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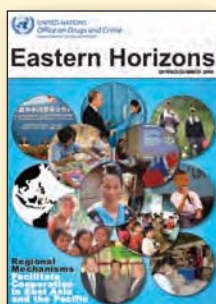
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Regional Mechanisms

Facilitate Cooperation in East Asia and the Pacific

Various mechanisms have evolved and developed over time in the region. Most of them have been institutionalized.

As the world continues to face the intertwining problems of drug abuse and trafficking, transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, corruption, money laundering, and terrorism, more regional mechanisms are evolving while existing ones strengthened. The success of regional mechanisms have helped forge collective actions and promoted collaborative efforts, enabling stakeholders and Governments to do more with less.



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Forging Stronger Regional Mechanisms



UNODC Photo

Regional mechanisms, whether formally established, or institutionalized through working arrangements, play increasingly crucial roles in the region for drug control and crime prevention, and criminal justice system issues. Thus, we have chosen “regional mechanisms” as the thematic focus for this issue.

Drug trafficking has many interlocking crime issues. Almost always, it involves transnational organized crime. It involves corruption. It could involve terrorism. A comprehensive drug control strategy for the region needs to address these links with other forms of crime.

In the East Asia and the Pacific region, UNODC helped establish the first regional drug control mechanism for the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1993. Following the achievements made through this MOU mechanism, another MOU was concluded for the same countries to address human trafficking through the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT). In 2000, UNODC helped establish another regional drug control mechanism, ACCORD (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs) which is now in its new phase as endorsed by the Second International ACCORD Congress in 2005.

Today, we have solid international treaty systems that serve as bases for regional and international collaboration in drug and crime issues. The Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, and the Convention against Corruption offer new tools in the fight against transnational organized crime. They complement the existing drug control Conventions - the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The drug control Conventions stipulate comprehensive measures, developed over several decades,* to limit the use of controlled substances to licit purposes, thereby preventing their diversion from licit channels into illicit traffic, and at the same time ensuring their availability for medical purposes. Conventions provide frameworks to address a whole range of issues in demand reduction including prevention and treatment, and in supply reduction, including sustainable alternative development to replace illicit drug crops as well as law enforcement.

The crime prevention Conventions offer common definitions of criminal acts, tools for joint investigations, confiscation and forfeiture of assets, mutual legal assistance and extradition, and victim protection. Effective countermeasures require a readiness by all relevant competent authorities to integrate new challenging issues into their agendas.

The increasingly interlocking issues such as cross border cooperation and mutual legal assistance to drugs and crime, call for the establishment of working arrangements and standard operating procedures within and between various mechanisms to enhance regional cooperation.

With its comparative advantages of having access to all types of competent authorities and civil society, the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific will continue to explore further possibilities to bridge gaps and forge stronger responses substantively and geographically working with different regional mechanisms and networks with a view to forging strong regional responses.

Akira Fujino
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* See, for instance, Stories from the Past Series VI on page 46.

Human Trafficking in the Asia Pacific Region

Regional Cooperation

By Jeanette Pastor
UNODC Regional Centre

Trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, has received significant international, regional and national attention in recent years. While little reliable data ascertains the exact number of victims of human trafficking in the East Asia and Pacific region, available information indicates that the number of victims is increasing.

The issue to date has mainly been addressed from a social development perspective, focusing on source countries and the trafficking of women and children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). However the trafficking of men and women for work in industries including fisheries, domestic work, factory work and construction is also significant.

The lure of better job opportunities and income to support one's family is a constant contributing factor to start their journey as voluntary migrants, only to be deceived and forced into prostitution or bonded labour on arrival in the destination, whether internally or abroad.

While a lack of awareness of the dangers of human trafficking in at-risk communities is a barrier to combating the crime, other factors also contribute to the problem. The absence of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, a lack of safe migration routes, the corruption of border officials, and inadequate monitoring of fraudulent documents are also significant barriers in combating human trafficking in the region. Further, confusion over differentiation between victims of

human trafficking and illegal migrants and the involvement of organized crime, along with the economic disparities between neighbouring countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), complicate the issue.

With a demand for cheap labour, in burgeoning economies such as Thailand, major incentives are evident for traffickers and the involvement of organized crime groups, exacerbating the problem. It is evident that human trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific must be addressed comprehensively, through regional cooperation and initiatives in prevention, protection of victims and witnesses, information sharing and the establishment of legislation in accordance with the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Initiatives and countermeasures to date to address human trafficking issues vary greatly across the Asia Pacific region. The United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP), established in June 2000 to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated response to human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region has enabled a coordinated response to human trafficking in the GMS. With offices in each country in the sub-region, UNIAP assists the coordination of activities between the national governments, United Nations agencies and international non government organizations (NGOs).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has collaborated actively with UNIAP and has worked towards facilitating common frameworks of intervention among NGOs and other international partners. UNODC is also engaged in promoting a number of regional instruments that have also been adopted in Asia and the Pacific, including the Asian Regional Initiative Against Trafficking (ARIAT), Regional Action Plan, and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. There are several bilateral and multilateral Memoranda of Under-

Initiatives and countermeasures to address human trafficking issues vary greatly across the Asia Pacific region.

standing in the region, as well as four multilateral declarations, including ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children, which was signed in November 2004. The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative on Trafficking (COMMIT) is an initiative that aims to provide a more holistic strategy to combat trafficking in the GMS. Led by the Governments of the six GMS countries, and with UNIAP acting as the Secretariat, COMMIT aims to create a sustained and effective system of cross-border cooperation and collaboration to combat human trafficking. Highly regarded as suitable to implement across the region, it is an important initiative in regional cooperation in combating human trafficking.

UNODC is also working within the GMS in the area of criminalization of human trafficking, by assisting GMS countries in the implementation of the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention. Project activities include the examination of national laws on crime prevention, discussion on issues of national laws and policies, technical advice and regional seminars to discuss common legal issues.

While most GMS countries are willing to ratify the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention, current national laws do not always comply with the standards that the Convention requires. It is in this area that UNODC assists GMS countries. The UNODC Viet Nam Country



UNODC Vienna Photo

Pacific in Focus

office is also facilitating networking within law enforcement and the judiciary, increasing investigation and prosecution capacities and the training of personnel.

In the area of protection, UNODC is providing support for victims in the Philippines, through the creation and expansion of the capacity of selected rehabilitation centres and facilities to support victims and witnesses of trafficking in persons. Support activities including vocational training and reintegration are being improved, both at the national and the community levels, along with cooperation mechanisms between the Department of Social Welfare and Development and related law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

Direct tangible results come from regional cooperation facilitated by a range of United Nations and international organizations, including UNODC, UNIAP, UNICEF, UNESCO, etc., with active collaboration from national Governments. Recently the Viet Nam News Agency reported that the country has worked towards closing gaps on abuse of existing regulations on international marriage, under Government Decree No. 69/2006/ND-CP, released 21 July 2006. The new legislation clearly attempts to crack down on such abuses and states that certificates shall not be granted to "forged" marriages, undertaken illegally to enable human trafficking or sexual abuse. There are numerous examples of tangible benefits of regional cooperation, some of which include, development of new bilateral MOUs, ensuring of the enforcement of commitments made in these MOUs and arrests made as the result of active collaboration among two countries, with one case of a Cambodian trafficker successfully prosecuted, as a result of collaboration by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Royal Government of Thailand and assisted by the two UNIAP project offices in both countries.

The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific is expanding its activities in the region in combating human trafficking. A computer-based training project has been piloted in Thailand, which provided training for personnel of involved agencies to improve their understanding of human trafficking. UNODC hopes to expand activities in the region, including the implementation of similar witness and victim protection programmes as established in the Philippines. ■

UNODC Goodwill Ambassador Visits Asia

By Victoria Chia
UNODC Regional Centre



UNODC Photo / Olivia Sylvia Inciong

Julia Ormond, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Human Trafficking, visited Thailand, Cambodia and India on a study and advocacy visit to learn about human trafficking as well as to speak out against it.

During her visits, Ormond met with anti-human trafficking activists as well as governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations such as Baan Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Centre, Baan Poomvej Pakkred Reception Home for Boys, New Life Centre Foundation, Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities Centre and Anti-Trafficking Coordination Unit in Thailand; the Hagar Project in Cambodia; and the Sankalp Foundation in India.

Ormond stressed the pervasiveness of human trafficking, and the need to find specific, locally-tailored and culturally-sensitive solutions to this scourge.

Ormond has already been tirelessly promoting efforts to combat this and other issues focused on by UNODC. In the past six months, Ormond carried out human trafficking advocacy work in Ghana.

Fans of Julia Ormond – the actress – will soon be seeing her in Steven Soderbergh's "Guerilla" and David Lynch's "Inland Empire."

Ormond has already been tirelessly promoting efforts to combat human trafficking.

Ormond was appointed as UNODC Goodwill Ambassador by Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa on 2 December 2005. During her initial two-year term of service, she focuses on anti-human trafficking initiatives and raising awareness worldwide about this modern form of slavery. ■

COMMIT

The First Comprehensive Regional

The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) is a process led by the Governments of the six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) that aims at creating a sustained and effective system of cross-border cooperation and collaboration to combat human trafficking. In over 16 months, starting at a meeting in Bangkok on 20 November 2003 when the decision to launch COMMIT was made, and culminating in 29-31 March 2005 in Hanoi, the six Governments have achieved the first-ever, sub-regional Memo-

randum of Understanding (MOU) on human trafficking in Asia and the Pacific, and have adopted a comprehensive and strategic Sub-regional Plan of Action to build a seamless web of cooperative endeavors against human trafficking. The United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) was asked by the concerned Governments to serve as the Secretariat to COMMIT. COMMIT is governed by an annual meeting of Senior Officials who meet every year.

THE UNIQUENESS OF COMMIT

COMMIT is unique for a number of reasons. First, through COMMIT, it is the Governments of the sub-region that are taking the lead in identifying the problem of human trafficking and setting the policies, activities, and timelines to address it. COMMIT is the maturation of an anti-trafficking effort in the GMS that, in its earlier stages, was largely planned and led by international agencies and donors. This strong sense of pride and ownership in COMMIT is evident in the prominent way that this process has been highlighted by the six Governments in international fora, and has been placed at the centre of their national anti-trafficking plans and policies.

Second, COMMIT is a high-level policy dialogue demonstrating the political commitment of the Governments to work together in a sub-region where all the Governments realize that no single country can tackle human trafficking alone. The targeted regional focus of COMMIT on the GMS is based on a common awareness that many of the distinct trafficking flows affect two or more countries of the region, so all the countries must work together to succeed.

Third, COMMIT focuses specifically on the issue of human trafficking, where there is strong support for common action, and does so in a comprehensive way in accordance with international standards. COMMIT ensures that interventions cover women, children, and men. The COMMIT MOU explicitly bases its definition of trafficking on the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol) supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. Furthermore, COMMIT is based on a clear rights-based approach, upholding the importance of United Nations Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking.

Fourth, COMMIT is built on a multi-sector, multi-agency approach, through the national COMMIT Task Forces, composed of senior and technical experts of the Governments, who meet on a regular basis to coordinate anti-trafficking policies and interventions. Pursuing an inter-Ministerial approach that reflects the understanding that human trafficking is a very broad and complex issue that affects many different aspects of human society (and hence is beyond the mandate of any one ministry), COMMIT promotes a Government policy mechanism that actually works.

The United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Cambodia, Lao PDR, PR China, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam

The United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) was established in June 2000 to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated response to human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, PR China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam). At a regional level, UNIAP brings together six governments, thirteen United Nations agencies and eight international NGOs. At a country level, the project includes an extensive network of government, local and international NGOs, United Nations organizations, donors and links to networks in South Asia and beyond. The UNIAP Regional Office is based in Bangkok. It manages the country programmes with guidance provided by an inter-governmental Project Steering Committee that meets annually and from the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Thailand, who is the Principal Project Representative.

The United Nations Inter-Agency Project aims to strengthen the regional response to human trafficking, through improved knowledge, effective collaboration and better targeted action, with a view to reducing the severity and harm associated with human trafficking in the GMS.

Under the framework of the United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Thailand, 22 agencies are now co-operating in a working group to provide a more comprehensive, coordinated response to the problem of trafficking of women and children in the Mekong Sub-region. These are: United Nations Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), International Labour Organization (ILO) Mekong Anti-Trafficking Project, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Thailand, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific, UNESCO Trafficking Project, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) East and Southeast Asia Regional Office, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Asia Office, OXFAM International, Child Worker in Asia, End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), Coalition to Fight Against Child Exploitation (FACE), Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), Mekong Regional Law Centre, Save the Children Alliance, World Vision, and The International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: www.un.or.th/TraffickingProject/Groups/groups.html

Anti-Human Trafficking Agreement

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

THE CARE OF COMMIT

The COMMIT MOU is already regarded as a potential model for other such agreements around the world. It is an aspirational document, containing a detailed preamble followed by 34 specific commitments in the areas of: policy and cooperation; preventive measures; legal frameworks, law enforcement and justice; protection, recovery and reintegration; and mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

TURNING PLEDGES OF COOPERATION INTO REALITY

The Sub-Regional Plan of Action (SPA) transforms the commitments made under the MOU into action. The SPA is not intended to replace or duplicate national planning processes, but to complement, build on, and, where applicable, support national responses. The SPA is designed to build a workable, comprehensive, and cohesive sub-regional system of cooperation to combat human trafficking.

Not surprisingly, the SPA focuses primarily on activities of a regional and cross-border nature, which build linkages between national governments, and among governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national NGO partners. The SPA also provides significant opportunities for cross-fertilization of experience, coordination of standards and processes in prosecutorial cooperation, migration management, repatriation of victims, and learning from both successes and failures. Since the SPA is an ambitious document, all parties recognize that it will not be possible to implement all activities within the three-year timeframe, particularly given the need for countries to balance regional and national priorities. Those activities not implemented during the course of the current Plan (2005-2007) can be carried over to the next plan, or altered as needed.

The original Plan of Action which comprises eleven areas of intervention and one area of management, as stated below was recently streamlined at the August 2006 Strategic Planning Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR:

1. Regional training programme
2. Identification of victims and apprehension of perpetrators
3. National plans
4. Multi-sectoral and bilateral partnerships
5. Legal frameworks
6. Safe and timely repatriation

7. Post-harm support and reintegration
8. Extradition and mutual legal assistance
9. Economic and social support for victims
10. Addressing exploitative brokering practices
11. Cooperation with tourism sector
12. Management – coordination, monitoring and evaluation

The new streamlined version of the above amalgamates the 7th and the 9th interventions and the 5th and the 8th on Legal Frameworks and Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance.

