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**Making Sustainable
Alternative Development Work**

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Moments of Light

Tending the Thorny Bonsai

By Wong Sow Kham
National Anti-Drugs Agency
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UNODC Photo / Nuttun Chanchamras

A few years ago, I placed a pot of thorny bonsai at the back of my terrace by the side of the drain. As its roots ventured out of the pot, it grew and became very tall. But alas, one day, a trailer passed and dragged the entire plant and its shattered pot a few feet away.

I gave the way-led stature a good trim, housed it in a new pot, and placed it in a new location. At the original spot, a few young shoots sprouted from its roots. What a delight! I anchored the sprouts with a stick to give them support. As these shoots grew, I used ropes to help them grow upright, and protect them from the risks of another vehicle drag.

Today, the plant is as tall as my two-storey house, giving the beauty and shade only a green foliage can do under a glittering sunlight while the bees and ants busy themselves at the yellow pendulum blossoms.

One Saturday morning, as I was tying the younger branches into upright position, I noticed that the ropes used previously at the lower and older branches are now redundant because they have grown into firm solid trunks in upright position. As I untied the ropes, none of the older branches swayed.

A few days after, Aida, our librarian, was tasked to prepare a booklet on relapse prevention for drug abusers and their families. Together, Aida and I waded through the library materials and sought for references. While doing so, I recalled my bonsai. My mind started to wander. I linked the bonsai phenomena with the guiding principles of relapse prevention.

I thought that helping ex-addicts in relapse prevention is like tending a bonsai.

We need to be aware that ex-addicts have the nature to fall back to the preys of drugs. Though clinically confirmed to be drug-free, their socio-psychological beings are no longer the same. We can't sit and demand from them to be upright without giving a hand, more, so during the crucial moments when they are at their weakest.

Like the growing branches that have to be repositioned and supported by ropes at a stage of pliable growth, we, in the community, the families of the ex-drug addicts need to be available and willing to stand by and rescue them from any possibility of relapse.

There is no denial. It TAKES great LOVE for anyone to care. ■

Our Cover



UNODC Laos Country Office Photo/
Patrick Ackermann

Enjoying a licit source of income

Soumklam Village in Gnot Ou, Phongsaly Province is one of the places covered by the UNODC North Phongsaly Alternative Development Project which aims to reduce the area of opium poppy cultivation and opium addiction in three districts in Lao PDR. The village, located 1 km from the main road next to the River Ou has 62 households comprising 336 members of the Yang tribe. Of the total population, 188 are females.

Today, many opium poppy farmers in the village have given up their incomes from opium with sustainable alternative sources of livelihood. The village enjoys self-sufficiency in rice with 10-20 tonnes sold per year. Village women produce cotton and weave them into traditional textiles for selling at the local market. Today, they share the dream for a better future and to enjoy an opium-free community through sustainable alternative livelihood replacing illicit opium poppy production.

"By working hand in hand with our partners, both governmental and non-governmental, we will steadily extend our horizons."



FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

In April 2005, the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the theme, "Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice", was held in Bangkok, so ably hosted by the Royal Government of Thailand. The theme clearly reflected the nature of that Congress, which was attended by government representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives of civil society, researchers, and groups working to spread the idea of restorative justice. It was convened at a momentous period, when the international community has witnessed the entry into force of major international instruments, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its accompanying Protocols.

In May 2005, three important meetings were held for East and South East Asia. At Siemreap, Cambodia, thanks to the thorough support of the Cambodian authorities, the UNODC Regional Centre organized the annual meeting of the Senior Officials Committee of the six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries which are parties to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed in 1993 to enhance regional cooperation in drug control. This gathering was followed by the Ministerial Meeting of the six countries, which adopted a Siemreap Declaration, reconfirming the commitments made, and reiterating concrete and joint actions, in various areas of regional drug control. Prior to the two MOU meetings, a "pre-Congress meeting" of ACCORD (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs) was also held at the same venue in preparation for the second ACCORD Congress scheduled in October 2005 in China. The ACCORD Congress is expected to take the ACCORD Plan of Action and mechanisms into its new phase.

The Regional Centre, together with the UNODC Country Offices in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, will continue to work closely with our partners to further enhance the above mechanisms. In so doing, our partners are not only government agencies but also NGOs and civil society.

As I noted in my previous messages in past issues of Eastern Horizons, we intend to assist in further networking with relevant NGOs, both in drug-related and in criminal justice areas, beyond national boundaries. At the same time, the Regional Centre aims at extending and expanding its activities beyond the above mechanisms, in an attempt to respond to the needs of other countries.

I am confident that by working hand in hand with our partners, both governmental and non-governmental, we will steadily extend our horizons. ■

Akira Fujino
Representative
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok

Sustainable alternative development projects in Southeast Asia aim to provide alternative income generation and livelihood for villagers in opium poppy growing communities to reduce their dependency on opium production for a living. To eliminate opium production, countries in the region are developing innovative approaches and best practices for alternative development to maximize its impacts on opium elimination.

In an attempt to eliminate opium poppy cultivation, alternative development efforts have been implemented in various opium poppy growing communities in Southeast Asian countries by national governments and with support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the international community, and a host of other governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other groups.

China managed to eliminate opium cultivation long ago through intensive anti-drug mass campaign and rural development in the ethnic communities in Yunnan and the border areas where opium poppy was grown. China has also promoted the participation of the private sector and local enterprises in alternative development projects along the border areas and in the neighboring countries especially Myanmar and Lao PDR.

Thailand has successfully reduced opium poppy cultivation through sustainable alternative development in the past 30 years. Currently, opium elimination efforts are integrated into the mainstream of national social and economic development and highland development plan of the country.

As part of the national plan to eliminate opium production by 2006, Lao PDR with the support of UNODC and the international community has launched alternative development projects in the opium poppy growing provinces. With intensive efforts, opium production in Lao PDR has declined significantly from 167 tonnes in 2000 to 14 tonnes in 2005. There is a tremendous need for technical and financial support to sustain these efforts.

In Myanmar, a comprehensive alternative development project has been implemented in the Wa Region with support of UNODC. In addition, alternative development projects have been launched in various communities in the Shan State under national initiatives and with international support. In cooperation with China and Thailand, Myanmar has launched collaborative alternative development projects to eliminate opium poppy cultivation along the border areas. In the national drug control plan, Myanmar has set a goal to eliminate opium poppy cultivation by the year 2014.

So far, Myanmar has been successful in reducing opium production from 1,087 tonnes in 2000 to 370 tonnes in 2004. It is expected that the opium production in Myanmar will continue to decline as a general trend.

Viet Nam has eliminated opium poppy cultivation since 2000. In addition to UNODC Ky Son Alternative Development Projects, Viet Nam has increased efforts on rural and highland development to sustain opium poppy elimination in the border areas of the country.

As part of the national effort to eliminate opium production by 2006, Lao PDR with the support of UNODC and the international community has launched alternative development efforts in the opium poppy growing areas of Phongsaly, Houaphan, Xieng Khouang, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay and Luang Prabang. ■

Sustainable Alternative Development



UNODC Photo



Photos by The Royal Project Foundation

Sustainable alternative development is a process towards eradication of illicit crop cultivation which emphasizes multisectoral and integrated approaches to create sustainable alternative livelihood and socio-economic development. Recognizing that areas growing illicit crops are often isolated, underdeveloped and poor, alternative development addresses the broader socio-economic situation of the farmers and their overall quality of life. Alternative development thus involves not only income generation, but also strengthening educational services, upgrading health care, improving infrastructure, gender mainstreaming and enhancing market skills with special attention given to the participation and empowerment of local people.

The Golden Triangle area of Southeast Asia has long been a major source of opium and heroin production. Fortunately, dedicated people and organizations are working hard across the region to provide sustainable alternatives to the opium

poppy growing farmers and to lift them out of their dependency on this illicit crop. Knowledge and experiences have been gained through the long journey of opium elimination.

Sharing experiences and good practices is of great importance to present and future work towards eliminating illicit crops cultivation. The vision is for sustained alternative development and illicit opium poppy eradication, paving the way for opium-free communities in the subregion. ■

Experience from Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia

By Sanong Chinnanon
UNODC Regional Centre



UNODC Photo/ Sanong Chinnanon

The Alternative Development Cooperation Project with funds from the Australian Government through the Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID) aimed to strengthen the national agencies and the on-going alternative development projects in the participating countries, contributing to illicit opium reduction in the region. The project, implemented from 2000 to 2003, specifically aimed to improve the effectiveness of alternative development initiatives through increasing knowledge, skills and capabilities of policy makers and practitioners in national agencies and projects, sharing of lessons and experiences, and networking between relevant alternative development agencies and projects.

During the three years, national capacity building and lessons sharing programmes were implemented to strengthen knowledge and skills of practitioners and policy makers and to promote sharing of knowledge and experience on alternative development in the region. A comprehensive and an accessible pool of knowledge on alternative development approaches and farmers' experiences were established.

In terms of capacity building, the project organized regional and national training, policy and technical seminars, and study visits to strengthen capacity of alternative development agencies and projects in the participating countries, including a national training workshop on Alternative Development

Project Planning and Management and Community Participation in Alternative Development Projects; a training support on Geographic Information System (GIS) development and management and opium survey technologies; a regional training workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation for Alternative Development; Alternative Development for Illicit Crop Eradication: Policies, Strategies and Actions; Alternative Development: Sharing Experiences and Good Practices on Micro-credit, Revolving Funds and Marketing, and Alternative Development: Information Networking and Sharing Good Practices on Gender and Development.

Study visits were organized to broaden knowledge and skills and gain practical experiences on alternative development approaches. The priority areas for the field study included agriculture and alternative crop cultivation, post harvest processing and packaging technologies, non farm/non agricultural alternative development, eco-tourism, marketing for alternative development products, community participation and mobilization for opium eradication and illicit crop monitoring technologies and GIS development. Study visits were organized for a visit to drug rehabilitation centres and alternative development projects in China and in Shan State of Myanmar to study cross border alternative development, drug treatment programmes, roles of local enterprises and private sector in alternative development and opium reduction programmes.

During the three-year implementation, the project has produced and disseminated training manuals, research studies and technical publications and established an alternative development website for information sharing and networking.

The following studies were completed: Opium Reduction in Thailand, 1970-2000: A Thirty-Year Journey; Alternative Development Policies, Strategies, Key Success Indicators, Risks and Lessons Learned in Phase I of the Wa Alternative Development Project; Opium Eradication in Viet Nam: Achievements and Lessons from Alternative and Integrated Mountain Rural Development; Marketing - the Bottleneck of Opium Eradication? Experiences from East Asia in Marketing Alternative Development Products; and Engendering Women in Alternative Development: An Emerging Strategy for Sustainable Practice.

Extracting the experience from the project implementation

The sub-regional Alternative Development Cooperation Project was not implemented in isolation but intended to provide direct support to the alternative development projects at the country level. The project therefore considered the policy makers, managers and practitioners who were involved in planning and implementing the country projects as direct beneficiaries. The "collaborative approach" intended to provide a closer link between the sub-regional alternative development project and the country alternative development projects.

The project established a unique Project Coordination Committee (PCC) comprising of the Representative of the UNODC Regional Centre, a representative of AusAID (donor agency) and senior representatives from the participating countries. The Committee met annually to review the progress and the future plans of the project. The Project Coordinator served as the secretary of the PCC. The member of the PCC in each participating country was also actively involved in project coordination and implementation at the country level. The PCC mechanism provided good opportunities for UNODC, the donor agency and the participating countries to work together to review the progress of the project and discuss issues related to project management and coordination, action plan, alternative development directions and strategies as well as future collaboration and cooperation. Apart from the PCC meetings, representatives of the funding agency were also invited to participate in major project activities. The joint participation provided opportunities for the funding agency and the beneficiaries to meet and share common knowledge, information and understanding on alternative development and opium reduction efforts.

It is important to integrate advocacy and publicity as part of the project strategy through publications and advocacy

materials. In all project activities and publications, names and/or logos of UNODC, the Australian Government, and national counterparts were included, enhancing the visibility of key players in the project.

There should be different activities for capacity building to ensure effective learning for knowledge and skills



UNODC Photo

improvement. It would be desirable to begin with awareness raising, sharing new information and knowledge, and then following on with technical training to complete the effective learning approach.

Appropriate strategies and approaches for capacity building and training for policy makers, senior planners and experienced managers were designed. Project experience showed that "mutual learning" in seminars and study visits have proved effective since various key players can learn and contribute new knowledge and information.

With limited resources to expand alternative development for all opium poppy growing areas, efforts should be made to integrate alternative development activities into the overall development assistance of other international development agencies and financial institutions. More bilateral cross border cooperation on alternative development among the Greater Mekong Subregion countries should be encouraged.

The identification of needs and priorities should involve both central policy makers and field practitioners who are directly working with community-based alternative development projects.

A future alternative development project also need to place importance on development of national alternative development policy and strategies for integration of alternative development and opium elimination into the national development and economy to provide sustainable investments of resources. ■

Sustainable Alternative Development Beyond Reforestation



resulting in severe environmental degradation over vast areas of Doi Tung.

To address rural poverty and alleviate some of the hardship experienced by the inhabitants of the harsh mountainous terrain of the north, Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagrindara, the Princess Mother, inaugurated the Doi Tung Development Project under Royal Initiative in 1988.

Since its inauguration, the project has played a vital role in the positive transformation of the cultural and social fabric of Chiang Rai Province. Hence to the local population, the Princess Mother is also affectionately known as Mae Fah Luang - the "Royal Mother from the sky".

Through the years, the name has come to symbolize the Royal Mother's kind benevolence and tireless efforts to improve lives and well-being.

Under the Doi Tung Development Project implemented through the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, several models of sustainable alternative development have been implemented.

The Doi Tung Reforestation Project has enabled the inhabitants of Doi Tung to acquire new vocational skills. This in turn has created employment opportunities and brought prosperity. Hence, the quality of life for the local population has improved significantly.

As agriculture alone could not provide sustainable income to support the economic needs of the farming families and rural community of Doi Tung, an effective reforestation and development programme was needed to solve both the social and environmental problems of Doi Tung.

Through the Doi Tung Development Project, alternative income generating opportunities were promoted to create jobs and provide employment as well as vocational training courses to facilitate the transfer of technical know-how and other essential skills in a wide range of areas, including handicraft-training courses.

This project in Northern Thailand has generated important experiences especially on environmental protection, reforestation and non-agricultural income generating activities. Though operating only in Thailand, the experiences and knowledge generated, especially regarding income generating activities, could, if shared through training or other forms of cooperation with other agencies, projects and countries, be of great benefit to regional alternative development efforts. The project is under the supervision of M.R. Disnadda Diskul, Secretary General, Mae Fah Luang Foundation.

The Doi Tung Development Project under Royal Initiative works to eradicate opium supply, drug use, rural poverty through sustainable alternative development, education, training, humanitarian activities, environment conservation, agriculture, handicrafts, culture preservation and tourism in Thailand.

Since 1988, the Doi Tung Development Project has focused on reforestation efforts. What makes the project remarkable is the fact that while restoring the environment and improving the social and economic well-being of the residents of the Doi Tung area, the reliance on opium poppy production has been ended. The strategy employed combined the needs of the local people who earlier employed slash and burn agriculture to grow opium poppy, with the needs to change practices to allow the much needed reforestation. This has been done successfully through changing "agriculturalists" into "agricultural laborers", as well as the creation of alternative income possibilities both in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors including tourism. Doi Tung's philosophy is:

1. Solving the problem of health by providing health care.
2. Solving the problem of poverty by providing food security and long-term livelihood.
3. Solving the problem of not knowing by way of education.

