

O D C C P

Eastern Horizons

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

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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

**Cambodia Prepares
For New Fight: The
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**First Meeting of the ACCORD
Plan of Action Task Forces**

12 - 14 November 2001
Bali, Indonesia

MOVING FROM TALK TO ACTION

Parliamentarians' Drug Control Summit TO BE HELD IN JAPAN IN 2002

The Federation of Japanese Parliamentarians, the Government of Japan, and UNDCP are jointly organizing the International Drug Control Summit in Tokyo in April 2002.

This will be the fifth drug control summit organized for parliamentarians. The first International Drug Control Summit took place in Scotland, United Kingdom initiated by members of the European Parliament in 1998. The second conference took place in Austria, and the third in the United States. For the first time a delegation of Japanese parliamentarians attended the Washington meeting, after which the Federation of Japanese Parliamentarians' desire to tackle the drug problems was awakened. The last

one was held in Bolivia in February 2001. At the Bolivia meeting Japan expressed its intention to host the 2002 meeting.

The 2002 Conference will be the first one to be held in Asia. The conference will duly focus on the mounting problem to the region and to the world: the increase in the supply and the demand of Amphetamine-type Stimulants (ATS) and other synthetic drugs.

The conference will gather parliamentarians and members of congress and drug control policymakers/officials of executive offices from East Asia, as well as participants from Europe and the Americas and international organizations. The aim of the conference will be to increase the under-

standing of the situation, to exchange views and experiences, and to discuss action to be taken. Each subject will be introduced by legislative or executive experts after which national legislators explore the topics through open dialogue.

It is hoped that the conference will be an opportunity for parliamentarians to start taking appropriate, concrete steps. Their action in their capacity as advocates and legislatures is critical to address the bottlenecks which prevent the implementation of previously agreed action and to tackle the problems of ATS which threaten human security in the region and elsewhere.

—Narumi Yamada, UNDCP, Bangkok

tive drug control programme throughout Cambodia.

Dr. Calvani also met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the NACD, Sar Kheng, at which the Cambodian Government's priorities were further outlined. The top priority is that of demand reduction education, awareness and prevention activities followed by the development of an effective and efficient law enforcement capability. The third priority of the Government is that of creating operational drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities in the country.

In his discussions, Dr. Calvani noted that the Cambodian Government's priorities and those of the ODCCP were very similar and that this bodes well for a cooperative partnership over the coming years. The Cambodian Government has, through its unequivocal statements at the very highest levels, declared war on those who seek to use Cambodia as a route for the trafficking of drugs and also against those who are already trying to inflict suffering upon the people of Cambodia through the production and sale of illicit drugs, especially Methamphetamine, within the country.

—Graham Shaw, UN/ODCCP, Phnom Penh

Getting to Know the Laws

THE UNDCP/LAS LEGAL BRIEF

As of 1996, the UNDCP Legal Advisory Section (LAS) in Vienna circulates a noteworthy newsletter named "The Legal Brief".

If you want to read about all the latest in the Law of Drugs in a simple, lay language, this is what you have to look for. The Legal Brief contains summaries of the legislation enacted by Governments in the field of drug control.

The Legal Brief started as an internal information tool for UNDCP/ODCCP staff. It has, however, gone beyond its original goal and is now shared with international, inter-governmental organizations, research institutions, etc., with an interest in drug-control matters.

For the moment, The Legal Brief is only issued in English, on a quarterly basis. Such regular quarterly issues contain national legislation published during the

previous quarter, organized alphabetically in a columnar format which offers an easy overview. A compilation of the Legal Brief issues produced between 1996 and 1999 was prepared and distributed in early October 2001.

It is hoped that the Legal Brief will be available online in early 2002. In the meantime, electronic (Word 97) and hard copies can be obtained via the ODCCP Headquarters in Vienna.

There is, moreover, an online legal library, which contains electronic national legislation published in the E/NL series from 1990 to 1999. Still in force legislation published prior to 1990 is currently being added. The Library is available at the Treaty and Legal Affairs/Legislation link at ODCCP's web site: <http://www.odccp.org>

—Gerassimos Furlanos, UNDCP, Bangkok

Responding on the fact that drugs are making their ugly entry into the Myanmar society and that drug abuse is on the rise, is not an easy task. They are called opium and heroin, but also “yaba” and have already created havoc in neighbouring countries. Myanmar, a major drug producer, will not much longer continue to escape the global drug-consumption trends. What do concerned citizens do to prevent the spread of drug use? How does the society react to this increasingly alarming phenomenon?

Recently, in a bid to give an answer to these and other questions the United Nations International Drug Control Programme launched a new initiative by the name of “Stars against Drugs”. Youth is the most vulnerable group. But, at the same time, this group is also subject to the strong power of persuasion emanating from its idols.

With the support of popular national celebrities and in the presence of over 25 national and international media representatives, this launching ceremony was designed to have a strong anti-drug message delivered by those who are regarded as role models by the youngsters.

Thanks to the profound commitment of

Myanmar **STARS** Against Drugs



Launch of the campaign “Stars against Drugs”

a self-selected core group, comprising celebrities such as a popular rock star, an acclaimed film director, a celebrated writer, a renowned former athlete, the members of a fast upcoming rap band, a young

admired singer, a legendary actress, the energetic manager of one of the most famous national model agencies, a well-liked singer turned painting artist, and media-sector representatives, nothing

Community Participation: A Buzzword WITH CONTENT

It is impossible to deny it, “community participation” is a buzzword. However, it is a buzzword with a content and more importantly the concept of community participation is applied in projects across the region. A recent workshop held in Phonsavan, the capital of Xiengkhouang Province, in Laos trained the participants in how to apply community participation in alternative development (AD) projects.

The main goals of the workshop were to share experiences of how community participation was applied by AD projects across Laos and to introduce the participants to a new UNDCP training guide



Certificates were given to the participants at the end of the workshop.

on community participation. The training guide on community participation in AD projects is available from the Regional Centre’s new AD website <http://www.undcp.un.or.th/ad>. The AD website was launched on the first of November and additional information about this new AD website is available elsewhere in this issue of Eastern Horizons. The workshop seemed to have hit a nerve among AD practitioners, since the less than forty people invited to participate in the workshop turned out to be almost 70 participants.

The workshop also included a field trip to the UN Nonghet Project which gave the participants the possibility to see some of

short but 38 stars and 12 famous sport people gathered at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar's capital.

The evidence of their determination in promoting a healthy and sound life style among youth was witnessed by the signature of an official pledge to "support a society free of drugs in the Union of Myanmar". This launch is the first of many "Stars against Drugs" activities, especially focusing on young people, such as a soccer match between movie and media stars against sport stars, free-of charge music events, hype audio video clips, street posters with celebrities' faces, etc.

The "Stars against Drugs" fits within a broader UNDCP initiative to mobilize the civil society against drugs. A second drive is to be launched soon, establishing a trust fund for non-governmental organizations active in the drug demand reduction field, sponsored by the private sector.

Time has come to publicly challenge one of the biggest cancers of any society, and a strong response comes straight from the members of the Myanmar's civil society. Its stars join their hands to say "no" to drugs.

—Press and Analysis Unit, UNDCP, Yangon

the results AD projects are capable of achieving. Additionally, the participants also had the opportunity to talk to the most important persons in community participation - the villagers - and heard their evaluation of how the concept of community participation was applied to a specific project.

— Peter Lunding, UNDCP, Bangkok



Where is the opium? Enthusiastic participants see new crops in former opium fields

International Day Against **DRUG** **ABUSE** and **ILLICIT** **TRAFFICKING**



In observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and as part of UNHCR effort to mobilise the Myanmar refugee camp population particularly young adults, in the prevention and reduction of drug abuse among them, UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior's camp commander, organised a drug awareness campaign in Mae La camp on 26 June 2001.

The activity aimed to raise public awareness and to mobilise participation of the refugee community in combating against illicit drugs within the camp. Mae La camp was targeted since it is the most populous camp in the province of Tak, and since drug consumption among young people has been reported.

The campaign began with a procession, starting from zone A to zone B (5kms) and ending up at the communal sport field in zone C. A series of speeches were delivered to over 4,000 refugee audience participating in the activity. The military commander of the Infantry Unit 53 focussed on the provisions of Thai Law in relation to illegal procession of narcotic. The MOI camp commander emphasised that drug addicts tend to commit illegal act to get

money to buy more drugs and eventually become dealer themselves. The refugee leader focussed on responsibilities of the refugee community to behave under Thai domestic laws, camp rules and regulations.

UNHCR provided funds of baht 5,000 for the day to cover activities such as poster painting competition with drug prevention as theme, football sport competition between Thai military soldiers and refugee youths, and games between children under 14 years old. The UNHCR's funds were mainly disbursed for the procurement of prizes for winners, food and drink for players and for the printing of large banners.

—Information provided by UNHCR, Bangkok

STEPPING UP The Fight Against THE MR BIGS

The heads of drug law enforcement agencies across the Asia Pacific region have agreed to a coordinated plan to counter the threat posed by amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) and to tackle the Mr Bigs behind the drug trade. The plan comes out of a four day meeting involving 140 delegates from 45 countries under the auspices of the UN sponsored Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies Meeting (HONLEA). Australia recently hosted in Sydney the 25th meeting.

