fleet and help combat increased wet-season smuggling of gasoline on the country's waterways. Customs Director Pen Siman estimates that during the rainy season US\$ 1 million worth of illegal gasoline comes into Cambodia each month via the rivers.

Samoa:
Samoa's Central Bank Warns against Pyramid Scheme

In August the Central Bank warned that pyramid selling schemes are illegal under recent law and has instructed local commercial banks not to remit any more foreign exchange for that purpose. It says that their investigations has revealed that the Italian company involved, Future Strategies Srl is under investigation by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The SEC has alleged that the entire operation of Future Strategies is a fraudulent pyramid scheme, designed to bilk investors. Letters to local newspapers has also warned against the scheme. Other Pacific Island countries like Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands have reportedly already been the victims of pyramid scheme scams.

BEWARE !



Tobacco can make you impotent




World Health Organization
South-East Asia Region

Tobacco kills - Don't be duped

WHO has stepped up its efforts to curb the tobacco epidemic, which at present is killing 4 million people every year. Presented are two of the posters that WHO hopes will help them stop the killing.

Ban Arlae, Mae Fah Luang District, Chiangrai Province, Thailand

AN AIR OF CHANGE AND RENEWED HOPE in a remote highland village

A story of how a helping hand from outside, when combined with individual and collective efforts in a supporting environment, can help free individuals and an entire community from intergenerational drugs and poverty

In August 1999, I visited Mr. Suvit (29) at his home in Ban Arlae – an Akha settlement not too far from Myanmar and on a route infamous for drug running. He was seen active, happy and healthy with his wife and son (see photo B). Also, I met his father and mother who live together in their newly repaired shelter of bamboo and thatch on stilts (photo A).

Many neighbors came to greet me. Suvit's father invited all of us inside, offered tea in coconut cups and entertained us with Akha melodies on his home made guitar. Inside it was warm and friendly. Outside, it was cold and raining.

A few months ago, the roof was leaky. Both Suvit and his father were opium addicts then like most of the adult male villagers. There were thirty two opium addicts in thirty five households in Ban Arlae.

Photo A

Both Suvit and his father could not help themselves from taking opium daily. In earlier years both tried to quit unsuccessfully. Suvit's father went to treatment in the town. Upon his return to the village and amidst other addicts he would relapse in no time. At one point, Suvit was prisoned for drug possession. Father and son could not work every day. Most of their cash earnings would be spent on opium. Suvit's wife and two sisters would work hard to support their extended family. "Suvit could not earn enough nor pay attention to her and to their son" and "there were arguments" – recalled his wife. "Opium took my husband away from me and from our son" –



Ban Arlae is now a drug free village. It is determined to remain so. I came back convinced.*

**The Suvit family was followed up. In February, 2000, Thai Television Channel No. 9 interviewed the family and aired the program nationally on 27 February, 2000 at 20 hours. In March 2000, a group of officials from national and international agencies and media visited Ban Arlae. Their accounts confirm project achievements. UNDCP assistance ended in June, 2000. It would be interesting to know how Suvit family and Ban Arlae are doing now on their own.*

Photos and original material filed by: Rezaul Karim, Story design and narration by: Rezaul Karim, Bangkok, August, 1999.

she narrated while displaying proudly her hand stitched colorful Akha clothes.

Photo B That was then.

Then came along Hill Area Development Foundation – a local NGO and UNDCP project on Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia to Ban Arlae. The project brought a lot of benefits to the village: a community centre, a pay telephone box, clean water, small loans for businesses, revival of Akha culture and values among the youth, integrated farming, irrigation and watershed management. High officials and increased attention to the village and to its needs followed.

Importantly, the project united the community against drugs and around community needs. All the drug addicts and their families vowed together to help each other and organized a detoxification camp in the community centre with help from the health department and the project. During

the camp, the whole community and family members participated in preparing meals, looking after the addicts and their well being day in and day out. "It was very caring and sharing all around" – Suvit's father recalled.

Continuous counseling, home visit, kind care and support from all around created success – Suvit, his father and all the recovered addicts were able to keep themselves away from opium. For good. By collective action, drug pushers ceased their trade. The project did something miraculous – changed neighbors and the whole village into an energized, determined and very caring, supportive community. One fine day, the villagers gathered and repaired their shelter too. What more, with a small loan, Suvit now operates a mushroom growing and animal raising operation with his father. "Suvit now plays with his son", "there are rarely any more arguments" – Suvit's wife told the reporter with a grin.

HIV/AIDS: Tropical Disease May Suppress Virus

New research suggests that the tropical disease scrub typhus could be used as an inexpensive treatment for HIV/AIDS. The research, carried out in Thailand, indicates that the disease can suppress HIV, lowering it to undetectable levels.

"No other infectious disease has ever shown the effects of reducing HIV viral load," said Dr. George Watt, a scientist from the Armed Forces Institute of Medical Sciences, funded by the United States and Thailand. The discovery was made "by accident," he added.

Studies show that the virus count in the blood of people with AIDS was significantly reduced after contracting scrub typhus, a tropical insect-borne disease common in

East Asia and the Western Pacific. Scientists are now extending the research to see if it has the same effects on people with HIV.

"If antibodies of scrub typhus were used to fight HIV, it potentially could be a very inexpensive method" of treatment, Watt said. Most of the 34 million infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide cannot afford current treatments.