Source: www.no-trafficking.org/content/COMMIT_Process/commit_background.html



Photo by UNIAP

Features of the Memorandum of Understanding

- A clear definition of trafficking based on the United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, which covers women, children and men, and encompasses all forms of trafficking
- Grounding in international standards including key international Conventions and the United Nations Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking
- Emphasis on importance of multi-sectoral responses
- A comprehensive range of commitments covering demand as well as supply issues
- Encapsulation of the importance of a 'victim-centred' approach that stems from an understanding of human trafficking as a violation of human rights
- Acknowledgement that marginalized populations have special vulnerabilities that must be addressed
- Highlighting of the importance of strengthened guidelines and mechanisms for identification of victims, and the linkages between better identification and treatment of victims and more effective law enforcement
- Underlining of the role that migration policy (including bilateral migration agreements) can play in combating trafficking
- Recognition of the need for increased efforts in the application of labour laws, and monitoring of labour recruitment companies

ADLOMICO and its Role in International Drug Control

By Dong Young Lee and Olivia Sylvia Inciong
UNODC Regional Centre

It all started with the meeting of four countries: the United States, Japan, Taiwan Province of China, and the Republic of Korea in 1989. Sixteen years later, 16 other countries were represented at the meeting with other international organizations. The quarterly meeting that started in April 1989 has now developed into an anti-drugs international conference bringing drug officials together.

The Anti-Drug Liaison Officials Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO) is now being used as a role model for foreign drug law enforcement agencies in the Asian region, sharing various materials and exchanging information on new trends of drug crimes, and encouraging mutual legal assistance.

ADLOMICO aims to share information about international drug trafficking organizations and their illicit trafficking activities and to establish the framework for regional cooperation to tackle drug crimes.

Since then, the Korean Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office organizes quarterly meetings with drug-related officials from several embassies in Seoul, with the purpose of strengthening international cooperation and facilitating exchange of information on international drug crimes.

At its 16th meeting, Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative of UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific assured ADLOMICO of strong UNODC support for its work and emphasized the importance of international cooperation to effectively control drugs and fight against transnational and organized crimes. The United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) recognized ADLOMICO as a 'successful model of regional cooperation'. ADLOMICO has developed into an anti-drug international conference bringing together 120 drug-related senior officials from 17 countries and international organizations, such as the UNODC, World Customs Organization and International Criminal Police Organization-Interpol at the 16th ADLOMICO, held in Busan from 14 to 16 June 2006.

Mr. Sang-Myoung Chung, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Korea, said that efforts jointly with several member countries to improve data system in investigation, as well as in rehabilitation and to explore scientific investigative skills have been made. He announced that the Republic of Korea has successfully eradicated illicit drugs and that the country is now 'a drug free nation'.

Mr. Chung, however, emphasized that drug control is a cross border agenda and one country's success is not the end. He stressed that the Republic of Korea will not be complacent of its own success, but rather continue its fight with all ADLOMICO member countries. The Republic of Korea will strengthen the ADLOMICO forum while playing a coordinating role in international cooperation.

At the first session of the 16th ADLOMICO meeting this year, the participants presented its country reports on the trend of new types of drugs and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and/or trafficking of cultivated narcotics (cannabis, opium, coca, etc.). At the second session, participants presented and discussed: 1) money laundering and asset forfeiture measures; and 2) drug profiling technology and other investigatory skills. At its final session, participants shared information on international cooperation and model cases and information exchange.

While ADLOMICO continues to strengthen regular fora for exchange of information and forge closer regional and international cooperation, it provides a new turning point toward a drug-free region by sharing valuable experiences and knowledge. In addition, it has reached a new level of mutual understanding professionally and built trust personally among fellow members.

ADLOMICO has successfully established a network for drug information exchange and international cooperation with member countries. It has strengthened cooperation with a major drug-supplying country for the surveillance of drug stream and the cut-off of smuggling into Republic of Korea and enhanced and publicized its status as a model nation in drug law enforcement. ADLOMICO has put in place a sub-regional cooperation mechanism pursuant to UNODC resolutions for drug control and serves as a channel for mutual legal assistance.

The member countries ADLOMICO includes: Australia (March 1990), Canada (March 1990), PRChina (December 1992), France (December 2002), Germany (June 1992), Indonesia (September 2004), Japan (April 1989), Malaysia (June 1992), Mexico (December 1998), Pakistan (September 2004), the Philippines (March 1991), Romania (June 1998), Russia (June 1995), Thailand (December 1990), the United Kingdom (September 1990), Ukraine (December 1999), the United States (April 1989), Viet Nam (September 2004), and the Republic of Korea (April 1989). ■

Editor's Note:

The senior author conducted a research internship at the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific for his PhD programme at Bond University, Australia, and completing his dissertation on "Assessing Drug Control Mechanisms in East Asia." He attended the 16th ADLOMICO meeting from 14 to 16 June 2006 in Busan, the Republic of Korea. He is working as a professor at the College of Police Science at the Daebul University in the Republic of Korea and served at the Korean National Police Agency for 12



Photo by Korean Independent Commission Against Corruption, Republic of Korea

After the ADLOMICO meeting, Mr. Akira Fujino (second from left) met with Mr. Soung-Jin Chung (second from right), Chair of the Korean Independent Commission Against Corruption. Discussions focused on strengthening the cooperation between the Commission and UNODC on mitigating corruption.

Witness Protection

Successfully Negotiating the Tightrope

By Fiona Dempsey
UNODC Regional Centre

Witnesses play a crucial role in the effective administration of justice in any legal framework. With changing global crime patterns and increasing prominence of organized crime, measures to ensure witnesses can provide assistance and evidence without fear of reprisals is becoming increasingly relevant. Witness protection is essential prosecuting to a wide range of offences including violent crimes and domestic offences.

The need for witness protection has been acknowledged by the international community, with a number of international instruments now including specific provisions in this regard. However, the potential impact that witness protection measures can have on the accused's right to a fair trial and due process cannot be ignored. Thus, instituting a witness protection scheme necessarily involves an evaluation of the competing rights and identifying a balance that best serves the interests of justice.

From 6 to 8 June 2006, witness protection officials from Asia-Pacific countries and representatives of international organizations, met in Bangkok to discuss various issues within the broad framework of witness protection. The meeting was organized as part of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) effort to draft guidelines to assist Member States wanting to establish a witness protection system, or enhance existing mechanisms.

The Bangkok meeting was the second regional meeting in the series. The first regional expert group meeting was held in Mexico in December 2005, and brought together representatives from Latin American countries.

The Bangkok workshop aimed to foster discussion concerning operational,

administrative, and institutional factors relating to the protection of witnesses and establishment of protection programmes, and provide recommendations for the improvement of relevant measures and international cooperation in the region.

UNODC GUIDELINES

The meeting took the form of an interactive workshop including short presentations from participants on various topics, such as "Protecting Witnesses and the Right to a Fair Trial: Maintaining the Balance."

UNODC is aiming to develop guidelines without advocating for a particular type of witness protection system. Rather, the guidelines serve to highlight the main issues that need to be taken into consideration in establishing or enriching a programme. In addition, the guidelines provide a comparative assessment of the various approaches adopted by countries to practical dilemmas experienced in the context of witness protection. The guidelines are targeted at a wide range of stakeholders within the witness protection arena, including policymakers, legislators, senior law enforcement and justice officials, legal practitioners, and investigators.

In considering the issue of witness protection, the draft guidelines acknowledge that the effect witness protection measures have on the defendant/accused and their right to a fair trial cannot be ignored. It is therefore critical that steps taken to protect a witness are both proportionate to the threat and with adequate legal basis. The draft guidelines suggest the legal basis for implementing protection measures should specify: protection measures that may be adopted; the conditions for their application; the procedures to be followed; the authority responsible for their application; the duration; and the rights and obligations of the parties.

In light of the potential impact of protection measures on factors beyond the status of the witness, the legal framework underpinning the programme needs to be cognizant of certain critical issues. These include the potential for the measures to infringe on procedural fairness and other aspects of the rule of law.

Striking the balance between necessary protection measures and procedural fairness can be as-

sisted by clear, consistent and realistic legislation and/or administrative guidelines. There are various resources available that can assist countries in implementing such a system. For example, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights has developed a set of conditions over time for using protected witnesses while ensuring the right to a fair trial. These conditions have now been incorporated into the legal framework and court procedure of the 46 countries that are parties to the

It is critical that steps taken to protect a witness are both proportionate to the threat and with adequate legal basis.

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In developing an appropriate programme, the types of crimes that most commonly require witness protection also need to be considered.

WITNESS PROTECTION IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The East Asia and Pacific region has long struggled with the issue of transnational organized crime. With significant concerns relating to threats to human security such as drug production and trafficking, the need for successful interdiction techniques to be matched with successful prosecutions is apparent. Witness protection is often a necessary element of this.

Properly devised witness protection programmes will assist countries in meeting obligations in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In fact, the former requires parties to take appropriate steps to protect witnesses in the prosecution of offences contained in the convention and its associated protocols. It is therefore anticipated that the UNODC Guidelines for the Effective Protection of Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings Involving Organized Crime will assist countries in addressing not only the important issue of witness protection, but to do so in a way that ensures the effective, valuable and legitimate application of the programme. ■

UNODC Goodwill

Helping Promote and Generate Support for

By Olivia Sylvia Inciong
UNODC Regional Centre



Julia Ormond British actress and activist

A long-time advocate for human rights issues, Julia has advanced social causes both in her individual capacity and as the co-founder and co-chair of FilmAid International Inc., which seeks to promote health, strengthen communities and enrich the lives of vulnerable people. In September 2005, she worked on anti-human trafficking initiatives with UNODC in Moscow and presented the MTV Russian Music Award to a

young activist fighting AIDS. On 1 December, she co-hosted a UNAIDS event to commemorate World AIDS Day in New York City.

Julia is well known for her roles in such films as *Legends of the Fall*, *Sabrina* and *The Barber of Siberia*, as well as for her work in television and the theatre.

"Travelling to the countries where human trafficking occurs would take me to every country in the world. And I think it's clear that the solutions that are working are very specific. They are culturally appropriate."

As UNODC Goodwill Ambassador, Julia supports UNODC's anti-human trafficking efforts to raise awareness globally on this modern form of slavery and to promote endeavours to combat it. She delivers public addresses for UNODC at events on human trafficking, including on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (2 December), which recalls the date the General Assembly adopted the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

Julia also appears in UNODC public service announcements or in the media to raise awareness about human trafficking and joins the Executive Director of UNODC in connection with the launch of special funds established on the basis of donations from the business community, in the Russian Federation, or other countries.

She has appeared at events in Vienna, organized under the auspices of UNODC including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Crime Commission, the annual Civil Society Award ceremony, the major donors' meeting, and expert group meetings.

In 2006, Julia conducted field visits to Ghana, Cambodia, Thailand and India. She met individuals committed to end this crime and human trafficking victims who are now free.

In her work, Julia encourages the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and meets with trafficking victims and finds creative multimedia ways to share information about human trafficking and victims' experiences. ■

A photographer, a movie actress, and a world-class gymnast. What do they have in common? They are all Goodwill Ambassadors for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

UNODC is one of the 11 United Nations Offices, Funds and Programmes, which may designate Goodwill Ambassadors. Other agencies



Alessandro Scotti

Scotti has worked as a professional photographer and writer for ten years, and his work has taken him to 15 countries. Since 2001, he has chosen to highlight the dilemmas of populations and regions plagued by drug trafficking. In 2004, his photographic survey on drugs was awarded the prestigious Ponchielli Prize for "The Best Photographic Work of the Year." His talent has transformed the tragic plight of a few into a global campaign against narco-trafficking.

"The United Nations has always represented a common platform for discussion among far-away cultures and realities, as well as a guarantee for the rights of all human beings."

He is the recipient of the French 3PPP grant, an honour awarded to only 10 photographers in 2005. Scotti is a member of the Italian Ordine dei Giornalisti, and the International Federation of Journalists. He is also a photographer for the Italian edition of Rolling Stone magazine.

II Ambassadors

UNODC Work

include: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United

Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and World Food Programme (WFP).

The United Nations has a tradition of enlisting the volunteer services and support of prominent individuals from the worlds of art, science, sport, literature, entertainment, or other fields of public life, to highlight priority issues and to draw attention to its activities. The Secretary-General has invited a number of high profile individuals to serve as Messengers of Peace. The experience of the United Nations has proven that celebrities can contribute to United Nations' efforts to raise awareness of the aims, objectives and priorities of the Organization, to convey messages about its activities and to extend its public outreach.

Individuals designated by the Secretariat or the Funds and Programmes shall be given the title of Goodwill Ambassadors. Individuals designated by the Secretary-General will have the title of Messenger of Peace. Individuals invited to serve as Goodwill Ambassadors or Messengers of Peace are considered persons of integrity who demonstrate a strong desire to help mobilize public interest in, and support for, the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and who demonstrate the commitment and proven potential to reach out to significant audiences, including decision makers. They possess the personality and dignity required for such high level representative capacity. Scotti, Ormond, and Cassina shall not be paid a salary, although a symbolic payment of USD\$1 per year or equivalent may be granted to them. They will serve for two years, renewable. ■

Italian photographer

As UNODC Goodwill Ambassador, Scotti will produce at field level a series of photographic surveys and interviews focusing on the following sectors: drug cultivation, production and processing, law enforcement activities and operations, treatment and rehabilitation facilities addressed at abusers, drug abuse and trafficking (local markets), local drug economies, main drug related problems (ex-trafficking human beings, smuggling in firearms, commercial sex workers, women and children abuse, drug abuse in prisons, etc.), HIV/AIDS and other diseases as a consequence of drug abuse, prevention and awareness raising activities, detention and prosecution, and relevant institutional activities in the field.

He will draw a comprehensive picture of the drugs and crime phenomenon in various countries around the world through field surveys including reports and interviews.

In 2006, Scotti has made field visits to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Lao PDR. Production has started for the Golden Triangle book, the second in his trilogy of photography books dealing with the global drug problem. The book is planned to be launched by the end of the year. A book on Colombia was released a few years ago. The third book will be on Central Asia. ■

UNODC Vienna Photos



Igor Cassina Italian athlete

In 2004, Igor Cassina won the Olympic medal in the men's horizontal bar at the Summer Olympics in Athens. He was the first gymnast to perform a giant Kovacs straight with 1/1 turn, a feat that earned him a lasting place in the history of gymnastics - the gymnastic move was thereafter called the "Cassina straight." Igor stresses the importance of community support for sports, and the relevance of sports in communities where less fortunate youth may have few options other than crime and delinquency.

Igor is living proof that sports are more than just activities - they are lifestyles, characterized by beliefs and values incompatible with drug use. Life offers everyone an opportunity to 'go for the gold' - but like Igor, people have to be ready to make the right choices.

On the occasion of the 2006 celebration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Igor travelled to Albania where he held gymnastics exhibition.

"If we want results, we'll have to rely on everything that surrounds us. We can't just count on ourselves."

Igor will assist UNODC to raise awareness among young people of the health risks associated with drug abuse and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. He has joined UNODC's international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and highlighted, in Italy and abroad, issues related to drugs and crime.