Key parts of the plan involve:

- The international community supporting a balanced approach in the eradication of illicit poppy crops in the Myanmar / Laos border area;
- Looking at ways to work with law enforcement authorities in West Africa whose nationals were found to be most commonly involved in drug trafficking within the region to disrupt the operation of these groups;
- The development of specialist investigative skills, supported by legislation and agency powers, to undertake successful investigations targeting the major crime figures who

mastermind and finance drug trafficking;

- National action to prevent the trafficking and abuse of new drugs such as ketamine and other members of the ATS family, including placing them under national control;
- Greater cooperation at the opera-



tional level both nationally and regionally to meet the new trends in trafficking of stimulants and their precursors;

- The placement of drug liaison officers within countries of the region;

• Encouraging lawmakers to recognise the need to provide the necessary legal basis to conduct joint operational activities across jurisdictional boundaries;

- Responding to the trafficking of drugs

‘GATEWAY DRUGS’ On The Agenda At The ASEAN NGOS WORKSHOP In Brunei Darussalam

The eleventh IFNGO ASEAN NGOs workshop was held on the 13-17th of September, 2001 in Brunei Darussalam. IFNGO is the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for the prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse.

ASEAN NGOs take the lead within this federation, which is composed of NGOs from various countries all over the globe who are engaged in anti-drug and substance abuse activities. The Secretariat of the IFNGO facilitates the information exchange as well as formulates and manages projects in close cooperation with several UN agencies, not least the UNDCP.

Several recommendations on drug abuse prevention were made at the Sep-

tember workshop. It was underlined that prevention work aiming at suppressing so-called ‘gateway drugs’ such as, for example, alcohol, should not only concentrate on policy formulation, but also on mobilisation of the youths themselves and on continuous research addressing related problems.

Manifold recommendations focused on the role of the abusers’ families. Such families represent the ‘silent sufferers’ and, therefore, require support through assistance and encouragement to form, for example, informal therapy groups and clubs where they can meet and mutually support one another. It is necessary that NGOs can support the families’ anti-drug abuse efforts through guidance; domestic violence is often connected to drug abuse. Consequently, NGOs should strive to hinder family violence and, in an effective manner,

provide drug preventive education in order to raise awareness of drug-related violence, whether it is due to alcohol or other addictive substances.

Finance-related recommendations were also made. Financial support and sponsorship for cultural, sports and social events by tobacco and alcohol industries, should be banned. Governments should be encouraged to step in as financiers or find appropriate substitutes. Moreover, it was recommended that the NGOs should lobby their respective governments to use the profits from tobacco and alcohol taxes to finance the preventive work done by national NGOs.

There is a further need to strengthen and encourage demand reduction and primary prevention activities. This can be implemented by an intensification of the

by sea member countries are being encouraged to modernise their legislation in line with article 177 of the UN Convention on the Law of Sea and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; and,

- Increased technical capacity for surveillance and search of vessels involved in drug trafficking.

The meeting also discussed global trends in drug production including the impact of the Taliban on world heroin markets. The meeting noted that Afghanistan accounts for about 75% of the world's heroin supply and that the bulk of this production is directed to markets in Europe. The crop eradication program introduced by the Taliban some 12 months ago, and the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, could reduce global heroin supplies by as much as 90%.

The so-called Taliban heroin stockpile of just under 200 tonnes is spread across a number of countries and while it may have some immediate impact on supply in Europe, it is not likely to impact significantly on this region.

This potential drought in world heroin supplies could see South American drug syndicates become more involved in opium production. More worrying is the trend for drug syndicates to diversify into amphetamine type stimulants and the growing market for these drugs amongst younger people.

—Peter Lunding, UNDCP, Bangkok

mobilisation efforts of religious, social and civil societies to manage drug-related problems. The importance attached to the hope and the possibility to improve abusers' life has to be substantial. This can be facilitated through ameliorated counselling and rehabilitation programmes.

The workshop also stressed the important role that IFNGO ASEAN NGOs should play in the international arena, in particular, regarding governmental need of support to attain the goal of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015. It was recommended that an Implementation Task Force of Volunteers should be set up by each ASEAN NGO in order to ensure effective follow-up of the recommendations made during the workshop. Next year's IFNGO International Conference will, hopefully, deliberate an IFNGO Policy Statement, decided at the recent workshop, to be drafted and circulated in the near future.

—Claire Smellie, UNDCP, Bangkok

Needs ASSESSMENT MISSION To China

In the beginning of September, the China National Narcotics Control Committee arranged a mission to the provinces of Guangdong and Fujian.

The mission was joined by representatives from the National Police Agency of Japan. The overall objective of the mission was to effectuate a needs assessment and to look into the possibility of initiating a project aiming at suppressing the production and trafficking of ATS in the two provinces. The mission was a response to an identified need to gain an accurate overview of the current situation regards to methamphetamine production in the two provinces and to clarify the situation around the recent large seizures of ATS, which were reported since 1998. The mission was also an attempt to improve and widen the co-operation regarding ATS control between concerned parties at provincial, national and international levels.

A rampant increase of ATS had been identified in both provinces over the last two years. This was thought to be due to its lower manufacturing cost, its greater gains and its simpler production process. The Chinese provincial authorities were anxious about the simultaneous occurrence of production and consumption of ATS. Because of the lower price of such new types of narcotics, there is a serious risk that the consumption of such will increase and, consequently, turn into the first drug of choice, passing heroin in popularity.

Police forces within both provinces had encountered productions of ice. Every year they detect and destroy several clandestine laboratories. Last year the first establishment of ecstasy production in the province of Fujian was detected in the suburb of Chang Lu, close to Fuzhou city. At this occasion, the Fujian Public Security agency arrested 19 criminals and seized 100,000 tablets of ecstasy.

This legal private-owned pharmaceutical factory was detected at the beginning of its production of ecstasy, but it was believed that, approximately, 200,000 tablets had already been produced. The factory was equipped with sophisticated production equipment and materials that indicate the factory's potential for mass production of tablets. Furthermore, the seizure, at the same occasion, of 200 kilos of semi-produced ecstasy also proves the factory's immense production capacity.

The possibility of organising a workshop in one of the provinces, with an aim to find ways of improving co-operation, was discussed. The participants of the mission agreed that the insufficient co-operation and communication between various involved parties was the most important deficiency within the provinces counter-narcotic efforts. In order to stem the trend of ATS production and abuse, this will have to be improved.

—Claire Smellie, UNDCP, Bangkok



A Time for Leadership in the Fight AGAINST THE HIV EPIDEMIC

At the Asia Pacific Ministerial meeting, held in Melbourne on the 9-10th of October 2001, Ministers from the region representing 51 percent of the world's population met to discuss the challenges that the HIV/AIDS epidemic pose to their countries and to identify ways to strengthen their cooperation within this important area of concern.

In accordance with the UNGASS Declaration, the Ministers recognised the importance of strong leadership and political commitment to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. The UNGASS Declaration of commitment was adopted at the UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS which was held last June. Within this Declaration it was stated that a strong leadership, at all levels of society, is essential for an effective response to the epidemic.

Governments efforts should be complemented by the full and active participation of civil society, the business community and the private sector. It was underlined that an effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic must involve prevention work as well as care, support and treatment. Prevention and care should be complementary, not competing priorities. It was, furthermore, stressed that HIV/AIDS cannot be effectively addressed without further resources, further research as well as sustainable development. In order to reduce HIV/AIDS vulnerability human rights and fundamental freedoms need to be realised and vulnerable groups, such as women and orphaned children, prioritised.

At the recent Ministerial meeting, the region's Ministers acknowledged the urgency to implement all the commitments within the UNGASS Declaration and to achieve the targets that have been set out. It was agreed that successful strategies, which some of the countries in the region have adopted and proven effective in their fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, have to be shared with other countries, especially as far as prevention is concerned. This was viewed as particularly important given the high population density, low socio-economic development level and the anticipated rate of the epidemic in the



Ministers from 33 Asia/Pacific countries decided to provide leadership to the HIV/AIDS policies

Asia-Pacific region that includes more than half the world's population. During the course of the ministerial meeting it was, among other points, determined that an Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS should be developed, with the support from Australia. Such a Forum would function as a network for information sharing among political leaders and parliamentarians and, thereby, enhance the regional coordination and collaboration.

At the Ministerial Meeting, Dr. Peter Piot outlined five challenges that together will determine whether the region will be able to take up the current opportunity to save millions of lives by stemming the increase of the HIV epidemic. As a first challenge, Dr. Piot proposed that every nation should have a national AIDS campaign led by the Prime Minister or the President. The Second Challenge would be to take immediate action on the key areas that are known to need rapid action, namely, universal access to condoms, lifeskills education and services focussing on youth, harm reduction for injecting drug users and efforts to eliminate stigma. The Third Challenge would be to mobilise more resources through national budget allocations. Fourthly, the regional groupings, such as ASEAN and the Pacific Community, underline AIDS in their work. The last challenge would be to put care and rehabilitation on an equal scale. The

fight against AIDS demands planning for increased care access.

Parallel to the Ministerial Meeting, the Youth Forum also met to discuss their mobilisation against the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Youth Forum took part in the Sixth International Congress in Asia and the Pacific to ensure that young peoples' voices were heard. Several recommendations were made on their part. They underlined the importance of young people's access to education, services and support within the area of reproductive and sexual health. It was recommended that young people should themselves participate in the delivery of such services and that they also should decide upon the language and methods used for training of young people.

The Youth Forum also recognised the disadvantaged situation of girls and women in deciding about their sexual and reproductive health. Gender equality should be taken into consideration when designing reproductive health services. Finally, the Youth Forum also emphasised that an increasing number of youths within the region are injecting drugs. In relation to this, they recommended that governments should ensure access to drug education and harm minimisation services for young people.