Co-existence of man and nature

Guided by her keen interest in nature and her concern for the environment, HRH the Princess Mother embarked on a mission to personally champion reforestation efforts to restore the lush watershed forests and to revive the depleted natural environment. The Doi Tung range is part of the Nang Non mountain range that runs along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Prior to 1988, the prevalent use of destructive farming methods by hill-tribes such as the clearance of land for subsistence farming, shifting cultivation, particularly the "slash-and-burn" agricultural technique, the rampant cutting of trees and the depletion of other natural resources at an alarming and unsustainable rate contributed to the widespread destruction of forestlands. Hillslopes were stripped bare

The Hall of Opium Golden Triangle Park Officially Opens

Photo by Mae Fah Luang Foundation



The Hall of Opium Golden Triangle Park has been officially opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn on 6 July 2005. The Hall of Opium is located in Chiang Saen District of Chiang Rai Province in the most northern border of Thailand where opium poppy was widely cultivated. Established by the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, the Hall of Opium aims to provide drug education and information on the history of opium and other illicit drugs in the Golden Triangle that pose serious threats to Thailand and the world. Nestled on a beautiful landscape near the Mekong River, the Hall accommodates a large number of exhibits, displays and audio visual presentations on the history of opium and heroin, the opium wars, effects and impacts of opium and other drugs, measures to curb illicit drugs, victims of drugs as well as various case studies and other information on illicit drugs. The Hall of Opium also serves as a drug research and information centre. For further information, please contact:

Hall of Opium
Tel: (+66-53) 784-444/6,
Fax: (+66-53) 652-133
E-mail: hallofopium@doitung.org
Website: www.goldentrianglerpark.org

Since its implementation, the Doi Tung Developmental Project has visibly raised the standards of living among the hilltribes. It has also raised the level of social and environmental awareness within the local community. The residents of Doi Tung now have a better understanding of the interdependent relationships they share with nature, the surrounding forestlands supporting their livelihood, and the need for them to protect and conserve the natural environment upon which they depend for a sustainable future.

With the surrounding forestlands of Doi Tung as the source of the raw materials used in the home and cottage industries that now form the backbone of the Doi Tung economy, the nature and environmental conservation approach fostered by the Doi Tung Development Project has helped to facilitate the co-existence of people and nature and has provided a powerful incentive for the local community to conserve the natural environment.

Beyond reforestation

The Doi Tung Development Project fostered new values and promoted increased awareness of the need to preserve nature and the environment. With the ever-increasing interest in eco-tourism worldwide, culture has become a vital asset for the communities in Doi Tung. Cultural preservation is particularly the conservation of an-

cient Lanna traditions and heritage, and its distinctive cultural identity were achieved through the promotion of the diverse natural and cultural attractions of Doi Tung. These include The Royal Villa on Doi Tung, Mae Fah Luang Garden, the Princess Mother Commemorative Hall, Mae Fah Luang Arboretum at Doi Chang Mub, The Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park at Rai Mae Fah Luang - a repository of priceless Lanna art and culture, and an extensive range of Doi Tung products of finest quality such as coffee, macadamia, hand-woven fabrics, saa or mulberry paper, ceramics and pottery.

Best practices

Thailand has a high success rate in alternative development. It is one of the first countries in the world to succeed in the sustainable elimination of opium poppy cultivation. Thailand's victory over illicit opium production was the result of 40 years of development projects in the nation's highlands, where the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the international community worked hand-in-hand with the Thai Government to offer the ethnic minority, villagers and farmers economic alternatives to drug crops. For nearly two decades, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation effectively replaced opium poppy cultivation with other means of alternative income. Doi Tung offers an

opportunity to examine best practices and explore how the legal economy can successfully challenge, and replace, unlawful incomes.

"Alternative development is the only way forward to replace drug crops, working on farmers' well-being rather than on their fears in a sustainable manner," Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific said.

He added that sustainable alternative development experiences showed cases of success and failures. He explained that experiences in one country as such could not be immediately transferred to another. And yet, there are common linkages applicable. History has demonstrated that, given alternative income options, farmers and their families quickly abandon drug cultivation and embrace legitimate opportunities to make a living.

As a result of its outstanding achievements in the alleviation of rural poverty and the eradication of the cultivation, production, trafficking and consumption of opium and opiates, the Doi Tung Development Project under Royal Initiative has become an internationally-recognized model for sustainable alternative development.

For further information, please visit www.maefahluang.org or www.doitung.org

The History, Operations and Achievements of the Royal Project

By Marcus Williamson
Consultant, Bureau of Highland Agriculture Development
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand

Photo by The Royal Project Foundation



In 1969, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand visited the Hmong village of Doi Pui, near Chiang Mai. There, he learned that the income local farmers earned from poppy cultivation was less than that earned from selling a local variety of peach. His Majesty immediately realized that the cultivation of fruit trees could help farmers give up opium poppy cultivation and start restoring the vanishing forests of northern Thailand.

The same year, His Majesty established the Royal Project to develop agricultural alternatives to opium poppy growing. Scientists from Bangkok's Kasetsart University, with the help of Taiwan and the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, were able to identify species of temperate-zone fruit trees that would thrive in the Thai highlands. As time passed, other crops including vegetables and field crops were added, and these were introduced into highland communities as and when possible. Volunteers from Chiang Mai University and other Thai institutions started to provide additional health and community services, and soon government agencies joined in, building irrigation, roads and soil conservation structures. The Royal Project had become an integrated community development project.

By 1977, the Royal Project had enough expertise to start introducing new crops more widely, and more systematically. Between 1977 and 1985, the Royal Project established 31 Development Centres throughout the Thai highlands, adding another six in the subsequent years. Each Development Centre comprised a centre for planning, transferring technology, collecting and distributing farmers' produce and demonstration farms for training farmers in new cultivation techniques. They also served as a focal points for providing health, education and social services to the nearby hilltribe villages.

The Royal Project has helped farmers to sell their produce since 1981, but in 1985 it started to develop a new and more sophisticated approach to marketing. It has set up a marketing department to sell farmers' produce through both wholesale and retail channels. In 1988 and 1989, the Royal Project added cold storage and transportation so that all farmers' produce sold to the Royal Project could be brought to market quickly and efficiently.

In 1992, a central organizing agency for the Royal Project, called the Royal Project Foundation, was created. With long-term leader Prince Bhisatej Rajani as its chairman, the Foundation conducts research, development, and marketing activities. It receives permanent funding from the Thai government, and works with a specially formed section of the Government to ensure that the activities of all the other government agencies working in the Royal Project's development areas are properly coordinated.

The Royal Project has received many awards and honours for its 36 years of work. In 2003, the Royal Project was awarded the Colombo Plan prize for opium eradication. The governing body of the Colombo Plan considered 300 organizations in 24 countries, and identified the Royal Project as the world's outstanding opium-replacement project. In awarding the prize, it noted "The Royal Project is the only project in the world that has got rid of opium by positive means".

Operations of the Royal Project

The Royal Project now supports a population of over 100,000 people living in its 37 development areas. In order to carry out its mission of developing the Thai highlands according to His Majesty the King's vision, the Royal Project carries out the following activities:

Research. The Royal Project has carried out more than 500 research projects with its partners, into all aspects of highland development, including crop development, forestry, soil and water conservation, pest and disease control and marketing.

Promotion and extension. Through its 37 Development Centres and the many training programs offered by Royal Project Foundation staff and volunteers, the Royal Project has so far been able to extend 151 different crops to the hilltribe farmers.

Soil and water conservation. The Royal Project helps farmers to deal with the twin curses of highland farming - aridity and erosion. While the Royal Project Foundation is coordinating government efforts to install terraces and to develop local water resources, its own staff are developing and promoting farmer-led conservation methods like conservation tillage and Vetiver grass planting.

Forestry. The Royal Project's Forestry Project adapted fast-growing varieties of trees from Taiwan that would thrive in the Thai highlands and allow farmers to replace the trees lost to destructive 'slash-and-burn' cultivation. These forests are managed by farmers themselves, who, with Royal Project support, conserve the watershed forest and allow selective use and replanting of non-watershed forest.

Education. Government-operated schools in development centres provide free primary schooling for all local children, while the Royal Project Foundation offers a scholarship scheme to place students in secondary, and higher education.

Community and social development. One of the Royal Project's fundamental principles is to help the hilltribes to help themselves. To do this, the Royal Project Foundation helps hilltribes to form groups such as Agricultural Cooperatives, Forest Management Groups, Youth Groups, Women's Groups and Young Mothers Groups.

Health. Families living in development areas have access to free government clinics for their health care, and these are supported by regular visits from additional health volunteers from the Royal Project Foundation. Aside from providing treatment of acute and chronic illness, the volunteers provide education in primary health care, awareness of HIV/AIDS and motherhood skills.

Provision of micro-credit. The Royal Project Foundation works with the Bank of Agriculture and Cooperatives to provide small loans to families. The Bank provides capital and professionalism in lending, while the Royal Project provides the local knowledge, and support to borrowing farmers to ensure a very high repayment rate.

Alternative incomes. The Royal Project Foundation helps farming families, especially women, to increase household incomes from non-agricultural sources through tourism and handicrafts.

Post-harvest process. High-value temperate-zone crops require careful packing and handling. The Royal Project Foundation has a continuous 'cold chain' running from 7 Development Centres to distribution points in Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

Food processing. The Royal Project Foundation supports the research and development of processed food like drinks and snacks to increase both the value and shelf-life of produce it purchases from its farmers.

Marketing. Royal Project farmers either sell their produce to local businesses and markets, or to the Royal Project Foundation. The Foundation sells more than \$US8.5 million of farmers' produce every year through direct sales to wholesale customers, through third-party retailers and its own 'Doi Kham' brand stores.

Achievements of The Royal Project

The Royal Project's main achievements are in eliminating opium poppy cultivation, improving farmers' living conditions, and protecting the environment.

Eliminating opium cultivation. At its peak in 1970, Thailand produced about 200 tonnes of opium every year, or 8 per cent of the world's opium supply. Thailand's annual opium production is now below 2 tonnes per year. The Royal Project is the largest development project involved in this reduction campaign, and also contributed major replacement crops such as the red kidney bean and Arabica coffee to Thai highland communities outside the Royal Project areas. Perhaps most importantly, as the first of the highland development projects in Thailand, and being the project of His Majesty the King, it legitimized the concept of development-led opium reduction, and provided an example for both national and international agencies to follow.

Opium poppy cultivation can be prevented by draconian methods, such as immediate destruction of poppy fields, at the cost of terrible damage to the livelihood of farmers who rely on drug crops for their income. The Royal Project's achievement is not only in eliminating cultivation, but the manner in which it has done so: the poppy has been replaced by the introduction of 151 alternative crops, generally yielding superior incomes over opium poppy. These new crops have driven dramatic improvements in farmer incomes and living conditions.

Improving farmers' living conditions. Alternative crops introduced in the Royal Project development areas have shattered the myth that drug-crops yield high incomes: for example, one kind of cutflower produced in the Royal Project can yield an income 50 times greater than opium poppy under the right conditions.

Mainly as a result of the introduction of replacement crops, families in the Royal Project enjoy an annual average income of 59,000 Thai Baht (THB) per year (US\$1,500), and the top quartile earn THB110,000 per year (US\$2,690). This compares well with the regional, mainly urban, average of THB103,000 per year (US\$2,450). Before the Royal Project, hilltribe farmers earned as little as 4,000 baht per year (US\$95) as opium poppy farmers.

The many educational and social activities of the Royal Project have also helped villagers to improve their quality of life almost immeasurably.

Protecting the environment. The Royal Project has preserved the highland environment by eliminating 'slash-and-burn' cultivation, saving tens of thousands of hectares of tree cover in Thailand's northern watershed areas, and prevented hundreds of thousands of tonnes of soil erosion. There has also been extensive reforestation: about 3,000 hectares of fruit orchards have been planted, and over 1,000 hectares of non-fruit trees planted as part of the Royal Project's Villager Forest project.

In addition to this work on conserving and restoring forestry, the Royal Project has developed and extended agricultural technology for minimizing the adverse environmental impacts of highland agricultural development, including terracing, use of Vetiver grass, integrated farming systems, Integrated Pest Management and organic cultivation.

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Eliminating Illicit Opium Poppy Cultivation in Lao PDR: The Role of Alternative Development Projects

By Patrick Ackermann and Leik Boonwaat
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In the past seven years, Lao PDR has seen a reduction of more than 90% in illicit opium poppy cultivation throughout 10 provinces. In 1998, a total of 26,800 hectares were under opium poppy cultivation. By early 2005, poppy cultivation in Lao PDR stood at 1,800 hectares, down from 6,600 hectares a year earlier. What little is still produced is consumed by the country's approximately 20,000 opium addicts, many of whom are now undergoing treatment or rehabilitation. As a result, Lao PDR can no longer be seen as an exporter of opiates.

What has led to the country's dramatic decrease in opium poppy cultivation?

Initial actions and successes

A milestone in the history of sustainable alternative development in Lao PDR was the Palaveck Alternative Development Project set up by the Government with technical assistance from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (now the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). The project provided farmers and their communities with viable economic, social, and ecological alternatives to

opium poppy cultivation. It also demonstrated that strong clan leadership and community alternative development interventions can reduce opium poppy cultivation without the need for punitive measures or forced eradication. Through the project, the first village-based treatment programme for opium addicts in Lao PDR was established. The success of the Palaveck Alternative Development Project led to further assistance.

Eliminating the causes of illicit opium production

Alternative development interventions need to be combined with a national opium elimination strategy. To this end, "The Balanced Approach to Opium Elimination in the Lao PDR" was developed in 1999 by the Government of Lao PDR and UNODC through an accelerated rural development programme. The strategy consists of three components:

1. Alternative development to replace the economic incentive to produce opium;
2. Demand reduction to eliminate the need of addicts for opium; and



With Lao PDR closer to reaching its goal of eliminating opium poppy cultivation in the country by the end of 2005, it is important to reflect on how alternative development measures contributed to this success. More importantly, there is a need for devising and implementing a strategy that aims at sustaining opium elimination while continuing to provide alternative livelihoods for former opium poppy farmers.

3. Law enforcement to stop trafficking for internal and external markets.

The strategy takes into account the fact that most of the opium is consumed in the poppy-growing regions stricken with poverty. The causes of opium production are usually linked to the use of opium for medicinal purposes, the needs of the addicts, and the need for cash to purchase rice.

Brighter future for women and girls

Women are the biggest winners with opium elimination. While only a small percentage of women are opium addicts, they do most of the work in the labour-intensive opium poppy production. With opium elimination, they reported having more time for family, livestock, and other productive activities. They are also able to work closer to home. School enrolment for girls has increased significantly. When husbands stop or reduce opium usage, there is less domestic abuse. Moreover, there is increased labour availability, resulting in higher family income.

Promoting an equal role for women has been an important part of the village participatory approach in alternative development projects. Experience has shown that setting up and working with women's groups, such as in home gardening programmes, is more effective than working with individual households.

The challenges ahead

Successful alternative development projects are built on a combination of approaches involving an integrated mix of interventions based on a holistic vision of development including people empowerment, use of appropriate technology, income generation, financial services, socio-economic and physical infrastructures, natural resource management, and good governance.

Over the last ten years, conditions for economic growth have improved. Alternative development projects have contributed to establishing a certain level of socio-economic and physical infrastructure, as well as market access. However, there is still a long way to go in Northern Lao PDR – the area having the highest rates of poverty and low human development indicators in a country still classified as least developed.

Cognizant of the situation, the Government of Lao PDR and UNODC have formulated a national strategy for the post-opium eradication phase which aims at complementing the national poverty programme and covering these areas. However, illicit drugs is an international problem that cannot be solved by the producing countries alone. Donor countries and development agencies need to take the lead in helping farmers to ensure sustainable livelihoods, as well as an enabling environment for sustained illicit opium elimination in Lao PDR. ■

Causes of Opium Production

Used for medicinal purposes

Needs of the addicts

Need for cash income to purchase rice

Interventions by the Palaveck Alternative Development Project

Improving access to health and education services/facilities, prevention measures, including clean water and rural energy

Establishing community-based treatment and rehabilitation programmes linked with health programmes and prevention campaigns

Employing the use of participatory approaches to strengthen and enable communities and local institutions to provide infrastructure improvements (roads, irrigation, rural energy, market access, credit), knowledge of non-opium based livelihoods, food security, improved cropping and livestock production practices, and awareness relating to other income opportunities such as production of non-timber forest products and handicrafts, and eco-tourism.