He also is engaged in awareness-raising activities such as visiting drug treatment/rehabilitation and sports centres and visits adult and juvenile correctional institutions. Igor also speaks to the media at public events about UNODC's mission and informs the world about the problems associated with drugs and crime. ■

Thailand Steps Up Efforts Against Human

The Royal Thai Government regards human trafficking as a serious crime against human rights. It has been very concerned how best to combat human trafficking, pouring in its resources, efforts, and abilities to mitigate the problem.

The Government alone cannot eliminate human trafficking. It needs the networks among inter governmental agencies, non governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS A NATIONAL AGENDA

On 6 August 2004, at a national workshop on human trafficking, the Thai Prime Minister declared combating human trafficking as a national agenda and set up an initial fund of 500 million Baht (about US\$13.3 million) to rehabilitate, reintegrate victims of trafficking into society and sup-

port anti-trafficking-related projects/ activities/ plans of action initiated by government agencies, NGOs, civil society and groups of individuals.

Thailand is committed to providing assistance and support for the physical, mental and spiritual rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking. Ninety-three reception centres and temporary shelters have been set up to accommodate Thai and foreign victims of trafficking before they are transferred to one of the six major shelter homes where the victims are provided with basic necessities, education, and vocational and skills training.

The National Policy and Plan on Prevention and Resolution of Domestic and Cross-border Trafficking in Children and Women (2002-2007) was approved by the Cabinet on 1 July 2003. It serves as a guideline for both government and non-government agencies to cooperate in combating human trafficking. This plan has focused on prevention, suppression, assistance and protection, recovery and reintegration and the establishment of structures for effective policy implementation, in compliance with the related laws, conventions, protocols, and declarations. Also, the national plan states that capacity building programs shall be provided to relevant personnel, and human trafficking indicators and baseline information developed to monitor and evaluate prevention and suppression of the problem.

The Royal Thai Government has set up a National Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking chaired by one of the Deputy Prime Ministers. The responsibilities of the committee include the formulation of policies, guidelines and measures to combat human trafficking in all forms. It is also charged with the provision of assistance, protection and rehabilitation of trafficking victims. It coordinates with other countries and international organizations as well and

local and international non-governmental organizations. It supervises and monitors projects and activities conducted by government agencies against human trafficking to ensure maximum efficiency and coordination.

FIRST INTEGRATED CENTRE

The establishment of a centre that operates concurrently at three levels: provincial, national, and international, is a significant mechanism against human trafficking in Thailand. The operational centre is the result of a Cabinet Resolution passed on 14 June 2005. The centre functions as a coordinating body in the formulation of policies and measures against human trafficking. Thailand is the first country in the GMS to set up an integrated centre with a network at all levels.

COOPERATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A number of domestic inter-agency Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been signed by government agencies and non-governmental organizations and among nine provinces in the northern region on common operational guidelines in cases involving the trafficking of women and children: MOU on Common Guidelines and Practices for Government Agencies Concerned with Cases of Trafficking in Women and Children 2003, MOU on the Procedural Cooperation between Government and Non-Government Agencies Working with Cases of Trafficking in Women and Children 2003, and MOU on the Operational Guidelines of

Drug Courts: A Viable Alternative

By Fiona Dempsey
UNODC Regional Centre

Drug-related crime continues to grow as abusers increasingly resort to this to finance their addiction. Empirical evidence indicates that while opiate/heroin production and abuse is declining in the East Asia and Pacific region, patterns of abuse are changing rather than decreasing. It is estimated that Asia has the highest incidence of ATS abuse in the world, with over 15 million users, and a general rising trend of methamphetamine use is evident, with the exception of Thailand. Injecting drug use is also prominent, with an estimated 5.3 million injecting drug users in the region. This plays a critical role in the ongoing spread of HIV/AIDS, with about 3.2 million injecting drug population infected with HIV.

In 2005, approximately 7.4 million people were living with HIV in Asia, and 520,000 deaths resulted as a consequence of AIDS. Incarceration of drug abusers and offenders is however an insufficient response.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) notes that prison settings

have a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS than the general population. Prisons and closed settings are a potential bridge by which the virus can affect other sectors of the community.

Governments have long faced the question of how best to address the issue of drug abuse and associated crime. From a law enforcement perspective, the South East Asia region takes one of the strongest stances on drug trafficking, with 11 of the 29 countries globally that provide for the death penalty for trafficking offences within the region.

Despite success with enforcement efforts such as the "War on Drugs" in Thailand, drug abuse remains prolific. Data from Thailand for example, indicates that 80 per cent of the overall custodial population has been charged with drug offences.

There is a strong argument for alternative ways to address the issue. Rather than adopting a reactive approach, there is now a movement within the context of criminal justice towards proactively treating the underlying addiction. Given the cross-

cutting nature of the issue, no one sector of the community can address drug abuse and associated crime in isolation. A multi-disciplinary and informed approach is necessary to develop a comprehensive and effective response.

Amidst complaints of overcrowded prisons and judicial systems burdened with drug offenders, the debate regarding the implementation of Drug Courts in the Asia Pacific region has been raised. Since Drug Courts were successfully introduced in the United States of America in 1989, similar models have been introduced throughout the world, and the numbers continue to increase.

WHAT ARE DRUG COURTS?

A drug court is a judicial process delegated responsibility to manage drug offenders. The court aims to reduce ongoing and escalating drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour, primarily by treating the offender's underlying addiction via a court-directed treatment and rehabilitation programme. The traditional criminal process is normally suspended for the duration of the offender's partici-



Trafficking

Non-Governmental Agencies Concerned with Cases of Trafficking in Women and Children, 2003. The guidelines cover a series of steps to be taken in rescuing trafficked Thai and foreign women and children, including preliminary fact-finding interviews, investigation and examination of witnesses. The information gathered will be used as evidence against the traffickers and for rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration.

At present, measures are being taken to extend the domestic internal MOUs to the eastern and northeastern regions of the country.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

On bilateral cooperation, Thailand signed MOUs with other GMS countries. The first was the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking, 31 May 2003. The cooperation covers three major areas: repatriation and integration of the victims, prosecution of the offenders, and exchange of information. The two countries agreed on repatriation whereby the victims' rights and interests must be recognized.

In July 2005, the Governments of Thailand and Lao PDR signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

pation in the drug court process. The court operates on a multidisciplinary framework, with the judge being assisted by professionals in substance abuse treatment, health, and education.

Court-directed treatment and rehabilitation can take a number of forms and is usually undertaken only with the offender's consent. Basically, the court is able to offer alternatives to traditional sanctions such as imprisonment, including ordering the offender to undergo a period of treatment and rehabilitation. Treatment can range from counseling to inpatient care, and the rehabilitation can provide literacy, vocational and life-skills training.

The constitution and structure of Drug Courts varies between jurisdictions. Drug Courts vary throughout the world, but generally rest on three pillars: appropriate treatment; court-based monitoring of offender's progress, which includes case management and regular court appearances; and mandatory drug testing.

Drug Courts generally operate on specific eligibility requirements. To be eligible, a participant must be a non-violent offender and able to demonstrate he/she has a substance abuse problem that contributed to the commission of the offence. Se-

Especially Women and Children. Guidelines on the procedures for reception and repatriation have been developed. At present, Thailand is in the process of concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Viet Nam on the elimination of trafficking in children and women and on the rescue of victims of trafficking.

In 2004, Thailand, together with the GMS countries pioneered the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), and signed the MOU on Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. The COMMIT Process is one of regional mechanisms which has been well designed to help solve the issue of human trafficking.

IN THE WORKS

To ensure greater effectiveness in combating human trafficking and in law enforcement, the Royal Thai Government drafted the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act in line with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. The Act defines the meaning and scope of human trafficking with provisions to ensure that perpetrators who have committed trafficking offenses outside the Kingdom shall be brought to justice and punished in the Kingdom. The bill outlines the process of obtaining evidence for human trafficking cases that will be used to sue for compensation of damages to victims. It also incorporates

rious and violent offenders are generally not considered eligible for a drug court programme.

WHY INTRODUCE DRUG COURTS?

Drug Courts offer a practical means of addressing the issue of drug abuse and drug-related crime,

Rather than adopting a reactive approach, there is now a movement within the context of criminal justice towards proactively treating the underlying addiction.

from both a law enforcement, and health paradigm. Research has demonstrated that Drug Courts have achieved success in reducing rates of relapse and recidivism among participants. The benefits of the programme also include:

- Reduction in the rate of offenders who receive custodial sentences, therefore reducing prison occupancy rates and overcrowding;
- Provision of a mechanism by which the offender has to take responsibility for his/her conduct in a judicial context, and receive treatment for behavioural, biological and environmental causes of their addiction;

measures for the protection of victims and it provides for the establishment of a fund for activities on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking and for assistance to and welfare of victims. It has already been approved by the Cabinet and is being considered by the Council of State. ■

This article was based on the statement of H.E. Mr. Watana Muangsook, Minister of Social Development and Human Security during the conference on Civil Society and Government Collaboration to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Greater Mekong Sub-Region, Plaza Athenee Hotel, Bangkok, 22 May 2006.

The Royal Thai Government is aware that illegal migration could lead to trafficking. As a result, it has signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Employment Cooperation with the Governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. On 20 December 2005, the Cabinet passed a resolution approving a special scheme for employment of illegal or undocumented migrant workers from Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia. A one-stop service centre that provides registration records, a security guarantee, health examination and insurance, and application for work permits, was created. Registered persons who have successfully undergone the process are entitled to stay in the Kingdom for two years.

- Implementation of a proactive and innovative approach in dealing with drug-related crime; and
- Reduction in the cases before traditional courts, therefore reducing any backlog.

Evidence shows that in comparison to the cost of incarceration of an offender, the Drug Court programme is very efficient. Even in countries with limited financial resources, the Drug Court programme is a viable cost-effective option.

The Drug Court programmes are typically very demanding and require the offender's active participation with the programme or face sanctions and possible return to traditional judicial mechanisms. Close monitoring, drug testing, regular court attendances and a high level of accountability ensure that Drug Courts are by no means a "soft option" in terms of punishing offenders.

UNODC has been working actively in this area since 1996, during which time, activities have been undertaken such as developing a practitioner network and practical guidelines for establishing and implementing these courts. For further information on UNODC activities in the region, contact the UNODC Regional Centre, Bangkok or visit www.unodc.un.or.th. ■

The Suppression of Narcotic Drugs in Myanmar

By The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control
Yangon, Myanmar

Successive Governments of the Union of Myanmar have waged a relentless war on illicit drugs since regaining her independence in 1948. The Government is determined to eradicate poppy production and permanently restructure the economy of the opium producing areas in the country, and is therefore stepping up activities to attain this ultimate objective.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Over 300,000 belonging to various national races of the hill regions in the border areas are engaged in poppy cultivation, which is their only means of livelihood. The situation was aggravated during the British colonial period when poppy cultivation was officially sanctioned in the Shan and Kachin States levying opium taxes and allowing opium dens to operate in urban areas. Until recently, those border areas also remained undeveloped owing to insurgencies and communication difficulties. The Kuomintang driven out of Communist China in 1950, entrenched themselves with drug production and trafficking until the early 1960s in these areas which was later known as the Golden Triangle.

After independence in 1948, successive governments launched anti drug campaigns and military operations to destroy clandestine laboratories and eradicate poppy fields both manually and by aerial spraying of chemicals. However, the efforts have not been successful due to problems related to insurgencies. Later on, the insurgents themselves got deeply involved in the lucrative drug business. The Kokang and Wa regions, the main poppy cultivation and production areas were under the domination of the Burma Communist Party (BCP) from the late sixties until 1989. It was only in March and April 1989 that Kokang and Wa national groups split with the BCP and revolted against them. Joining hands with the Government,

they eventually succeeded in liberating these areas from the BCP.

The most significant events and milestone in the history of drugs are the peace agreements reached between the Government and the major insurgent groups in early 90s and the unconditional surrender of Khun Sa and his Mong Tai Army in January 1996. They chose to abandon armed struggle and joined the Government in launching development programmes in these far-flung areas. The Government was gradually extending access to prior poppy cultivation areas, once under the insurgents' control, as the insurgency problem has been steadily overcome. Action has been taken to educate and encourage locals to change their source of livelihood.

STRATEGY

After 1988, the Myanmar Government realized that law enforcement efforts alone could not stop the flow of drugs. Long-term programmes that will improve the standard of living of the local populace, especially the poppy farmers was needed, coupled with new attitudes.

Two strategies were implemented:

1. The designation of narcotic drug eradication as a national duty and the comprehensive implementation of that strategy.
2. The development and enhancement of the standard of living of national races in the border areas and total eradication of poppy cultivation.

Simultaneously, an integrated approach was carried out: integrated border areas development programme and nationwide suppression of narcotic drugs. The Government committed new resources with increased budgets for integrated rural development, law enforcement, prevention efforts, education, treatment and rehabilitation programmes. Vigorous law enforcement and increased interdiction efforts were also stepped up.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

Development programmes of the border areas and national races were initiated on 25 May 1992 with the formation of a Central Committee and work was done in the border area States and Divisions, which covers 5.4 million people. This endeavour to develop the border areas and national races has now been assumed by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs as the State's major undertaking. The comprehensive infrastructure development plans include roads and bridges construction and projects in the education, health, energy, agriculture, telecommunication, forestry, livestock breeding and mining sectors with a budget of over 76.76 billion Kyats.

THE 15 YEAR NARCOTICS ELIMINATION PLAN

The Union of Myanmar, with the objective of total elimination of cultivation, production and abuse of narcotics in the whole country is implementing a 15-year narcotics elimination plan starting 1999. The long range plan is divided into three phases. The first phase is from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004; the second from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009; and the third from 2009-2010 to 2013-2014.

The designated areas are 22 townships in Northern, Southern and Eastern Shan states in the first phase; 20 townships in Northern, Southern, Eastern Shan States and Kachin State in the second phase; and 9 townships in Kachin, Southern Shan State and Kayah State in the third phase.

The plan is multi-sectoral and includes activities for the elimination of the abuse of narcotic drugs, law enforcement, organizing the local populace to participate in the fight against narcotic drugs and international cooperation.

THE NEW DESTINY PROJECT

The New Destiny Project for the total eradication of poppy cultivation is being implemented in regions where poppy is mostly grown such as Shan State North, South and East, Kachin State and Kayah State. It was launched in April 2002, as a supplement to the 15-year Narcotics Elimination Plan. The main objective of the New Destiny Project is total eradication of poppy cultivation by growing substitute crops in high density areas of poppy cultivation.

For effective implementation of the New Destiny Project, it is important to ensure that no poppy is cultivated in project areas. To this effect, law enforcement, administrative means and close supervision are being employed for control and suppression of narcotic drugs, and the distribution of poppy substitute crop seeds. Distribution of suitable livestock for breeding purposes is also carried

Limited Government Resources

Myanmar has been carrying out the enormous task of eliminating narcotic drugs relying mainly on her own resources. However limited the resources of the Myanmar Government may be, its commitment and dedication to carry through the task of totally eradicating opium poppy cultivation remains unwaveringly firm.