– Claire Smellie, UNDCP, Bangkok

Business And Labour RESPONDS to HIV/AIDS

It is increasingly apparent that the business and labour sector plays critical roles in the expanded response to HIV/AIDS. International experience demonstrate the importance of implementing sound workplace policies, conducting effective public awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS and the need to mobilize political commitment and business leadership in support of national responses.

In this context, a regional conference on "Business and Labour Responds to HIV/AIDS in Asia" was held in Bangkok on 18-19 September 2001. The conference aimed to bring together senior level representatives of the business and labour sector and other key partners to share experiences, strengthen networks and develop recommendations for an enhanced business and labour response to HIV/AIDS in Asia. The conference was organized by the US Department of State, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNAIDS South-East Asia and Pacific

Inter country Team in collaboration with ESCAP, ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, UNDCP Regional Centre for East-Asia and the Pacific, and Asian Business Coalition on AIDS.

Participants were representatives of employers' federations, chambers of commerce, private foundations, business coalitions, multinational and national companies and labour unions based in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The participants discussed the status of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia and the Pacific and corporate motives for getting involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It was underlined that HIV/AIDS policies in the workplace can, among other things, help ensure a stable production by preventing high turnover of staff and decreasing absenteeism. Moreover, HIV/AIDS policies were beneficial for the corporate image, because the

sign of social responsibility helped enhance the company's reputation with customers.

Best practices on effective business and labour responses to HIV/AIDS were presented covering the lessons learned from large and smaller companies as well as the trade union experience. The best practices stressed the importance of raising awareness and commitment at all levels of the company or trade union through innovative means of communication on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the workplace. Only through informative and participatory processes could sustainable programmes and policies be established.

The participants also recognised the benefits from sharing their experiences with wider constituencies in order to facilitate an expanded response to the epidemic.

Also focusing on access to care in the workplace, the participants emphasized that businesses has an important role to play in providing the essential components of basic humane HIV/AIDS care and support. Businesses can, among other things, ensure that employees have access to proper information on care and take on an advocacy role for access to voluntary testing and counselling. In addition, it was stressed that all parties involved must share the cost of HIV/AIDS care and support in the workplace.

Although many good initiatives to raise awareness and address HIV/AIDS issues in the workplace were highlighted during the conference, it was also evident that more work and challenges lies ahead. Johan Strydom, Manager, Personnel Services, Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa, South Africa, made this call for action in his key note address to the conference: "Today, there is enough knowledge and expertise to guide us on how to constructively address the problem. There is no need to re-invent the wheel. Please stop the ongoing talk... starting now!" Nike reminded the participants that to combat HIV/AIDS, the business and labour sector must: "Do the right thing".

—Jette Nielsen, UNAIDS, Bangkok & Wayne Bazant, UNDCP, Bangkok

The Mekong Region: Infrastructure Could Trigger INCREASED SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS

The United Nations recently warned that the development of a road network, linking the countries of the Mekong sub-region, would likely form corridors for the spread of AIDS. "The movement of vehicles transporting goods, passengers and tourists will significantly increase," the U.N. said in a report released at a signing ceremony between China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam to collaborate on AIDS prevention.

"Hot spots along the highways will likely boom as well, increasing HIV vulnerability in Cambodia and consequently its neighbouring countries," the report said. It said facilities such as hotels, guest houses and brothels were likely to pop up along the routes. The countries of the Mekong sub-region have long discussed

developing and improving their transport networks.

Cambodian officials also said rebuilding roads ravaged by three decades of war and neglect could aggravate the country's HIV/AIDS epidemic, the worst in the region. Cambodia's AIDS rate fell last year and stands at 2.8 percent of the country's 11.5 million population, said Dr Tia Phalla the Head of the National AIDS Authority. But the repair of two national routes linking Cambodia to neighbouring Thailand to the northwest and Vietnam to the East could reverse recent progress, he said.

"The AIDS rate is down. But mobile populations moving from place to place can spread this disease," he said. "We need to think strongly about preventing this."

NEEDLE DRUGS: Dirty Secret of AIDS Epidemic

Drug abusers who share needles are risking HIV infection -- this is not new. What is new is that in a growing number of cities HIV-contaminated injecting equipment has become THE leading mode of transmitting the virus that leads to AIDS.

This is particularly ominous when we consider the following:

- The skyrocketing rate of injecting drug abuse in the former socialist countries and the developing world;
- The tendency of HIV, once introduced into the drug-injecting milieu, to spread at a staggering pace; and
- The “multiplier effect” when HIV-positive addicts infect non-needle users through unprotected sex or prostitution, and when infected mothers pass the virus to their children.

In no country is it a simple matter to prevent HIV among drug abusers. But in some Eastern European nations and Russia, where injection of heroin and other drugs is a relatively new phenomenon, the task is especially daunting.

HIV cases in all of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union jumped from fewer than 30,000 in 1995 to more than 700,000 in 2000 - a 20-fold increase. And, there is strong evidence that the explosion in infection over the last three years has been mainly due to injecting drug use.

An upswing in heroin addiction has been fueled by soaring unemployment, stark economic decline, changing drug transport routes and new migration patterns. With the rise of eastern mafias and a withering away of national borders, an avalanche of cheap, high-purity heroin has poured into the region, displacing home-made “kitchen” or “garage” heroin (*kompot* in Poland, *chorny* in Russia) which had supplied small circles of addicts for many years.

In several countries, including Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine, needle drug use accounts for about 80

per cent of total HIV infections. In Poland, where the new HIV infection rate has been declining, contaminated syringes account for more than 60 per cent. Even “party drugs” normally ingested or snorted in Western Europe and North America, including ketamine and methamphetamine, are injected in Russia and other countries of the region. Syringe sharing is reportedly “common practice”.

Those in a position to do something about the problem - such as providing access to substitute drugs, counselling and at least short-term prevention - often regard addicts as “throw-away people” and a



waste of scarce resources. In other words: “Who cares if they die of AIDS; they’re only junkies”. Among the barriers to helping the region’s drug abusers avoid HIV transmission are government inertia, outdated health-care concepts and the absence of funds.

This is sad because some countries across the world have introduced innovative service packages with great success in stabilizing and sometimes rolling back the infection rate among addicts. Furthermore, the programmes serve as points of contact between addicts and service providers who can point them towards treatment options.

In looking at the transition countries, the UN has found, to its dismay, that the cities with the highest rate of needle drug abusers among the HIV-infected population have ineffective or non-existent drug treatment facilities. Some, including Moscow, Odessa and Minsk, offer no substitute drugs, thus offering addicts no alternative other than continuing their drug habits or the agony of “cold turkey” withdrawal.

We at the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention know that drug addiction, like alcoholism, is a treatable disease and that when rehabilitation programmes are made available, many of those who really want to shed their habits can succeed in doing so. It is also possible to raise public awareness in support of reintegrating recovering addicts into their families, communities and the workforce.

As a partner in UNAIDS we have been engaged in a pilot project among cocaine injectors in Brazil. That project does not simply wait for addicts to beat on its doors - it enlists recovering drug abusers to reach out to injecting drug users in the places where they congregate. The lessons learned there can and should be adapted to the needs of heroin users in Eastern Europe.

What works in our Brazil project? Peer counselling, encouraging drug intake reduction for those who are not ready for abstinence, decentralized and mobile services and opportunities to live with other recovering addicts. In fact, Brazil is the only developing country with a successful all-around HIV prevention programme.

We cannot afford to wait for a full-blown HIV epidemic among drug users. Treating an AIDS patient costs a great deal more than rehabilitating an addict and certainly far more than counselling and pragmatic measures. HIV prevention should be integrated into mainstream social welfare and health policies, if only as a cost-saving measure. It also needs to be universally recognized that drug abuse cannot be solved solely by punishment, which tends to drive those in need of care underground.

In combating AIDS, we now know, condoms are no longer enough.

**—Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director,
UN/ODCCP**

THE UNITED NATIONS SPEAKS OUT ON “Money, Sex and Politics: Confronting The Aids Pandemic”

The title of the “Brown Bag Lunch” event – “Money, Sex and Politics: Confronting the AIDS Pandemic” – suggested a frank and provocative presentation that was aptly fulfilled.

The 20 September talk, led by Mr Steven Kraus, Intercountry Programme Development Advisor, South-East Asia and Pacific Intercountry Team, UNAIDS, presented an unfettered and no frills depiction of HIV/AIDS in the region and around the world.

As the third event in a series jointly-held Brown Bag Lunches, organized by the ESCAP Human Resources Development (HRD) Section and the United Nations Inter-agency Project on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children, the talk by the articulate and knowledgeable speaker was much anticipated, as evident by the number of attendees and their active participation in the discussion.

Mr Kraus kicked off the Brown Bag by presenting several shocking figures on the situation of HIV/AIDS at the end of 2000. According to UNAIDS’ global estimates, the number of people who are living with HIV/AIDS totals 36.1 million, and the cumulative number of deaths due to infection are an alarming 21.8 million. Moreover, in the year 2000, approximately 15,000 new HIV infections occurred per day, with over 95 per cent of the cases in develop-

ing countries. More specifically, several countries in East and South-East Asia are witnessing substantial increases in HIV prevalence of epidemic proportions.

For example, up to 80 per cent of injecting drug users in southern provinces of China are living with HIV/AIDS, and over 10 per cent of female sex workers in certain areas of both Viet Nam and Indonesia are infected. The speaker capped off these bold figures by stating that, so far, governments, the United Nations system, and NGOs have adopted a “3-D” approach to address this crisis: Denial, Delay, and Do nothing.