Scientists are working to isolate the element of scrub typhus that counteracts the virus. They believe that a microbial agent called *Orientia tsutsugamushi* may be responsible. However, please note that no cure exists yet, scientists have just found a clue of where one might be found.

INCREASED BORDER COOPERATION between Myanmar and India

Concerned over the increased drug trafficking along their borders, the India and Myanmar governments have decided to gear up operations to control the situation. The decision was taken at a high level meeting of law enforcement agencies held in March in which Myanmar officials reported that their government plans to contain opium cultivation.

To demonstrate their commitment, anti-smuggling agencies have made several seizures along the Indo-Myanmar border during the past couple of months and UNDCP is promoting strengthened co-operation in this regard.

HONLEA MEETING In Yangon

The 24th meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) Asia and the Pacific was held 14-17 November in Yangon, Myanmar. The participants included representatives from 19 countries, Interpol, Asean Secretariat, World Customs Organization, and UNDCP.

Participants reported on bilateral and multilateral assistance in capacity building within drug law enforcement agencies, such as cross-border cooperation, exchange of operational information, increasing use of computer facilities, and posting

of liaison officers. Among the major trafficking trends identified, it was noted that the manufacture, trafficking, and abuse of amphetamine type stimulants, especially methamphetamine and ecstasy, have increased in the region and were cause for alarm.

The agenda of the meeting consisted mainly of four different workshops: illicit trafficking and consumption of heroin; impact of electronic crime on drug-trafficking strategy; control of stimulants; and illicit trafficking by sea.

SHORT NEWS FROM THE REGION

Thailand:

Impressive Thai Financial Commitment to Drug Control

The Thai Government has released the official figures for its drug control efforts. The high priority given to the area is evident. In this fiscal year (October 2000 to September 2001) the Thai Government allocates for drug control work 2,006,688,300 Baht (45,919,640 US\$).

Approximately US\$ 0.8 per capita, so scoring the highest per capita drug control budget in South East Asia and the Pacific. This budget is given to ministries and agencies concerned to implement drug-related programmes under their jurisdiction. For the ONCB (Office of the Narcotics Control Board) the total budget for this fiscal year is 433,026,900 Baht or 9,909,100 US\$. A contribution to the multi-lateral fight however, has not yet been planned.

Vietnam:

New UNAIDS Website Launched

On June 5 2000, UNAIDS in Vietnam officially launched its website in English and Vietnamese. The website, <http://www.unaids.org.vn> gives an overview on the HIV/AIDS situation in Vietnam ranging from epidemiological statistics and Government, UN and NGO responses to the epidemic, to legal tools to fight HIV/AIDS.

In addition, the UNAIDS website proposes international best practices and information on World AIDS Day campaigns. Also available on the UNAIDS website is a matrix reflecting all major HIV/AIDS activities supported by the national and international entities.

The matrix, geared to UN agencies, NGOs and national partners working on HIV/AIDS, facilitates the work of organisations involved in HIV/AIDS work in the country. For further information please write to unaids@netnam.org.vn or check out the site yourselves.

Commercial Servicing of PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

The traditional models of law enforcement and justice do not always service the demand for public safety. Crime is trans-national; it confounds traditional policing and justice models. Successful prosecution of crime requires more than just inter-national and inter-agency cooperation. It sometimes requires the ability to apply new approaches outside the square.

By Larry Proud¹

Victoria Police Force is an organisation of 12,500 men and women with an annual budget of US\$700m. It has undergone significant upheaval and change in the past 20 years to enable it to meet the needs of an affluent and demanding community. Along the way it has learnt many lessons and overcome many obstacles to emerge as one of the regions most respected law enforcement agencies.

Victoria Police achieved this through measuring its performance against the best law enforcement agencies in the world. "World best practice" seems clichéd but all institutions and organisation need some standard by which to judge their own performance. Within the last decade other international governments and agencies have approached Victoria Police for input into their own evolution and development. Victoria Police projects and consultancies have now been delivered to many countries including, Egypt, South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, United Kingdom, Ireland, Netherlands, Turkey, Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. The consultancies have been small and as large as US\$2m such as the Fiji Police Training Project or the establishment of forensic science facilities in Malaysia and Vietnam.

In recognition of this demand for policing services outside of the core business of Victoria Police a decision was taken in 1999 to undertake a partnership with the Overseas Projects Corporation of Victoria (OPCV) to manage consultancies and partnerships through a combined entity called Public Safety and Justice Australia (PS&JA).

OPCV is a public unlisted company, wholly owned by the Victorian Govern-

ment. It was established in 1985 to market and transfer Australian expertise and technology through international development projects. OPCV provides services across a wide range of disciplines (e.g. transportation, public health, education, agricultures, urban development, land information, public safety and justice and the environment). OPCV has extensive experience through managing over 300 projects in fifty countries.

Public Safety and Justice Australia now commercially manages Victoria Police's international work with OPCV and the cooperation of the Victorian Department of Justice.

Currently PS&JA has a judicial capacity building project in Papua New Guinea, road safety project in Botswana and a disaster management project in Mozambique.

What has this got to do with Drug law enforcement?