Reality vs Myth

Many believe that farmers in opium poppy growing areas solely rely on opium poppy cultivation to generate income. Reality tells a different story. The 2005 Opium Survey shows that opium production contributes a mere 10% to the annual cash income of an average opium poppy growing household. The survey estimated the average annual cash income of an opium poppy producing household at US\$139, against an annual income of non-opium producing households of US\$231.



UNODC Laos Country Office Photo/Leik Boonwaat

From Opium Poppy to Textiles

Private money lenders often charge villagers exorbitant interest rates on loans from 5 per cent a month to 60 per cent per year. UNODC provided villagers with loans at reasonable interest rates. In 2003, Ms. Chanthone of Nasala village, Houaphanh Province, borrowed US\$100 from a UNODC-sponsored village savings and credit scheme. She now earns over US\$300 a month producing traditional textiles, some of which are exported. In the past, the family income from opium poppy cultivation rarely exceeded US\$100 per year. ■

Ky Son: A Decade of Sustainable Alternative Development

by Narumi Yamada and Nguyen Tuong Dung
UNODC Country Office, Viet Nam

The Ky Son District in Nghe An province, situated 460 km south west of Ha Noi, is one of the nine poorest districts in Viet Nam, covering 186,000 ha of mountainous, steep sloping land. It straddles National Highway 7A and is bordered on three sides by Lao PDR. There are over 57,000 people living in Ky Son, of which 38 per cent are Hmong, 32 per cent Khomu, 28 per cent Thai ethnic minority groups, and 2 per cent Kinh (the main ethnic group in Viet Nam), living in 184 hamlets belonging to 21 commune administrative units.

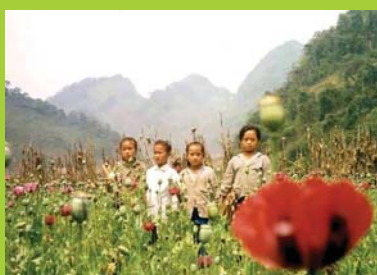
Opium used to be the main source of income for many of the Hmong people in Ky Son. In 1994, Ky Son district produced the most opium poppy in the whole country cultivating 2,800 ha to produce over 6 tonnes of opium. Highway 7A has become a major transit route for drugs coming into the country. The growing number of new heroin addicts and the risk of HIV infection has become a grave concern.



UNODC Viet Nam Country Office Photos / Kham Noan Sam

Since 1996, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has provided assistance to the Government of Viet Nam in the implementation of an alternative development

Spring 1996



Spring 1999



UNODC Viet Nam Country Office Photos / Kham Noan Sam

Muong Long commune was a major producer of opium in the district. The left photo was taken during a primary field visit to the project area. The right photo was taken in the same field with the dramatic changes after the project successfully introduced potatoes.

project to replace opium poppy cultivation in Ky Son. The US\$ 5 million project was implemented in two phases for eight years.

The project aimed to bring about socio-economic changes enabling farmers to eliminate illicit drug-cultivation and abuse through strengthening the capacity of national institutions responsible for providing basic services.

The project also aimed to develop and demonstrate workable techniques in Ky Son for replication in other areas.

A significant reduction in opium poppy cultivation was achieved in the first phase of the project through active government enforcement of a ban on opium poppy cultivation. This reduction has been maintained with reports that the area under cultivation in the district is negligible.

The project has established a sound institutional base for alternative development approach. The

Government has agreed to support the participation and evaluation of the district and commune levels in the national development plan.

The project has also provided training and built local capacity for participatory problem identification and solving, planning of integrated workplans, implementation of village development programmes, and monitoring and evaluation.

The Commune Development Boards played a key role in the quarterly participatory planning workshops. The project has focused on women empowerment in income generation, marketing, and public awareness about HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention.

The capacity of the district officials and local people has been significantly strengthened in construction, upgrading and maintenance of rural access roads, water supply, irrigation systems, schools, health stations, latrines and mini hydropower stations.

Agriculture and livestock was promoted and developed with improved production methods. Farmers are now actively engaged in farm-based research models on maize, rice, root crops, legumes, potatoes, fruit trees, and industrial crops; grazing programme for improved fodder, black chicken, goat and pig raising programmes.

A livestock revolving fund has helped people achieve stable incomes. Local farmers were provided with training on rattan processing, and plum, mushroom, water melon, and Shan tea growing.

A total of 84 families of recovering drug users were provided with cattle through the health practice revolving fund under the management of the local Women's Union.

Veterinary medicines and equipment for the cold chain such as fridge, generator, and cold box were provided. Farmers used to lose up to 80 per cent of poultry and pigs as well as up to 30 per cent of cattle from livestock diseases. The introduction of proper vaccines and vaccination practices have significantly reduced these losses in key communes and helped to increase village family income and nutrition.

A strategy for agriculture, economic and marketing development combined with production and marketing considerations to increasing agricultural productivity and livestock was also developed. The strategy was implemented through modern technology trials in farming with the participation of the local people in needs assessment, problems identification and planning exercises. A marketing network has been established at the district and commune levels for information exchange between the market and the farmers.

A demand reduction network was established through campaigns, cultural performances and support to drug treatment centre and youth clubs.



UNODC Viet Nam Country Office Photo

Opium poppy cultivation and illicit opium production in Viet Nam have been drastically decreased to a negligible level. Viet Nam has become the second country in the East Asian region, after Thailand, to rid itself of

opium poppy cultivation. UNODC will work in close partnership with concerned agencies to ensure the sustainability of livelihood and well being of the people living in the mountainous areas. ■

Lessons

The Ky Son Project has been synonymous with sustainable alternative development in Viet Nam and in the region since 1996. The project has provided insights into the interactive processes of alternative development resulting in a considerable wealth of lessons. It has become a significant model in drawing up good practices and experiences on policy making and implementation of alternative development projects in the region.

- In general, the alternative development strategy has proven to be a valid and useful approach in addressing drug-related problems in a holistic, long-term and sustainable way. The project has contributed to opening up Ky Son for other development actors and provided an impetus for social economic development in the district. The project has cooperated with over 25 national research institutes in implementation of the demonstration and expansion of the successful models in Ky Son.
- The project has improved the social infrastructure in the district to alleviate the hardship of those communities in transitioning from a drug-based economy to the mainstream economy through its various agriculture activities.
- The project has produced a broad range of promising technologies, of which some have been already been picked up and have found dissemination beyond the border of the project's target villages.
- The project has introduced new crops and technologies to the areas which can be taken up by the communities once transport and marketing infrastructure is improved.
- The project has highlighted the need for continuing attention to demand reduction/ drug abuse intervention, and environment protection in the context of an alternative development project. ■

Source: Project Performance Evaluation Report
"Capacity Building for Alternative Development to Replace
Poppy Cultivation, Ky Son Phase 2 - AD/VIE/01/F21 and AD/VIE/03/G21"
By Dr. Hans Dieter Bechstedt, Terminal Evaluation Consultant
Viet Nam, December 2004

Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation

In March 2002, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) issued resolution 45/14 urging member states, in league with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to prepare a comprehensive thematic evaluation of alternative development. A final synthesis report was prepared based on the evaluation's findings, which rest on recent studies of alternative development in Southeast Asia and the South American Andes. Those studies drew on data from evaluation and other reports, seminars, workshops, and interviews of key alternative development actors over more than a decade; and on a recent in-depth field assessment of alternative development in each region — in the Aguaytia-Neshuya area of Peru's Huallaga Valley, and in a multiethnic highland area of northern Thailand.

A quarter-century on, alternative development donors and practitioners still underestimate the sociocultural, economic, political, and environmental milieu in which alternative development operates. This underestimation invites unrealistic expectations and projects set to fail.

In Latin America, class and ethnicity order society. The richest one-tenth earn 50 per cent of income, the poorest tenth 1.6 per cent. Alternative development Andean clients are among the poor. Theirs is a peasant world: relations are face to face, outlook is local. Illiteracy feeds an oral tradition: a spoken promise equates to a written contract. Their social bonds are tenuous, their social texture disturbance-prone and vulnerable to violence. Past history and milieu breed mistrust: things are thought other than what they seem. In Southeast Asia, the clients are ethnic peasants who migrated from China into the highlands of Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam in the 1800s. They only recently began to link to dominant lowland society. The task is first to bring them "in" rather than move them "up," as in the Andes.

In both the Andes and Southeast Asia, poverty and illicit crops overlap. In Bolivia's Chapare, 85 per cent of a migrant population endures poverty, 30 per cent extreme poverty. In Peru, 70 per cent of farmers in coca-growing zones endure poverty, 42 per cent extreme poverty. In Myanmar, poppy-growing families, among the poorest, earn US\$214 per year. In Thailand's Nam Lang Area, annual household income was US\$236, with 42 per cent of households in debt, when alternative development began. In Viet Nam, 50 to 78 per cent of hilltribe families are poor. And in Lao PDR, two-thirds of the 47 poorest districts grow poppy to augment family income.

Alternative development varies by milieu. Andean peasants cite a lack of markets for alternatives; Asian peasants a lack

of access to state services — in Thailand, to land and citizenship. Donor and national-government policies often condition aid and form part of alternative development variation. Policies can range from an emphasis on security, with law enforcement and prompt eradication, to an emphasis on poverty alleviation and development. Alternative development has clearly helped much to reduce and contain the spread of drug-crops, but, as one of several forces at play, its precise contribution is rarely known. It is known that illicit-crop farmers receiving alternative development have been few: 23 per cent in the Andes, five per cent in Asia. But these few represent numerous successes. This suggests an unrealized potential.

In Peru, alternative development coffee supports 5,000 families, and oil palm 1,815 Huallaga families. In Colombia, 1,500 Cauca families sell organic coffee to Europe, and coffee and palm cabbage to Carrefour. In Thailand, household income in the Doi Tung Project rose sevenfold, the per cent of those lacking citizenship fell by half. The Thai-German Highland Development Program brought schooling, health services, and clean water, with fewer waterborne infections. In Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, a plethora of languages, structures disallowing local participation, armed conflict, forced eradication, and mistrust have slowed alternative development. Nonetheless, alternative development among Myanmar's Wa reduced infant mortality with vaccination and also eliminated leprosy. The Lao PDR Palavek Project was key in eliminating opium through introducing village-level treatment of addicts.

Alternative development has stabilized shifting agriculture, checking erosion and enabling sustainable farming. It has promoted forestry and agro-forestry, with marketable tree crops. Still, commercial farming is a threat. Alternative development has addressed gender with mixed

results, dealing poorly with household gender roles and how they react to external pressure. Alternative development relation to conflict resolution is little studied. Conflict occurs all along a chain from drug-crop farmer upward. Alternative development work at the base — offering alternatives, fortifying civil society — shifts upward. Peru study households cite better security as alternative development's main and most sustainable impact. Impacts can also be negative: forcing hill farmers unprepared into mainstream society, or promoting technology that causes land and water squabbles.

Alternative development supports the sustainable reduction of drug crops by improving livelihoods. Thus policy must treat drug control as a development issue. Among other major conclusions:

- Alternative development policy formulation is at its best when all stakeholders — donors, governments, NGOs, and beneficiaries participate and share a consensus.
- Policy formulation requires flexibility to adapt to particular regions and situations. It must accommodate local knowledge, skills, and culture.
- Community participation throughout the project cycle — feasibility assessment, planning, project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation — is vital.
- Decentralized, participatory decision-making and the empowerment of local communities, which in turn contributes to creating a sense of ownership of alternative development activities among alternative development clients, increases the quality of development assistance as well as the chances of sustainability.
- Impact must be monitored at the household level. This requires use of quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure human development as well as drug control. Baseline surveys are mandatory requirements without which alternative development activities cannot be properly monitored nor evaluated. Only by understanding the processes by which households move from illicit to licit livelihoods can policy development become evidence-based and accountable.
- Political commitment cannot be ad hoc. It implies long-term commitment of financial resources to human development, reasonable drug-control laws, respect for human rights, and a coordinated inclusion of illicit crop reduction (law enforcement

and alternative development) in national and regional planning.

- Alternative development projects led by security and other non-development concerns are typically not sustainable — and may result in the spread or return of illicit crops, or in the materialization of other adverse conditions, including less security.

- As growers of illicit crops accept participating in alternative development projects, they need to be allowed a transition period until alternative development activities (on- or off-farm) will prove to be suitable to their agro-ecological environment, local knowledge, and start generating income that will contribute to improve the quality of their lives.

- Alternative development requires an appropriate policy-legal framework, one that allows illicit-crop growers to be treated first as candidates for development rather than as criminals.

- Alternative development is more effective, more sustainable, as part of a wider development scheme whose goal is to improve the livelihoods of marginal rural populations.

- Drug-crop eradication on farms lacking viable alternatives undermines development.

- Law enforcement is vital to successful alternative development. But to be effective, it must use strategies to reduce demand at the farm gate rather than directly target peasant farmers. These strategies include strengthened capacities of law enforcement to interdict illicit drugs and chemical precursors used for the illicit manufacture of drugs. Such strategies diminish traffickers' ability to operate thus reducing the demand for illicit crop and lowering farm gate prices.

Some basic recommendations

- Make a firm political commitment to conduct alternative development in coordination with all stakeholders so that it is sustainable and has human development as the ultimate aim.

- Establish a global partnership with development entities and national groups to make illicit-crop reduction a crosscutting issue, thus maximizing the impact of efforts.

- Make elimination of illicit crops conditional on improvements in the lives and livelihoods of households. Do not make it a prerequisite for development assistance. ■

* Excerpts of the final synthesis report on "Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation" which was circulated at the 48th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 7-14 March 2005, Vienna, Austria.

UNODC Continues to Assist Alternative Development Projects

By Tom Hopkins
UNODC Regional Centre

UNODC Photo/Victoria Chia



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific is commencing a regional collaborative project on sustainable alternative development which aims at expanding efforts to eradicate illicit crop production in Southeast Asia. The Regional Centre will work with national drug control agencies in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam towards improved institutional and human resource capacities to plan and manage sustainable community-based alternative development initiatives.

As part of national efforts to eliminate illicit opium poppy cultivation, alternative development projects have been implemented in various opium poppy producing communities in Southeast Asia employing innovative approaches

to maximize impact. China promotes private sector participation in alternative development projects in border regions and in neighbouring countries such as Myanmar and Lao PDR. Thailand has successfully reduced opium poppy cultivation through sustainable alternative development over the past 30 years integrating efforts into mainstream social and economic development. Lao PDR, in cooperation with UNODC continue to implement alternative development efforts in several provinces. Myanmar has launched collaborative alternative development projects in border regions. Viet Nam has recently completed the Ky Son Alternative Development Project with the support of UNODC.

The commitment of countries to regional efforts has played an important role in the overall reduction of opium poppy production in the region which has declined by more than 50 per cent from 158,295 in 1998 to 74,275 hectares in 2003.

The regional project follows on from a sub-regional project, "Alternative Development Cooperation in East Asia", which promoted collaboration among national drug control agencies and alternative development projects in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

The project will contribute to advocating against the threat of illicit crop production and prepare relevant information briefs. The information and experience resulting from the project is expected to result in more concerted and regionwide efforts in eliminating illicit crop production.

For further information, contact
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Greater Mekong Subregion Agrees to Implement Expanded Areas of Mutual Cooperation

By Olivia Sylvia Inciong
UNODC Regional Centre

On their second year of a second decade of regional cooperation, the six signatory countries to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control reaffirmed their commitment towards a drug-free region during the Senior Officials Committee Meeting and Ministerial Meeting held 17-19 May 2005 in Siemreap, Cambodia. The signatories to the MOU include the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Union of Myanmar, Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Heads of the country delegations expressed their renewed commitment for concerted efforts to address

the worsening problems of illicit drug production, trafficking, and abuse in the region. The six Governments also pledged their support for projects agreed upon in the meetings and reflected in the Subregional Action Plan in the areas of drug demand reduction, sustainable alternative development, and law enforcement.

In ushering the second year of the second decade of regional cooperation and partnership on drug control in the Greater Mekong Subregion, the MOU represents a successful model which other regions can replicate.

For three days, senior officials, Ministers, and UNODC held rounds of bilateral and multilateral meetings on drug control. The Senior Officials Committee Meeting was held 17-18 May; the Ministerial Meeting was held 19 May.

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, through the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) hosted the meetings.