However, Mr Kraus did not dwell on bleak forecasts and outright pessimism. He proposed three key approaches to embracing such HIV/AIDS-related challenges: 1) maintaining a bold vision, 2) supporting a strong and enlightened leadership, and 3) applying resources. Two inspiring cases in particular give credence to such an optimistic strategy. Cambodia, one of the world’s poorest countries, boasts a 90 per cent rate of condom usage amongst female sex workers, thanks to the promotion of “safe sex with condoms” billboards.

Similarly, 12 per cent of all Thai Army conscripts in northern Thailand were HIV positive in 1992; by the end of 2000, however, that figure dropped to two per cent,

due largely to relentless initiative and concerted action.

Mr Kraus ended his presentation with several conclusions on what needs to happen next to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. First of all, he asserted that a new approach must be adopted. Countries that provide HIV/AIDS-related funding need to think of in terms of programmes, not projects, and in terms of partnerships, rather than traditional donor-recipient relationships. Secondly, he urged a greater focus on measurable and time-limited goals and targets, with a human rights approach incorporated throughout. Finally, he also stressed that US \$7 to 8 billion is necessary to combat HIV/AIDS per year, much more than the US \$1.8 billion currently spent.

The unprecedented widespread support at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS, June 2001), which called for the urgent creation of a Global HIV/AIDS and Health Fund to finance an expanded response to HIV/AIDS, is a step forward in meeting this need. One of the quotes Mr Kraus used in his presentation – “the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago...the second best time is today” – proved to be the inspiring underpinning theme behind his conclusions, and the Brown Bag as a whole.

—Amalee McCoy, UN/ESCAP, HRD Section

SHORT NEWS

CAMBODIA

The Flesh Trade Hits Hard On Cambodia

Cambodian women and children are being sold as sex slaves and beggars in Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City, a government minister said recently. Women’s Affairs Minister Mu Sochua said Cambodians were being lured to Thailand and Vietnam by human traffickers with promises of good jobs, but then were

being forced to work as prostitutes, beggars and illegal labourers. “I don’t see any decrease in the trafficking of Cambodian women and children,” Mu Sochua said at the launch of an anti-trafficking education campaign. “They are not only sex slaves, they are also trafficked as beggars in Ho Chi Minh and Bangkok,” she said.

Mu Sochua also blasted Phnom Penh’s booming flesh trade. “I see this in the mushrooming of massage, karaoke parlours and red-light districts,” she said, adding that recent floods which have left thousands of Cambodians homeless and

without food will would be a boon to pimps who would capitalise on the desperation.

“The (flood victims) are poor and have no food. The pimps can easily approach them and lure them into the traffickers’ trap. We must prevent that,” she said. Ten Borany, chief of the anti-trafficking police task force, said police had been raiding brothels where women and children were kept as prisoners and forced to work as sex slaves. A con-

Continues on page 15

We Either **SCALE UP** The First Meeting of the **ACCOR** **BALI 12 –14 NOVEMBER 2001**

“In October 2000 in Bangkok, we jointly decided to meet again after one year to re-assess our journey towards a better co-operation against the scourge of drugs. At that time, nobody could have imagined how deeply the world would have changed. But two months ago, the world did change profoundly.

Our vision should therefore be one of joining hands more intensely than agreed. We must unite to take forceful action against all the evil-doers and organised criminals who plan acts of terrorism, who traffic and enslave people, who traffic drugs and launder their money in the midst of our law abiding and hard working communities.[...] It is only through unity in diversity that we will be able to make a real and tangible impact. Unity in the process and in the goal. Diversity of actors, capacities and resources [...].

I am confident that this meeting will significantly advance our regional co-operation in the fight against drugs and in the reinforcement of our commitment to work together towards the achievement of the goals that have already been established with clarity and precision.”

And with these words the first meeting of the ACCORD Plan of Action Task Forces was opened in Bali on 12 November 2001.

ACCORD is a transmission chain in the mechanism of drug control

The ACCORD (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to dangerous Drugs) Plan of Action was endorsed at the International Congress “In pursuit of a drug-free ASEAN” – held in Bangkok in October 2000. Prior to the Congress, an increasingly loud multinational choir had been on the same tune for quite some time. ...



“We need coordination at national, regional and international level;

We need collective and shared responsibility in addressing the root causes of the drug problem;

We need and inter-sectoral and integrated approaches.”

While the tune was recognised and shared by all, the music continued to be strident and out-of-key as there was no common song-sheet and no common direction. ACCORD was born to be the director of the orchestra.

ACCORD is an umbrella Plan of Action aiming at monitoring and facilitating cooperation and coordination of existing efforts

in the area of drug control. ACCORD is not responsible for operational projects (it does not introduce/manage projects); rather, it is responsible for the political and financial commitment to ensure that the efforts are regionally driven, owned and properly funded by the participating countries, for policy-making (how can ASEAN and China achieve their targets) and policy-monitoring (what projects and initiatives exist and how much are they effective).

To operate, the ACCORD envisages the setting-up of task forces to stir the implementation of the recommendations set for the four ACCORD pillars (advocacy, demand reduction, law enforcement and alternative development) and to lead the way.

– or We **FAIL** D Plan of Action



The attendance to the Task Forces, the active participation and contributions to the design of the Task Forces mechanism and the overall positive response by the participants disproved the notion that the introduction of any change is traditionally accompanied by a degree of resistance. On the contrary, change in the way we deal with drug control at the regional level is now welcome – like a new summer breeze, which refreshes, awakes and inspires.

Myanmar is leading the way: in a move which underlines the real commitment to solve the drug problem, the Head of the Myanmar delegation astonished the Meeting with an historical announcement: “We are committed to the process and ready to contribute financial resources to the ACCORD Business Plan, according to the UN scale of assessment.” The significance of such decision from a country, which traditionally receives donors assistance and is certainly not better off than many of the other countries in the Region, is hard to miss....

Thailand too said that the country is prepared to increase its contribution for regional anti-drug initiatives and stated the intention of allocating assets forfeitures of drug traffickers to the fight against drugs and to contribute technical assistance to countries in need. Other partners, which have traditionally contributed substantially to the fight against drugs in this Region – such as Japan – also expressed their support to the process.

If confirmed by disbursement from other countries currently considering contributions, ACCORD might prove to be the first process of financial and operational partnership among developing countries against the scourge of drugs. And it might also become the first fully transparent endeavour where successes and failures will be known to all.

The notes have been agreed, the song-sheet compiled, the conductor is warming up ...there is a lot to fine-tune but little to rehearse... the time has come to start **playing**.

– *Martina Melis, UNDCP Programme Officer*

The music is well known, but the tune is finally new.

The First Meeting of the ACCORD Task Forces was held (in-doors!) in Bali on 12–14 November 2001 and was jointly organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, the BKNN (National Narcotics Coordinating Board) and UNDCP Regional Centre.

The Meeting :

- Established the Task Forces’ mechanism, work plan and modalities and

agreed on the Task Forces Terms of Reference;

- Nominated a focal point for each of the Task Forces;
- Reviewed progress made under each of the four pillars of the ACCORD Plan of Action;
- Discussed the project on “Regional co-operative mechanism to monitor and execute the ACCORD Plan of Action”
- Reviewed and discussed the ACCORD Business Plan requirements and funding strategy.

“ ACCORD is an umbrella Plan of Action aiming at **monitoring** and **facilitating cooperation and coordination** of existing efforts in the area of drug control ”

Targetting Illicit Profits GOES TO SCALE

Three new initiatives with regard to regional anti-money laundering efforts have been implemented to combat the threat of such crimes in the region. These new initiatives consider increasing the development of technical assistance and training which should take place over the next year or year and a half.

Such initiatives will be possible through aid from several regional and international organisations, namely the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and ASEM (The Asia-Europe Meeting). It is estimated that money laundering is a US \$1 trillion business and, thereby, it constitutes the most serious issue facing the international financial community.

The Asian Development Bank has constituted a regional technical assistance (RETA) project on countering money laundering in the Asia and Pacific Region. The objectives of this initiative are to facilitate the adoption and implementation of anti-money laundering measures in selected developing member countries. These measures will be implemented in accordance with international standards and will serve to speed up co-operation and collaboration regarding this issue within the region.

This RETA project will be implemented in nine countries during a period of fifteen months. The project activities will include the identification of needed reforms in order to be compliant with established international standards and the development of a manual on money laundering issues and anti-money laundering measures for use in developing member countries. It will also involve elaborating a regional plan of action promoting co-oper-

ation within this field and helping the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering to establish an online database with links to other institutions.

The initiative taken by the legal department of the International Monetary Fund also involves a project on technical assistance. The assistance aims at establishing domestic financial intelligence units for some of the members of the Pacific Islands Forum. These members include the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Vanuatu, and Samoa. The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and the United Nations Global Program Against Money Laundering will stand for the provision of such assistance together with the Pacific Islands Forum. The main objective of this assistance is to facilitate the exchange of financial intelligence among the participating countries and between these countries and other jurisdictions, thereby, creating a hostile environment for money laundering crimes. The selected countries will be expected to have attained certain goals by the end of September 2002.