Public Safety and Justice Australia has access to a consultant base which cuts across all law enforcement and justice disciplines. It has associations with companies such as Chambers Gregan and Associates, which specialises in the recruitment and management of current and former law enforcement personnel. PS&JA provides consultants from many jurisdictions, not just Victoria. The majority of our consultants have extensive international experience in general policing as well as drugs, people trafficking, child exploitation, fraud, etc.

Public Safety and Justice Australia is able to provide consultant advice which is balanced, objective and in tune with client needs.

We can assist overseas clients to manage issues of public safety with professional advice and training on a range of is-

suces relating to law enforcement, corrective services and emergency response including:

- Institutional strengthening and policy development for justice, police and correctional services
- General Policing
- Investigations
- Ethics and standards
- Fire fighting organisational management
- Hazardous material handling
- Industrial rescue / community and counter disaster planning
- Development of emergency disaster plans
- Hazard and vulnerability analysis
- Road safety policies and strategies
- Development of forensic science capability
- Provision of high level fraud and anti-corruption investigation and training, and forensic accounting expertise
- Provision of high level drug and investigation and training

OPCV and Victoria Police has the capacity to support large public safety and justice projects internationally through this joint venture.

Public Safety and Justice Australia is about helping people build safer communities supported by systems of justice which are fair, equitable and just.

Extensive international experience has equipped us with the attitudes and knowledge necessary to ensure approaches to projects and advisory roles are sensitive and practical.

¹ Larry Proud is Director of Public Safety and Justice Australia. He is a former Commissioned Officer with Victoria Police with 30 years in law enforcement (10 of those years in international law enforcement and justice). You can contact PS&JA in Australia on +61 3 92589334; fax +61 3 95760899 or email at larryproud@bigpond.com

SHORT NEWS FROM THE REGION



High expectations to PDM training in Hanoi, Vietnam

Project Design and Management Training is Rolling

As part of the national capacity building on drug control project planning and management, the second phase of Project Design and Management training has been carried out in Thailand, Vietnam and China.

In this second phase, UNDCP provided a training of trainers workshop to strengthen training capacity of the national trainers in each country prior to the national training for drug control planners and project officers who are involved in planning and implementation of drug control projects and activities.

The counterpart governments of the MOU countries have taken a major role in organising and delivering the training sessions using national trainers who have been trained in the training of trainers workshop and in the first phase PDM training.



Dedicated participation at PDM training in Bangkok, Thailand

The training has been organised on a cost sharing basis between the participating governments and the on-going sub-regional projects to improve the planning and management capacities of national planners and project staff.

By Dr Sanong Chinnanon, Institutional & Human Resources Development Advisor, UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific



Enthusiastic Chinese participation in PDM training, Wuhan, Hebei Province, China

Kiribati:

Cocaine from the Reefs?

Police in the capital Tarawa are expecting to verify what they claim is 30 kilograms of powdered cocaine washed ashore on Butaritari, the second largest island in the northern group. The package was tightly sealed in waterproof wrappings and was found on the rocks at sea by a fisherman. Police assumed that the package was hidden underwater but was brought ashore by waves. No one has been charged in connection to the seizure.

New Caledonia

Noumea Police Intensifies Crackdown on Cannabis

Police in New Caledonia have intensified their fight against cannabis with three separate hauls totalling 1.7 kilogrammes and over 2,000 plants of cannabis throughout the French territory.

The first haul was made on an inter-island catamaran ferry where the police seized 1.16 kilogrammes of what's believed to be cannabis. In Thio (East coast of the main land), two men were recently arrested as they were travelling to Noum_a. Police found 550 grammes of cannabis in their vehicle, and later found another 30 plants at a plantation in Tenda.

But the biggest operation was in the Poindimi area (north) on August 10, where 1,911 plants were seized in several fields. Police said they had been closely monitoring the area for several months, as part of what they believe is an organised traffic between this production area and the capital Noum_a. "Before we stepped in, we already knew where the plantations were and who to arrest," Gendarme captain Vian said.

The haul was part of a 50-man strong, joint operation between the Poindimi_gendarmes and reinforcements sent from Noum_a. Six people from nearby Houa_lou village were arrested, charged with cultivating, transporting, selling and consuming the drug. They were remanded in custody pending their trial. They face a maximum penalty of twenty years imprisonment.

Demand Reduction Efforts AMONG HIGH RISK GROUPS in China

UNDCP's project, Subregional Development of Institutional Capacity for Demand Reduction Among High Risk Groups (C75), is leading several efforts to address the growing drug problem in China.

The project has six project sites in China: Baotou, Xiamen, Nanning, Urumqi, Yili and Kashgar. So far three national seminars have been held this year (Qingdao, Xiamen and Urumqi) and many other activities, within fields of assessment and interventions, are being planned or are currently underway.

School surveys will also be administered in Urumqi, Baotou and Nanning, targeting a total of 9,000 students. Xiamen University will carry out data entry and analysis and an initial report on the surveys will be ready on 15 December, whereas the final report is expected in January 2001.

The Xinjiang sites are a priority for the non-captive groups. The special problem of Xinjiang is the alarming epidemic of HIV/AIDS among the drug users. For example, in Yining city, Yili prefecture, the HIV prevalence is more than 90%. Assessments will be carried out in Urumqi, Nanning and Yili, targeting unemployed and underemployed risk groups. Structured interviews, focus groups and participant observation will constitute the main methods of methodology and existing information of neighbourhood and district committees, public security, and public health sources will be capitalized. The total sample will be 1,000 persons at risk and the assessments will be done from January to May 2001.