The lower level of inflow of external assistance has neither diminished Myanmar's determination nor her efforts to further the programmes already laid and implemented. Myanmar will continue to give top priority to overcoming the threat posed to the stability and well being of the country and the international community at large.

Opium free zones and drug free zones

The Special Region (4) established Opium Free Zone in 1997 in Mong La area, Eastern Shan State. The Kokang Special Region (1) followed suit by declaring they have stopped poppy cultivation in 2003. Moreover, the Wa Special Region (2) guaranteed to stop cultivation totally in 2005. In accordance with the programme for elimination of narcotic drugs at border areas, the Myanmar Government is implementing actions to make Tachileik, Myawaddy and Kawthaung districts drug free zones.

out by local authorities with field inspection trips to supervise and organize the local farmers and to fulfil their requirements.

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs contributed 192.68 million kyats for the implementation of the New Destiny Project from 2002 to 2004. From 2002 to 2004, about 87 per cent of the 35,072 hectares projected for crop substitution were successfully cultivated with poppy substitute crops.

Since the New Destiny Project was formulated and implemented, the poppy farmers have on their own volition surrendered over 163,720 kilograms of poppy seeds which were destroyed. The destruction thus prevented poppy from being cultivated with a potential production of 44.11 tons of heroin.

REHABILITATION

There are eight rehabilitation centres under the Social Welfare Department for ex-addicts located at Yangon, Mandalay, Phekhon, Namlat, Kyaing Tong, Lashio, Myitkyina and Wet Hti Kan. Shwe Pyi Thar at Wet Hti Kan and Shwe Pyi Aye at Phekhon are the two major centres among them. Twenty trainees are accepted for each course in every rehabilitation centre for three months while 50 trainees are accepted at Shwe Pyi Thar Rehabilitation Centre. Vocational training at these centres is between 12 to 36 weeks, which include car servicing and body repairing, painting, silk-screen printing, offset printing, photography, blacksmith, tinsmith, computer training, bicycle repair, masonry, electrical wiring, agriculture and livestock breeding. The Social Welfare Department in collaboration with UNODC conducted the drugs and HIV/AIDS prevention training courses for volunteer social workers, on-the-job-training for the staff from the rehabilitation centres and training for trainers on addiction rehabilitation.

Aftercare programmes are aimed at reintegrating the treated drug addicts into the mainstream society and to prevent relapse. These are undertaken by the Ministry of Social Welfare through volunteer social workers who pay home visits and provide family and individual counseling as well as psychological support to the treated addict and their family members.

PREVENTIVE EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education takes the main responsibility to conduct school drug prevention programmes and has incorporated drug abuse prevention messages in its school curricula from primary school. It also educates students and youth against the dangers of narcotic drugs, organizes exhibitions, and conducts lectures and discussions every year for teachers at the Teacher's Training Institute. Paintings, cartoons, posters, postcards, poems, articles, essays, wall posters and

slogans competitions are held at township, state and division levels throughout the country every year, especially in June, to observe the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Competitions, talks and discussions on preventive education are also organized at Basic Education Schools to enhance the awareness of narcotic drugs. Preventive Education Committee has been formed in every school while training courses on preventive education for teachers are regularly conducted.

SIX NATIONS MOU

In consonance with the resolution of the Special Session on Drugs of the United Nations General Assembly to take cooperative measures at international, regional and sub-regional levels, Myanmar is actively engaged in sub-regional cooperation in drug abuse control with PR China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam with technical and

financial assistance from UNODC by signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Myanmar has signed bilateral agreements for cooperation to control drug trafficking and abuse with India on 30 March 1993; with Bangladesh on 1 December 1994; with Viet Nam on 12 March 1995; with the Russian Federation in January 1997; with Lao PDR on 29 March 1997; with the Philippines on 15 October 1997; with the People's Republic of China on 21 January 2001; and with Thailand on 20 June 2001. ■

This article was based on country paper of Myanmar presented at the 16th Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Busan, Republic of Korea, 14 to 16 June 2006.

Drug Control Works Learning from Japan's Experience

By Antonio Maria Costa
UNODC Headquarters

Japan knows the danger of methamphetamine more than most countries. As "meth" hits the headlines around the world, particularly in the United States, lessons should be learned from Japan's experience.

Methamphetamine, which was invented in Japan in 1919 was widely distributed to soldiers during the Second World War as a stimulant to keep them alert. It was a licit pharmaceutical product then. After the war, Japan suffered a decade long epidemic of stimulant abuse.

The key to ending the epidemic was admitting there was a problem, passing a Stimulants Control Law, restricting the supply of precursors (particularly ephedrine), raiding clandestine laboratories, incarcerating the main traffickers, and reducing demand. In this way domestic production was eliminated and substance abuse plummeted. The Stimulants Control Law of 1951 restricted the use of stimulants for only medical treatment and scientific research, limited the handling of stimulants only to authorized people, prohibited handling by other people, and stipulated penal provisions. Tightened law enforcement led to elimination of domestic clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine, and the substance currently abused is smuggled into the country.

Other countries are learning these lessons. The United Kingdom reclassified "crystal meth" as a class "A" drug, citing international experience and the potential for serious health and social problems. In 2003, Thailand – which faced an explosion of meth use – cracked down on its meth market. In the United States, crystal meth has be-

come drug public enemy number one.

While there is no clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine in Japan and annual prevalence of methamphetamine use is relatively low, the drug is "smuggled" or "trafficked" into/out of the country. Drug producers and traffickers profit in grey zones where law enforcement is weak, or where there is a permissive environment. These zones must be contained, and all efforts should be made to curb production, particularly large-scale clandestine laboratories.

Treatment is crucial. Amphetamine type stimulants and cannabis need to be treated differently than cocaine and heroin. Some countries may require reconverting older treatment centres to cope with these new trends. Prisons and mental hospitals are not ideal drug treatment centres.

The public health risks should not be underestimated. For example, in Japan, a large percentage of methamphetamine users inject the drug. The sharing of needles is leading to an increase in HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.

As the recently released World Drug Report points out, the world drug control regime is working. The world's supply of illicit drugs is stable, as is demand – including for amphetamine type stimulants.

The many years of drug control experience has shown that a coherent, long-term strategy can reduce drug supply, demand and trafficking. Japan's post-war experience with methamphetamine is a good example of this fact. ■

Thailand: Putting a National Drug Central Strategy in Place

Since the Royal Thai Government declared the War on Drugs at the beginning of 2003, the drug situation in the country has positively changed. In particular, methamphetamine (yaba), Thailand's main drug of abuse, has declined both in terms of supply and demand. The decrease in methamphetamine seizures over the past few years could be attributed to the full attention of the Government and the successful and strict control of illegal drugs throughout the country that forced drug smugglers to lessen their illegal movements. Moreover, according to the nation-wide drug monitoring system developed in 2005, the drug situation has continually been kept under control.

THAILAND'S NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

The drug control strategy of Thailand is based on the concept of disconnecting drug demand from drug supply and adhering to the principle that "addicts are patients who are in need of treatment, while traffickers must be punished under the judicial process."

The Royal Thai Government launched the first three-month "War on Drugs" from 1 February to 30 April 2003, with the purpose of suppressing drug trafficking networks in the country. Thailand's War on Drugs aims to mobilize strong commitments of the national forces to fight drugs and to give a clear signal that there is no safe haven for drug traffickers in the country.

Four main strategies divided into four periods covering supply reduction, demand reduction, potential demand reduction and integrative management, were undertaken in each stage.

Phase 1: 1 February – 30 April 2003: A comprehensive campaign was launched with the objective to stop illicit drug trading and production, intercept and dissolve illicit drug trafficking groups throughout the country.

Phase 2: 1 May – 2 December 2003: This phase highlighted the demand and potential demand reduction to eliminate or reduce the drug epidemic in villages and communities to a controllable extent without harming the public's well-being.

Phase 3: 3 December 2003 – 30 September 2004: This phase focused on monitoring the drug epidemic and maintaining strong communities as well as the united efforts of the Thai people to sustain the victory over the drug problems.

Phase 4: 1 October 2004 – 30 September 2005: This phase aimed at strengthening drug control to ensure sustainability for the victory over drugs and efficiency in monitoring the drug epidemic. The Drug Epidemic Monitoring System was also established to monitor the drug situation both in terms of illicit drug supply and demand.

FOUR MAIN STRATEGIES OF DRUG CONTROL

Strategy on Drug Supply Reduction: This strategy focuses on supply reduction and law enforce-

ment efforts with the purpose of suppressing drug traffickers. Measures have been carried out to suppress drug trafficking networks including interdicting drug smuggling along the borders, pursuing further investigations, tracing and repatriating assets, imposing tax regulations, controlling precursor chemicals, being on alert for new kinds of illegal drugs and fully cooperating with relevant countries, particularly neighboring ones.

Strategy on Drug Demand Reduction: This strategy stresses on reducing numbers of drug abusers/addicts. Appropriate treatments would be provided to drug abusers in parallel with aftercare services to help them reintegrate into their own communities and live normal lives. To ensure that drug abusers get the second chance, campaigns for re-establishing a positive attitude of the general public towards drug abusers was launched throughout the country.

Strategy on Potential Demand Prevention: This strategy places high importance on launching campaigns against illegal drugs with the purpose of raising public awareness on the dangers of drugs. This is to ensure that the innocent or high risk groups will not be involved in illegal drugs. No new drug abuser is an ultimate goal of the strategy. Moreover, villages, communities, educational institutions, and work places are strengthened to fight against drugs through various programmes organized by relevant agencies: programme on

Governments Heighten Efforts Against Human Trafficking

Government and civil society participants to the three-day conference on human trafficking, held in Bangkok, 22 to 24 May 2006, called for a systematic collaboration between and among them in developing and implementing successful anti-trafficking strategies and programmes. This collaboration must cover all aspects of anti-trafficking response. The participants from the Greater Mekong Subregion countries, i.e., Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, and China agreed that prevention, protection, rescue, repatriation, recovery and reintegration programmes need to be in place for a strengthened criminal justice response.

Ms. Julia Ormond, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Trafficking addressed the opening programme together with U.S. Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce, Minister of Social Development and Human Security Watana Muangsook, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Thailand Joanna Merlin-Scholtes, and Vital Voices Global Partnership Chairperson Melanne Vermeer. The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific provided substantive technical and logistical support to the conference and visits of Ms. Ormond, and media/publicity support including exclusive interviews with two of Thailand's main English dailies. At the conference, she

served as panelist. Ms Ormond also visited shelter homes for human trafficking victims in Thailand and Cambodia.

The three-day conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government, the Vital Voices Global Partnership, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the US Agency for International Development, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the United States Department of State, and the Embassy of the United States in Bangkok. ■

Olivia Sylvia Inciong

"Human trafficking is not just the problem of a single country but it is a cross-bordered crime. Even though the Royal Thai Government puts in the best efforts, we need the collaboration and participation from all countries within the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), including Governments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and United Nations agencies to achieve our goal of a trafficking-free Mekong sub-region.

The Royal Thai Government regards human trafficking as a serious crime against human rights, and has been very much concerned over how best to combat it. The Government alone cannot eliminate this problem."

H.E. Mr. Watana Muangsook
Royal Thai Government Minister of Social Development and Human Security



UNODC Photo
 Olivia Sylvia Inciong

family network, drug-free school, drug-free workplace, anti-drug youth leaders, life skills learning, anti-drug guidance facilitators and training for the anti-drug trainers. The concept of strong communities against drugs is highlighted throughout the country to mobilize them to participate in the fight against drugs and show the Kingdom's unity to suppress drugs. Communities will be empowered to self-protect against drugs.

Strategy on Management: The strategy aims to strengthen every Operation Centre for Combating Drugs (OCCD), integrate plans and budgets for the implementation of programmes, and monitor and evaluate outcomes of OCCDs' implementation at all levels.

2005 SPECIAL OPERATIONS

During the Fourth Phase of the War on Drugs in 2005, two special operations were launched to mobilize national efforts and stay on high alert of the possible re-emergence of the drug menace. The Third Operation of the Kingdom's Unity to Suppress Drugs (1 April- 30 June 2005) was launched by the Royal Thai Government which commenced the Fourth Phase of the War on Drugs. This is to assure the public that the sustainability for the victory over drugs would be maintained. The Drug Epidemic Monitoring System was also established to monitor the drug situation in terms of illicit drug supply and demand. The Kingdom's unity plays the key role in the Third Operation and the Fourth Phase of the War on Drugs.

Later, the Fourth Operation of the Kingdom's Unity to Suppress Drugs was also implemented during 1 October-31 December 2005 with the purpose of mobilizing national efforts to address the remaining drug problems and unresolved risk factors focusing on specific troubled areas and certain groups involved in the illegal drug business. As such, every province had to formulate its own operation plan. A number of special suppression operations were launched to interdict illegal drugs along the border areas, including social order operations at risk spots. Three separate action plans were also launched to solve the drug problems including an action plan for combating drugs in Bangkok and nearby provinces, an action plan for combating drugs in three restive southern provinces; and an action plan for combating the problem of volatile substances in 22 provinces.

THE NEW PHASE OF THE WAR ON DRUGS

Thailand is still on high alert against drugs. On 1 March 2006, the Royal Thai Government declared another three-year Roadmap of the War on Drugs focusing on monitoring and sustainable fight against drugs. This new phase aims to address the remaining drug problem and ensure the sustainability of success of various programmes and prevent the resurgence of the problem, which is a serious threat to the well-being of individuals and security of the nation.

The new phase of the War on Drugs can be divided into three periods:

Year 1: 2006 (1 March-30 September 2006): The first year focuses on addressing the remaining drug problem, establishing the public trust on the Government's commitment, and developing drug monitoring mechanism. It aims to target the major drug traffickers and serve them arrest warrants and to bring both hard core and new drug addicts to undergo appropriate treatment and rehabilitation services; and maintain social order in communities, educational places, entertainment centres and workplaces.

Year 2: 2007 (1 October 2006-30 September 2007): The second year highlights the monitoring of the drug epidemic and maintaining sustainability in the victory over drugs. It aims to cope with the remaining drug problem, establish nationwide information networks, expand anti-drug community model, strengthen villages/communities along the border areas, reduce the number of new drug addicts/users, strengthen the OCCD and its mechanisms at all levels.

Year 3: 2008 (1 October 2007 -30 September 2008): The third year highlights the monitoring of the drug epidemic and maintaining sustainability. It aims to free the country by 2008 of illicit drugs production. ■

This article was based on the country paper of Thailand presented at the 16th Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Busan, Republic of Korea, 14 to 16 June 2006.

"We have to tackle education. We need skills training for adults, so that they are not vulnerable to being trafficked, to trafficking their own children, or to become traffickers themselves. Governments must deal with corruption seriously, and need to understand that it is condemned by the international community and a deterrent to investment in their countries, providing a breeding ground to trafficking and slavery. Legal frameworks are meaningless without legal enforcement, and legal enforcement is meaningless without a strong and just judicial system.