These goals include not only the establishment of a domestic anti-money laundering legislation and of operational policies which will facilitate the functioning of the financial intelligence units, but, also, the realisation of a feasibility study on the possibility of creating a regional financial intelligence unit. The objectives will be achievable through the newly-established Co-ordinating Office for the Participating Countries Anti-Money Laundering Initiative (COAMLI), which will help out with practicalities and liaisons with relevant partners and will be responsible for, among other things, the gathering and analysing of legislations, the acquiring of funds and the

developing of work schedules.

The launching of the ASEM Anti-Money Laundering Initiative has strengthened the co-operation among ASEM partners with regard to the fight against money laundering. This initiative is funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the EU. The aim of the project is to develop a sustainable capacity in the Asia region to address money laundering at a national, regional and international level. The ASEM Anti-Money Laundering Initiative has identified two specific weaknesses within the ASEM countries when it concerns money laundering; their law enforcement capabilities are poor and there is a lack of judges, magistrates and prosecutors who have undergone specialised training.

This initiative will attempt to remedy such weaknesses with the assistance of UNDCP's management services and consultancy. The initiative's activities include a needs assessment for the ASEM countries jurisdictions, the organisation of annual workshops on money laundering methods, the arrangement of missions to offshore financial centres, the provision of generic technical assistance, variously dealing with financial, legal and law enforcement sectors, and the drafting of research papers.

These initiatives are greatly welcomed, as they will enhance the region's ability to build and increase regional collaborative efforts that, in turn, ameliorate the effectiveness of anti-money laundering efforts. As with so many other transnational criminal activities, the only way to stem such cross-border operations is by countering them with other cross-border initiatives.

—*Claire Smellie, UNDCP, Bangkok*

“ Their law enforcement capabilities are poor and there is a lack of judges, magistrates and prosecutors who have undergone specialised training. ”

SHORT NEWS

Continues from page 11

Confidential police telephone hotline has been established to receive information from the public on child sex crimes and human trafficking, he said. In the first six months of this year 11 people have been arrested by the task force for trafficking in humans, he added.

A new report highlights corruption in Cambodia

The Cambodian Development Research Institute has conducted a survey, which shows how corruption is diverting large sums of money in the country. It says garment factory operators paid 70 million US dollars in bureaucracy costs last year, a sign of how severely corruption plagues Cambodia's only major industry.

The study says the formal and informal fees companies have to pay are among the highest in the region and are a threat to any industrial development. The Commerce Ministry, Secretary of State, has acknowledged that there are some costs involved along the bureaucratic chain since salaries paid to civil servants are not enough to support households. However, he strongly disputed that garment factory operators paid the reported amount in bureaucracy costs.

Hotline For Female Trafficking Reports

The Ministry of Women's and Veterans Affairs has set up a 24-hour hotline to receive reports of female trafficking. The public is urged to call 023-720-555 if they are aware of any case of girls and women being held against their wishes. Minister Mou Sok Hour, briefed reporters on how she was trying to reduce abuse of females and also announced that Finland had pledged to provide a million dollars towards the cost of the campaign. The campaign will run until next year in six of the most vulnerable provinces.

Thailand's FOCAL POINT FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING MEASURES

The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 1999 criminalised money laundering, created a civil forfeiture system for confiscation of assets and established requirement for reporting of significant and suspicious transactions. To oversee its compliance, the Act created the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) the same year.



This is the first time legislation has created a single law enforcement agency with wide ranging powers to investigate money laundering methods in Thailand. All transactions reporting from financial institutions are channelled to AMLO, the office also acts as national financial intelligence centre and cooperates with foreign law enforcement partners. Empowered to authorise search of places and vehicles, the AMLO also carries out investigations and is responsible for the restraint and seizure of assets.

unprecedented authority to seek court approval for law enforcement to conduct electronic surveillance. Directed by the Anti-Money Laundering Board and chaired by the Prime Minister, AMLO seeks to develop measures to counter money laundering, and proposes laws, regulations and recommendations for the authorities in Thailand to consider.

More information about AMLO is available at: Anti-Money Laundering Office in Thailand. Web address: <http://www.amlo.go.th/>

Furthermore, the AMLO has been given

– *Lise Bendiksen, UNDCP, Bangkok*

New Website Against Money Laundering

The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) has just launched a new website. The new web address is <http://www.apgml.org>

The site features a range of material previously not available to the public online. The user friendly website provides valuable information about APG policies and activities and is designed to provide direct assistance to APG's members and observers across the region.



New Legislation AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

The Philippines enacted an Anti-Money Laundering Bill in September 2001, well ahead of the deadline set by FATF. Recently, the country had been included in FATF's list of non-co-operative jurisdictions. It is now hoped that the new bill meets international standards and that, through its effective implementation, the Philippines will no longer be considered as non-co-operative.

Malaysia also is in the course of

acquiring a similar bill against money laundering. It was gazetted already in August 2001 and expected to enter into force in December 2001. It contains several offences linked with money laundering, and introduces the reversal of the burden of proof with regard to civil forfeiture of assets and other measures.

– *Gerassimos Fourlanos, UNDCP, Bangkok*

CAMBODIA DEMONSTRATES ITS COMMITMENT STOPPING THE SLAVE'S BUSINESS



The scourge of trafficking in human beings is a problem faced increasingly by most countries of the East Asia region. Some countries are strengthening their legal frameworks and allocating financial and human resources to counteract the smuggling of women, children and labourers, whereas others suffer from a severe lack of both capacity and a strong political commitment to effectively deal with such heinous acts of barbarism.

After over three decades of war, Cambodia has often been viewed as having neither the human or the enforcement capacity nor the true will to effectively counter human trafficking from, and through, the country.

However, in the early hours of July 8, 2001, with the rescue of over 240 illegal immigrants and the arrest of several human trafficking gang leaders, Cambodian

authorities unequivocally demonstrated to the world that it not only takes the laws on human trafficking seriously, but that it is willing and able to take concrete action to stop Cambodia from being used as a safe haven for crime syndicates and their human trafficking operations.

The Cambodian authorities rescued men, women and children from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran as they were about to be shipped as human cargo from the southwestern Cambodian seaport of Siهانoukville to Australia via the Indonesian archipelago. The operation was conducted in cooperation with the Australian law enforcement community. One Pakistani and one Indonesian are being held in Phnom Penh on charges of trafficking humans and could face up to 15 years in jail. They are believed to be senior members of a crime syndicate that has been using Cambodia as a transit point for

their activities for some time. Each person being trafficked is reported to have paid between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for the journey.

The International Office for Migration (IOM) in Phnom Penh is now helping to process those rescued and 39 Afghans are already reported to have been sent back to their country with IOM assistance. Cambodian courts are now in the process of preparing to try the perpetrators of this crime.

Whilst the Cambodian law enforcement community still has a long way to go in the development of its capacity, this recent major success is a clear demonstration by the Cambodian government that the days when transnational organised crime groups being able to act with relative immunity in Cambodia, are numbered.

– *Graham Shaw, UN/ODCCP, Cambodia*

Anti-trafficking Drive KICKED-OFF I

A traditional Cambodian saying, with negative connotations, is used in a positive campaign against trafficking of girls and women. The three-month drive that is already underway uses cartoon techniques.

The saying that goes, ‘go down to the river and meet the crocodile, go into the forest and meet the tiger’ in Khmer, denotes the lack of choice. In the campaign material, an urbanised crock offers riches and fame to a country girl, who refuses the deal knowing that it would lead to a life in vice. She has a choice: stay at home and maintain her dignity.



The campaign by the Ministry of Women’s and Veterans Affairs kicked-off with of a road show giving its first performance at Wat Phnom. The show now travels throughout the country. Minister Mu Sochua, sometimes known as Mu Sok Huor, said the campaign was all about choices available to rural communities where most of the trafficking occurs. “In a unique effort, the campaign will make use of Cambodian proverbs that have been specially adapted to deliver five key messages through strong visual images.” It is hoped that these techniques will help reach people with



low levels of literacy.

“The overall themes of information being provided are those of choices – that people can make good and bad choices- and that of the rule of law,” she said. Sochua said the campaign would encourage villagers to develop sustainable anti-trafficking attitudes. It would be backed also with skills training because poverty is the root cause of girls being sold or lured into vice.

The Minister said that it would also highlight the negative aspect of trafficking, like contracting HIV and Aids through prostitution and loss of dignity through forced begging. Many girls and women allow themselves to become victims of traffickers through the false impression that riches await them in

Trafficking of CAMBODIAN CHILDREN CAUSE for Alarm

The statistics are horrifying: over 400 children reported as being trafficked from Cambodia to Thailand in the last year; 30% of the children are ethnic Vietnamese; a third more male children are trafficked than female; and evidence of the increasing role of organized pedophile rings in Thailand abusing Cambodian children.

In a recent visit to Banteay Meanchey Province in Northwest Cambodia by staff of the newly established UNODCCP Liaison Office in Phnom Penh, the scale of the abuse that Cambodian children suffer in Thailand, and elsewhere in the region, was highlighted by police officials and staff of international agencies working to resettle and rehabilitate those children returned to Cambodia through either organized repatriation or deportation.

Cambodians appear to be able to easily enter Thailand for as little as US\$3 paid to a 'facilitator', a person often known to



“All efforts to combat trafficking are seriously undermined by a combination of weak institutions, and pervasive corruption”

the family or the community, who 'loans' the children against promises of later economic compensation – a promise seldom fulfilled. They are then lead across the border. However, once inside Thai territory, reports from those who have undertaken this dangerous journey demonstrate that a well-organized trafficking network exists, especially for young male Cambodians who are sought after by pedophile rings based in Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket.