Another big problem is high relapse rates. As the drug free community approach has succeeded in putting pressure on local communities to address drugs and drug-related issues, it has led to the referral of relapsing drug addicts to labor camps causing capacity problems and the acknowledgment that labor camps can not reduce relapse rates. It is clear that alternative options have to be considered.

Some solutions have already been pro-

posed and are currently under discussion. First, since the counseling capacity is very limited, more counselors need to be trained. Again, Xinjiang has been identified as an absolute priority. One possible approach is the recently funded ILO/UNDCP project for regional training in South and East Asia on Drug Addiction Rehabilitation. The project is about to become operational and aims at capacity building. The government of Malaysia is co-sponsoring the project and the USM (Universiti Sains Malaysia) from Penang will be in organizing the basic training sessions and will also act as an implementing agency. As soon as the project starts, possibly 3-4 trainees from Xinjiang will be enrolled. Eventually, through training of trainers (TOT) a pool of drug counselors can be established in China. It is planned that specific training modules, e.g. on HIV/AIDS, will be added at a later stage.

Second, the Red Cross Society (Youth Peer Education project) of Xinjiang has proposed a training programme of peer educators for high risk groups. The peer educators would consist of ex-drug users and people with HIV. The programme will be adapted to their special needs, focus-

ing on drug and HIV prevention. The project would be carried out in close collaboration with UNAIDS. Naturally, cooperation with community authorities will be established, but above that, it is recommended that peer educators remain outside the drug free community programme and create their own relationship with their peers and preserve confidentiality.

Third, a new treatment programme is proposed to be established in Urumqi and Nanning, following a successful experiment that completed in Malaysia. In the experiment, naltrexone was used as relapse prevention support and proved to be quite successful. An adapted protocol could be used in China. The plan is to recruit 400 addicts in treatment units in Urumqi and Nanning (altogether 800), and to enroll them after discharge in a community based rehabilitation programme.

Further interventions will be considered depending on the outcome of the assessments. Furthermore, AusAid is preparing a HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care project in Xinjiang and has asked to explore collaboration. However, this project is still undergoing a feasibility study.

NEWS ABOUT COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING in the Mekong Region

The UN Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking in Women and Children in the Mekong Sub-region has launched a newsletter. The first issue has already been published and is available from the UN Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking in Women and Children in the Mekong Sub-region, Office of United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand, United Nations Building, 14th Floor, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 102000, Thailand, E-mail: trafficking.mekong@un.or.th, Web page: <http://www.un.or.th>



Asian Tourism Operators form Network with UN Agency and NGOs **TO FIGHT CHILD SEX TOURISM IN THE REGION**

Tourism industry delegates attending a two-day Workshop at UN headquarters in Bangkok committed themselves to working with UN agencies, NGOs and government ministries to halt child sex tourism in Asia, and to ensure that tourism operators fight child sex tourism, not promote it.

The 22-23 August 2000 Workshop, co-organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and ECPAT Australia (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking), was held to increase awareness of the growing problem of child sex tourism in the region and to enlist the support of the tourism industry in putting a stop to it.

According to the Workshop organizers, tourism operators working on the ground are well placed to play a major role in the fight against child sexual exploitation. Hotel staff are also witness to offenders returning to hotels with children, but often do not know what to do about it or how best to report the crimes. This is why training 'frontline' staff to play a role in preventing child sexual exploitation is so important.

As a result of the Workshop, ECPAT Australia and ESCAP representatives have committed their organizations to working together to help stop child sex tourism in Asia by designing a training programme on sexual exploitation prevention and awareness for tourism industry staff and minis-

tries. Through this training, tourism operators can help make a significant dent in the business of child sex tourism.

Delegates representing the tourism industry and ministries also vowed to get those working on the frontline to take a proactive role in bringing sexual offenders to justice, and will work to develop a region-wide network of concerned organizations and tour operators to share information on the prevention of child sex tourism.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Development Section, ESCAP at tel: (662) 288-1502; fax: (662) 288-3031; or via e-mail: hrd_section.unescap@un.org.

REGIONAL CENTRE CONNECTS WITH UN Theme Group on **HIV/AIDS in China**

Emergent concerns about the growing demand for illicit drugs in China and the increasing number of injection drug abusers, prompted a special mission by UNDCP to Beijing during the last week of August.

Wayne Bazant, UNDCP Demand Reduction Adviser, together with Anindya Chatterjee from UNAIDS Asia Pacific Inter Country Team, reviewed the new regional strategy for the reduction of HIV vulnerability from drug abuse, as well as proposing an immediate arrangements to begin applications of the strategy in China through the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund.

The proposal to build partnerships and a joint plan of action among the Ministry of Health and National Narcotics Control Commission represented a new and direct response to the problems of injecting drug abuse.

Related discussions with international development agency offices in Beijing also pointed to more general concerns about the lack of provincial government capacity to plan and deliver basic drug demand reduction prevention and intervention programmes. Hunan, Guizhou, Sichuan, and Guangxi and Chongqing City figured centrally in the concern for building provincial and city capacities for better programme

effectiveness.