We don't have accurate statistics on trafficking because of its inherent covert nature; we do know, however, that it's millions of people and it's billions of dollars. We know that criminals are shifting from the trafficking of weapons and drugs into the trafficking of people – especially children – because it's easier to get away with."

Ms. Julia Ormond
UNODC Goodwill Ambassador



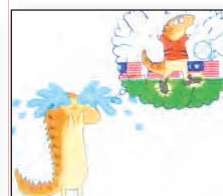
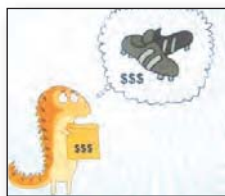
"Networking is a positive aspect of globalization - and a major strategic device for problem-solving for both non-governmental organizations and Governments. It means forming alliances to tackle tough issues such as human trafficking.

The partnership with NGOs and civil society at large, including the private sector, is more than ever necessary. The United Nations sees the partnership as vital because of the new enemies - the forces of "uncivil" society, as put by the Secretary-General, are the enemies of civil society." These new global enemies which can be combated only through international cooperation include human trafficking which is the dark result of the process of globalization. The private sector, too, can play a more active role in our efforts to combat trafficking in their capacity to facilitate the reduction of direct as well as the indirect demands for exploitative labour."

Ms. Joana Merlin-Scholtes
United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Representative to Thailand



UNODC Photos
Olivia Syvria Inckong



Graphics by Mohd Khairul Idzham

Animation Series

A New Approach to Drug Abuse Education

By Wong Sow Kham
National Anti-Drugs Agency
Malaysia

A picture is worth a thousand words. A simple animation depicting a clear anti-drugs message would not only say a million words, but could strike right into the hearts and minds of people from all age groups. Thus, using animation as a campaign media was envisaged by the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA).

It all started when in December 2005, NADA participated in a 10-day Toy Education Fair at the Mines Exposition Centre. NADA's booth was among the toy and educational section as well as multimedia institutions. At the booth, NADA distributed its home-made jigsaw puzzles with anti-drugs messages to families who turned up at the fair in droves. They enjoyed piecing together the puzzles and learning about the drug messages.

A young man showed up with his dad. After watching NADA's television spots, he asked if NADA would be interested in producing an ani-

mation series to complement its campaigns. NADA then provided Khariul and his dad with the contents regarding the ills of drug abuse.

By January 2006, six series were ready for preview. Khairul, the producer, touched up his childhood drawings while his friend Firdaus, who works in a multimedia company, helped to animate them. His sister, Nur Medina, helped with the inlay design. His friend Azhar composed the music.

For the preview, the audience was composed of adults, mostly civil servants. Olivia Sylvia In-ciong, UNODC project coordinator for the "Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers Against of Drug Abuse," noted that the audiences for the preview were not the intended audiences of the animation series and suggested running pretests on the ground, and helped out by fine tuning the pretesting instrument. NADA then tested the animation series among public university stu-

dents, school kids, and young working adults. The pre-test results were very encouraging.

The same animation series were also shown to participants of the Media Training held in April 2006, under the same UNODC regional project. The young media practitioners deemed the series very effective. After a few more pre-tests, slight adjustments were made. NADA intends to show the series over television stations if the channel owners would not charge any airtime. Its producers have also given permission for other ASEAN countries to use the series with local language text translation.

The Anti-Drugs Desk from the Ministry of Education who also attended the Media Training agreed to distribute the animation for use by all Malaysian schools. ■

Mohd Khairul Idzham, son of a cartoonist, is the producer of NADA's Toni Giling series and is currently studying architecture in a Melbourne university, with hobbies in cartoon, playing the guitar, and singing.

Recently, Malaysia was shocked when reports of Black Metal followers abusing drugs hit the headlines. Independent music followers were also tarred with the same brush. As an independent music lover who enjoys Black Metal music, Khairul decided to prove that not all Indie kids and Metalheads should be taboo in Malaysian society.

His chance came when he encountered NADA, and offered to do a series of cartoon animations about drug abuse and its effects. At the start of the project, he interviewed several drug users and drug abusers about their experiences and opinions. Recent movies such as '51st State' and '24 Hour Party People' were also part of his research and inspirations for the animation series.

Under the pseudonym Adzakael, he devised several characters, including the Toni Giling character, which he created as a young boy. Tony Giling was a robot character that can transform into a super mighty robot. This character was well received. Fourteen years later, he re-worked on the

Toni Giling character. From a super pangolin robot, the character evolved into an innocent, care-free cartoon character. He then worked with Firdaus 'Odows' Radzi, a local animator and AdiFitri Ahmad, a graphic designer, to create several short Flash-based animations. Norazhar Avex Yunus, a composer and music producer in Melbourne, assisted with sound and music. In fact, Avex has used his voice to create the voice of Toni Giling.

Toni Giling is a passive, innocent pangolin character who can be easily fooled and tricked by the likes of 'O.J.' the drug dealer. Inspired by an evil character from a cartoon series, O.J is an acronym for 'Orang Jahat', literally translated as 'The Bad Guy.' There are other minor characters in the series such as the gigantic Cipan Kuat (meaning 'Strong Tapir'); Toni's spouse, Tini Giling, the pink pangolin; and Toni's father, Baphak Toni, the pangolin with moustache.

The animation series project with NADA became an inspiration to erase all the stereotypes re-

lated to drug abuse regarding music, fashion and attitudes. Khairul discovered that music and art in all forms are neutral tools that can be manipulated to promote either negative or positive lifestyles. If a ganja abuser wants to promote marijuana through his songs, then it becomes a negative influence. As one who is against drug abuse, Khairul used the same tool for the anti-drugs campaign. Children's minds can be easily moulded but difficult to attract. By exploring his inner child, Khairul managed to communicate drug abuse with children through Toni Giling. ■



Mohd Khairul Idzham



UNODC Photo / Akira Fujino

Lao PDR Opium Survey 2006

By Leik Boonwaat
UNODC Country Office, Lao PDR

On 14 of February 2006, Lao PDR declared to the world that it was virtually opium free. Opium poppy cultivation had been reduced from 26,870 hectares in 1998 to 1,800 hectares in 2005, a 93 per cent decline. Moreover, domestic opium consumption was reduced by over 68 per cent.

In 2006, for the second year – in spite of a slight increase in area cultivated to 2,500 hectares – the country has been able to maintain opium poppy cultivation at an insignificant level. This successful achievement is also recognized for the knock-on effect it has in the cross border battle against drugs in the sub-region.

The Lao Government is to be praised for its efforts, but it also needs much in terms of sustained support and help. While many former opium poppy farmers are just coping, others have been able to get 50 times more income from peaches, pineapples, peas, poultry and pigs than they ever received from poppies. Socio-economic studies indicate that about 50 per cent of the 2,056 villages that used to grow opium poppy still require development assistance and could revert back to opium for lack of alternatives.

The 2006 opium poppy survey in the Lao PDR was jointly conducted by the Lao PDR Government and the UNODC across seven provinces of northern Lao PDR through an aerial survey by helicopter. A limited study assessing coping strategies of farmers abandoning opium poppy cultivation in Oudomxay province was done by an independent UNODC team as a follow up on the socioeconomic impact study conducted as part of the 2005 opium survey. ■



UNODC Lao PDR Country Office Photos / Oudone Sisongkham

Lao PDR on Target to Become Opium-Free

Lao PDR remains on course to achieve its target of becoming opium-free despite an increase in the area under opium poppy cultivation in 2006 from the exceptionally low levels in 2005.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) survey shows that the area under opium poppy cultivation was estimated at 2,500 hectares in 2006 compared with 1,800 hectares in 2005, but was down 91 percent from 26,800 hectares in 1998. Vigorous eradication efforts by the Government reduced the area to less than 1,000 hectares in which opium poppy was actually harvested.

“The Lao Government is to be commended for its firm commitment to eliminating illicit opium poppy cultivation. This has had a welcome knock-on effect in the cross-border battle against drugs in the region,” said Mr. Costa, UNODC Executive Director.

Mr. Costa renewed his call to the international community to help ensure that poor farmers who were previously dependent on income from opium were given sustainable alternative livelihoods.

“The situation remains fragile, especially in the more vulnerable remote northern locations,” he said. “Up to 50 per cent of former opium-producing communities lack alternative livelihoods and some have returned to growing opium poppy again. We need to ensure that this victory against drugs proves to be lasting.”

Opium prices remained high at an estimated US\$ 550 per kg, an increase of around 5 per cent compared to a year earlier.

“The strong opium prices make it more attractive for farmers to revert to opium production, especially if no alternative sources of income are available,” the UNODC chief said. “It is therefore of paramount importance to provide relief and development assistance to the most affected population.” ■



UNODC Lao PDR Country Office Photos / Leik Boonwaat

Lao PDR once had one of the highest opiate abuse rates in the world. Its community-based treatment and rehabilitation programmes have helped to reduce the number of addicts by 80 per cent in the last seven years to around 12,000.

But the country faces a growing problem of the trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS). ATS trafficking and abuse is becoming an extremely serious problem among school children and youth.

Recent high profile cases and seizures indicate that transnational criminals are involved in the transit trafficking of ATS and heroin through Lao PDR. A new alarming development has been the increasing seizures of crystal methamphetamine and heroin that raises concern of the risk of HIV/AIDS through injecting drug use. If allowed to escalate, this situation could also contribute to increasing money laundering, corruption, and crime that would negatively impact the development of the economy and trade of the country as well as efforts to reduce poverty.

UNODC Lao PDR Country Representative Mr. Leik Boonwaat notes: “It is time now to increase and not decrease assistance to Lao PDR. Assistance is needed to help Lao PDR’s poor opium poppy farmers develop alternative livelihoods, provide treatment to remaining addicts, prevent new addiction, as well as to strengthen the capacity of legislation, the judiciary and law enforcement”. ■



On 14 February 2006, Lao PDR officially declared that it has been able to reduce illicit opium poppy cultivation in the country to insignificant levels. From once being the third largest producer of illicit opium in the world, poppy cultivated area had been reduced from nearly 27,000 ha in 1998 to less than 1,800 in 2005. Eradication further reduced the actually harvested area to less than 1000 ha.

For Nang Mai Ya, a former opium poppy grower in Nasengkham village in Oudomxay Province, she is confident her family of seven will never return to producing illicit opium. Her family now earns more than US\$4,000 from peaches, pineapples, peas, poultry and pigs. Poppies use to

give them only about US\$100 and in the years when the weather was not good, they got much less.

Many former opium poppy farmers are just coping, yet the coping strategies adopted are not sustainable and could be contributing to greater environmental damage. It is estimated that many families living in some 1,000 villages in the north of Lao PDR still require priority assistance. This assistance is crucial in the transitional period before these communities can be incorporated into the country’s poverty reduction programme and national socio-economic development. ■

UNODC Calls for International Support for Former Opium Poppy Farmers

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) called for sustained international support for former opium poppy farmers in Lao PDR to ensure that poverty does not force them to re-start cultivation of the drug crop. Mr. Costa, who visited the country in February, together with Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific and Mr. Leik Boonwaat, UNODC Lao PDR Country Representative, congratulated the Government of Lao PDR for reducing opium production by 93 per cent over the last seven years. UNODC figures show that some 1,800 hectares of land was under opium poppy cultivation in 2005 compared with 26,800 hectares in 1998.

UNODC recently developed a new Strategic Programme Framework for Lao PDR involving projects totalling US\$18.4 million for 2006 to 2009. Most of the funds will be used for sustainable alternative development projects. While the country had not been declared drug-free, the Government of Lao PDR held a national conference to celebrate its success of being able to significantly eliminate illicit opium poppy cultivation.

After the conference, UNODC Executive Director Costa formally opened a road in Phongsaly Province, together with Mr. Kideng Thammavong,

Vice Chairman of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control. With the opening of the road, access to many isolated mountain villages that used to grow opium poppy is now provided. Access roads are important components of sustainable alternative development projects as these allow farmers to transport and market high value crops produced to replace opium poppy growing. These

The treatment of opium addicts has resulted in greater household productivity, better household harmony and less domestic abuse.

roads also facilitate the Government's efforts to improve basic social services such as primary educational facilities and potable water systems.

Mr. Costa and party visited a village, populated by the Akha tribe. UNODC together with the United States Government has helped the Akha people in Phongsaly Province in sustainable alternative development projects. The Akha people, who used to be one of the main producers of illicit opium are now engaged in livestock raising, tea growing, and textiles and handicrafts production. ■

Virtual Elimination of Opium Poppy Cultivation in Lao PDR

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa led a mission to the roundtable meeting in Vientiane on the post-opium scenario. The meeting was followed by a national conference on opium elimination organized by the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC).

Both meetings took place on 14 February 2006, and were organized to mark Lao PDR's momentous achievement of significantly reducing opium production over the past seven years, at the same time highlighting the risk that not providing continued assistance could result in the reversal of the successes achieved.

Mr. Costa urged donor countries and development agencies to provide economic support to poor farmers who have abandoned opium poppy cultivation. He also expressed his concern about increasing trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in Lao PDR.

The events were attended by a high-level international delegation comprising of Government officials, Ambassadors, Representatives of United Nations agencies and NGOs. They voiced their respective countries' commitment to continue supporting Lao PDR in developing alternative sources of sustainable income. Mr. Costa also met with Lao PDR Prime Minister, Bounnhang Vorachit. The delegation later visited Luang Prabang and Phongsaly in northern Lao PDR, to observe sustainable alternative development activities. ■

UNODC Photo / Akira Fujino



UNODC Lao PDR Country Office Photo / Oudone Sisongkham

UNODC and Sustainable Alternative Development

Providing sustainable alternative sources of income to farmers engaged in illicit drug crop cultivation is the ideal way of reducing illicit drug crop supply. Illicit drug crop cultivation occurs in countries either affected by poverty (Lao PDR, Myanmar, Bolivia), or by conflict (Colombia), or both (Afghanistan). Destroying drug crops can push farmers into humanitarian crises, even into the arms of insurgents.

Sustainable alternative development is not equivalent to big money, or to large-scale investment. In a remote region in Lao PDR, a pair of pigs (borrowed from a donated pig bank) or a sack of seeds (borrowed from a similar bank) can change a peasant family's life. If sustainable alternative development is not working to the fullest extent, this is because the international community has not been engaged to the fullest extent. At most, 10 per cent of the farming communities that have abandoned illicit drug crops receive support.

UNODC wants to be a catalyst for action, promoting the cause of Governments that have reduced drug supply, developing best practices, and leveraging resources with those of richer agencies.

Successful sustainable alternative development requires five progressive steps: rural (licit) development, to bring alternative revenues; community organizations, to create critical mass and outreach; processing facilities, to generate added value; distribution in domestic markets, to create demand; and international markets, for exports.

In a remote region in Lao PDR, a pair of pigs or a sack of seeds can change a peasant family's life.

In the long term, sustainable alternative development has to be judged by the same yardstick as any other development projects – it's trade, not aid. And for this to happen, alternative produce needs to reach supermarket shelves and be competitive.