The International Office of Migration (IOM), which supports the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs in the operation of a transit centre in the border town of Poipet, have reported the physical and mental distress that male Cambodian children have experienced at the hands of pedophile rings. As Anne Horsley, IOM's Technical Advisor at the transit centre, explained, many of the male children who are returned to Cambodia, aged from as young as 2 years and as old as 18, are involved in "inappropriate sexual behaviour" with other boys that clearly shows the kinds of abuse that they have suffered at the hands of the pedophile groups in Thailand. Most of the children have also taken up drug use, primarily inhalents or use of methamphetamines.

However, upon arrival back in Cambodia, all

children are provided with support from a variety of Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies, such as UNICEF, Goutee D'Eau and the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre, to help them reintegrate back into their family and community or to resettle elsewhere. Only 11% of reintegrated children are re-trafficked by their family, according to IOM statistics.

As a recent US State Department report noted, "all efforts to combat trafficking are seriously undermined by a combination of weak institutions and pervasive corruption."* Consequently, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Human Trafficking, which meets every other month in Phnom Penh and represents a full range of agencies and donors, is trying to effectively tackle these issues. The ODCCP is a new member of this grouping and focuses primarily on what actions it can undertake to address the drug abuse problem and to develop the Cambodian Government's capacity to deal effectively with the transnational criminal gangs which traffick Cambodian's to other countries.

—Graham Shaw, UNODCCP, Cambodia

* *Trafficking in Persons Report*, U.S. State Department, July 2001.

n Cambodia

places like Bangkok. The campaign will attempt to provide the true picture.

An anti-trafficking hot line, 023-720-555 has been put into operation by the Ministry of the Interior for the public to provide information about traffickers, trafficking and victims. The government hopes that concerned members of the public will phone in information that will help prevention and rescue work.

The campaign is part of the three-year drive launched by the Prime Minister, Hun Sen in March last year and funded with a million dollars by the Finnish government. The other components of the programme are legal literacy training for 2,300 government officials through the establishment of a national training team on trafficking and advocacy on policy development.

The Marginalisation of SUBSTANCE-ABUSING Street Children

In 1998, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that there were somewhere between 10 and 30 million street children worldwide, depending on different estimates.

The number of street children is gradually growing due to increased urbanisation, civil unrest, wars, as well as natural disasters and epidemics, not least AIDS. Street children constitute a high-risk group when it comes to developing a substance abuse. As a socially excluded and marginalised population, these children, who are either homeless or come from highly dysfunctional homes, thus spending much more time on the streets than at home, are extremely vulnerable to drug abuse and associated diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Consequently, their drug dependency needs special attention.

The situation is knowingly acute in Latin American countries, but the situation in Asia is far from being a lot better. It is estimated that there are 60,000 * street children in Manila alone and somewhere between 5,000 and 20,000 in Phnom Penh, according to various estimates.

According to interviews with street children for a World Vision report in 1993, the percentage of glue sniffers among them, in two cities in Cambodia, Phnom Penh and Battambang, was 92 %. The percentage of substance users depends on various factors such as the accessibility of substances, the child's age and gender, as well as the surrounding circumstances, for example, the level of stress in the child's living environment and the level of normalisation of drug abuse in the child's community. However, according to WHO, somewhere between 25 - 90 % of all street children

abuse substances of one kind or another.

Globally, solvent-based shoe glues have become the substance of choice for this high risk group, however, rubber cement for tire repairs is a big seller in the Asia region. Worldwide, street children get high on various different toxic products which have a legitimate everyday use. These intoxicating substances are, furthermore, substances street children can afford. The reason for turning to such a dangerous preoccupation is, quite simply, their inhumane life situation; they find comfort in drug abuse. An abuse that takes the acuteness out of being cold, alleviates hunger and makes despair less immediate. Their abuse also supplies them with temporary bravery and fearlessness in facing the challenges of begging, stealing or engaging in commercial sexual activities or trafficking of illicit substances.

The health hazards of drug abuse are well-known, but awareness of the dangers of sniffing glue are less widespread. These marginalised children often believe sniffing glue to be a rather harmless activity, however the health consequences of glue sniffing are, nevertheless, enormous. In the worst of cases, sniffing can lead to sudden death, which occurs when the inhaled vapours replace oxygen in the lungs and brain. Other effects include structural changes in brain cells, resulting in slow and clumsy behaviour, loss of coordination, learning difficulties, difficulties in solving complex problems and a decrease in memory capacity. Limb spasm, hearing loss and damage of the bone marrow also constitute common effects.

The link between street childrens' drug abuse and subsequent health conse-

quences such as infectious diseases cannot be overlooked. Access to community services and health care is rather limited for street children. What is most worrying is the identified tendency to further marginalise this high risk group due to their drug abuse. For example, one Phnom Penh-based NGO recently stated they would discontinue their work with substance abusing street children, reflecting a new-born empathy towards street children with such problems. The NGO in question stated that they would discontinue their efforts to help drug abusers as they were uncontrollable, aggressive and impossible to educate and rehabilitate. In other words, they are hopeless cases and constitute too much trouble to other children and to the people working for the NGO. The question is, however, who are these other children if 92 % of all street children are abusers?

In an attempt to counter the lack of attention and resources that are being channelled to ameliorate the life of drug-abusing street children, UNDCP has embarked upon a new initiative to assist this high-risk group to find possible ways to combat their addiction. The UNDCP, together with ILO-IPEC, have formulated a project proposal aimed at addressing the health consequences of such drug abuse. If granted funding, the project will first be implemented in Cambodia and, if successful, will be expanded to other countries. The project's aim is to change the disproportionate number of street children who suffer from dependency and HIV/AIDS vulnerability.

The immediate aim of the project is to prevent and reduce drug abuse and HIV/AIDS vulnerability through strengthening and institutionalising all available resources

“ The reason for turning to a dangerous preoccupation is, quite simply, their inhumane life situation; they find comfort in drug abuse ”

to reduce such problems at the national level.

A parallel provision of basic needs is crucial, such as shelter, food and health care, and of rehabilitation measures through, for example, education on substance abuse. Without catering for these basic needs, it is difficult to envisage how the street children can cope without their survival mechanism - drug abuse. It is important that the children receive knowledge about the consequences of their abuse, how it affects their brain and physical appearance, in order for them to understand the risks and how to avoid them. The UNDCP initiative aims to increase the stakeholders and service providers' (for example NGOs') knowledge, ability and skills that are required to effectively deal with the drug abuse among street children and help them to come to terms with their predicament. The project aims also at directly enhancing and expanding protection, treatment and rehabilitation services as well as implementing preventive work within the street childrens' source communities.

—Claire Smellie, UNDCP, Bangkok

* Fact Sheet N151, March 1997, WHO, Substance Use among Street Children and other Children and Youth in Especially Difficult Circumstances.

SHORT NEWS

JAPAN

Japanese Police Chief Calls On Premier

A visiting senior Japanese police officer says that the role of the police is not only to maintain law and order, but also to promote better communities. Tanaka Setsuo, who served in Cambodia for two months during the UNTAC era, is now Director of Police. He said after a courtesy call with the Prime Minister, Hun Sen, that the police force should be retrained to take the new role as Cambodia leaves behind the past and embark on an era of development. Hun Sen said a major concern in the kingdom was the dealing with drug related cases as the local police neither has the skills nor the experience to deal with highly sophisticated drug barons. He hoped that Japan would assist the Cambodian police in this vital area by improving skills and upgrading equipment.

Alternative Development COOPERATION In Cyberspace

As part of the activities of the project Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia a new AD website has been established in connection to the UNDCP Regional Centre's website. The AD website has the Internet address <http://www.uncp.un.or.th/ad>. Additionally, the website can be reached by a click on the matching icon on the Regional Centre's website located at <http://www.uncp.un.or.th>

The purpose of the new AD website is to facilitate regional cooperation and to distribute information relevant and useful to AD practitioners and policy makers provided either through project activities or acquired from other sources. Recent examples of project activities conducted within the framework of Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia include the seminar in Taunggyi, Myanmar (see last issue of Eastern Horizons) which resulted in the book *Alternative Development: Sharing Good Practices Facing Common Problems*, which can be downloaded from the web site, and the workshop in Phonsavan described elsewhere in this issue of Eastern Horizons. It is the hope of Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia that anyone with relevant materials will provide them to the project together with the necessary permission to publish it on this new AD website. Comments and suggestions are most welcome and can be sent to the Regional Centre either by fax, phone or e-mail.

— Peter Lunding, UNDCP, Bangkok



Alternative Development: Sharing Good Practices Facing Common Problems, Bangkok: UNDCP Regional Centre, 2001. Between 16 and 19 July 2001 a regional seminar was held in Taunggyi, Myanmar. The title of the seminar was “Regional Seminar on Alternative Development for Illicit Crop Eradication: Policies, Strategies and Actions” and its aim was to enable lesson sharing and to establish good practices. The presentations and discussions at the seminar turned out to be very fruitful and consequently it was decided to compile the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recom-

mendations in a book, which was given the above title. The book provides an unique possibility to get an overview of the many difficult problems, which must be overcome before alternative development projects are successfully implemented as well as practical recommendations to overcome such problems proposed by practitioners with years of hands-on experience. The book is available from UNDCP Regional Centre, 14th Floor, UN-Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. Phone: (+66-2) 288 2091, Fax: (+66-2) 281 2129, E-mail: rcdcp@undcp.un.or.th, Web site: <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>

ASEAN Annual Report 2000-2001, Jakarta: ASEAN, 2001. The annual report from ASEAN has just been published. The report provides the reader with a full summary of ASEAN’s activities and for the readers of *Eastern Horizons* we particularly recommend the sections starting from page 102 covering issues such as Transnational Crime, Drugs and Narcotics, Immigration Matters, and Law and Legal Matters.