The mission also took the opportunity to support the 9th International Congress of the World Federation of Public Health Association and its Millennium March for Health to the Badaling Section of the Great Wall on 31 August. – *By Wayne Bazant, Demand Reduction Advisor, UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific*



UNDCP HOSTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME in Kuala Lumpur

UNDCP, as a component of the project "Strengthening of Judicial and Prosecutorial Drug Control Capacity in East Asia" (C74), held a fellowship programme in Kuala Lumpur from September 4 to October 10, 2000.

For six weeks, judges, prosecutors, and senior law enforcement officers from the MOU countries got an in-depth look into the Malaysian law enforcement and the judiciary system in relation to drug control. Malaysia was chosen as the host country for several reasons.

First, it is one of the more advanced le-

gal systems in Southeast Asia outside of the MOU region. Second, the Malaysian system is based on the British common law system and provided an interesting contrast to the legal systems of the other participating countries. Finally, language played an important role. English is widely spoken throughout Malaysia, and for this reason it was easy to facilitate sessions and activities given it was the selected language for the fellowship.

Each participating country was asked to send one judge, one prosecutor and one senior law enforcement officer, except for China, which due to the size of the country was asked to send six participants. Only

two delegates participated from Lao PDR, but other countries were able to comply with the request. The agenda for the fellowship programme was comprehensive, offering a chance to follow every step of the Malaysian system, from prevention to law enforcement and rehabilitation. Participants visited schools, police headquarters, high courts and rehabilitation centres. In addition to the fieldtrips, delegates attended lectures by qualified lecturers, which offered a chance for questions and discussion. Mutual legal assistance and money laundering were also primary issues on the agenda.

The fellowship programme was considered to be highly informative and useful. For the first time, the whole spectrum of drug related activities was introduced and scrutinized within an intensive programme. One of the most important outcomes was the widening of personal contacts between the participants, which will help to facilitate cooperation among the countries. For UNDCP, valuable experience was gained concerning the organization of such programmes for the future.

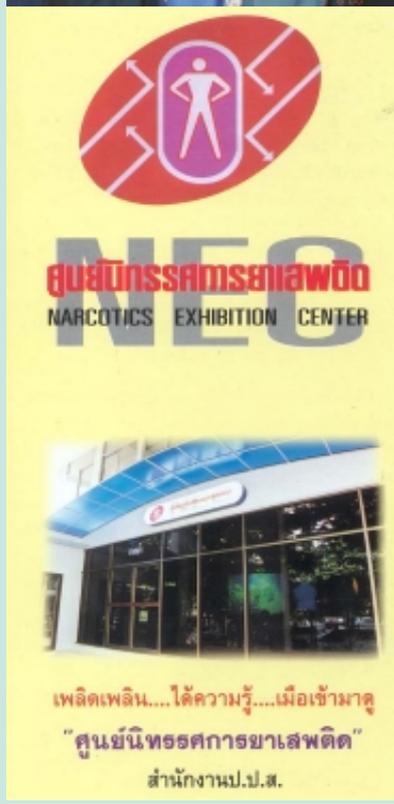
Although feedback from the participants in general was very positive, some minor problems occurred. First, many delegates felt the period allocated for the fellowship was too long and it was difficult for some participants to obtain a six-week leave of absence from their employment. In this regard, future fellowships will be somewhat shorter. Other participants believed the programme concentrated too much on Kuala Lumpur, instead of venturing out also to the countryside and other towns. Last, many participants suggested that recreational activities be organized on the weekends, which would also have facilitated further the development of personal contacts.

In short, the programme offered a lot of food for thought for both the participants and organizers. Based on the successful experience of Kuala Lumpur, future fellowships are already being planned for 2001 and 2002 and it is possible that the next programme will be held in a western country. Potential host countries include Australia, France, Italy, Sweden, and Germany.

Narcotics Exhibition Center Opened

A new Narcotics Exhibition Center (NEC), funded by the Royal Thai Government and the Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) of the American Embassy in Bangkok, was opened on September 6 at the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Bangkok. Present at the opening were Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Mrs. Chitra Lubpairee, Director of Drug Demand Reduction Bureau, Mr. Sorasit Sangprasert, Secretary-General of ONCB, H.E. Ambassador of the United States of America, and UNDCP Representative, Dr. Sandro Calvani.

The Center is aimed at youth and provides information with the help of interactive equipment including light and sound effects. The exhibition consists of four sections. The first section explains historical and contemporary drug use in Thailand. The second highlights the dangers associated with drug abuse and shows actual drugs and paraphernalia. The third section is dedicated to prevention and presents a video that relays information and delivers encouraging messages from popular singers, actors and sportsmen. Finally, the fourth section emphasizes that the decision concerning drug use is the responsibility of the individual.



UNDCP SCIENTIFIC SECTION PRESENTS: A NEW GUIDE TO METHAMPHETAMINE CHARACTERIZATION and Impurity Profiling

The UNDCP Scientific Section published a practical guide to methamphetamine characterization/impurity profiling last August. Copies are available from the UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok.