This is happening. With UNODC support, Colombian producers sell tomatoes, bananas, beans and coffee to the world's second largest re-

tailer (a French supermarket chain). The same coffee is served on-board European airliners. In Peru, sales of UNODC-assisted products reached US\$40 million in 2005, with participating families' annual income (US\$4,000) twice as high as from coca crops.

The foundations of UNODC work are clear: First, UNODC sees itself as a world conscience – reminding States of their commitments, helping them to meet these obligations and channeling national actions into a multilateral framework. Second, UNODC is a trusted source of information – through publications and research, providing information about the global states of drugs and crime. The world-wide credibility that UNODC surveys have gained is unsurpassed. Third, UNODC is a capacity builder – assisting states to implement the United Nations crime, drugs and terrorism conventions and United Nations resolutions.

UNODC needs a longer-term funding perspective based on adequate and predictable income. The fact that voluntary funds are rising is a sign of donors' confidence. ■

Commission on Narcotic Drugs Discusses Sustainable Alternative Development

Providing alternative sources of income for farmers who stop growing illicit drug crops was the main focus of the 49th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). The CND is the central policy-making body within the United Nations system dealing with illicit drugs. It is also the governing body for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the drugs field.

Opening the 49th session of CND, Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the UNODC, said providing alternative sources of income for farmers was critical to global efforts to curb drug supplies.

"We should help growers, not impoverish them. The international community must have the wisdom to fight drugs and poverty simultaneously," Mr. Costa explained.

He called for a comprehensive development strategy that included better transport and infrastructure, improved security, health care, rural development, criminal justice, better education and good governance.

Ministers and top anti-drug officials from the 53 CND member states, including Afghanistan, Lao PDR and Morocco, and a further 90 United

Nations Member States and NGOs, discussed issues ranging from the effects of drug trafficking on transit countries to the supply of opiates for medical and scientific purposes.

The Commission also reviewed the progress made by United Nations Member States in meeting the goal they set themselves in 1998 of achieving significant and measurable reductions in drug use and illicit drug crop cultivation by 2008. ■

HONLEA Presents Recommendations at the 49th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Four major recommendations were presented by the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLEA) at the 49th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), held 13 to 17 March 2006.

These were: regional countermeasures against heroin trafficking; measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking and related organized crime groups; responses to the threat posed by the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) within the region; and good practices in law enforcement processing of drug abusers with HIV/AIDS. The session addressed a number of issues including illicit drug trafficking and supply.

Specifically, HONLEA urged Governments of the region to: foster and support partnerships between the chemical industry and control authorities with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of controls over precursor chemicals; ensure law enforcement agencies continue to be well-resourced to enable them to operate effectively in an increasingly technologically advanced environment; and to ensure there is the necessary legislative framework to facilitate effective cross-border cooperation.

There was also a need to review domestic legislation to ensure evidence can be secured from Internet service providers to effectively investigate and prosecute offences involving cybercrime, and to examine the basis upon which prepaid mobile telephone cards are sold and take measures to ensure this doesn't facilitate drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime. The development of specialized cybercrime units was recommended.

Governments were also urged to share information regarding investigations in the trafficking of ATS, introduce a pre-export notification procedure and strengthen national control to discourage

attempts at illegal diversion, and address the issue of the abuse of ketamine. Governments should review controls currently in place to ensure the drug is not readily available for illegal diversion.

To enhance law enforcement, it was recommended that front-line law enforcement authorities be provided with protective equipment and awareness-training regarding the risks of injecting drug use and HIV/AIDS, as well as other blood-borne diseases. Procedural guidelines to ensure safe and professional interaction between law enforcement staff and persons at risk of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases need to be implemented. Law

HONLEA urged governments to foster and support partnerships between the chemical industry and control authorities with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of controls over precursor chemicals.

enforcement authorities need to increase their knowledge of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users to predict future trends and adopt appropriate strategies.

In 1991, the membership of the Commission was extended from 40 to 53 members, with 11 seats reserved for Asian States and an additional rotating seat. As of 1 January 2006, the following countries from the East Asia and Pacific region were members of the Commission: Australia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

The Commission has five subsidiary regional bodies; HONLEA Asia and the Pacific is one of them. ■

Salient Points on Sustainable Alternative Development at the 49th CND Session

- Sustainable alternative development was a fundamental component of the counter-narcotics strategy to combat the world drug problem.

- Most countries agreed that sustainable alternative development should follow an integrated approach that required a mixture of comprehensive activities, including demand reduction, health and education, and sustainable development efforts, as well as complementary eradication and law enforcement.

- There was concern regarding the decreased funding available to undertake sustainable alternative development activities on a global scale, including the potential impact on existing programmes and on broadening the coverage of sustainable alternative development programmes.

- There is a need to evaluate the impact of sustainable alternative development activities against social, economic and human development indicators, and not solely in relation to illicit crop reduction figures.

- It is important to strengthen and support the UNODC sustainable alternative development programme. The knowledge and expertise of UNODC was recognized and requested that it continue its action in that field and strengthen its role as a catalyst to raise awareness and to encourage the broader international community, in particular the international financial institutions, to work collaboratively on sustainable alternative development.

- The Commission adopted eight resolutions and approved five for adoption by United Nations Economic and Social Council including:

- "Strengthening international cooperation for alternative development, including preventive alternative development, with due regard for environmental protection."
- "Using sustainable alternative development programmes to reduce the cultivation of cannabis plants."
- "Responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users."
- "The collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its 28th special session."
- "The Paris Pact Initiative."

The CND Report on its 49th session is available at: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/cnd_reports.html. ■

UNODC Photo / Karin Eberhart



Coping with Change

The ban on opium poppy cultivation has resulted in both positive and negative effects. While the ban has been gradually enforced over the last decade, it has taken full effect in 2006.

Positive impacts include the rehabilitation of addicts, lightening of women's workloads, and the opportunity to diversify an unreliable monocrop. Negative impacts include shortage of food and cash, increased debt, and stress. To cope with food shortage, some households borrow rice, consume less preferred and less nutritious foods, and ration food.

The poppy growing regions are facing great changes, including cropping systems, resettlement to lowlands, increased access to services, and regionalization of the economy. These changes pres-

ent opportunities as well as risks to achieving household livelihood security.

Poppy growing regions of Lao PDR and Myanmar (Wa Special Region 2 and six northern provinces of Lao PDR) are populated by diverse ethnic groups living in remote mountainous terrain, who are dependent on shifting cultivation and opium for food security. Opium poppy cultivation is associated with poverty - annual incomes of poppy-growing households in Lao PDR are US\$139, compared to US\$231 for non-poppy growing households. Households in Wa are food insecure for at least six months of the year. In 2005, opium contributed 73 per cent of household income in the Wa Region, and only 10 per cent for opium poppy growing households in Lao PDR.

Expanding Upland Farms

Sa Pyan Village, Wa Special Region 2, Myanmar

Because of the food shortage, we have to search for forest food for family consumption. We have to reduce meal times and sometimes we have only rice gruel to eat. In order to have three meals a day, we will need to cultivate more upland fields. Now we plan to sow 2 pong of rice, although when we grew poppy, we only sowed 1 pong of rice. Having sufficient food is more important than having more cash income, so we are all trying to cultivate more upland fields. Almost all households are poor, so it is not possible to earn wages from other households as day labour.

- Women in discussion group

Sa Pyan is an ethnic Wa village of 373 persons of 47 households. Average annual income is about equal to US\$89 (711 Yuan). Sa Pyan village is at least 10 generations old, though some households were resettled here only two years ago.

Sa Pyan has no paddy land, and farmers depend on upland shifting cultivation, with fields usually prepared by burning and then dibbling in rice or corn seed. Yet village leaders say that only two households are able to meet their annual food needs from their own fields.

In the past, almost all households grew opium poppy, and used the opium to buy rice, salt, chili and other necessities. Since the opium ban, villagers stated that their main problem is lack of cash, and lack of food. They have no cash. They are no longer able to buy anything in the market. In order to meet their food needs, they collect more forest foods, sell non timber forest products (NTFPs), expand the area cultivated by upland rice, and work as unskilled labourers. But daily wage opportunities are difficult to find, as few households in nearby villages have surplus with which to pay for labour.

To cope with the lack of food, some households mix corn with rice for household consumption. In the past, most households relied on forest

foods for some months of the year (such as mushrooms, bamboo shoots, leaves and tubers) but since the opium ban, they are much more dependent on the forest for food. Because the village has no school, they have never received any rice assistance (Food for Education) though nearby villages do. Only four children attend the government school in town.

Sa Pyan has a protected forest at a few hours walk from the village. According to tradition, one area of the forest may only be used to cut timber for house construction, while the other area is open for collection of fuelwood. In this forest, households can collect NTFPs such as bamboo, herbs, leaves and medicine for their use, and some make bamboo mats to sell in the Naung Khit market.

But in the last few years, the loggers have come through. The logging company built a road to the village and forest to bring in logging trucks. The big timber trees are now gone, and villagers can no longer find construction wood nearby. The bulldozers used to pull out the trees damaged large areas of the forest. The loss of their source of wood for house construction is a big problem for Sa Pyan villagers. And tradition requires that they prepare coffins for their elders, but now they can no longer find suitable coffin trees. ■

HOUSEHOLDS FACE CHANGES

Villages and households of ethnic groups use one or more of the following strategies in response to the opium ban:

- **Expansion of area of upland farmed:** Nearly all households are expanding upland rice and/or corn cultivation, with negative environmental consequences in more densely populated areas. Even with expanded areas of upland, not all households are able to achieve food security.
- **Collection of non-timber forest products:** This is one of the most widespread coping strategies in the region, but the returns to the investment are often low. In some areas, cultivation of high value non timber forest products (NTFPs) has potential for increased income.
- **Sale of livestock:** In Lao PDR, sale of livestock makes up 63 per cent of income of poppy-growing households.
- **Increased work as unskilled daily wage labour:** Labour is increasingly important as an income source in Wa, where it is the major annual income source for some households; but less so in Lao PDR.
- **Agricultural diversification:** This is successful under certain conditions that include access to markets and transportation, capital, materials and technology, and land. Most households in the poppy growing regions lack these.

A study conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific recommends that Governments and aid agencies are urgently recommended to provide emergency, rehabilitation and development assistance. The assistance should provide food aid, promote agricultural improvements, and target those households exhibiting vulnerabilities. Comprehensive development assistance with long-term commitments is necessary to create an environment that will sustain achievements in livelihood security over time.

COPING STRATEGIES IN THE POST-POPPY ENVIRONMENT

A coping strategy may be positive or negative depending on whether it contributes to or erodes potential household productivity. For example, a household that develops a lowland paddy field in response to the opium ban is making a lasting positive contribution to household productivity. But when a family sells its only buffalo to buy food, then that family loses not only critical draft labour, but also the possibility to generate income from sale of calves. ■

Extracted from the report "Coping with Change: Poppy Growers of Myanmar and Lao PDR," for project, "Regional Collaboration on Community-based Alternative Development to Eliminate Opium Production in Southeast Asia (RASH84)," UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.

Livestock Raising

Ban Soon Village, Muong La District, Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR

Ban Soon, a Khmu village of 23 households, resettled after the war about 30 years ago. Ban Soon has a dirt access road to the sealed road to town, and thus, is in a good position for marketing.

Before 2000, all families which grew opium poppy, helped make up for the rice shortage, along with cassava, banana, and collecting non-timber forest products (NTFPs). In those days, households harvested about six months supply of rice from their upland fields.

Villagers reported that life after the opium ban became easier fairly quickly. Opium poppy cultivation was very demanding on labour, and now the women have time to collect NTFPs and grow corn and other crops. Now, they are able to eat rice as their staple all year long, while in the past they had to rely on less preferred foods of corn and cassava for some of the time. Now, their cash income is also more reliable.

Since 2000, although rice cultivation is still the main activity, households also sell pigs and chickens, NTFPs, and grow high-yielding corn and sesame. In the past, each household would raise about 4-5 pigs, but they never got very large and couldn't sell well. Now all households have at least five pigs and some have up to 18 pigs, that they fatten from the corn they are growing.

Households also collect and even cultivate NTFPs. With the help of the traders, they began cultivating galangal in 2006 in their upland fields and in the forest. In the past, they only collected these. Traders supply the planting materials as well as technical assistance. Some households plan to

plant sappanwood as well, as they have seen farmers in a nearby village do so.

About 15 of the 23 households are in a better-off situation, and are able to plant more corn and sesame than other families, and to raise cows and buffaloes. Those households in a more difficult situation grow the same crops but in more modest amounts, and their land may be less fertile.

Mr. Kham Seng is the head of the most affluent household in the village, and since 2005, his is one of two households in the village that no longer cultivate rice. Instead, they spend their time raising livestock and growing more valuable crops, and buy rice instead. In 2005, Mr. Seng's household income included US\$240 from pig sales, US\$50 from chicken sales, US\$100 from sticklac (a NTFP), and US\$20 from sesame. He expects an additional US\$20-30 from sale of chili.

Ban Soon has been receiving World Food Programme "Food For Education" (rice, sugar and tinned fish) for the last three to four years, but about 30 of the 50 school-aged children must travel 40-60 minutes to the school of another village.

The villagers said that they would like to raise more livestock, and plant more galangal and sappanwood. The district has recommended that they raise cattle, but they would prefer to raise goats. They feel that they need technical assistance to improve their agriculture and livestock-raising skills. Ban Soon also needs an improved source of water, as some households are being forced to move to another area to access water. ■

Promoting Sustainable Alternative Livelihoods in Illicit Crop Cultivating Areas

SHARING THE EXPERIENCE

In the 1970s and 1980s Thailand, assisted by the United Nations and other organizations, succeeded in eliminating opium poppy cultivation through sustainable alternative livelihood activities among the hilltribes. Similar opium control/alternative development activities are now being undertaken in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam with the assistance of UNODC and its partners.

Sharing lessons learned during the many years of sustainable alternative development activities in the region and networking among relevant agencies are vital. Two regional seminars on sustainable alternative development, study tours to project sites and national training workshops facilitated such changes. In addition, continued sharing of best practices, marketing of alternative development products and establishment of micro-credit institutions and revolving funds are critical for sustainable alternative development to succeed.

Sharing lessons learned during the many years of alternative development activities in the region and networking among relevant agencies are vital.

MEASURING RESULTS

Reduced cultivation of the opium poppy and its production must be measurable if the results of alternative development activities are to be meaningfully assessed. The project, "Monitoring and Verification of Opium Poppy Cultivation" was initiated in the context of a UNODC-assisted opium control/alternative development project in the Wa Region of the Shan State in Myanmar. Intended as a pilot project, it was aimed to develop an internationally accepted, cost-effective methodology for measuring opium poppy cultivation and production that can be replicated in the region.