H.E. Loy Sopthath, Permanent Vice-Chairman of NACD delivered the opening address at the Senior Officials Committee meeting that reviewed the revised Subregional Action Plan and the status of the implementation of the projects included in the Plan. The meeting also discussed mechanisms to further enhance technical cooperation and interagency collaboration in the region to effectively face future challenges, building on the accomplishments of the past programmes.

The Subregional Action Plan provides a strategic outline for the collaborative efforts of the MOU Governments and UNODC in addressing the problems of illicit drugs.



UNODC Photo/Olivia Sylvia Inciong

The Heads of Delegations

The current fifth Subregional Action Plan comprises ten projects estimated at US\$10,575,500. Funding has been provided by the Governments of Australia, Cambodia, China, Germany, Japan, Lao PDR, Luxemburg, Myanmar, Netherlands, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, and Viet Nam.

Since the signing of the MOU, sub-regional objectives and the needs of the individual signatory parties have been identified and included in the Subregional Action Plan, within the framework of a balanced approach and with due consideration of funding support.

At the Senior Officials Committee Meeting, the country delegations and UNODC reported on the significant national and subregional developments in the field of drug control which have taken place since May 2004. Follow up actions made under the United Nations General Assembly Special Session were also reported. Other topics discussed included among others, data collection on amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), improving access for young people with problems on ATS use, drug treatment in the criminal justice system, HIV/AIDS and its link to drug abuse, crop monitoring in sustainable alternative development, enhancement of the border liaison office mechanism, enhancement of the judicial sector and law enforcement capacity, mutual legal assistance, precursor control, and subregional cooperation.

H.E. Samdach Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, presided over the opening ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting.

Highlighting the sixth Ministerial Meeting was the adoption of the Siemreap Declaration as a renewed commitment to take actions against illicit drugs. The declaration outlined the areas of collaboration which the six countries will focus on: information exchange network, precursor chemicals control, ATS control, drug treatment and prevention, HIV/AIDS, cross-border cooperation and training, mutual

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H.E. Soubanh Srithirath
Minister to the President's
Office and Chairman, Lao National
Commission for Drug Control and
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Lao PDR



H.E. Brig. Gen. Than Tun
Deputy Minister, Ministry for
Progress of Border Areas and
National Races and Development
Affairs
Myanmar



H.E. Pol. Sr. Gen.
Le Hong Anh
Minister of Public Security and Vice
Chairman of National Committee on
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Viet Nam



H.E. Mr. Suwat Liptapanlop
Minister, Ministry of Justice
Thailand



Mr. Akira Fujino
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legal assistance, sustainable alternative development, and technical and financial assistance.

A project document was signed on "Improving Access for Young People with ATS Abuse to Effective Treatment". Two new project ideas were also endorsed: Precursor Control in East Asia, and the Consolidation and Enhancement of the Border Liaison Office Mechanism in East Asia.

Five countries in the region have hosted ministerial meetings, which have been held every two years: China (1995); Thailand (1997); Lao PDR (1999); Myanmar (2001); and Viet Nam (2003). The next Senior Officials Committee Meeting will be held in Lao PDR in 2006.

Representatives of the Secretariat of the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Dangerous Drugs Board of the Philippines attended the meetings as observers. ■



UNODC Photo/Olivia Sylvia Inclong

"It is true that it is very difficult to put a complete end to the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. This organized crime has its own networks that can destroy the fundamental bases of our society. These networks are involved in human trafficking and other destruction through corruption that disrupts the work of the government and damages the legal standards and citizens' rights. The criminals also have to clean the money they earn, and thus making money laundering a huge concern for us as this money can be diverted to be used in various terrorist activities.

In order to eliminate transnational organized crime, or at least to weaken their capacity, we need to join hands in the task. To succeed, we need to have a clear direction and build up strategies according to the potential that each country already has, and encourage financial as well as human resource support from outside the region for this task."

Samdech Hun Sen
Prime Minister of the Royal Government of
the Kingdom of Cambodia at the Opening
of the Ministerial Meeting of the Signatory
Countries to the 1993 Memorandum of
Understanding on Drug Control, Siemreap,
Cambodia, 19 May 2005.



Siemreap Declaration

The Siemreap Declaration was adopted at the sixth Ministerial Meeting of the six signatory countries to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control, held 19 May 2005 in Siemreap, Cambodia. The Declaration indicates a renewed commitment by the six countries and UNODC to take actions against illicit drugs. The Declaration outlines the areas of collaboration which the six countries and parties to the MOU will focus on. It was signed by the Heads of Delegations to the Ministerial Meeting from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.

In the spirit of collaboration and of commitment to the fight against illicit drugs, the Delegations of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) jointly declare at the Ministerial Meeting of Signatory Countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control (MOU) in Siemreap on 19 May 2005 that we:

Recognize the continued need to work together in a spirit of mutual respect, cooperation and collaboration to combat the many social, economic and security threats caused by the abuse of, and trafficking in, drugs and seek to strengthen our respective partnerships in the development and implementation of existing and future drug control and related initiatives in the region, including through regular consultations and cooperation with UNODC;

Recognize the linkages between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime within the region and beyond;

Note the importance of data collection and analysis of ongoing and emerging new developments and trends in drug trafficking and abuse as the basis for effective policy development and law enforcement action;

Express our concern about the rapid increase of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) abuse among children, the youth, and persons in labour-intensive activities;

Note with appreciation the progress made by MOU member states in the control of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, particularly heroin and ATS, through the UNODC precursor control activities, resulting in effective prevention of diversion of such substances from licit channels into illicit traffick, in dismantling clandestine laboratories and in the interception and seizure of drug trafficking;

Are alarmed by the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases mostly through the sharing of contaminated injection equipment among injecting drug users and from injecting drug users to the general population;

Welcome the successful use of computer-based training carried out in MOU countries as an effective methodology to increase awareness and expertise on drug control measures and share best practices and experience among law enforcement and border control officials;

Acknowledge the results achieved in the use of border-liaison offices established by MOU countries in the context of the UNODC project, which led to an increase in the number of interceptions and seizures and the apprehension of drug traffickers;

Recognize the diversifying patterns and routes of drug trafficking which require further maritime drug law enforcement in the region, including intensified efforts to control drug trafficking on the Mekong river;

Support the formulation of a new sub-regional action plan project under preparation by UNODC to develop regional legislative capacity including mutual legal assistance, and recognize the importance of effective cooperation between law enforcement and judicial agencies within, and between, the members of the MOU;

Take note of the significant reduction of the illicit opium poppy cultivation in the Union of Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and express our appreciation of the achievements made by the two countries with the assistance of the international community;

Welcome the recent steps of the Kingdom of Cambodia towards accession to all three of the United Nations drug control Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988;

Commit ourselves to the development of national drug abuse information collection systems and networks within our respective countries and the sharing of such data and analysis between all member countries of the MOU and beyond with the objective to identify new or increasing trends in illicit drug manufacture, trafficking and abuse and to thereby inform policymakers, law enforcement services, as well as service providers of the changing dynamics of drug trafficking within the region and to provide related information to concerned countries and institutions;

Urge all MOU partners to make full use of existing and newly developed instruments such as the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific for the purpose of data collection, analysis and possible real-time information sharing;

Reaffirm our commitment to effective information exchange on precursor control among the MOU countries and other countries concerned for identifying suspicious transactions in such substances, including through awareness raising and cooperation with the chemical industry, and to effectively conduct back-tracking law enforcement operations from the point of seizures and/or interceptions with a view to identifying the original sources of diversion;

Agree on further expanding the mechanisms for the exchange of samples of drugs and precursor chemicals for standardized scientific profiling by standardized means, and for sharing the results of such profiling;

Further reaffirm our commitment to devote substantial human and financial resources to address the manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) within the region through innovative and focused awareness, prevention and education programmes, effective treatment of ATS abuse, to be based on joint research and best practice treatment methods, enhanced exchange of intelligence on ATS-related crimes on the basis of existing mechanisms and subject to consultations among all partners concerned, the launching of joint campaigns at proper time to contain the increasingly rampant illicit ATS manufacture and trafficking;

Call upon UNODC to develop a comprehensive strategy to effectively and efficiently address the abuse of ATS in the region, in close collaboration with MOU members, and other relevant partners, including international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate;

Will develop and strengthen further drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation services for drug dependents in our respective countries through the utilization of international best practices, commensurate with the distinct cultural, social and economic situation of each member country, and will establish a network of drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation institutions, their personnel and training opportunities within the region, with a focus on the abuse of opiates and ATS;

Recommend that countries in the region integrate HIV/AIDS and drug treatment programmes and exchange relevant best practices and experiences, which could consist of drug dependence treatment, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, antiretroviral therapy, risk reduction outreach and referral services, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS, preventive measures, and interventions for especially at-risk populations such as prisoners and sex workers who inject drugs; and, in that connection, develop and implement a comprehensive package of interventions;

Commit to conduct joint cultural, sports and other activities against drug abuse, with shared responsibility, aimed at creating and enhancing public awareness on the dangers of drug abuse;

Commit ourselves to make full use of the established computer-based training centers in the training of law enforcement and border control officials, to upgrade and further expand the network of training centers; to take steps to make such training available to relevant other professions, and to include new areas of training, such as intelligence gathering and sharing, money-laundering and asset forfeiture;

Reaffirm our commitment to sustain and further expand existing cooperation of border-liaison offices, and to take concrete steps towards their possible utilization in other areas of transnational organized crime;

Take measures to strengthen and speed up the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases related to drug trafficking and other linked forms of transnational organized crime through joint investigations and enhanced mutual legal assistance;

Urge the countries in the region and the international community to support sustainable alternative development, including market access for products of alternative development initiatives, with a view to eliminating illicit opium production in the region in the near future;

Will undertake effective and well-coordinated efforts to develop and improve mechanisms for the funding of sub-regional, bilateral and national drug control programmes and projects, through resource mobilization and related advocacy efforts, taking into account existing good cooperation between individual MOU members and donors, as well as their special concerns with selected issues;

Call upon all countries affected by drug trafficking as well as funding agencies to extend their full cooperation to MOU countries and to provide technical and financial assistance to the countries of the region to create the capacities to effectively reduce trafficking in drugs, and to advocate demand reduction and prevention efforts;

Express our gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm welcome and hospitality towards the participants of the Ministerial Meeting. ■

11th UN Crime Congress Concludes with Adoption of Bangkok Declaration Calling for Action Against Organized Crime, Terrorism

Other matters addressed include human trafficking, money-laundering, corruption, cybercrime, restorative justice



UNODC Vienna Photo



Greatly concerned by the expansion and dimensions of transnational organized crime, terrorism and any existing links between them and by the increasing sophistication and diversification of the activities of organized criminal groups, the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice unanimously adopted the “Bangkok Declaration” on 25 April 2005, addressing those matters, as well as issues such as trafficking in human beings, money-laundering, corruption, “cybercrime”, restorative justice, and the root causes of crime.

According to that Declaration, entitled “Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, Member States reaffirmed their readiness to seek to improve international cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, in areas including extradition and mutual legal assistance. They also sought to ensure national capacity to engage in international cooperation, in particular in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of transnational organized crime and terrorism and in discovering any existing links between them.

The Congress also called on all States that had not yet done so to ratify and implement the

provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It further called upon donor States and financial institutions to continue to make adequate voluntary contributions for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to help them build capacity to prevent and tackle crime, to apply the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and implement the aforementioned conventions and the international drug control conventions.

Recognizing that comprehensive and effective crime prevention strategies could significantly reduce crime and victimization, the Declaration urged that such strategies address the root causes and risk factors of crime and victimization. United Nations Member States pledged to strengthen international cooperation in order to create an environment conducive to the fight against crime, by promoting growth and sustainable development and eradicating poverty and unemployment.

Noting that countries emerging from conflict were particularly vulnerable to organized crime and corruption, the Congress, in its

Declaration, recommended that Member States, regional organizations and international entities such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, provide more effective responses to those problems, in order to re-establish, strengthen or sustain the rule of law and deliver justice.

The Declaration called on all States that had not yet done so to become parties to and implement the universal instruments against terrorism. It expressed support for the efforts of UNODC to assist States, in coordination with the Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee, to support States to become party to and implement those instruments and to comply with relevant Security Council resolutions against terrorism. It expressed the hope that the ongoing negotiation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be concluded as soon as possible and recognized that arriving at a possible definition of terrorism was one of the key issues to be resolved.

Regarding corruption, the Congress, in its Declaration, called on all States that had not yet done so to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In order to curb corruption, it recognized the need to promote a culture of integrity and accountability in both the public and the private sector. It also emphasized the need to adopt measures to facilitate asset recovery, consistent with the principles of that Convention.

The Congress recommended that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice give consideration to reviewing the adequacy of standards and norms in relation to prison management and prisoners. To promote the interests of victims and the rehabilitation of offenders, it recognized the importance of further developing restorative justice policies, including alternatives to prosecution. Member States participating in the Congress affirmed their determination to pay particular attention to juvenile justice, considering ways to ensure the provision of services to children who were victims of crime and children in conflict with the law.

The Declaration further addressed matters such as the theft and trafficking in cultural property and illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna. It noted with concern the rise of kidnapping and trafficking in persons, often committed with the objective of funding criminal organizations and terrorist activities. Apart from measures to combat those crimes, there was also a need for measures to provide adequate assistance and protection to their victims and their families. It also noted the concerns raised regarding the illicit removal of and trafficking in human organs.

The Declaration reaffirmed the fundamental importance of implementation of existing instruments and the further development of national measures and international cooperation in criminal matters, in issues such as cybercrime, money-laundering, trafficking in cultural property, extradition, mutual legal assistance and the confiscation, recovery and return of the proceeds of crime.

Regarding computer-related crime, the Congress invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to examine the feasibility of providing further assistance in that area. It also sought to improve international cooperation to combat document and identity fraud in order to curb organized crime and terrorism.

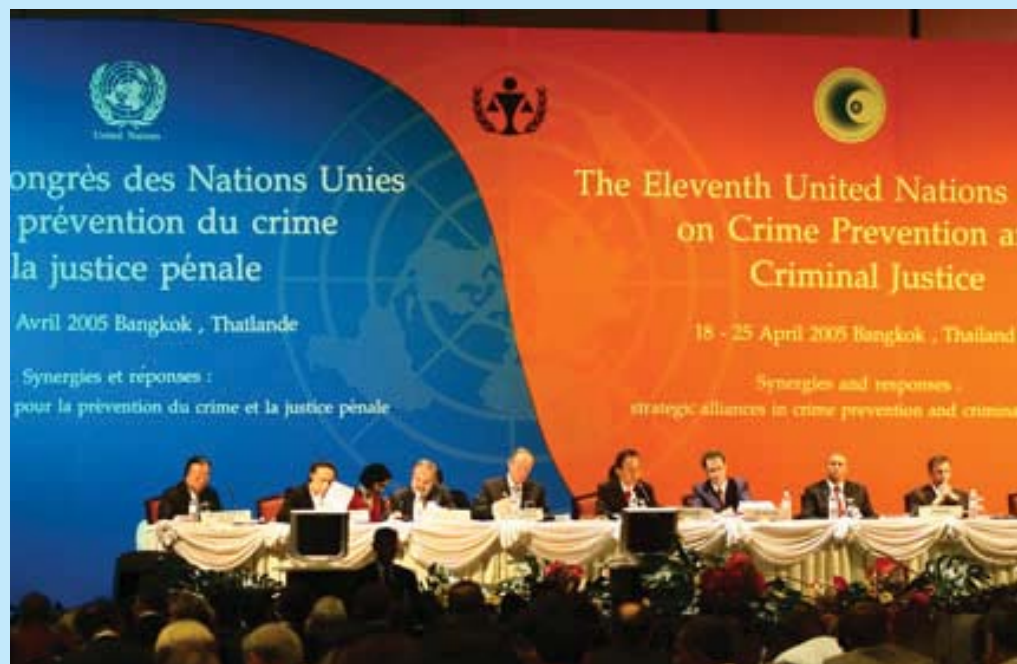
Recognizing the importance of protecting witnesses and victims of crime and terrorism, Member States in the Declaration committed themselves to strengthening the legal and financial framework for providing support to such victims.

The Congress encouraged measures to strengthen the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as non-governmental organizations in contributing to the prevention of and the fight against crime and terrorism.

The Congress reaffirmed continued support for and commitment to the United Nations and to its Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, especially the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and UNODC, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institutes and the institutes of the Programme network.

Finally, the Congress, in its Declaration, expressed its profound gratitude to the people and the Government of Thailand for the warm and generous hospitality towards participants and for the excellent facilities provided for the Eleventh Congress. ■

Congress Highlights



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The Eleventh Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which took place from 18 to 25 April 2005, under the theme "Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice", addressed such issues as: effective measures to combat transnational organized crime; international cooperation against terrorism and links between terrorism and other criminal activities; corruption; economic and financial crimes; and making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice.

During discussions in Plenary and Committee meetings, emphasis was placed on the need for international cooperation in order to combat the new forms of transnational crime and terrorism ("Cooperation, cooperation, cooperation," as one delegate put it) and the need for implementation of existing conventions and other international instruments in the area of crime prevention and terrorism ("Implementation, implementation, implementation," said another delegate). The need for technical assistance to countries that needed it to assist them in implementing conventions was particularly underlined.

There were 2,370 participants in the Congress, including many Ministers of Justice and other high-level officials, as well as representatives from 167 non-governmental organizations and 1,135 individual expert observers.

The Congress' opening session was addressed by Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand, who was accompanied by his daughter, Princess Bajarakitiyabha.

The Congress also organized six workshops, with the participation of inter-

governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts on:

- Enhancing international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures;
- Enhancing criminal justice reform, including restorative justice;
- Strategies and best practices for crime prevention, in particular in relation to urban crime and youth at risk;
- Measures to combat terrorism;
- Measures to combat economic crime, including money-laundering; and
- Measures to combat computer-related crime.

For many participants and staff of the Congress, certainly one of the highlights was the reception, accompanied by fireworks, hosted by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand on 23 April in the Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall.

In his concluding remarks, the Secretary-General of the Congress, Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said it was an honour on the part of the United Nations to thank the Thai Government, the people and his Majesty for their generous hospitality. The meeting had been in a class by itself, "a lesson in efficiency, generosity and hospitality". During meetings, he had heard a commitment to address the questions of transnational organized crime and general crime, as well as terrorism. The Crime Congress was different from other United Nations gatherings, "a stand alone event in the galaxy of United Nations sessions", because it brought together stakeholders that usually were not part of United Nations meetings, including representatives of the judicial system, non-governmental organizations and civil society. There had also been representatives of both crime victims and offenders. He said the



UNODC Vienna Photo

Delivering the address on behalf of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, the Crown Prince stressed that effective cooperation between nations in the prevention of crime and the development of criminal justice systems would benefit not only individual nations, but the international community as a whole.

debates had been alive in formal meetings, as well as in the round tables and auxiliary meetings. He applauded the idea of the Executive Secretary of the Congress, Eduardo Vetere, when he combined the technical prelude to the meeting with the high-level session. "When practice and policy meet, that is where the event acquires a special dimension," he said.

As to whether the Congress' outcome was satisfactory, he said one could always ask for more, but more was not always better. He had recommended that the Declaration should not be long on words and short on action. The Bangkok Declaration was the other way around. States would work closely together in addressing crime prevention, reducing corruption and transnational organized crime, and reducing terrorism.

He said 16 treaty actions had been undertaken during the Treaty Event of the Congress. Zambia had delivered four instruments and had become the fortieth party to the third Protocol of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, namely the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. The Protocol would now enter into force 90 days from the date of deposit of the ratification instruments -- a significant accomplishment. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had exceeded the "magic" number of 100. He expressed regret that only three of the five permanent members of the Security Council had ratified it.



UNODC Vienna Photo

The United Nations Convention against Corruption now had 25 ratifications, five ratifications short of the number of 30 required for entry into force. He, therefore, urged all countries to complete their domestic procedures, so that, during the treaty event of the September summit in New York, the entry into force of that Convention could be announced. He recalled that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption had been negotiated and had gathered ratifications in record time.

The Declaration made strong reference to greater application of United Nations standards and norms, and there was also recognition of the need for technical assistance. He was pleased that the Declaration mentioned UNODC's need for additional resources. He was also pleased that the Declaration made reference to the necessity of completing the comprehensive convention against terrorism and of an internationally recognized definition of terrorism. He further welcomed the reference to the rule of law as a prerequisite for peace and stability.

The President of the Congress, Suwat Liptapanlop, Minister of Justice of Thailand, said it had been an honour and privilege to have been President of the Congress, not only a personal honour, but also an honour for the Royal Thai Government, the Ministry of Justice and for all the people of Thailand. During the past eight days, it had become apparent that all countries were concerned about terrorism, human trafficking, drug abuse, transnational organized crime, cybercrime, money-laundering and corruption. Finding ways to prevent and resolve those problems could only be achieved through a common approach. The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had provided a stage for facilitating the essential sharing of experience and knowledge needed for such united, common approach.

He said participation in the Eleventh Crime Congress had reached new levels, especially in the attendance of Ministers and Attorneys General. He was impressed by the dedications of all participants and also by the Bangkok Declaration. "Now we all have the duty of a parent, to cherish it and see that it grows to fulfil its potential," he said. He hoped it would become a strong platform on which action plans for the suppression of crime and the furtherance of criminal justice could be constructed.

He was convinced that, in formulating policies, exchanging views and learning to listen to each other, the next five years would see a large number of important advances being made, based on international cooperation at all levels. "I am equally sure that, by the time the next Congress convenes in 2010, we will be faced with new dilemmas, new permutations in crime, new challenges," he said.

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government he presented the Executive Director of UNODC, Mr. Costa, a painting made by an inmate at one of the correctional facilities in Bangkok. He said the scene depicted was the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha—a place was dear to the hearts of all Thai people.

Mr. Costa in thanking Mr. Suwat, said it was an example of complete Thai generosity. The painting would be featured prominently in the Secretariat building in Vienna.

Mr. Suwat paid tribute to the Secretary of the Congress, Mr. Vetere, who had been the mastermind, the brains and the inspiration for the work of the United Nations in criminal justice matters and wished him the best for his forthcoming retirement. He would always be a welcome and honoured guest in Thailand.

He then declared the Congress closed. ■

Region Celebrates International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 26 June 2005



Thailand

The UNODC Regional Centre joined the Thailand Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) in a national campaign, 25-27 June 2005 at IMPACT Arena, Exhibition and Convention Centre in Nonthaburi, Thailand. The campaign included various activities such as a “learning park” on drug prevention with music performances by youth, celebrities, TV and movie stars; sports competition such as indoor soccer, football; series of talk shows; seminars; short film competition; anti drugs slogan competition; and quiz shows.

Key speakers included Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific; Mr. Suwat Liptapanlop, Minister of Justice, Thailand; and Pol. Lt. Gen. Krisna Polananta, Secretary General, ONCB.



Youth Workshops

During the campaign, 200 youths from all over Thailand met and discussed how to mainstream youth concerns into national development efforts and their roles in relation to this year's United Nations theme. They exchanged ideas on how to integrate the youth agenda into national drug prevention programmes and how to create national youth networks.

Plaques of recognition were awarded by the UNODC Regional Centre to the youths in Klong Toey area whose works in the drug control prevention, in collaboration with the Duang Prateep Foundation, are outstanding. The plaques were awarded by Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre, Ms. Tanita Nakin, Director, Demand Reduction Division, ONCB and Senator Prateep Ungsongtham, Secretary General, Duang Prateep Foundation.



Salsa against Drugs

In collaboration with a civil society group, Salsa Bangkok, UNODC organized Salsa Dance Workshops teaching how to dance and implement a dancing event as a means to launch campaigns on drug prevention. The workshops were widely attended by youth groups and event visitors.

Writeshop on Drug Awareness Messages for Youth



UNODC Photo/ Pattana Limsira

The UNODC executed project, "Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drugs in East Asia" (TDRASG69ETH) with funding support from the United States in partnership with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand, organized and conducted a writeshop on the development of public awareness messages on illicit drugs. Project Coordinator Olivia Sylvia In-ciong said that the writeshop was held as one of the main activities during the three-day celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Bangkok.

The writeshop aimed to enable the youth to develop messages on the dangers of illicit drugs. The messages, designed either for posters, billboards, postcards, or stickers, considered the acceptable language among the youth with due considerations and cautions not to affect religious beliefs and cultural differences.

The messages could, in future, and after refinements, serve as bases for both UNODC and ONCB in the development of public awareness materials. A total of 164 designs and messages were conceptualized and produced by students from 20 schools in Bangkok and Chumporn, Chiang Mai, Patumthani and Nonthaburi provinces. ■



UNODC Photo



UNODC Photo



UNODC Photo/ Sovann Tith

Cambodia

More than 300 people gathered at Wat Phnom, the centre of Phnom Penh on 26 June to celebrate the day. In Siemreap, a drug awareness parade was held in collaboration with the National Authority for Combating Drugs. The parade through the city showed messages on drug awareness by Buddhist monks. (Graham Shaw) ■



Photo by Central Narcotics Bureau, Singapore

Singapore

Leading up to the International Day, the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) organized a parent-kid camp, 9-10 June 2005, which reinforced the need to foster a supportive environment within the family in the fight against drug abuse.

An essay-writing competition for all primary and secondary students was organized in June and July. The outstanding essays will be compiled into a booklet for distribution to all schools and public libraries in Singapore.

An anti-drug awareness day was held in Yio Chu Kang on 17 July. The event included preventive drug education exhibition and the distribution of anti-drug abuse collar pins and flyers.

An anti-drug presentation competition was also held in Tampines on 23 July which aimed to increase youth awareness about the dangers of substance abuse in a fun-filled way and provided an avenue for youths to put their creative energy and talents in the wider social context of preventive education.

From July to October, CNB will hold an art competition for all students to show their viewpoints on the issue of drug abuse and its dire consequences through the use of graphics, painting and drawings. (Tan Wei Wei) ■



Viet Nam

More than 7,000 students from Ha Noi's universities attended a meeting held on 26 June in the Friendship Culture Palace in Ha Noi. There were performances of anti-drug songs, as well as displays of new posters designed to raise awareness on the dangers of drugs and promote anti-drug activities within the universities.

At the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem said: "Young people and students are the main targets of drug dealers. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of young people caught using ecstasy in nightclubs, restaurants and hotels." He urged the local authorities and agencies to intensify the battle against drug-related crime and track down drug dealers. The youth pledged to organize movements to help drug users overcome their problems without facing discrimination and persecution. **(Nguyen Tuong Dung)** ■



Malaysia

The Hong Kong-based TVB8 and ASTRO jointly sponsored the International Anti-drugs Campaign Street concert in Kuala Lumpur last 18 June, live telecast in all ASEAN countries.

The event, dubbed as Konsert 6 Jahanam Kempen Antidadah 6 Jahanam was the biggest street party of the season for Malaysia, especially among Chinese pop entertainment lovers. Some of the biggest names in the industry such as Hong Kong's veteran Alan Tam and sidekick Hacken Lee, Ng Cheuk Hei, Raymond Lam, Kevin Cheng, Jade Kwan and Shawn Yue; Taiwanese rock band MayDay and pop group Energy; China's Hins Zhang, Emme Wong, Steve Chou, Sunday Yu and Angela Ann; and Malaysia's songstress Fish Leong, Yuheng, Danny and Ezlynn; and Lam Kar Tung and Chu Yan, Evonne Hui were the concert guests.

The singers/performers talked to the audience and asked them not to abuse "dadah". **(Wong Sow Kham)** ■



Philippines

The Philippines' Dangerous Drugs Board spearheaded the observance of International Day following the United Nations worldwide call to people to value oneself and make healthy options.

To highlight the year's event, two media conferences (22 June and 27 June) were held to discuss the various issues surrounding the global problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and at the same time create greater awareness on the significant roles played by various local and international agencies to curb the problem.

Dr. Maria Elena F. Borromeo, UNAIDS Country Coordinator read the message on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General. She also discussed the hazards of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. Department of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Lourdes Ramiro Lopez talked on the role of the department in implementing international treaties related to drugs and drug abuse.

Director General Anselmo Avenido of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency cited statistics on the drug situation and the government's law enforcement drive. Representative Roque Ablan, Chairperson of the Committee on Illegal Drugs, Philippine House of Representatives, discussed the measures taken by the committee in helping the government curb the problem of drugs in the country.

On 27 July, a special programme dubbed "Tinig at Musikan Kontra Droga" was conducted at the Occupational Safety and Health Centre Auditorium. Performers included the Muntinlupa Dance Group, Centre for the Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents Band, Central Luzon Rehab Centre and the Dangerous Drugs Board-EU Choral Group. **(Luningning Gotera)** ■

HIV/AIDS and IDUs: Too Little Is Done Too Late*

By Burkhard Dammann
UNODC Regional Centre

In many Asian countries, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with very few exceptions, follows the pattern that in the early stage, the majority of all new infections are among injecting drug users (IDUs) followed by a stage in which the sexual transmission of the virus slowly but steadily increases. This has been observed in Viet Nam, Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia 15 years ago. These developments are now seen in China and in all countries in Central Asia and in Eastern Europe. By now, almost all countries in the Asian region have reported on patterns of injecting drug use as well as HIV among injectors. Injecting drug use is the most prevalent mode of HIV transmission in Indonesia, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, China and parts of India.

Globally, almost 14 million people abuse cocaine, close to 16 million opiates, and about 34 million amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). These conservative estimates add up to a reservoir of about 64 million people, who could be at a great risk to be infected with HIV if they start to inject and use contaminated needles and syringes.

Situation of HIV/AIDS in prisons

At any given time, there are some 10 million people in prisons, with an annual turnover of 30 million: every year, 30 million persons enter and leave the prison systems of the world.

Data show that prisons are overcrowded in 111 countries, with 39 countries housing from 1.5 to 3 times the prison capacity. The percentage of people with HIV/AIDS in prisons in most countries is significantly higher than in the general community, and after discharge, former prison inmates have the potential to spread the virus to their partners.

Another major concern is the growing problem of trafficking in persons. Asia has become a region of origin, transit, and destination for domestic human trafficking. Among Asian victims, there is a great number of women and children being trafficked for sexual exploitation. Information on infection rates among this group of victims is still scarce. Yet, because of their powerlessness, they run a particularly high risk of HIV infection.

No stand alone interventions

Less than five per cent, and in many high risk areas, less than 1 per cent of all drug users have access to prevention and care services. The HIV/AIDS epidemics among IDUs can be stopped and even reversed if drug users are provided at an early stage and on a large scale with a comprehensive package of services, such as outreach, provision of clean injection equipment, and a variety of drug dependence treatment modalities. These interventions have been scientifically tested, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with its partners, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Secretariat, have provided extensive reviews, and policy and programmatic guidance.

Prevention works, but an important lesson learned from practice is that it is the package that works, and not specific, stand-alone interventions.

Although countries worldwide do not implement demand reduction and prevention packages on a large scale, small pilot projects are being implemented in countries where the sharing of contaminated needles is the main route of HIV transmission. In several countries, prevention programmes in selected prisons are implemented with considerable success.

Reversing the trend

So far, there is not a single country in Asia where the impact of drug-related HIV has been reversed. Issues to be addressed to reverse the trend are:

Lack of policy. Out of 19 countries surveyed by UNAIDS in 2004, two thirds of the countries had developed an injecting drug use policy. However, only half of them had supplemented the policy with a limited operational budget. Where a policy is existing, there is a lack of an enabling environment which keeps drug abusers from making sufficient use of treatment opportunities.

Gap between policy and action. According to UNAIDS, only few treatment programmes are provided with the required resources. Resource needs for HIV/AIDS-related drug treatment is about 10 per cent of the total intervention cost in the region, out of which, only 10 per cent of what is needed is available.

No surveillance. Only three countries carry out regular annual behavior and HIV surveillance among the IDUs.