In face of growing manufacturing, trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine, especially in East and South East Asia and North America, more effective means are needed to curb the trend. Prepared for laboratories interested to embark on pro-

filling activities, the guide offers practical knowledge on method procedures developed by UNDCP, mass spectral data of selected impurities found in seized samples of methamphetamine and ephedrine, and selected literature references. For example, profiling is useful to establish chemical links between samples and to identify their origins. Collected information can also be used for evidential purposes, or as a source of more general intelligence to identify trafficking patterns and distribution networks.

No Safe Havens in Cambodia

The United Nations is putting pressure on Cambodia to identify and prosecute human traffickers; specifically those responsible for smuggling women from Eastern Europe into Cambodia for the purposes of being sex slaves.

A recent police raid at a hotel in Phnom Penh freed seven women between the ages of 18 and 23, who were allegedly forced to work as prostitutes. The women are in UN custody and will be returned home upon completion of police investigations. "Until we see the outcome (of this case) it is hard to say what we expect," said Marlene Alejos of the UN's human rights monitoring and protection unit. "But we are definitely putting a lot of pressure on the authorities, that's for sure."

According to Alejos, the women said they had left Eastern Europe voluntarily after being told they would be able to work as dancers at the hotel. The owner of the hotel and his manager were briefly detained by police, but they have not been charged and are no longer in police custody.

Continued Alternative Development Efforts in Myanmar

The United States of America has donated an additional US\$ 600,000 to the Wa Alternative Development Project, which runs in the Shan State in Myanmar. Despite the harsh environ-

mental conditions, the project has already achieved significant results and this generous donation ensures that success outcomes will continue. Nevertheless, other international support is also required.

LUXEMBOURG SUPPORTS UNDCP IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA

The Luxembourg Fund for the Fight against Drug Trafficking will provide a contribution of US\$ 146,546 to UNDCP for a project aimed at strengthening the drug demand reduction capacity of governmental institutions in Central America.

The agreement was signed 17 September 1999 in Vienna. The Fund will also provide additional funding worth US\$ 500,000 for a vocational training project in Bolivia and the agreement will be signed before the end of this year.

According to UNDCP's Executive Director Pino Arlacchi, "Luxembourg's important contribution to UNDCP's work and programmes is a tangible sign of the commitment of the country in the field of drug control. I hope that other countries will follow Luxembourg's example." So far Luxembourg is the only country which has applied a provision of the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, inviting members to provide funds derived from assets seized from drug-related criminal activities to the UN for its work in this field.

The Luxembourg Fund has for three consecutive years provided funds to UNDCP generated by forfeiture of assets in drug trafficking cases. The money was used to eliminate the dependency on opium production in Vietnam and Laos, and to train drug control officials in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.



2000 Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union, Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2000. The report deals with a wide range of aspects of drug use in the European Union and attempts to answer the following questions:

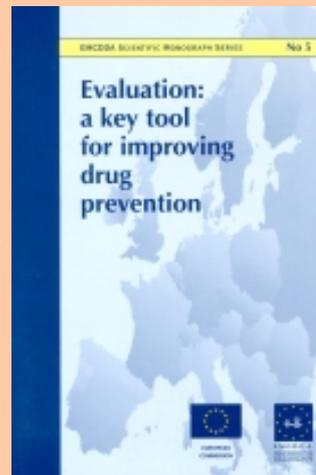
Why is the problem of drug use in the EU changing? Why is multiple drug use a hot topic? How is substitution treatment developing? How many people in the EU have tried cannabis? Particularised sections can also be found on the special challenges facing women and drugs, children and young people at risk, as well as trends in AIDS and other drug-related infectious diseases. All the information is supplemented by facts and figures, Member State by Member State. The report is available from EMCDDA, Rua da Cruz de Santa Apolonia 23-25, P-1149-045 Lisboa, Portugal, Phone: (+351) 21 811 30 00, Fax: (+351) 21 811 30 55, Web page: <http://www.emcdda.org>

Evaluation: a key tool for improving drug prevention

(EMCDDA Scientific Monograph, No. 5) Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2000. The book contains papers presented at the second European conference on the evaluation of drug prevention held in Strasbourg (2- 4 December 1999), including the recommendations adopted by the participants at the outcome of the meeting.

This volume complements the EMCDDA's *Evaluating drug prevention in the European Union* (Scientific Monograph, No. 2) and represents a significant step towards promoting co-operation in the continuous effort to improve drug-prevention strategies and how they are evaluated in Europe. "What works?" is a common question posed in drug prevention and the chapters, each presenting its own specific angle, attempts to address this central inquiry. While the views expressed do not lead to a definitive answer, they do facilitate a better understanding of this complex field, a priority of the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2000-2004).

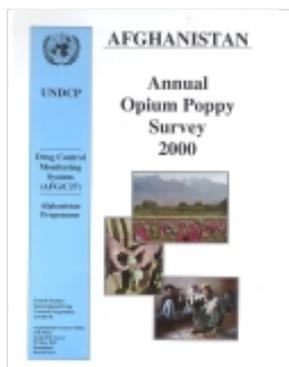
The monograph highlights recent progressions and developments in evaluation, and provides examples of actions and instruments which, in turn have led to better practice. It also provides a forum where different players share their experiences and adapt their knowledge to different national contexts. It is hoped that the monograph will be both useful and stimulating for decision-makers and drug-prevention professionals alike. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2000.