Due to budgetary constraints, the use of satellite imaging was limited, so the project enabled Myanmar and the UNODC to develop extensive survey and random sampling systems which use trained ground survey teams. Field surveys provided reasonably reliable estimates of the extent of opium poppy cultivation in the targeted areas. The socio-economic data gathered by ground teams helped in the planning of development programmes in areas where farmers still depend on opium poppy cultivation for their livelihood. ■



UNODC Photo / Peter Lunding

CORRUPTION

By Fiona Dempsey and Jeanette Pastor
UNODC Regional Centre

Corrosion, Crime,

Corruption and its damaging effects on a society continue to have a profound impact on growth and development in the East Asia and Pacific region. It attacks all spheres of a community, undermining democracy and the rule of law, damaging economies and facilitating the growth and development of other threats to human security such as organized crime.

Corruption, however, is not a phenomena exclusive to the developing world. It affects all countries regardless of size or status. Yet, its impact on the developing world is profound and often devastating.

It has been estimated that up to one-third of public investment in a number of the countries in the East Asia and Pacific region is lost due to corrupt practices. Research has also indicated that corruption can cost up to 17 per cent of a country's GDP, ultimately diverting funds from much needed development initiatives.

Corruption remains one of the most significant issues facing the region in terms of both development and human security. In 2005, the World Bank released a report detailing the significant effect of extensive corruption in Cambodia on investment and economic growth. A survey of 800 businesses

Corruption remains one of the most significant issues facing the region in terms of both development and human security.

in Cambodia found that four-fifths of the private sector accepted that paying of bribes was necessary to conduct business, and 71 per cent of large firms identified that bribery occurred frequently. In addition, over 80 per cent of respondents rated the judiciary negatively, with 91 per cent of those

surveyed reporting that the judiciary is "sometimes", "seldom" or "never" fair or impartial.

In 2003, the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) rated the quality of the legal systems and judiciary in 11 East Asian countries. Of the countries surveyed, only three were rated at less than 5 on a scale of 0=best and 10=worst. Indonesia's legal system and judiciary was perceived as the worst, rated at 9. The endemic nature of corruption in the Indonesian legal system was also demonstrated in the comprehensive situational assessment conducted in two Indonesian provinces as part of the UNODC project "Strengthening Judicial Integrity and Capacity in Indonesia". The project was undertaken in collaboration with Indonesia's Department of Law and Human Rights. In a survey of over 2,500 judges, prosecutors, lawyers, business people, court users and prisoners awaiting trial in South East Sulawesi and South Sumatra, a proportion of respondents reported direct knowledge or experience of bribery involving judges.

The international community continues to recognize the pervasive nature and devastating effects of corruption. The deleterious effect of corruption, and the importance of combating it at a national, regional and global level has repeatedly been recognized, as have the links between corruption and other crimes such as terrorism and illicit drug trafficking. From as early as 2000, the international community has formally recognized corruption as a significant issue and prioritized the need to develop and implement initiatives aimed at effectively combating this. The General Assembly Resolution 55/61 of 4 December 2000 established an ad hoc committee to create a comprehensive international legal instrument against corruption, and resolutions 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002 identified the need to prevent, among other things, corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origins.

Since this time, a number of other resolutions have reiterated the ongoing difficulties the international community faces with corruption and reaffirmed the commitment to combating this (see for example ECOSOC Resolution 2001/13 of 24 July 2001). The efforts of the international community culminated in the creation and adoption of the comprehensive United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Convention is a comprehensive



UNODC Vienna Photo

and the Cure



UNODC Vienna Photo

instrument that recognizes the importance of enhancing transparency and integrity at a national level and encouraging regional and international cooperation in addressing at times entrenched and systemic corrupt practices.

National and regional initiatives aimed at addressing various forms of corruption have also gathered momentum, and the issue itself has risen to the forefront of donor priorities in this region. An example of such collaboration is the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Workshop, held 24 to 26 April 2006. This initiative represents a strong regional push toward addressing corruption in a cooperative and proactive manner. The workshop, co-hosted by the Ministry of Supervision in China and by the State Department of the United States, considered issues such as extradition and repatriation, asset recovery and anti-money laundering measures.

Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific participated in this event, demonstrating the coordination between international organizations and regional initiatives. Other regional activities include the Australian Government's initiatives in countering corruption in Solomon Islands through the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, and in Papua New Guinea under the Enhanced Cooperation Programme.

Corruption remains a significant impediment to the growth and development of the Asia Pacific region. While there have been a number of successful initiatives aimed at combating this crime, it is only with the continuing commitment of Governments at the national, regional and international levels that a comprehensive and effective solution to corruption will be found. A necessary hallmark of this solution will be international cooperation and efforts must continue to develop and refine

The Australian Government's recent White Paper, *Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability*, released in April 2006, details the initiatives that will be prioritized by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the aid arm of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The White Paper aims to provide a strategic framework that will guide and form the basis for Australia's overseas aid program over the next ten years.

The White Paper acknowledges that combating corruption must be a significant regional priority in attempting to improve economies and development in the region. The Australian Government's strategy to reduce corruption as articulated in the paper comprises of three pillars: law and justice activities, economic and fiscal management, and the building of internal demand within countries for greater transparency and anti-corruption.

Aid strategies will focus on the development of incentive structures for countries, sub-national governments, individual institutions and individual officeholders to resist corruption. In order to ensure that strategies are effective, a statement of anti-corruption objectives, and performance and evaluation indicators will be incorporated across all aid-funded activities.

mutual legal assistance and extradition mechanisms. No country is isolated from the effects of corruption and the responsibility to combat this must be accepted as a common one. Corruption is a global issue, and therefore requires a global solution. ■

MDGs

Unreachable Without the Commitment to Fighting Corruption

There will be no fair world, no abolition of extreme poverty, as long as the calculus of corruption undermines education, health, trade and the environment. Dramatic reduction of corruption levels is the responsibility of poor and wealthy nations alike.

“Corruption is a massive drag on efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It means wasted money, time and, ultimately, lives,” said Transparency International Chief Executive David Nussbaum. “Governments, especially those of the G8, need to move beyond paying lip service to the principles of accountability and transparency if they are determined to improve the lives of millions who live in poverty and instability.” Research has demonstrated unquestionably that corruption exacerbates and promotes a raft of development problems. Among them:

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of State and Governments during the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000.

ENTRENCHED POVERTY AND HUNGER (MDG 1)

Corruption hampers economic growth, keeps countries from capitalizing on internal resources and reduces aid effectiveness, contributing significantly to hunger and malnutrition. Petty bribery hits the poor hardest, ensuring that they stay poor.

Example: The total volume of bribes paid annually has been estimated by the World Bank Institute at US\$1 trillion, nearly twice the gross domestic product for Africa, put at less than US\$ 600 billion for 1999 by the African Development Bank.

CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PRIMARY EDUCATION (MDGs 2 & 3)

Misallocation of resources due to corruption means schools are never built, or that education systems remain drastically under capacity. Further, corrupt education officials at all levels have often been found to abuse their position as gate-keepers, making good education dependent on capacity to pay bribes.

Example: According to ‘Community Information, Empowerment and Transparency’ International, 86 per cent of parents polled in Nicaragua reported paying mandatory “contributions” to teachers. Of the mere 47 per cent of girls who managed to get into primary school in a Pakistani province, nearly all reported unofficial demands for money.

FATALITIES FROM TREATABLE ILLNESS, CHILD MORTALITY, DEATH IN CHILDBIRTH (MDGs 4, 5 & 6)

Misallocation means hospitals are poorly staffed and resourced. Corruption facilitates circulation of fake – potentially lethal – drugs. Bribes are often a prerequisite for access to health care, including maternal health.

Example: In Bangalore, the average patient in a maternity ward pays approximately US\$22 in bribes to receive adequate medical care. In Nigeria there have been countless cases of deaths due to counterfeit medications that moved unhindered from production plants, across national borders and into unsuspecting markets.

UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MDG 7)

Corrupt public officials mean that environmental regulations remain unenforceable, resulting in lost livelihood, illness and social displacement for millions.

Example: Illegal logging facilitated by bribery is deforesting Asia's Pacific Rim. With all its attendant environmental, social and health-related consequences, this is a serious threat to local populations.

IMPEDED ECONOMIC GROWTH (MDGs 1 & 8)

Corruption means greater business risks. It distorts markets and discourages foreign direct investment. It stifles cross-border trade.

Example: In Africa, border and duty corruption deprives countries of the benefits of regional trade as a launch pad to the global market. ■

The above material was provided by Transparency International: the global coalition against corruption.

Millennium Development Goals



1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER



2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION



3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN



4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY



5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH



6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES



7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



8 DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Source: www.undp.org/mdg/basics.html

International Day Against Drugs

UNODC Regional Centre Holds Celebrations

25 June 2006
Bangkok, Thailand

In cooperation with its various partners, the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific celebrated the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with a series of events and programmes at the Thailand Knowledge (TK) Park. For the first time, the Regional Centre worked with TK Park of the Royal Thai Government's Office of Knowledge Management Development. The park is located in a shopping complex in the heart of Bangkok, providing children and young people with an interactive library of a wide range of materials, and facilities such as mini theatre, music room, and computer and multi-purpose learning areas.

The Sunday celebration included a drawing session for a colouring book dubbed "From the Eyes of a Child," providing an opportunity for children to exercise their artistic skills and creativity to express their ideas and perceptions on the dangers of drug abuse. The resulting drawings will be the basis for developing and printing a colouring book for children, through the regional project, "Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drugs in East Asia." Thai dances were also per-



UN Photo / Stephen Koh

Antonio Maria Costa
Executive Director
United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime

There are few things more troubling than the sight of young children suffering from substance abuse. We need to keep children and drugs apart, and to teach young people that drugs are not child's play."

Young people are eager to learn, and they can be easily influenced. They therefore need to learn at an early age the right lessons about drugs before getting into trouble – if not, the consequences can be devastating.

We need to encourage supportive parents, efficient teachers, social workers and society at large to give child confidence and self-esteem, and educate them about the effects drugs have on families and communities. Children need the confidence and the information to make the right choices.

We want kids to be shooting hoops on the basketball court, not shooting heroin in a back alley.

Society has a responsibility to protect children from drugs. Let's keep the gate to substance abuse firmly shut.

formed with support from the Sikkha Asia Foundation and the World Vision Foundation. Both NGOs promote children's talents and self-esteem as part of drug prevention programmes. The Nithan Caravan Puppet Show by Duang Prateep Foundation entertained children with a puppet show on the theme, "Drugs are not Child's Play." Puppet shows have been a successful tool to communicate messages on the dangers of drug abuse among children and young people.

A panel discussion on "Children Speak out about Drug Abuse" enabled selected children to talk about their insights on the current situation on drugs, the expected roles of adults in preventing drug abuse among children, and their ideas on how to make society free from illicit drugs. A Kids Circus and interactive training workshop on circus and acrobatics were conducted by the Youth Circus Foundation with a session demonstrating the circus abilities of children and young people, who were once at risk of drug abuse and addiction. The day culminated with the brief presentation of the four best drawings with the children briefly describing their outputs. Videos and spots were also aired at the site, including the animation series developed by National Anti-Drugs Agency, Malaysia. Snacks and other giveaways were provided by sponsors who were approached by the Regional Centre and TK Park for the event.

H.E. Mr. Mumin Alanat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok graced the occasion. The Government of Turkey recently provided support

A panel discussion on "Children Speak out about Drug Abuse" enabled children to talk about their insights on drugs.

to the regional project on drug awareness promotion. Others who spoke at the programme included Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre who also read the message of Mr. Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General; Ms. Tanita Nakin, Director of the Drug Demand Bureau of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board in Thailand; Ms. Prateep Ungsongtham Hata, Secretary General of the Duang Prateep Foundation; and Dr. Sirikorn Maneerin, President of the TK Park Board. Exhibits were also set up by the Regional Centre, World Vision Foundation, and UNICEF, depicting this year's theme. A leaflet was produced by the Regional Centre on the theme. About 1,500 children, parents, and students participated in the events.

Meanwhile, the Regional Centre joined the Office of the Narcotics Control Board in celebrating the international day by participating in an exhibit dedicated to His Majesty, the King of Thailand. In its exhibit, UNODC featured the efforts of the Royal Thai Government, through the patronage of the His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej in sustainable alternative development which replaced illicit opium poppy cultivation by highland farmers of Thailand. The countries in the region also celebrated the international day with various events in their respective locations. ■

Olivia Sylvia Inciong

Kofi A. Annan
United Nations
Secretary General



UN Photo / Eskinder Debebe

Taking drugs or not is about making choices - informed choices. Yet too many people in the world are badly informed about the potentially devastating effects of drugs. That is why we need to work for better education and greater awareness to prevent drug abuse. We need more consistent leadership from Governments. We need better examples from role models whose drug use damages more people than just themselves.

We need to spread the understanding that drugs are illegal because they are a problem; not a problem because they are illegal. Drugs cause health and mental problems. When addictive, they can spell misery for users and those close to them. When taken intravenously, they can spread deadly disease -- especially HIV/AIDS. When they wreak their devastation, they respect no boundaries of income, race, occupation or geography.

Our efforts must focus especially on young people -- through outreach, peer-to-peer networks, and using opportunities such as sport to keep young people active, healthy, and confident. That also means engaging and encouraging parents and teachers to play their part in full.

Our efforts also require working to reduce supply -- through law enforcement, and through working with the producing countries to give farmers sustainable alternatives to growing illicit crops. In this way, we must strive to tackle poverty and drug supply at the same time.

Let us arm people with the information they need to say no to drugs.

Events

- ▶ A drawing session for the “From the Eyes of a Child” colouring book
- ▶ Thai dances
- ▶ The Nithan Caravan puppet show
- ▶ An interactive training workshop on circus and acrobatics
- ▶ A panel discussion on “Children Speak Out about Drug Abuse”



Messages from:



H.E. Mr. Mumin Alanat
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok



Mr. Akira Fujino
Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific



Ms. Tanita Nakin
Director of the Drug Demand Bureau of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board in Thailand



Ms. Prateep Ungsongtham Hata
Secretary General of the Duang Prateep Foundation



Dr. Sirikorn Maneerin
President of the Thailand Knowledge (TK) Park Board



UNODC Photos / Nuttun Chanchumras and Olivia Sylvia Inciong

In Malaysia

In a nationwide television broadcast, the Prime Minister appealed to all Malaysians to stay away from illicit drug use and abuse and to flee from addiction. His message was simultaneously aired on all radio channels nationwide. All state National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA) Directors also went on air in local radio stations, talking about various events lined up for their respective states. Senior Counselor Mr. Lasimon spoke over Traxx FM (National English Channel) on community treatment. NADA Director of Prevention Mr. Abu Hassan and NADA Director General Mr. Sabran were guests in a talk show over TV1 and TV3, respectively.

A religious forum was held in Kuala Lipis, Pahang on 10 June with 5,000 participants. A special prayer session (Solat Hajat) was held at the famous Putrajaya Mosque on 22 June.

NADA also ran a special eight-page supplement in the local daily, "Berita Harian." Many Chinese newspapers reprinted the UNODC poster and flyers produced by the UNODC Headquarters which were sent to NADA by the regional office.

