

**The 20th Anti-Drug Liaison Officials'  
Meeting for International  
Cooperation (ADLOMICO)**

**Seoul, Korea  
October 4-6, 2010**

**Opening Speech  
by  
Yuri Fedotov  
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**Delivered by Gary Lewis  
UNODC Regional Representative, East Asia  
and the Pacific**

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Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Law enforcement and prosecution are essential elements of international drug control. This is why an annual event such as the Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (or ADLOMICO) assumes such a large degree of importance in the drug law enforcement calendar of Asia.

Let me say right from the start that ADLOMICO is recognized – worldwide – as having done a great deal – during the past two decades – to serve as an exemplary mechanism for promoting understanding, not only **among** law enforcement officers but also **between** law enforcement and the prosecution service in many countries across Asia. So please allow me to congratulate – most sincerely – the Korean Supreme Prosecutor's Office on this remarkable and consistent achievement especially on your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Although the Korean SPO promotes collaboration across a range of “rule of law” issues, the ADLOMICO focuses specifically on drug control.

UNODC has recently examined the globalization of crime in our report launched in June of this year. Our Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment – which I recommend to those who may not have had a chance to read it – looks at major trafficking flows of drugs (especially cocaine and heroin), firearms, counterfeit products, stolen natural resources, people trafficked for sex or forced labour, smuggled migrants, maritime piracy and cybercrime. The Report shows the extent to which these illicit flows affect the entire world.

Within this overall scenario, illicit drugs remain the highest-value illicit commodities trafficked internationally – and by quite a wide margin. For example, of the total estimated value of the illicit flows we examine – totalling \$125bn per year – illicit drugs markets account for 85% of this amount. According to our calculations, illicit drugs remain the backbone of transnational organized crime, commanding the largest share of revenues, as well as fuelling violence, corruption, conflict and addiction.

So our message is simple. We cannot afford to take our eyes off the drug threat.

Traffickers seek the paths of least resistance in order to minimize risk and maximize profit. It must therefore be our job to stop them. In this effort, your work is vital. And I commend you for what you are doing.

But for us to succeed we must do a number of things better. Three things in particular.

The first is to **KNOW the THREAT better**. For this, we need to improve the quality of the information we have – and share it better among ourselves. In order to act effectively, we need to know the extent, the nature and the trend of the transnational organized crime challenges we face. Currently there is much knowledge being developed in the region. Much of this work is, however, being done – to a significant degree – in isolation. Knowing what is happening at the operational level is of primary importance and this is why meetings such as this one today are so important.

But we also need to understand the broader picture of what is happening. Later this morning, my Regional Representative, Mr. Gary Lewis, will be

sharing with you – among other things – a few of the initial findings of a report on ATS which we will soon be formally launching relating to East and SE Asia. The contents of what he says draws largely from information we have received from your governments which we have tried to expand into a larger picture. In this way UNODC hopes to contribute to a better understanding of the threat and also lay the groundwork for evidence-based cooperative policy and action.

Second, we need to **sharpen our TECHNICAL capacity to act** operationally. By this I mean that we need to develop better techniques for law enforcement and prosecution. Techniques which can match up to the knowledge and prowess which our adversaries possess. Here, the emphasis must be on improving international investigative, policing, and prosecutorial tools. My office is currently working with many of the offices represented at this meeting – indeed many of the friends who are sitting in this very room – to help sharpen our response to drug trafficking – especially in border control, precursor chemical control computer-based training and technical evidence-gathering processes for use in prosecution.

Thirdly, we must **COOPERATE better across the region and among our respective agencies.** This may involve regional training to learn new techniques and skills. It may require sharing mentors. It may involve efforts to promote better understanding between law enforcement and judiciary – including from peers in other countries. It may necessitate joint operations, or asking for external assistance. It certainly will always require building efficient national criminal intelligence agencies and sharing information among them and across borders, particularly among states which are neighbours. There also may be times when new thinking is needed, for example how to deal with the challenge of short trafficking routes caused by drug supply (as in the case of ATS) in urban areas.

In our field of work, the emphasis must always focus on improving international investigative, policing, and prosecutorial tools. We must adopt and use the tools of extradition, joint asset forfeiture and mutual legal assistance. These are essential to interdict transnational criminal activities. Tomorrow you will learn more about our work in this area through the presentation of Mr. Joonmyung Lee, who is currently on secondment to UNODC from the Korean Ministry

of Justice. Mr. Lee will speak to you on prosecutorial and judicial cooperation in countering international money-laundering under the *Towards AsiaJust* programme.

I have just been appointed to head the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. But I am already becoming aware of the many existing – and effective – networks for law enforcement cooperation which have been contributing to our joint efforts over the years. The ADLOMICO is a pinnacle meeting among these. The ADLOMICO provides the international community with a great opportunity to compare notes, share information, and take action across borders.

As we all know, in 2010, ADLOMICO celebrates 20 years of promoting international cooperation in drug law enforcement. I feel honoured that UNODC has been asked to offer the opening remarks on this august occasion.

Let me then conclude by once again congratulating the Korean Supreme Prosecutors Office on this landmark achievement. I wish you another two decades of strength and effectiveness. You are doing a great job.

To all the delegates gathered together here today, I wish you a productive meeting, and I also wish you every success in your important work which will continue after the meeting ends.

Thank you.

Yury Fedotov  
Executive Director  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime