

Rapid Evolution of Drug Trafficking in the Mekong

13:10 – 14:00 (Vienna time)

Monday, 14 March 2022

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Methamphetamine continues to be the most widely used type of synthetic drug and the main drug of concern amongst countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, although there is increasing evidence of the production and trafficking of other synthetic drugs. During the pandemic, organized crime groups operating in the GMS have quickly adapted their modus operandi and trafficking routes in response to law enforcement efforts, allowing for the large-scale manufacture of methamphetamine and heroin in the Golden Triangle area to continue. The drug market has expanded enormously in the past two years despite the pandemic and restrictions surrounding it.

The side event will provide an in-depth briefing on the latest developments in the Mekong regional drug market. Key findings from a recent threat assessment completed along the Thai-Lao border will be discussed to illustrate the rapid changes underway in part of the Mekong.

Signed in 1993, the Mekong MOU on Drug Control has been an active and effective mechanism in addressing the illicit drug problems in the Mekong region, with the collective efforts by the six member states including Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and UNODC serving as the secretariat.

13:10 - 13:15	Introduction
13:15 - 13:20	Remarks by the Chinese delegation
13:20 – 13:25	Remarks by the Thai delegation
13:25 – 13:30	Remarks by the UNODC delegation
13:30 - 13:45	Briefing on the drug situation in the Mekong
13:45 - 13:55	Key findings from the Threat Assessment
13:55 - 14:00	Q&A