Limited treatment coverage. The overall access of drug users to a comprehensive programme in the region is very poor. According to UNAIDS, it is only 5 per cent. ■

UNODC, as part of its mandate addresses HIV/AIDS among IDUs, in prison settings and as it relates to the trafficking in persons. A cosponsor of UNAIDS since 1999, UNODC is committed to work closely with all partners involved, including all relevant government counterparts, the NGO community and other members of civil society, the UNAIDS cosponsors and other members of the United Nations family and international organizations, recognizing that HIV/AIDS requires a multi-dimensional response.

In particular, UNODC promotes drug abuse prevention and criminal justice policies that fully reflect the need for a comprehensive approach; coordinates a system-wide approach on all aspects of drug-related HIV/AIDS work; and advocates HIV/AIDS sensitive policies for law enforcement and criminal justice, including the prison system.

* Summary of a presentation made at the Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Kobe, Japan, 1-5 July 2005.

2005 World Drug Report Launched in Bangkok and in Kobe



UNODC Photos/Varat Phongrasawan



Photos by Kobe Customs, Japan

The 2005 World Drug Report was launched 29 June, at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok. The launch was one of the simultaneous launches held on the same day in Stockholm, Brussels, Vienna, New York, and other UNODC field offices.

On behalf of UNODC, Mr. John Doyle, Regional Project Coordinator of the ACCORD Regional Cooperative Mechanism Project, presented highlights of the World Drug Report, especially focusing on information reflective of the region. Mr. Chartchai Suthiklom, Deputy Secretary General of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand presented highlights of the drug situation in Thailand and the Government's initiatives in curbing the problem.

The launch was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, the Royal Thai Government, the international press, and the United Nations and other associated international agencies.

The World Drug Report 2005 was also launched by the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Kobe Customs on 30 June. Mr. Akira Fujino, UNODC Representative presented highlights of the report. A press conference followed the launching which was covered by Japanese journalists and reported in the Japanese print and broadcast media. ■

UNODC Calls for Comprehensive Approach to HIV/AIDS

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to drugs and HIV/AIDS during the 7th International Congress on AIDS for Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) held 1-5 July 2005 in Kobe, Japan. It called for multi-dimensional interventions, addressing prevention, demand reduction, supply reduction and scaled treatment interventions, with training and technical assistance to addressing law enforcement, the judiciary and prison administration, health providers and social workers in close collaboration with the HIV/AIDS Unit at UNODC Headquarters.

The ICAAP, a biennial conference organized by leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and host countries, is a key

forum for regional trends, key issues, policy and action. UNODC is one of UNAIDS co-sponsors.

The conference provided a forum for UNODC to raise its profile and role on the prevention of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users (IDUs) in closed settings, and trafficked persons; and to clarify its position on HIV/AIDS. UNODC held bilateral meetings with senior level government delegations, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, and individual experts; and attended key sessions, community forums, and poster presentations. UNODC presence was much acknowledged, and included in the Congress's official closing statements.

UNODC Regional Centre Representative, Mr. Akira Fujino, jointly with UNAIDS Regional Director, Mr. JVR Prasada Rao, held a press conference during the Congress. UNODC made a

presentation at the UNODC/WHO/UNAIDS Joint Session on Policy Advocacy for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care for Drug Users. All United Nations agencies reiterated their support for the 'essential comprehensive package to prevent HIV from drug abuse'. The recent approved policy paper on HIV Prevention submitted by UNAIDS to the Programme Coordinating Board, and the inclusion of Methadone and Buprenorphine into the complementary essential medicines list of the World Health Organization were welcomed. ■

Senior Officials Endorse Project Idea on Cross Border Enhancement



UNODC Photo/ Songsatt Kittikhunwathana

The Senior Officials Committee of the signatory countries of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific have endorsed the project idea on “Consolidation and Enhancement of the Border Liaison Office Mechanism (BLO) in East Asia” during its meeting in Cambodia last May 2005. With the approval of the project idea, a project document will be developed.

The proposed three-year project aims to a) improve the effectiveness of law enforcement officers in targeted border areas through the use of modern border control delivery including intelligence, investigation and interdiction techniques, b) to strengthen cross-border cooperation through BLO mechanism to meet future challenges of other transnational organized crimes, and c) to promote greater national government roles in supporting the existing BLO mechanism.

Commencing in 1999, Phase 1 of Project AD/RAS/99/D91 (Development of Cross Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in South East Asia) established 40 BLOs along the borders of Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

BLOs were established to facilitate the exchange of drug control information across borders and build effective working relationships among regional drug control organizations. During this phase, BLOs were established and equipped as well as staff trained. Typically, BLOs are staffed by two to five law enforcement officers who are assigned from the national narcotics police, customs, local police forces or the national border police. UNODC played the key coordinating role among the counterparts, bringing together individual countries and facilitating dialogues and encouraging greater regional cooperation.

While the flow of illegal drugs have stabilized in the Greater Mekong Sub-region over the past two years, cross-border drug trafficking remains a serious problem. Based on seizures, the majority of the world’s manufacture of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), mostly methamphetamine, now takes place in the region. Illicit methamphetamine manufacture mainly takes place in Myanmar and China. ATS manufacture in Myanmar is primarily located in the border areas of Myanmar/Thailand and Myanmar/China. Lao PDR has become an important trafficking route for methamphetamine manufactured in Myanmar destined for Thailand. Cambodia is reporting increased seizures of ATS and is seen as an important transit country for drugs manufactured in the region.

Myanmar remains the key production centre for heroin in the region. The majority of heroin produced in Myanmar is trafficked through China en-route to the international market, reflecting China’s importance as a trans-shipment route. Most seizures of Myanmar heroin now take place in China. All countries in the subregion are, to varying degrees, used as heroin and opium transit countries.

The available information on cross-border trafficking trends underscores the need to continue the BLO mechanism while consolidating and building on past gains.

The previous project has been viewed as a benchmark multilateral law enforcement project, both regionally and internationally. It received wide recognition among the international law enforcement community and was often cited as a model project in the area of cross-border cooperation.

The success of BLOs can possibly be expanded into other areas of transnational organized crime, such as human trafficking. Potentially, the existing BLO structure can be used to tackle emerging problems. ■

Patterns and Trends in Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in East Asia and the Pacific: Findings from the 2004 Regional ATS Questionnaire



This report presents regional and national amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) trends using the analysis of the 2003 Regional ATS Questionnaire as a baseline, and the significant improvement in national information systems. The report also identifies remaining gaps to direct further national and regional information system development. Through the Improving ATS Data and Information Systems project of the UNODC, information sharing between Governments is increasing regional collaboration in the development of coordinated policy decision-making.

The information on ATS trends, programmes, and effective responses presented in the report is hoped to support the development of sustainable drug information systems, and make a constructive contribution in addressing the significant and spreading social and economic threat posed by ATS in East Asia and the Pacific.

The 2004 Regional ATS Questionnaire was completed between October 2004 and January 2005 by the drug control agencies implementing the project at a national level, and by the UNODC counterpart agencies in Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore. It is a mechanism for systematic collection and comparison of existing ATS data provided by participating countries in the region while also being an effective tool to monitor the development and capacity of national drug information systems.

The UNODC project on Improving ATS Data and Information Systems has been designed to assist countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region to collect information on ATS abuse, and to communicate this information with various stakeholders through the formation of national and regional drug information networks. Financially supported by the Governments of Australia and Japan, the project is managed by the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, and implemented by national drug control agencies in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

For further information, contact UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Bldg., 3rd Fl., Rajdamnern Nok Ave., Bangkok 10200, Thailand, Tel: (+66-2) 288-2100, Fax: (+66-2) 281-2129, E-mail: fo.thailand@unodc.org, website: www.unodc.un.or.th

Trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) remain a growing threat to the stability of many countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region. Unfortunately, the availability of information on regional and national ATS trends, programmes, and responses have been lacking.

The term ATS has been adopted to refer to synthetic central nervous system stimulant drugs such as amphetamine, methamphetamine and the chemically related ecstasy group (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine and its analogues). These drugs vary in their abuse patterns from infrequent or occasional abuse to chronic dependence, and the varied patterns of ATS abuse, together with the various ways in which these drugs are marketed (e.g., pills, powder, crystalline form) makes monitoring of ATS trends very difficult. Nonetheless, the emergence of ATS abuse in East Asia and the Pacific has been coupled with significant consequences, although they differ from those associated with opioid drugs. This shift in drug abuse patterns and consequences has brought about a dire need for improved and innovative ways of monitoring drug abuse and drug-related consequences in the region.

To improve understanding of the ATS situation in the region, it is necessary to build data collection systems that collate information on the ATS situation, undertake research on ATS abuse patterns and harms, and, importantly, communicate information on ATS trends to a range of relevant stakeholders.

Significant progress has been made in the improvement of drug-related data collection throughout the region. For the first time, there has been systematic collation of data from governments across the region, and also mechanisms for sharing and disseminating this information to a broad audience both within the region and internationally. There has been significant improvement in understanding the nature of ATS trends in the region, and how patterns of abuse and supply vary between countries. At this point in the evolution of a regional data collection system, it is essential to develop strategies to ensure that data collection is sustainable and has the full support of national government authorities. Mechanisms for reporting and exchanging information at a regional level need to be further developed so that the outputs from drug information systems can be fully recognized and utilized by a wide range of stakeholders. There are few other functional regional drug information systems globally, and the achievements of the East Asia and Pacific system have been comparatively very successful. The future development of the system as a regional entity would benefit from considering mechanisms that have worked successfully in other regional drug information systems, and how these processes might be incorporated into plans for the long-term development of a regional drug information system for East Asia and the Pacific.

UNODC Video Spot Wins Award at Film Festival



UNODC Vienna Photo

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)-produced 60-second video spot, "Better Future", has won the award in the short films category at the first United Nations documentary film festival, "Stories from the Field", held in New York City.

The award-winning video spot is part of UNODC's global television campaign. It is about trafficking in men, women, and children for bonded and forced labour, in factories, on farms, or as domestic servants. With the cooperation of broadcasters worldwide, UNODC has arranged for the broadcast of this and other spots on national networks in over 40 countries, as well as on global and regional networks such as CNN International, BBC World, and MTV Asia. Millions of people worldwide have viewed "Better Future", and it has also been distributed to non-governmental organizations to serve as an awareness-creation tool at the local level.

"Better Future" was produced by UNODC, and is available in a 60-second and a 30-second version in English, French, Spanish, and German. To view the film online, visit: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/multimedia.html>. For more information contact: Norha Restrepo, Officer-in-Charge, Advocacy Section, UNODC, E-mail: norha.restrepo@unvienna.org

The "Stories from the Field" documentary film festival was a joint undertaking between the United Nations Department of Public Information, the New School University and Media Communications Association International, as part of the events being held to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. The participating films showed how the United Nations field offices and agencies have empowered the poor, healed the sick and brought justice to the exploited. Some 80 films were submitted and 30 of them screened for general viewing in New York. ■

Second ACCORD International Congress Pre-Meeting 15-16 May 2005 Siemreap, Cambodia



Photo by Tan Kim Tong

The ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Responses to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) held a meeting to discuss proposed updates to the goals and targets of the Plan of Action. Delegations from the 11 ACCORD countries discussed drug control issues facing the region under the four pillars of the Plan: Civic Awareness, Demand Reduction, Law Enforcement, and Alternative Development. The updated Plan of Action for the region will be presented at the ACCORD Second International Congress in China, 18-20 October 2005. The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific organized the meeting with the support of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, Cambodia.

Participants to the meeting included representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNODC. ■

First Announcement

The Second ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) International Congress

18-20 October 2005
Beijing, China

Host: National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China

For more information, contact: John Doyle, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.
E-mail: john.doyle@unodc.org

ASEAN and ACCORD: Sustaining Efforts in Illicit Drug Trafficking

By Keo Chhea
Coordinator, Specialized Programmes Unit
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat, Indonesia

The spirit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is embodied in the concept of the ASEAN Community. The aim of the ASEAN Community is to ensure durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region. In seeking to build an ASEAN Community, the ASEAN Leaders recognized that interdependence and cooperation would be a way of life in Southeast Asia.

The efforts of the ASEAN to combat the drug menace can be traced back as early as the ASEAN Experts Group Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse in 1972.

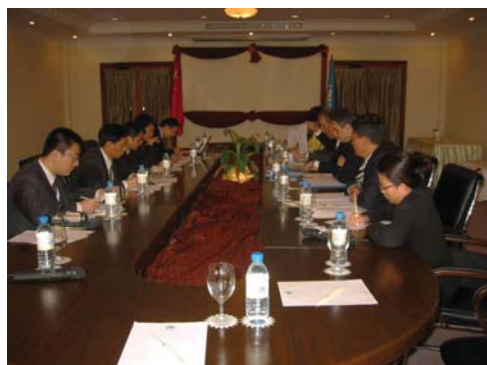
In ASEAN, the Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) is the main body dealing with problems of drug abuses and illegal trafficking. ASOD has so far held 25 Annual Meetings to enhance and review its cooperation in this field. Similar with ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD), ASOD oversees all areas related to drugs through five working groups: 1) Preventive Education 2) Treatment and Rehabilitation 3) Law Enforcement 4) Research, and 5) Alternative Development. Each working group holds its meeting back to back with the Annual ASOD Meeting to review activities in its respective areas and makes recommendations for the ASOD Meeting.

ACCORD is another ASEAN and China mechanism to combat drug abuse. However, apart from its four working groups, ACCORD established a project approval mechanism called the ACCORD Joint Task Forces Meeting which convenes back-to-back with the Annual Meetings of ASOD. ACCORD has also established an ACCORD Account managed by the ASEAN Secretariat. The mechanism has approved funding support for three regional projects be implemented by Myanmar and Thailand and funded by the ACCORD Account.

The ASEAN Secretariat and ASOD holds annual consultations with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) Fact Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) on Combating the Drug Menace. In these consultations, the four areas of combating drugs as well as poverty reduction are discussed and ASEAN Parliamentarians urged to assist in civic awareness and legal matters. As a result, all ASEAN Member Countries have similar levels of capital punishment and similar criteria for charging drug offenders/traffickers. ASEAN Parliamentarians will be continually engaged in this way.

Photo by Tan Kim Tong





UNODC Photos/ Olivia Sylvia Inciong



Photo by Tan Kim Tong

Regional needs

The region needs sustainable and applicable projects and programmes to combat the drug menace and to rid the future generations from this problem. ASEAN Secretariat believes that experts from all sectors including law enforcement, justice, health, customs and immigration must be involved. The ACCORD Plan of Action should be rewritten/revised by those involved in combating drugs and rehabilitation of drug victims. On a parallel line, under the purview of Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and ASOD, the ASEAN Secretariat is also working on how to convene/consult all concerned bodies on cross-sectoral issues such as drugs and work out applicable and sustainable programmes.

The ASEAN Community

In 2003, the ASEAN Leaders spelled out the framework at the ASEAN Community. In late November 2004, the Leaders fleshed out the elements of this framework at the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane. The Leaders designed the ASEAN Community to rest on three pillars: the ASEAN Security Community that would focus on political/security cooperation; the ASEAN Economic Community that would focus on regional economic cooperation; and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community on cooperation in social sector.

The ASEAN Security Community is about Peace; the ASEAN Economic Community is about Prosperity; and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community is about People. These elements of Peace, Prosperity and People are at the core of a strong ASEAN Community.

The drug issue is under the third pillar, i.e. the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. There is a clear logic behind this simple design. When we talk about people, we talk about social welfare and people security. When we fight against drugs, we have to think of the social effects caused by drugs.

In ACCORD and ASOD, we focus on four areas of combating drugs which include civic awareness, treatment and rehabilitation, alternative development and law enforcement.

The Vientiane Action Plan (VAP), which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at their 10th Summit in Vientiane in 2004, cover all the three sections of the ASEAN Community. In the section of socio-cultural community, the VAP spells out all activities and goals in combating drugs to be undertaken by ASEAN. The VAP aims to achieve the vision of Drug Free ASEAN by 2015. In this light, experts are encouraged to revise the ACCORD Plan of Action in line with the VAP to ensure that ASEAN member countries are on the right track as mandated by its Leaders.

Donors and developed countries are strongly urged to support this Plan of Action.