AFGHANISTAN: Annual Opium Poppy Survey 2000

Islamabad: UNDCP Afghanistan Country Office, 2000. For the seventh consecutive year, the UNDCP report compiled the results of this survey in an attempt to bring an overall picture of the magnitude of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan.

This year, a detailed report on the poppy growing villages and more precise yield estimates were also included. The report is available from UNDCP Afghanistan Country Office, 11th Floor, Saudi-Pak Tower, PO Box 1051, Islamabad, Pakistan, Phone: (+92-51) 823 180, Fax: (+92-51) 279 085.



II Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention

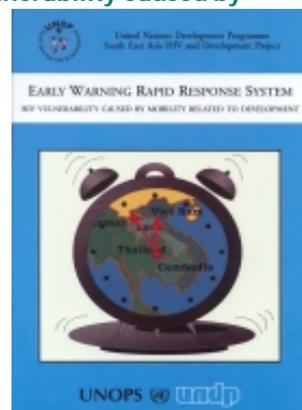
Bangkok: 2000. The extensive report contains all the materials produced and presented at the II Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention which was held in Bangkok on November 8-12, 1999. Copies can be obtained by writing to: NGO-ANCC/NCSWT 257 Mahidol Building, Rajvithi Road, Bangkok 10400 Thailand, Phone: (+66-2) 245 5522, Fax: (+66-2) 248 1722.

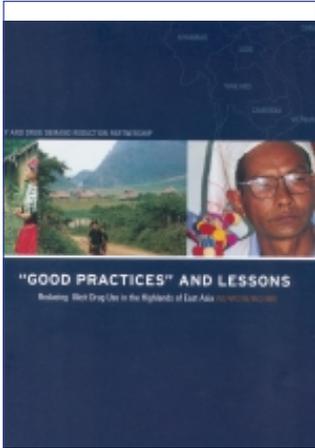


Early Warning Rapid Response System: HIV Vulnerability Caused by Mobility Related to Development

Bangkok: UNDP South East Asia HIV & Development Project, 2000. How do you establish programmes that result in primary prevention of the spread of HIV? This is a complex question because such programmes must target the temporal and spatial factors that create environments fertile for transmission, rather than simply reacting *post facto* to local trends in HIV prevalence and incidence.

To achieve this objective, an early warning system must be established and the preferred methodology to meet this goal is the main subject debated in the 18 page report. To receive a copy, please contact: UNDP South East Asia HIV & Development Project, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand, Phone: (+66-2) 288-2205, Fax: (+66-2) 280-1852, E- mail: leenah.hsu@undp.org, Web page: <http://www.hivundp.apdip.net/sea.htm>





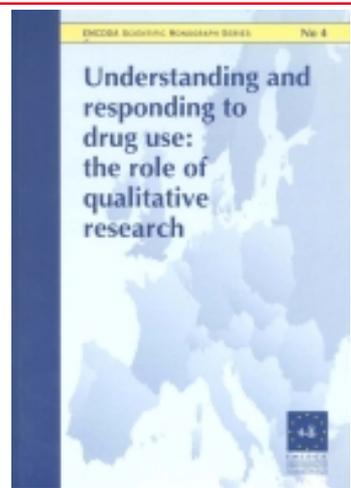
“Good Practices” and Lessons: Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia,

Bangkok: UNDCP Regional Centre Bangkok, 2000. The report compiles the experiences and lessons learned from the UNDCP Demand Reduction Project “Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia”. The Mekong countries are renowned for their illicit drug production and in the opium producing highlands, prevalence of drug addiction is higher along trafficking routes and border areas. The growing number HIV cases is also alarming, as well as the increased production, distribution and consumption of ATS. The report highlights that the burden of illicit drugs at the personal, family, community, and national levels is severe and its health, socio-economic, and law and order consequences are enormous. The report offers excellent insight into the challenges and successes of one regional initiative. To obtain a copy please contact: UNDCP Regional Centre Bangkok, 14th Floor, United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, 10200 Bangkok, Thailand, Phone: (+66-2) 288 2091, Fax: (+66-2) 281 2129, E-mail: rcdcp@undcp.un.or.th, Web page: <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>

Understanding and responding to drug use: the role of qualitative research, Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2000. The book aims to provide a better understanding of drug use, common problems, viable solutions, and encourage a wider appreciation of the contribution of qualitative research.

Among the subjects analysed are the Italian Mafia’s involvement in drug trafficking and the results contradict popular assumption that higher levels of drug distribution are controlled by organised crime. According to the research highlighted in the book, there is no evidence that Sicilian and Calabrian Mafia ever controlled the Italian or European drug market.