The report is available from the ASEAN Secretariat, 70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja, Jakarta 12110, Indonesia, Phone: (+6221) 724 3372, 726 2991, Fax: (+6621) 739 8234, 724 3504, E-mail: public@asean.or.id, Web site: <http://www.aseansec.org>



Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS: Lessons Learned: Case Studies Booklet: Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian States, Vienna and Geneva: UN/ODCCP and UNAIDS, 2001. Sharing, or use, of contaminated needles is a very effective way of spreading HIV. Since injecting drug users often have close links and commonly share injecting equipment, HIV can spread very rapidly among them. The booklet contains 20 case studies, which are presented in the first three chapters. Following these chapters, chapter IV provides a summary of lessons learned and specific challenges with which HIV preventive projects among injecting drug users in the region have to cope. The booklet is available from UN/ODCCP, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43-1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43-1) 26060 5866, E-mail: odccp@odccp.org, Web site: <http://www.odccp.org> & UNAIDS 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, Phone: (+41-22) 791 46 51, Fax: (+41-22) 791 41 87, E-mail: unaids@unaids.org, Web site: <http://www.unaids.org>

Friends tell friends on the Street, Bangkok: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre and Canada Fund, 2000. The book is an extensive manual developed to meet the needs



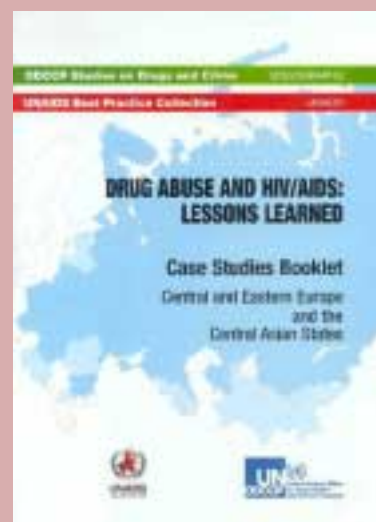
for lifeskills development among street children and slum community youth, encompassing many different social issues, including general health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, family planning, and reproductive health, child rights, self-esteem, and drug abuse among others. Information about these issues is transferred to the youth through their participation in the activities outlined in the manual.

The activities are based on lifeskills and participatory learning approaches and hopefully this approach will provide youth not only with information, but also with the skills necessary to apply this information. The book is available from the Thai Red Cross.

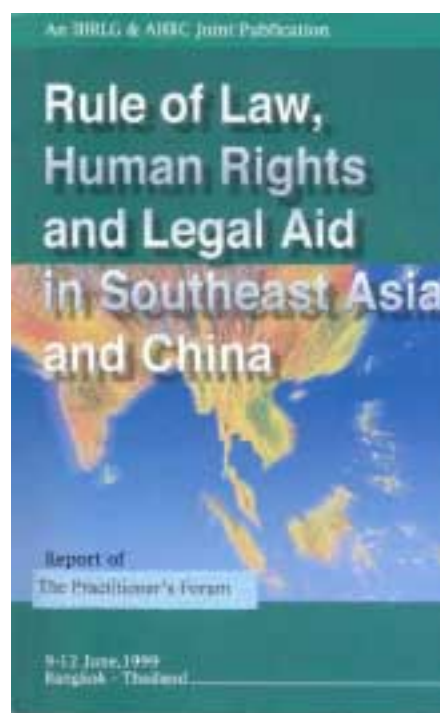
Drug Crime Prevention Work Yearbook, 2000, Taipei: The Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau, 2001.

The yearbook from the drug control authorities of Taiwan has just been released. The report provides an overview of the organization of the drug control authorities, an overview of these authorities’ performances, analysis of criminal cases and a prediction of the future prospects of drug law enforcement. Among the interesting points highlighted in the report is a warning that amphetamine laboratories seem to be on the move from mainland China to Taiwan reversing the trend of earlier years.

It is highly recommended that special attention is given to this problem in order to prevent Taiwan from reemerging as a major producer of amphetamines. The report is available from Drug Enforcement Center, Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Justice, 74 Chung-Hwa Rd., Hsin-Tien City, Taipei country, Taiwan 231, Phone (+886) 2-2911 2241 Extension 5110.



Rule of Law, Human Rights and Legal Aid in Southeast Asia and China, Bangkok: Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) & International Human Rights Law Group (IHLRG), 2000. The book contains a number of pre-



sentations concerning the conditions of Rule of Law, Human Rights and Legal Aid in Southeast Asia and China. The presentations cover a wide range of issues from various groups such as Beijing University's Women's Legal Service Center specialized in giving legal advice to poor women whose rights have been violated, or from a rural legal advisory group from Vietnam that specialize in providing legal advice to farmers. A special chapter is focused on Myanmar and the title of that presentation is characteristic enough "Lawyring In An Unjust System." The book is available from Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), Unit D, 7th Floor, Momgkok Commercial Centre, 16 Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR, China, Phone (+852) 2698

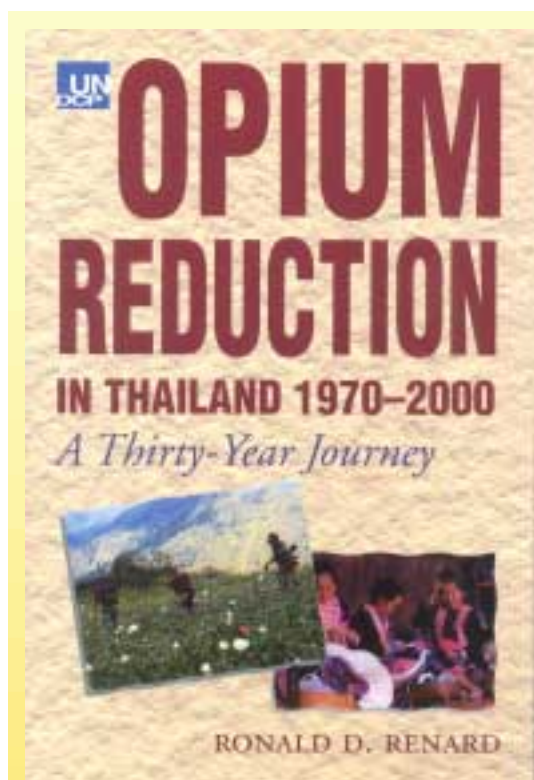
6339, Fax: (+852) 2698 6367, E-mail: ahrchk@ahrchk.org Web page: <http://www.ahrchk.net> & International Human Rights Law Group (IHLRG), 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 602, Washington DC 20036, U.S.A., Phone: (+1-202) 822 4600, Fax: (+1-202) 822 4606, E-mail: humanrights@hrlawgroup.org, Web page: <http://www.hrlawgroup.org>

Annual Report 2000, Quezon City: Dangerous Drug Board, 2001. The annual report from the Dangerous Drug Board of the Philippines outlines the drug control situation in the country. It includes comprehensive chapters on both the national drug supply reduction efforts and on the drug demand reduction efforts. The report is available from the Dangerous Drugs Board, Quezon City, Philippines.



A Balanced Approach to Elimination of Opium Poppy Cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane: UNDCP, 2001. The folder introduces the reader to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the problems opium production and abuse present in Laos. It also describes how opium cultivation due to the cooperative efforts of the Laotian Government and the international community already has been reduced by 36 percent. A number of past and present development projects aiming at reduc-

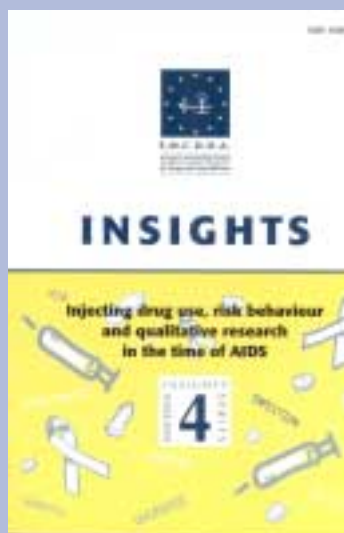
ing opium production are described together with an introduction to the present opium reduction strategy pursued by the Laotian Government in cooperation with UNDCP. The folder is available from UNDCP Lao PDR Country Office, P.O. Box 345, Phone Kheng Road, Vientiane, Lao PDR, Phone: (+856-21) 413 204. Fax: (+856-21) 413 203, E-mail: undcplao@undp.org Web-site: <http://www.odccp.org/laodr>



Ronald D. Renard, Opium Reduction in Thailand 1970-2000: A Thirty-Year Journey, Chiang Mai: UNDCP & Silkworm Books, 2001. The 175 pages long book tells the story of how Thailand was transformed from being one of the largest opium producers into a country which produced much less opium than what is consumed by the country's own opium addicts. In 1965/66 the Thai opium production was estimated to be more than 145 metric tons. In 1999/2000 the production was estimated to be around 3 metric tons equaling a reduction of 98 percent. The book explains how Thailand achieved this impressive result and tries to identify the most important lessons that can be learned from Thailand's journey toward freedom from opium. The book is available from Silkworm Books, 104/5 Chiang Mai - Hot Road, M. 7, Chiang Mai 50200 Thailand, E-mail: silkworm@loxinfo.co.th

Injecting drug use, risk behavior and qualitative research in the time of AIDS, Lisboa: EMCDDA, 2001.