The ASEAN Secretariat continues to assist and coordinate both ASOD and ACCORD in their cooperative initiatives against the drug menace. The Secretariat also assists in mobilizing outside resources to support regional projects in combating transnational crime, including drugs. ■

Primary Prevention Interventions: The Philippines' Experience

By Dionisio R. Santiago
Senior Undersecretary and Executive Director
Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippines

In support of the vision of a Drug Free ASEAN and China by 2015, the Philippines through the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) is sustaining its drug demand reduction efforts. The passage of Republic Act 9165 (The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002), has strengthened the Philippine Government's fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

As the highest policy-making and strategy-formulating body for policies and programmes on drug abuse prevention and control, DDB has developed and adopted a comprehensive, integrated, unified and balanced national drug abuse prevention and control strategy.

Current trends

Based on the 2004 reported drug cases from 54 residential and 1 outpatient facilities of the country, there is an overall decreasing trend in admissions, relapse and outpatient cases compared to that of 2003. This may be due to the high cost of treatment, a deterrent for drug dependents to seek the appropriate intervention.

The National Capital Region has the most number of cases based on the area of residence followed by Regions IV-A, III, VII, and XI. The Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao had the least number of cases.

The males predominated the females with a ratio of 9:1. Most of them were single, within the 20-29 age bracket, have reached high school, and were unemployed prior to their admission for treatment.

The workers' group of drug abusers is composed of unskilled workers or those who are untrained/inexperienced such as bet takers, baggers, barkers, etc.; semi skilled ones or those who require less training and exercise less independent judgment such as service crew, drivers, and others who operate machines; professionals; and skilled workers or those who have trained or are experts in a particular occupation such as technicians, chefs, etc.

The most commonly abused drugs are shabu, followed by marijuana, cough and cold preparations, Benzodiazepines, inhalants, and ecstasy.

Policies formulated

Some of the policies formulated by DDB to support drug prevention initiatives include the following:

1. The institutionalization of the random drug testing programme for schools and the workplaces; and the mandatory drug testing for applicants of drivers' and firearms' licenses, the military, and law enforcement and security personnel;

2. The issuance of DDB guidelines for the establishment of the Special Drug Education Centres (SDECs) in every province for out-of-school youth and street children. The SDECs sponsor drug abuse prevention programmes, activities, and information campaigns educating them on the pernicious effects of drug abuse;

3. The issuance of DDB guidelines on the Community-based Family Drug Abuse Prevention Programme for preparing families to protect their members against the adverse effects of drugs. This programme includes advocacy and information, education, social mobilization, networking, and alliance building;

4. The integration of instruction on drug abuse prevention and control in the elementary, secondary and tertiary curricula of all public and private schools including technical, vocational and agro-industrial as well as non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems;

5. The liberalization of treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents by encouraging, promoting, and assisting in the establishment of rehabilitation centres; and

6. The promotion of a National Drug-Free Workplace Programme with the participation of the private and labour sectors and the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE).

Primary prevention intervention programmes

Relative to the implementation of the Philippine National Anti-Drug Programme of Action which seeks to mobilize the entire government machinery and the civil society in a sustained anti-drug campaign nationwide, DDB has pursued intensive drug demand reduction efforts through the following programmes and activities in the schools, workplaces and the general society:

A. School initiatives

The Department of Education in collaboration with DDB implemented the following:

- Development of Drug Abuse Prevention Instructional Materials for the Secondary Level;
- Conduct of Random Drug Testing among secondary students in 17 public and private schools in selected regions;
- Conduct of a writeshop integrating Life Skills in the Support Instructional Materials on Drug Education in the elementary and secondary levels;
- Development of a Training Manual on Drug Intervention in schools;
- Production and distribution of Support Instructional Materials for Drug Education at the Elementary Level, Life Skills of Drug Education in Schools Manuals: A Training for Teachers, and Drug Abuse Prevention on Scouting Kit Modules;
- Institutionalization of the National Drug Education Programme; and
- Conduct of Trainers' Training on Guidance and Counseling for the National Drug Education Programme Coordinators.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) implemented the following programmes and initiatives:

- Integration of the Dangerous Drugs Preventive and Control concepts in the Civic Welfare Training Service component of the National Service Training Programme (NSTP);
- Production of advocacy/information dissemination materials on Random Drug Testing for Tertiary Level Students;
- Conduct of massive information drive on the Guidelines of Random Drug Testing for Tertiary Students; and
- Conduct of the National Capability Building Programme for NSTP Implementers and preparation of the modules on drug education for NSTP.

B. Workplace initiatives

DOLE, through the Occupational Safety and Health Centre (OSHC) spearheaded the following initiatives in collaboration with DDB:

- Conduct of advocacies, lectures, and seminars on the development of drug abuse prevention education programmes in workplaces;
- Integration of drug abuse prevention and control concepts and the Guidelines on Policies and Programme on Drug-Free Workplaces in the Private Sector;
- Maintenance of a radio programme, "Trabaho" (meaning work) aired on DZRV every Monday at 9:00 AM. Topics on workplace drug issues have also been integrated in some episodes of radio dramas every Saturday;
- Posting of the R.A. 9165 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations on the websites of the DOLE and OSHC;
- Conduct of a continuing study on workplace responses against drug abuse;
- Technical assistance to the Department of Education in the development of the training module for guidance counselors on drugs; and
- Drafting of the safety and health guidelines for law enforcers during on site investigation of clandestine laboratories and warehouses.

C. Government initiatives

The following programmes have been undertaken by DDB in partnership with other government as well as non-government organizations:

1. Flagship programmes

1.1 Lakbay Kontra Droga (Caravan against Drugs). This is implemented nationwide.

1.2 Lakbay Aral Kontra Droga (Caravan in Schools against Drugs). This consists of a guided tour to facilities, centres, and

institutions where students learn from visuals and interactions about the ill-effects of drugs.

1.3 Barkada Kontra Droga (Peer Groups against Drugs). The programme is designed as a preventive education and information strategy to counter the dangers of drug abuse. It aims to empower the individual to be the catalyst within his/her peer groups in advocating healthy, drug-free lifestyles through involvement in wholesome activities.

1.3.1 Launching seminars. The programme was launched in colleges/ universities, workplaces, communities and in



Photo by Batang Iwas Droga Foundation, Philippines

treatment and rehabilitation facilities with the goal of organizing a barkada (peer group) chapter in each area and eventually becoming a movement of parents, youth, teachers, community leaders, etc.

1.3.2 Musika Kontra Droga (Music against Drugs). This consists of a Live Band Concert Tour at different shopping malls, encouraging amateur bands to perform on stage and experience the feeling of being "high" without resorting to the use of dangerous drugs.

1.4 Tri media involvement. The Board regularly works with the tri-media and organized a press corps as partners in disseminating information to the general public.



Photo by Centre for the Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents, Philippines

2. Capability building programmes

2.1 Trainers' training on drug abuse prevention education. This is a training programme for demand reduction workers covering the different regions of the country enabling them to gain knowledge and skills in programme planning and development of training design and modules for public awareness.

2.2 Trainers' training on life skills enhancement. This programme provides youth leaders with skills to resist drugs, strengthen personal commitment and develop social competency in pursuing a healthy lifestyle free from drugs. The programme is being implemented nationwide.

2.3 National youth forum on drug abuse prevention education. This is an annual programme aimed at updating youth leaders on the current issues and concerns of youth development in relation to the National Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign.

2.4 Regional anti-drug summit for health workers. This is a three-day summit designed for health workers to enhance their knowledge and skills in planning and implementing drug abuse prevention education programmes. It also aims to train health workers to be resource speakers on drug abuse prevention.

3. Primary prevention of amphetamine type-stimulants (ATS) abuse among youth in the Philippines

This is a three-year project assisted by UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific piloted in Thailand and in the Philippines since January 2002. It aims to develop a comprehensive and integrated response to ATS abuse by designing a social marketing campaign to discourage the use of ATS among youth.

D. Research initiatives

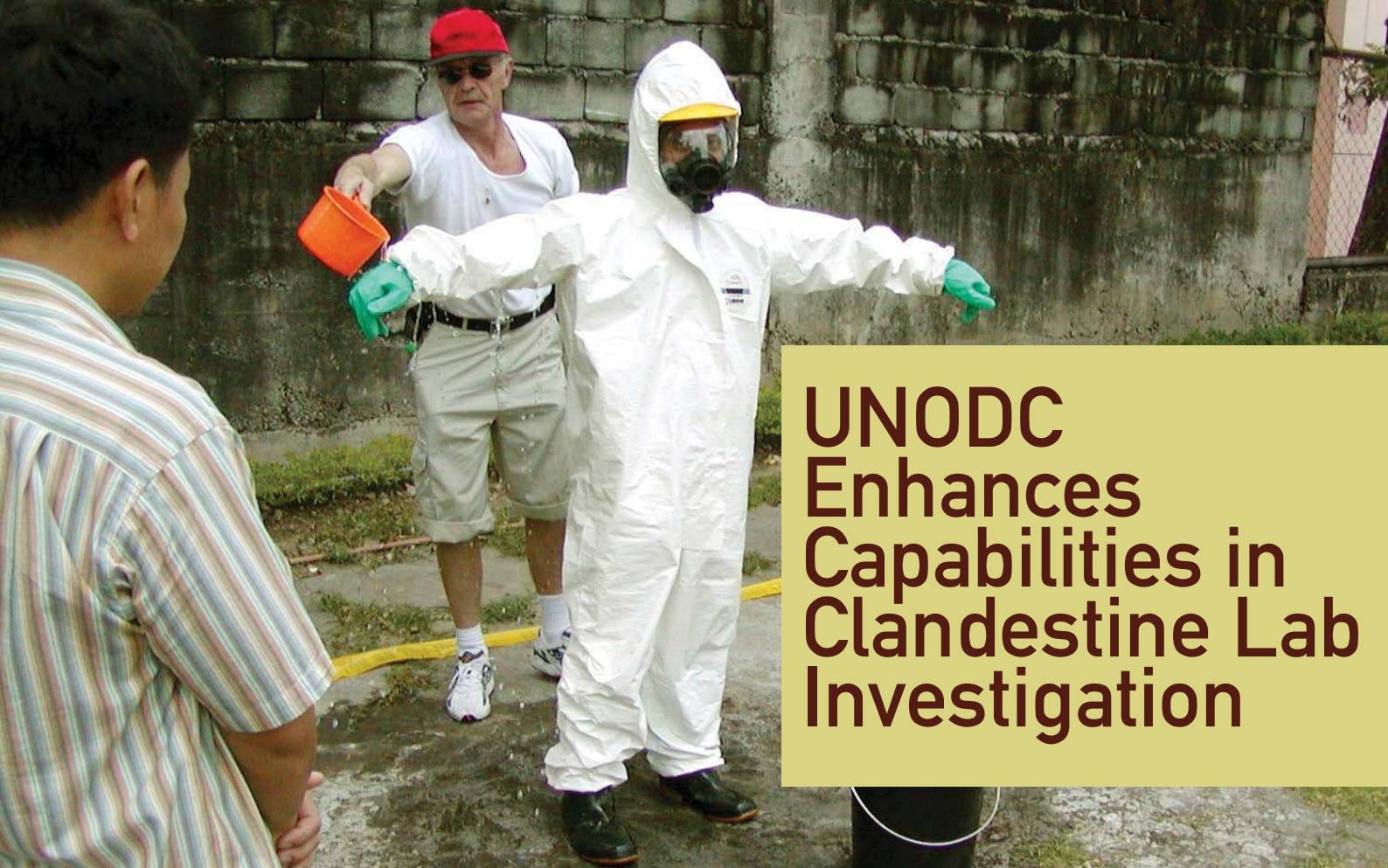
1. Maintenance of the integrated central case registry and monitoring system. This is a continuing programme which integrates and centralizes the reporting and collection of drug information. It serves as a data bank that monitors drug abuse cases reported by various residential and out-patient treatment and rehabilitation facilities nationwide.

2. Household survey on the nature and extent of drug abuse in the Philippines. The project aims to determine the nature and extent of drug abuse in the country after the enactment of R.A. 9165.

3. A rapid assessment on Nalbuphine Hydrochloride abuse in Metro Manila and Cebu City. This study aims to determine the reasons for continued Nalbuphine Hydrochloride Abuse in Cebu City and in Metro Manila. Primary sources of data are self-confessed Nalbuphine Hydrochloride users currently confined at rehabilitation centres in Cebu City and in Metro Manila. Law enforcement officials and heads of rehabilitation centres under study served as secondary sources of data.

4. Integrated drug abuse data information network (DAINAP). This is a UNODC Project (F97 "Improving Amphetamine Type Stimulants Data and Information Systems") designed to produce a baseline data on policy-making and strategy-formulation against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

To keep pace with the changing drug trends, a balanced approach through proactive advocacy; consensus building and sharing of best practices; enhancement of network of control measures and strengthened rule of law; and boosting of alternative development programmes should be pursued. ■



UNODC Enhances Capabilities in Clandestine Lab Investigation

Demonstrating simple decontamination procedures.

Recognizing the technical nature of clandestine laboratory investigations, chemical hazards associated with an illicit drug laboratory, and the importance of proper evidence gathering for backtracking investigations into the source of precursors, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific through the Project on Precursor Control in East Asia conducted an "Advanced Clandestine Laboratory Investigation Training Course" in Manila on 11-15 April 2005. The Philippines was chosen as the first country to receive the training because of the dramatic proliferation of crystalline methamphetamine or "ice" labs in the country.

According to Wong Hoy Yuen, Project Coordinator, the training was aimed at equipping law enforcement officers with basic knowledge in laboratory investigations, and demonstrating standard procedures for systematic investigations, and for ensuring the safety and security of investigators.

"The training introduced and promoted the concept of an investigation team of police personnel and forensic chemists in clandestine drug laboratory investigations," Wong said. The team concept is seldom practiced in the region because police are not fully aware of the important role of chemists in ensuring the safety of investigators and the quality of evidence gathered. The entire training was video taped in preparation for the development of a computer-based training (CBT) and/or DVD training modules. CBT or DVD training tools in the local regional languages, can provide suitable, adequate, and sustainable training particularly for countries with scarce human and financial resources.



UNODC Photos / Wong Hoy Yuen

Mock lab with equipment from dismantled labs.

Three experts, one each from Sweden, Netherlands and Greece conducted the five-day training course which included classroom lectures on basic information on precursors, illicit drug manufacture, and safety aspects. Twenty four trainees comprising of police personnel with some experience in clandestine laboratory investigations and forensic chemists attended the training. Discussions were made on the fundamentals required for laboratory investigations including chemical hazards of precursors, drug synthesis, crime scene management, how to detect clandestine labs (using the UNODC DVD training programme) and decontamination procedures. There were also demonstrations of equipment, investigation techniques, and practical sessions in crime scene investigations which were held in a mock clandestine laboratory.



Practice session on gathering evidence.



Demonstrating the right way of wearing a chemical suit.

The trainees and chemists, put theory into practice as they took turns raiding the booby trapped mock lab, investigating the crime scene, experiencing an accident during investigation, and finally undergoing decontamination procedures.

As a result of the training course, the participants requested UNODC to draft guidelines on safety procedures in clandestine lab investigations and to provide basic equipment such as basic chemical suits, breathing protection apparatus, and air monitoring devices. ■



Trainees about to enter a mock lab with air detection equipment.

The manufacture of illicit drugs in East and South-east Asia has a long and notorious history. Opium production in the highlands of Southeast Asia gained momentum around the middle of the 19th century. Opium was increasingly processed into heroin as world demand for the illicit drugs surged during the 1970s. Methamphetamine abuse and illicit manufacture began in East Asia in the 1950's but has since worsened drastically in the last 15 years. Initially, methamphetamine was mainly manufactured in Japan. With effective government intervention, the manufacturing bases shifted away from Japan to neighbouring countries including the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province of China. Intense efforts by the authorities again forced the laboratories to relocate to other countries and regions including some provinces in Southeast China. With increasing demand for the drug, clandestine manufacture spread to Thailand then Myanmar. Beginning 2002 large scale illicit manufacture has increased sharply in the Philippines while big laboratories have been dismantled in Indonesia, Malaysia and most recently, Fiji. The shifting and spread of illicit manufacture in East Asia are driven by both the increasing demand and suppression efforts by countries affected by the problem. ■

Cambodia Confronts Methamphetamine Crisis

By Graham Shaw
UNODC Regional Centre

The National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) reports that Cambodia continues to experience a rapidly increasing drug abuse problem, specifically for methamphetamine, known locally by its Thai name, 'yaba', 'yama' and 'ma'.