In turn, the research proposed that drug related crime is unsystematic rather than organised. Another piece of research shows how drug dealers tend to operate like a pizza delivery service rather than engaging in the traditional way of street dealing of drugs. A very interesting book that examines preconceived notions in the drug control field while uncovering areas previously left in the dark. The book is available from EMCDDA, Rua da Cruz de Santa Apolonia 23-25, P-1149-045 Lisboa, Portugal, Phone: (+351) 21 811 30 00, Fax: (+351) 21 811 30 55, Web page: <http://www.emcdda.org>



From AIDS Epidemic to an AIDS Pandemic: Is an HIV/AIDS Hub Building in South East Asia?, Bangkok: UNDP South East Asia HIV & Development Project, 2000. Based on the previous work of the UNDP South East Asia HIV and Development Project, the paper discusses how the current rapid development of road construction and upgrading interacts with other factors in such a way that the present AIDS epidemic is more effectively interconnected, resulting in a multiplier effect fuelling a South East Asian pandemic. The proposed theory brings to light two important issues for HIV strategies and programmes:

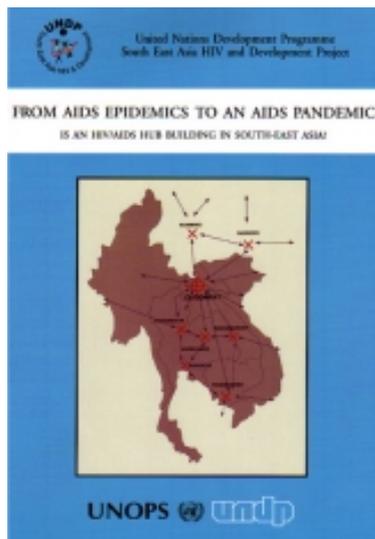
- a) primary prevention necessary to disable the mechanisms behind the theory would largely be through development interventions. This would represent a major challenge to the na-

tional AIDS programmes of the region;

- b) the emerging land transport hubs and networks have a major regional dimension and therefore require national AIDS programmes to collaborate with each other to create and implement a regional response.

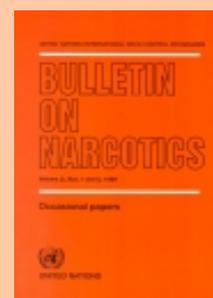
It should be clear that the objective is not to be alarmist or to cry “wolf”. In turn, the application of the concept behind an Early Warning and Rapid Response System (EWRRS), is an attempt to preempt the possible negative consequences of the otherwise positive developments in the region. The report is available at UNDP South East Asia HIV & Development Project, United Nations Building,

Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand, Phone: (+66-2) 288-2205, Fax: (+66-2) 280-1852, E- mail: leenah.hsu@undp.org, Web page: <http://www.hivundp.apdip.net/sea.htm>



UNDCP Bulletin on Narcotics A new issue of the UNDCP Bulletin on Narcotics (Vol L1, Nos, 1 and 2, 1999) has been published. It contains occasional papers on various topics including the evolution of international drug control from 1945 to 1995; alternative development; social construction of drugs, addiction, deviance and disease; patterns of Canadian inmates regarding drugs, alcohol and crime; drug abuse among secondary-school students in Italy; drug characterization/impurity profiling with special focus on methamphetamine; and a new method for determination of loss on drying or consistency of opium samples using microwave ovens.

The Bulletin can be purchased and subscribed from Sales and Marketing Office in New York, United Nations Publications, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY 10017, USA.



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

- 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 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for 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
- 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 end March 2000
- 12/2000 Tripartite Review Meeting (Terminal): Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia
- 13/2000 Press Clippings News on Drug Control and Crime Prevention in East Asia (Nov. 1999 - May 2000)
- 14/2000 Eastern Horizons No.2 June 2000
- 15/2000 UNDCP Activities Report in East Asia and the Pacific: Thirty years fighting drugs through leadership and participatory cooperation
- 16/2000 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar on Building Capacities for Fighting Transnational Organized Crime, held in Bangkok on 20 and 21 March 2000
- 17/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, II. Controlled Deliveries
- 18/2000 Lights on harm of drug abuse, corruption and violence (press kit), International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June 2000
- 19/2000 Sub-regional Workshop for Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91), 4-6 July 2000
- 20/2000 Terminal Report for Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building in Yunnan Province, China (AD/RAS/94/714-968)
- 21/2000 Terminal Report for Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building between China and Myanmar (AD/RAS/93/713-913)

speaking of people



Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu the new Representative has arrived at the UNDCP Country Office in Yangon, Myanmar. Mr. Lemahieu previously served at the UNDCP office in Barbados and will bring valuable experience to the drug control efforts in this region. We wish him success in his assignment.



Ms. Kaija Korpi (Finland) has recently joined the Regional Centre as an intern from Tampere University. Kaija is assisting us especially with alternative development projects and she is also conducting research on drug money laundering in Cambodia.



Ms. Kemi Nejo is currently engaged as a consultant at the regional centre. Kemi is working with us on a regional Demand Reduction initiative and our Pacific mandate.

Two new computer interns have joined the Regional Centre to work at new areas of the website. They are Mr. Kunakorn Srangsrivong and Ms. Nawarat Chalermkao.

- 22/2000 Eastern Horizons No.3 September 2000
- 23/2000 Report on the Regional Drug Enforcement Strategy Workshop, Shanghai, China, 25-27 July 2000
- 24/2000 Good Practices and Lessons Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia
- 25/2000 A "World Class" Training Opportunity to Strengthen Drug Control Measures
- 26/2000 Press Reports - International Congress "In pursuit of a drug free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the vision, leading the change", Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 October 2000
- 27/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, VII. Crime Scene Examination and Evidence Handling
- 28/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, VIII. Leadership & Command
- 29/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, IV. Surveillance
- 30/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, II. Controlled Deliveries
- 31/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, III. Undercover Operations 1. Policy and Procedure Manual 2. Training Manual
- 32/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, I. Intelligence - Policy and Training Manual

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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.

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