The latest book from EMCDDA explores the role of qualitative research in understanding the lived experiences, social meanings and social contexts of injecting drug use and the risk behavior in the time of AIDS. The book is based on findings from an EMCDDA working group that was active in 1999. The study draws a series of conclusions in the area of intervention and research development. Among others, it underlines the potential of qualitative research in developing and ensuring the practical relevance of planned interventions. It also lists priority topics for future qualitative research, including the influence of gender and power on the risk behavior of drug users and factors influencing the individual risk management of overdose. The book is available from EMCDDA, Rua Cruz de Santa Apolonia 23/25, 1149-045 Lisboa, Portugal, Phone: (+351) 21 811 30 00, Fax: (+351) 21 813 17 11, Web site: <http://www.emcdda.org>

**Hong Kong Narcotics Report 2001, Hong Kong: Narcotics Division, Security Bureau & Action Committee Against Drugs, 2001.**

The annual report by Hong Kong's drug control authorities is written in both English and Chinese. The reports is extensive (122 pages) and manages to discuss quite a number of important topics. These include chapters on policy making and coordination, research on drug control issues, money laundering and preventive education and publicity. The report is available from Narcotics Division, Government Secretariat, Queensway Government Offices, High Block, 30th Floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, Phone: (+852) 2867 2746, Fax: (+852) 2810 1790.

**General report of activities 2000, Lisboa: EMCDDA, 2001.**

The recent report from EMCDDA about their general activities provides a retrospective account of the EMCDDA's activities and accomplishments in year 2000 concluding the organization's second three-year work programme. The report provides information about, among other issues, epidemiology, demand reduction and information strategies and communication resources. It is highlighted that in the demand reduction field, focus has been on the evaluation of drug treatment programmes, outreach work and on-site testing of synthetic drugs. The report is available from EMCDDA, Rua Cruz de Santa Apolonia 23/25, 1149-045 Lisboa, Portugal, Phone: (+351) 21 811 30 00, Fax: (+351) 21 813 17 11, Web site: <http://www.emcdda.org>



Spot News, Yangon: UNDCP, 2001. This new pamphlet is the first of a new bimonthly series produced by UNDCP Myanmar Country Office. The topic of the first issue is drug consumption among high school students. A recent UNSCP survey has studied the subject in order to focus on the level of drug abuse in Myanmar, which itself

is a major producer of illicit drugs. Among the drugs presented in the survey are both opium, heroin and amphetamines. The pamphlet is available from UNDCP Myanmar Country Office, UNDCP P.O. Box 650, 11(A), Malikha Road, Ward (7), Mayangone Township, Yangon, Union of Myanmar, Phone: (+95-1) 666 903, Fax: (+95-1) 651 334, E-mail: undcp.mm@undp.org

**Gender and Alternative Development - Experiences gained with participatory project work in the coca-cultivating areas of Peru, Eschborn: GTZ, 2000.**

The report compiles the experience gained with the key topic 'Gender; in Alternative Development during the implementation of small-scale projects in Peru. The aim of the report is to contribute to the exchange of experiences and the continuing debate on the gender concept in the context of Alternative Development. The report is very comprehensive and discusses among other subjects participatory appraisal and gender aspects and micro-projects with a gender perspective. The report is available from GTZ, Postfach 5180, D-65726 Eschborn, Germany, Phone: (+49) 6196 79 1461, Fax: (+49) 6196 79 1115, E-mail: Christoph.berg@gtz.de, Web page: <http://www.gtz.de>



The National Anti-Drug Program of Action: Vision 2010: A Drug-Free Philippines, Quezon City: National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center, 2001.

The Philippines has developed a comprehensive drug control strategy with the target to fulfill the vision of a drug-free Philippines by 2010. The strategy is exhaustive and includes demand reduction, supply reduction and extensive efforts within the field of public advocacy and information. The Filipino drug control authorities and the country's civil society have united to create a common plan and thereby create a solid front of people against all dangerous drugs. The plan is available from the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center, Quezon City, Philippines.



Opium Cultivation and Eradication Report for Thailand: 2000-2001, Bangkok: ONCB, 2001.

The report publicizes the results of the annual opium survey and following opium eradication campaign of the 2000-2001 opium growing season. Among the subject is a chapter on the methodology applied in the opium survey, an analysis of opium prices and of recent cultivation trends. The report is available from ONCB, 5 Din Daeng Road, Phyathai District, Bangkok 10400, Thailand, Phone: (66-2) 245 9355, Fax: (66-2) 245 9354.



Guidelines for Testing Drugs under International Control in Hair, Sweat and Saliva, Vienna: UN/ODCCP, 2001.

This manual has been designed to provide an overview of the field and give some practical guidance to national authorities and analysts when determining drugs in hair, sweat and saliva. The guidelines in the manual represent a summary of the experience of scientists from several reputable laboratories around the world of how alternative specimens can be used effectively. In general, this publication is also an attempt to help promote and harmonize national efforts by providing internationally acceptable guidelines.

The manual is available from UNDCP, Scientific Section, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43-1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43-1) 26060 5866, E-mail: odccp@odccp.org, Web site: <http://www.odccp.org>



The Latest Publications Distributed by UNDCP Bangkok

- 1/2001 National Workshop for Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia
- 2/2001 First Annual Meeting of the Mutual Legal Assistance Advisory Committee (MLAAC)
- 3/2001 Fellowship Programme in Malaysia 04 September-10 October 2000
- 4/2001 Participants Database: Seminars, Workshops and Meeting for 1st Phase of Development of Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia (AD/RAS/99/D91) (12 November 1999- 15 January 2001)
- 5/2001 Review of High Risk Groups in China - Urumqui and Yining, Xinjiang Autonomous Region (Urumqi-Yining, 15-19 September 2000)
- 6/2001 Directory of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services, East Asia and the Pacific
- 7/2001 Eliminating Opium: Lessons from Succeeding in Thailand
- 8/2001 Cross-Border Law Enforcement Cooperation Meeting/Workshop
- 9/2001 Status of Donor Contributions to Regional Programmes as of December 2000
- 10/2001 Eastern Horizons No. 5, March 2001
- 11/2001 Cambodia Country Profile
- 12/2001 Pacific Islands Regional Profile
- 13/2001 Injecting Drug Use and HIV Vulnerability: Choices and Consequences in Asia and the Pacific
- 14/2001 Report on Workshop "A Partnership with United Nations in A World Class Training Project", Bangkok, Thailand, 24-25 April 2001
- 15/2001 What they said: Press Clippings: Ministerial and Senior Officials Committee Meetings on Drug Control, Yangon, 9-11 May 2001
- 16/2001 Eastern Horizons No.6 June 2001
- 17/2001 Sports and Drugs (Press Kit), International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June 2001
- 18/2001 Annual Field Report 2000
- 19/2001 Regional Profile 2000
- 20/2001 Global Impact of the Ban on Opium Production in Afghanistan
- 21/2001 Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia
- 22/2001 UNDCP Judicial Fellowship in the Balkans
- 23/2001 Alternative Development: Sharing Good Practices, Facing Common Problems
- 24/2001 Eastern Horizons No.7, September 2001
- 25/2001 Opium Reduction in Thailand, 1970-2000: A Thirty-Year Journey
- 26/2001 Training Guide: Community Participation in Alternative Development Projects

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



We Want You!

Uniting for Human Security in Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region is confronted with new threats that undermine the human security of its citizens. The dark forces of globalization have emerged to prey on the weak and vulnerable. Human and drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism, labour exploitation, and deadly diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, are threatening the stability of Asian-Pacific societies. The fight against these “uncivil forces” require that all sectors of civil society unite for action.

Organized Crime and Terrorism

Organized crime syndicates are estimated to gross US\$ 1.5 trillion per year. They constitute an economic power that rivals multinational corporations and governments. Criminal organizations and terrorist groups have developed dangerous strategic alliances in a global network, that threatens the security of all peoples.

Human Trafficking

The trafficking in men, women and children for labour exploitation is a thriving and lucrative business in the region. The majority of women and children are trafficked for sexual purposes. Others are forced to work in exploitative and slave-like conditions in sweatshops, factories, industries in the informal sector, and domestic service. Asia is a region of origin, transit and destination for the growing numbers of victims of trafficking.

Drugs

Drugs kill, and destroy lives, families and communities. Drugs also generate crime. Asia is in the throes of a drug epidemic. The largest quantity of opium-derived drugs in the world is produced in Asia. Illicit production and trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) is skyrocketing. Half of all ATS abuse worldwide is in Asia, with the majority of abusers being youth, who come from all socio-economic backgrounds.

HIV/AIDS

An estimated 7 million people already live with HIV/AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region. Asia has the fastest growing epidemic in the world, and a huge population base. Without early and effective intervention, HIV/AIDS will continue to spread in the Asia-Pacific region through such factors as inadequate education, limited access to information and services, denial and stigmatization, injecting drug use, commercial sex and population mobility.

Child Labour

Asia has the largest number of child workers in the world. Many children between the ages of 5 and 14 years are exploited in economic activities on a full-time basis. Child labour, particularly its worst forms, robs children of their health, their growth, their education – and even their lives. Only in recent years has the Asia-Pacific region awakened to the enormous scale and widespread abuse of children in the workplace.

We call on civil society, including the business community, to support United Nations activities for human security, to share experiences and lessons learned, and to unite for action to promote a more secure Asia-Pacific region.

Kim Hak-Su

Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Sandro Calvani

Representative for East Asia and the Pacific
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South-East Asia and Pacific Intercountry Team
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

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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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