Through the sustained efforts of the NACD Drug Information Centre, assisted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) national capacity building project 'Strengthening the Secretariat of the NACD and the National Drug Control Programme of Cambodia' and regional project 'Improving Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) Data and Information Systems', the extent and nature of the rising drug abuse issue throughout Cambodia is becoming more evident.

Aside from the Government, other United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities recognize the extent of this social, economic, security and developmental issue in Cambodia. Thus, increasing efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse are being undertaken.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June, is one of several events in the country's annual calendar to raise public awareness on the dangers of drugs. With the 2005 international theme of 'Value yourself...make healthy choices', a range of activities were undertaken such as parades, art performances and speeches throughout the country, in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, and in the northern city of Siemreap.



Children, teachers, parents and dignitaries join the commemoration of the International Day against Drugs, Phnom Penh, 26 June 2005.



UNODC Photo/ Phaully Tea

In Phnom Penh, around 2,000 young people and community leaders, together with the Deputy Mayor of the City, held a march organized by the Municipal Government. Local television channels broadcast awareness information about the choices that people have in following a drug-dependent life or the opportunity for a constructive future by avoiding such substances. The awareness-raising messages were developed as part of a human rights-based approach to drug control in Cambodia that promotes personal choice as a major element of healthy living.

The tourist centre of Siemreap experienced its largest drug awareness events organized by NACD and local NGOs throughout the province. Focused on young people and those in labour-intensive income generation activities, the events called for adopting a healthy choice of not going down the road tread by people who have already damaged their lives by illicit drugs.

Over the recent years, collaboration between a wide range of agencies and groups has steadily been developing to raise public awareness of illicit drugs as well as in jointly undertaking prevention activities. With the support of UNODC Project in Cambodia, the NACD and other key agencies – such as the Ministries of Social Affairs, Health and Education – have become more active, organized and effective in guiding and delivering such activities, especially for sub-population groups most at risk, including 15-25 year olds in urban areas, construction workers, females promoting beer, factory workers as well as truck and taxi drivers. ■

Staff Updates



Santanee Ditsayabut

Ms. Ditsayabut, Thai, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in April 2005 as a regional expert for the Terrorism Prevention Branch. An experienced prosecutor from the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand, she graduated with first class honors from Chulalongkorn University/Thailand and achieved the first rank in the Thai bar examination. She earned two Master's degrees in law from Pennsylvania Law School and University of Wisconsin-Madison, supported by the Royal Thai Government. Ms. Ditsayabut is working to promote the ratification and implementation of 12 international conventions and protocols against terrorism in the region.



Victoria Chia

Ms. Chia, American, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in May 2005 as Project Coordinator for two projects: the Suppression of Manufacturing and Trafficking of Methamphetamine in Southeast China and Support to Victims/Witnesses of Human Trafficking. She has worked as project manager in a marketing research and consulting firm in the USA, and in the NGO sector in Eastern Europe and other countries in Southeast Asia. She obtained her Master's degree in Economic and Political Development in East Asia from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, New York, USA.



Antonio Pangallo

Mr. Pangallo, Australian, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in May 2005 as Anti Money Laundering Training Officer. With a Bachelor's degree in Government and Psychology, and a graduate diploma in Psychology, he is currently working towards an Honours degree in Forensic Psychology. Mr. Pangallo has been working in training-related initiatives for almost 10 years with a career that spans across various sectors - commercial aviation, HIV/AIDS, and anti-money laundering. Currently, he is working on the e-learning project for the Global Programme against Money Laundering.



Jonas Thorpman

Mr. Thorpman, Swedish, joined the UNODC Regional Centre as an intern in May 2005 for Improving Amphetamine-type Stimulants (ATS) Data and Information Systems project. Prior to the internship, he spent a year in Hong Kong as a student at the University of Hong Kong and then worked with the airport security. He is currently assisting an on-line clearing house project on ATS information. Upon completion of his internship, he will return to his home town Uppsala to continue working on his Master's degree in biology at the University of Uppsala, focusing on the biological aspects of withdrawal in opium abuse.



Kana Hashimoto

Ms. Hashimoto, Japanese, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in June 2005 as an intern supporting the Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse project and Strengthening Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Drug Users and in Prison Settings project. With a Master of Science degree in Social Research Methods from London School of Economics and Political Science, she is currently developing a web library and webpage on drugs and HIV/AIDS, and HIV/AIDS in custodial settings. Prior to the internship, Ms. Hashimoto taught Microsoft Office and website design for NGOs.



Sai Uehata

Ms. Uehata, Japanese, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in June 2005 as an intern supporting the Regional Centre and the Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drugs in East Asia project. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Policy Management from Keio University/Japan and is pursuing a Master's degree in International Studies at Yonsei University/ South Korea. She is currently assisting in the preparation of the regional profile on drugs and crime for Southeast Asia. Prior to joining UNODC, Ms. Uehata completed an internship with the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea and worked as a reporter/project coordinator at CPN Broadcasting in South Korea.



Marcus Böhme

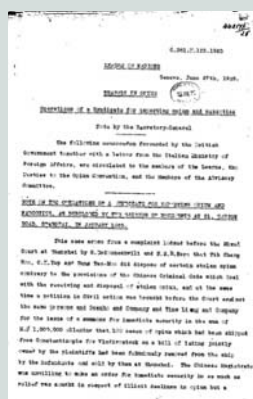
Mr. Böhme, German, joined the UNODC Regional Centre in July 2005 as an intern in supporting the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Project. Prior to joining UNODC, he was studying in Guadalajara, Mexico. Mr. Böhme has also completed internships with the German Embassy in Santiago de Chile, Chile and Mitsubishi Motors in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. After his internship, he would return to Germany to complete his Master's degree in Business Administration at the University of Bayreuth.

Lost in the Past : Early 1900s at the League of Nations

By Akira Fujino
UNODC Regional Centre

LEAGUE OF NATIONS, Geneva, June 27th, 1925, Note by the Secretary-General, C.381.M.125.1925, "NOTE ON THE OPERATIONS OF A SYNDICATE FOR IMPORTING OPIUM AND NARCOTICS, AS DISCLOSED BY THE SEIZURE OF DOCUMENTS AT 51 CANTON ROAD, SHANGHAI, IN JANUARY 1925": "This case arose from a complaint lodged before the Mixed Court ... that [two individuals named] did dispose of certain stolen opium contrary to the provisions of the Chinese Criminal Code which deal with the receiving and disposal of stolen opium, and at the same time a petition in Civil action was brought before the Court against the same persons and [two companies named] for the issue of a summons for immediate security in the sum of M.\$ 1,000,000 alleging that 180 cases of opium which had been shipped from Constantinople for Vladivostok on a bill of lading jointly owned by the plaintiffs had been feloniously removed from the ship by the defendants and sold by them at Shanghai."

In that note by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, based on communications from concerned Governments and circulated to the members of the League, the Parties to the Opium Convention, and the Members of the Advisory Committee, we find essential elements of information exchange that is required today:



Note by the Secretary General,
League of Nations, 1925.

The note speaks of the involvement of syndicates and their making, methods and means of drug smuggling, including use of free ports and postal services, routing through different cities, involving different nationals, and exploiting loopholes of national laws and international drug control treaties. It also speaks of specific details of how diversion of drugs from licit channels into illicit traffic took place, using import certificates apparently bought, involving pharmaceutical companies selling drugs knowingly that the drugs would

be diverted into illicit traffic (it names pharmaceutical companies well known to date), and it speaks of such meticulous details of findings from examinations of telegrams and other communications exchanged between those involved in drug trafficking, and shared with Governments through the League of Nations.

The Secretary-General's note refers to the making of the syndicate in question:

"The papers seized in Shanghai do not disclose in what way the Syndicate came to be formed; it is evident, however, that the actual organisation was in the hands of a member of G... and Company of

Shanghai – probably [a Chinese name], who was ultimately convicted. The syndicate was financed by a Japanese in Kobe named M [or H]... K..., to whom was handed, on October 20th, 1924 'the whole account of your concerned'. Beyond this, nothing is known of M... K..., but it can be confidently assumed that he was not merely a sleeping partner in the concern. Members of the Syndicate frequently made visits to Kobe." The note continues to describe the movements of individuals concerned, also tracking financial transactions. In such a process, it even identifies, for instance, a company operating under two different names as actually being one company.

It also tracks the voyages of a vessel used in transporting the drugs smuggled:

"The S.S. 'K... Maru' [a Japanese vessel; owner's name listed], was chartered through the firm of Y.S... and Co., of ... Kobe, in October 1923. Very large expenses were incurred in Japan prior to the departure of the vessel; various hotels were stayed at, visits were made on the business of the syndicate from Kobe to Osaka, Moji and Wakamatsu."

"On December 16th, the vessel was at Singapore, where a stay of 1 1/2 days was made, and a payment to L... K... of 530 yen had been made by G... and Co., by cable, on the 23rd November. On the 11th January, 1924, the vessel was at Port Said, where a payment of £10 was made ... to [a Chinese name] ..."

"On the 24th January, the ship arrived at Genoa, where she took on board 26 cases of drugs, which were shipped ... and consigned to ... at Vladivostok." Inquiries then made by the Italian authorities revealed that the drug had been imported, under proper customs permits, from Switzerland and that the vessel proceeded to Constantinople (present day Istanbul).

At then Constantinople, involvement of individuals of different nationalities became further evident:

"According to the Danish Vice-Consul at Constantinople, who is responsible for the protection of Chinese subjects in Turkey, C.K. Y... [a Chinese name] evidently acting as super-cargo, was accompanied by C. H..., his secretary and interpreter, and a Russian ... who was fraudulently in possession of a Chinese passport." A thorough investigation appears to have been conducted, as it, for instance, identified this Chinese individual as the author of "a well written descriptive and statistical study of the reduction of opium in Turkey" found amongst the papers discovered at Shanghai.

At Vladivostock, which was purportedly the destination, “a naturalised British subject of Swiss origin” was said to be in partnership with an individual who “appears to be a Caucasian resident at Vladivostock.” The practice of the partnership was to obtain licences to import opium, which were used as a cover to obtain opium abroad. “The opium was never imported into Vladivostock, but transhipped into junks and clandestinely conveyed to China.”

The Secretary-General's note then speaks also of the smuggling mode:

The vessel then loaded 2,200 tons of salt at Smyrna (Ibiza), and 180 cases of opium at Constantinople. While the later papers seized at Shanghai apparently revealed little about the return journey of the vessel, when she arrived at Sabang and searched, 180 cases of raw opium was found “hidden behind a wooden screen in one of the holds, together with 26 cases of drugs.” Although fined for the failure to report the cargo of opium, since there was no evidence that the opium was intended for smuggling into the then Dutch territory, the ship was allowed to sail from Sabang with the opium and drugs on board.



Photo by Akira Fujino

An opium poppy field.

It also notes that, while where the ship discharged the entire opium cargo was not known, it speaks of how the opium was brought into Shanghai. Through a commercial agreement, the opium was transported to “Kautshaungmiau,” which is the Chinese name of the Arsenal, “and the Arsenal was under the direct control of the Defence commissioner, the highest military official in Shanghai.”

Another note issued by the League of Nationsⁱ speaks of what the other drugs were and how all those drugs were disposed of:

“According to the testimony of the crews... the ship reached, on the 27th April, near the North Saddle Island off Shanghai and there they trans-boarded the opium to the Chinese junks waiting for the steamer. Before they accomplished this trans-shipment, the ship had tried to enter the river Yangtsu, but failing to do so, she then went to Pusan, Korea, and returned on the 27th to the proximity of North Saddle Island. Here the cargo of 180 cases of opium and 13 cases of morphine were trans-shipped. It was also stated that 13 other cases of morphine were thrown into the sea in the vicinity of Saishu [Jeju] Island, south of Korea, and then the ship sailed for Kobe ...”

Yet another note issuedⁱⁱ speaks of a further case of smuggling:

“Details are not yet to hand, but the press reports a very large seizure within the last few days, of morphia from Germany. The seizure was at Shanghai and was discovered, in a large consignment of iron-beds from

Germany. All the hollow bed-posts were filled with morphia.” “As is quite natural, during this time of National commotion, opium and drugs are having a free run, except for occasional seizures.”

The drugs eventually smuggled were initially diverted from licit channels. The aforementioned noteⁱⁱⁱ, for instance, speaks of some well-known, even to-date, companies, referring to a specific letter:

“It is quite evident from this letter ... that [the company] had been in the habit of supplying ... large quantities of drugs to [another company], and that they were well aware of the nature of the traffic in which they were engaged.” Speaking of yet another company, the note says *“This company is notoriously engaged in the illicit traffic. It was discovered in 1919, where resident at The Hague, to be shipping drugs to the Far East via the Free Port Copenhagen. It subsequently removed to Frieberg, Baden, from whence it transacted a considerable traffic in drugs and arms to the Far East. In consequence of the searching enquiries made by the German Government into its dealings, the firm decided to move to a more convenient centre, and in 1924 established itself at Riehen, Basle.”*

Those companies were also aware of the activities of the League of Nations. The note^{iv}, for instance, speaks of the correspondences between some companies as “interesting as showing the keen interest displayed by these firms in the activities of the League of Nations and the result of the Opium Conference – [the company named in the first case above] anxiously enquired if there is any trouble in passing the Suez Canal.”

All these show that, right before the first international drug control treaty with binding control measures was adopted [1925 International Opium Convention], the Secretariat of the League of Nations was already instrumental in disseminating findings of investigations internationally. Such information/intelligence sharing was essential, as it is today, in preventing traffickers from exploiting weak links.

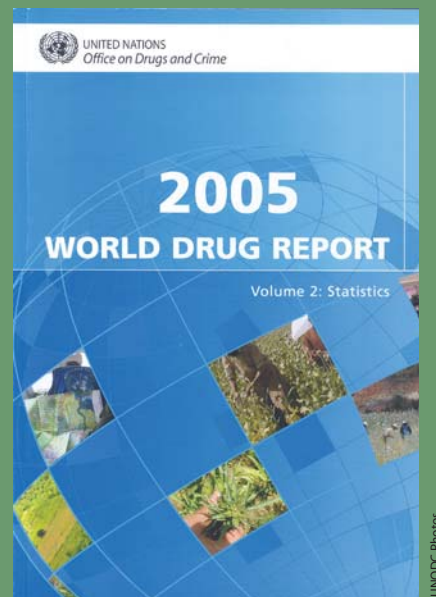
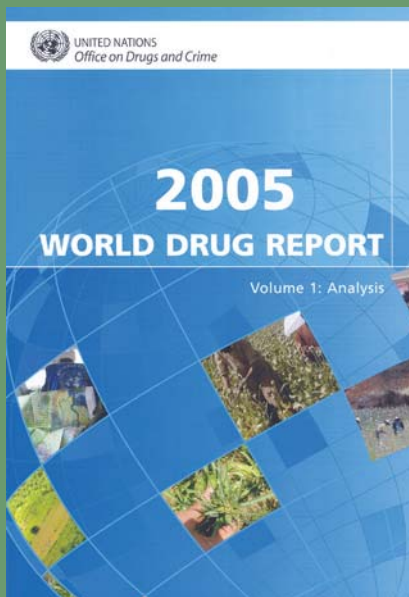
In early 1900s, such was a role played by the League of Nations at a time when international drug control treaty system was still at its infancy.

References

- ⁱ League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium, Note by the Secretary General reference C.463.M.173.1925.XI., O.C.276 (a) of 26 August 1925.
- ⁱⁱ Ibid., reference C.421.M.153.1925.XI., O.C.301 of 8 August 1925.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid., reference C.381.M.125.1925 of 27 July 1925.
- ^{iv} Ibid., reference C.381.M.125.1925 of 27 July 1925.

Author's Note: Texts in italics were reproduced verbatim. Names of individuals are withheld.

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