The China Press, the most popular Chinese Daily in the Klang Valley, did a series of stories

covering drug-related issues during the period, with most of the contents from the Narcotics Department of the Police and NADA. For the second time, "Traction", a Chinese car magazine, provided information support to NADA and also reprinted the UNODC poster.

On 26 June, all states held a variety of activities, inclusive of an Anti-Drugs Art Competition, opened to kids between the ages of 10 to 16 years. Artworks were judged by artists from the Malaysian Artists Association, while the Education Department officers and teachers helped in organizing the event.

Nearly all television and radio stations carried messages for their respective audiences in June. Such institutionalized arrangements indicate the impact of the media training held in April 2006 in collaboration with the UNODC regional project on "Promotion of Public Awareness of the Dangers against Drugs". This training session facilitated greater and increased common understanding and closer working relationships among the media from the government and private sectors. The NADA Media Update created ripples in the anti-drug awareness efforts nationwide.



Photos by National Anti-Drugs Agency, Malaysia

NADA organized an Anti-Drugs Run in Putrajaya on 12 August. Intensive publicity was done through door to door marketing and advertising at all government departments, dwelling places, public places, and schools. Students and international runners signed up for the run. Lucky participants won prizes such as laptops, cameras and hand-phones. NADA's in-house disco jockeys Christabelle and Halili rattled anti-drugs messages in between announcements. Artists and music rockers provided entertainment.

Folks were also invited to visit booths by the Police, the Prisons, Civil Rescue Department, and NADA's thematic exhibition entitled "Drugs are not child's play, try it, you'll suffer for it" featuring two walkways: the "miserable walk" and the "drug-free walk". Interactive audio-visuals which depicted the various aspects of sufferings caused by drug abuse were shown at the "miserable walkway". Crafts were displayed and sold by the Prisons Department and NADA's treatment centres. Cartoonists did instant pieces for visitors.

The various activities contributed towards an increased public awareness for a drug-free Malaysia. ■

Wong Sow Kham



In Indonesia

The President of The Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono signed his name on the envelopes and awards for individuals/organizations who have actively contributed to drug abuse prevention, therapy, rehabilitation and law enforcement. He also accepted the Declaration of Commitment by anti-drugs Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Other activities included:

- Presentation of six cars from Indonesian First Lady Mrs. Ani Bambang Yudhoyono to Mrs. Henny Sutanto, wife of the Director of Indonesian Police Organization for use in drug prevention and law enforcement activities.
- Mass campaign through printed materials for the general public by the Executive Director, the National Narcotics Board (NNB) and Head of Prevention Centre.

- "Lights On" by Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa, a local NGO.
- Midnight calls and testimonies by community and religious leaders, NGO leaders, and NNB officers.
- Health Walk (5 km) by NGO members,

- community residents, and police officers. Signatures on the longest banner (5 km), where 2 billion expressed support for a drug-free Indonesia.
- Declaration of the musical group "Samson" as anti-drugs delegates. ■



Photo by National Narcotics Board, Indonesia

In Lao PDR

The International Day was celebrated nationwide, with major events taking place in the capital of Vientiane. A conference was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, Mr. Bouasone Bouphavanh; the Chairman of the National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), Mr. Soubanh Srittihirath; and the Representative of UNODC in Lao PDR, Mr. Leik Boonwaat. The conference lauded the significant opium reduction efforts of the Government, which recognizes that the drug situation is still fragile. Only 50 per cent of former opium producing communities have received assistance related to opium elimination and

the risk for them reverting to replanting opium poppy is there for lack of alternatives. The Government called for urgent measures to provide alternative livelihoods to former opium poppy growing farmers and reaffirmed its commitment to continue the fight against illicit drugs.

Assistance is urgently needed to give poor Lao former opium poppy growing farmers the means to develop alternative livelihoods, provide treatment to remaining addicts, prevent new addiction, as well as to strengthen the capacity of legislation, the judiciary and law enforcement.



The trafficking and abuse of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) continues to pose a serious threat to Lao PDR. The UNODC international campaign "Drugs are not Child's Play" aims to create public awareness about the destructive power of drugs and society's responsibility to care for the well being of children.

Nationwide, around 2,000 participants - including senior government employees, key management leaders from provincial and districts authorities, embassies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, monks, hotels, shops, entertainment places, soldiers, policemen, as well as high school students - attended the ceremony. After the ceremony, the children participated in painting, sport and quiz contests. ■

Pascale Claren



UNODC Lao PDR Country Office Photos

In Singapore

Singapore commemorated the International Day through various school-based and national activities. An inaugural school-based 'Decorate A Drug-Free Corner' competition was organized as part of the campaign activities. Schools were invited to decorate an area within their compound with an anti-drug theme, photos of their decorations, and submit their entries online to win book vouchers. The competition drew good responses from the primary, secondary and post-secondary schools where 56 winning entries were selected. The competition also provided bonding opportunities among the principals, teachers, staff and students while showcasing their creativity.

As part of the concerted move to heighten students' awareness and support for the anti-drug cause, students were given a specially designed anti-drug abuse button badge. Each student was asked to put them on. More than 250 student vol-



Photos by Central Narcotics Bureau, Singapore

One of the winning entries of the 'Decorate A Drug-Free Corner' competition

unteers from secondary and tertiary institutions volunteered to distribute the anti-drug abuse wristbands to the public near MRT stations on 24 June and 5 July. Both the badges and the wristbands carried the message 'Drugs are not child's play.'

An Anti-Drug Sports Carnival 'Sportzmania' was held to promote sports and healthy lifestyle as

an alternative to drug abuse among youths. The Carnival was highlighted with the launch of the latest Preventive Drug Education (PDE) initiative 'Drug Busters!', a PDE Mobile Exhibition Bus. 'Drug Busters!' houses interactive and computer-based displays which help to enliven the anti-drug education experience. The sports activities attracted good responses from primary and secondary schools, and youth clubs. A total of 80 teams (360 participants) played in the street soccer and floorball tournaments, with the winning teams awarded cash prizes and trophies. To reinforce the anti-drug message in a fun manner, the teams designed their own anti-drug team jerseys and wore these during the tournaments. Other carnival activities included anti-drug game stalls, performances by winners of DanceWorks! 2006 (an annual anti-drug dance competition) and an anti-drug cheerleading performance by students from the Nanyang Technological University. ■

Serene Wong

Student volunteers who distributed anti-drug abuse wristbands



In Viet Nam

A nationwide campaign was launched to celebrate the International Day. Public awareness activities and celebrations were held in major cities and provinces across Viet Nam.

The Ministry of Education and Training and Son La People's Committee organized an anti-drugs campaign launching ceremony in Son La Province, with 5,000 students and local residents participating. The launch included an exhibition of 100 anti-drug posters, film shows, and the distribution of 3,500 videotapes, 7 fact-sheets and leaflets about drug problems.

Some 2,000 students and young performers from the best anti-drug information teams participated in an art-performance contest organized by the Youth Union in Ha Noi.

The Ministry of Culture and Information held a Children's Drawing Competition for 150 children in Ha Noi, with the theme "say no to drugs" and "your dream of a drug-free community."

The Viet Nam Women's Union held a seminar on "the role of women in drug prevention" and facilitated the exchange of views and sharing good practices / experiences.

The International Day public campaign culminated in a meeting of around 3,000 students and members of the mass organizations, and a talk-show involving law enforcement officers, drug



Photos by Standing Office on Drugs Control of Viet Nam

treatment centre managers, and recovering drug users, which was transmitted live on national television. Mr. Pham Quang Nghi, Minister of Culture and Information; Pol. Gen. Le The Tiem, Vice Minister of Public Security; and members of the National Committee on AIDS and Drugs and Prostitution Control attended the meeting.

UNODC promotional materials such as T-shirts, pouches, and notebooks, carrying the Inter-

national Day campaign logo "Drugs are not child's play," were distributed to children and government counterparts.

UNODC also joined the United Nations Country Team in celebrating Viet Nam's Children's Month in June, which focused on the fight against drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, child labour, and human trafficking. ■

Nguyen Tuong Dung



In Myanmar

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Myanmar Country Office organized a poster competition, awards ceremony, and poster exhibition. The competition took place in Lashio, Northern Shan State, a city notoriously known for its high level of drug abuse, particularly injecting drug use. The competition, which has taken place in Lashio for several years now, was the result of the initiative and cooperation between the local communities and the authorities.

UNODC Myanmar Country Office Photo



UNODC joined in this effort as a co-sponsor in 2004 when it began implementing the Lashio Outreach Project (LOP), which was established to provide counseling and treatment for drug users as well as to prevent potential drug abuse among local youths by mobilizing the participation of community stakeholders.

Keeping in line with this year's slogan "Drugs are not Child's Play", the competition aimed to extend a message to adults, that children are also vulnerable to drugs; and to children, that increased knowledge will help them make better informed decisions on their life choices. The competition promoted awareness on illicit drugs among various community groups, and it encouraged children to express their opinions on drug abuse through the visual arts. The latter, in particular, allowed adults to see how children perceive and understand drug abuse and its consequences, which is a vital element in devising relevant child-friendly information education communication materials on drug prevention.

Winners were chosen based on the skills shown at depicting the effects of drugs on individuals and the community. Contestants were also requested to illustrate the theme of this year's international day. Although the competition has drawn participants of various ages, 2006 was the first year when children were especially invited to take part in the event. Entries were for children (ages 4 to 10) and professional categories.

This year, 28 children category entries and 32 professional category entries were received by the Competition Committee. The three winners from each category were officially awarded their prizes at a ceremony in Yangon on 27 June 2006. The ceremony was attended by government representatives, United Nations agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations, the diplomatic community, and the media, who for the first time enjoyed the colourful drawings by talented Myanmar youth. ■

Camila Vega and Win Ma Ma Aye

In Thailand

In 2006, the Kingdom of Thailand celebrates the 60th Anniversary of Accession to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Drug abuse is one of his royal concerns. Thus, the Royal Thai Government has called for a national unity against drugs under the theme, "The Whole Kingdom of Thailand Unites against Drugs to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of King Bhumibol's Accession to the Throne".

Various activities were organized throughout the country. Some highlights:

1. "To Be Number One's Get Together". The Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health, as the secretariat of the Project has organized a nationwide competition to select the most outstanding "To Be Number One Club" in schools, workplaces, communities, and "To Be Number One Province". The competitions were organized at the district, provincial, regional, and national levels. The national contest was held in Bangkok on 26 June with more than 20,000 in attendance. The event was presided by Princess Ubonratana, the eldest daughter of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, who founded the "To Be Number One Club."

2. The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Ministry of Justice is responsible for a national level event for the International Day against Drugs every year. On 25 June, an exhibition of outstanding drug abuse prevention and control activities in 2006 was held. This occasion provided an opportunity for government offices, non-governmental organization (NGOs), communities, civil society, schools, and workplaces from

nationwide to demonstrate their activities and achievements in drug abuse prevention and control. The focus was on giving a chance to recovering addicts/abusers for social reintegration. Representatives of recovering addicts, parents, and employers were invited to express their feelings to the Princess and the audience about being a part of the social reintegration process. The exhibition was held in a shopping centre and opened to the public. There was also a special ceremony where Princess Ubonratana handed Baht 8,000 (about US\$216) each to 1,171 community representatives as seed money to support drug abuse control activities. The funds are from the Mother of Land Trust Fund initiated by Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in 2005. On 26 June, a Recognition Award Giving ceremony was held at the National Police Bureau Auditorium where 116 individuals and organizations were selected to receive the award for prevention, suppression, treatment and rehabilitation, support, and policy development. The winner with distinction in each category received Baht 100,000 (about US\$2,700) from the Narcotics Control Foundation. Two movie and television stars were also awarded the golden 'anti - drug star' pin in recognition of their contribution as good role models for the young generation.

3. The Department of Food and Drugs Administration, Ministry of Public Health organized the 34th burning of about 35 tonnes of seized drugs and 91.39 litres of chemicals on 26 June. The seizure were the results of 246,430 cases, comprising of 32 million tablets of ya ba, 254.16 kilograms of heroin, 71.16 kilograms of marijuana, and 155.91 kilograms of opium. The burning took place at the Wastes Management Plant, Bang Pa - In Industrial Park, Ayudhya. ■

Chuanpit Choornwattana



Photos by Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Thailand



19th Annual International Military Operations and Law (MILOPS) Conference

16 – 20 July 2006
Bangkok, Thailand

Photo by MILOPS



Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, presented the drugs and crime situation in the region at the MILOPS conference. In his presentation, Mr. Fujino highlighted the regional drugs, crime and human trafficking situation and the major challenges, counter measures, and regional actions and mechanisms.

Main topics covered at the conference included: rule of law, government ethics and standards of conduct, human rights, detainee operations, transnational threats, government corruption and white collar crime, maritime security, pandemic influenza, and human assistance disaster relief.

For almost two decades, MILOPS has been an integral part of the United States Pacific Command Theatre Security Cooperation Programme, offering a unique opportunity for about 200 professionals from more than 30 nations to gather and discuss current issues in the fields of operations, law, and policy. ■

Sri Lankan Students Briefed on Illicit Drugs in the Region

Participants for the Diploma in Drug Abuse Management Studies, Thailand, visited the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific on June 5 as part of their study visit programme. They were briefed by Dr. Sanong Chinnanon, Institutional and Human Resources Development Spe-

cialist, on the regional situation about illicit drugs and collaborative actions on drug control and crime prevention in East Asia and the Pacific. They were welcomed by UNODC Senior Programme Management Officer, Mr. Burkhard Dammann. The 31 participants, all students of the

Institute of Workers' Education, also visited the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, where they were informed about Thailand's strategy in combating drugs, focusing on demand reduction. The course participants were government and private sector employees. ■

National Media Training on Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS Prevention

4-6 April 2006
Putrajaya, Malaysia

The training-workshop was jointly organized by the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA) of the Ministry of Internal Security, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific through the project, "Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drugs in East Asia", and the UNODC Headquarters. The workshop aimed at: (a) sensitizing the media to the drug problem and its overall impact on the individual, family, and society; (b) providing the media with a better understanding of the relationships and effects of illicit drugs on sustainable development; and (c) engaging the media with the national drug control agency, its partners, and NGOs in recommending practical partnerships in preventive education.

The visit to the drug rehabilitation centre called PERSADA, an acronym for *Pemulihan Rakan Sekelompok Amalan Daya Juang Abadi*, meaning "Rehabilitation of Teammates, an Ever-

lasting Struggle Practice" provided the participants with a better understanding of drug treatment and the initiatives of the Malaysian Government in having former drug abusers become productive citizens after drug rehabilitation. They were briefed on the centre's operations and learned how former drug abusers are now leading productive lives.

Participants included 32 Malaysian media practitioners, representatives from government authorities active in preventive drug education such

as the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and selected NGO partners with anti-drug mandates. Practical partnerships in the areas of media, NGOs, academe, government institutions and ministries, and pharmacists with NADA and UNODC were identified. The participants also developed a draft for a set of media guidelines specific for Malaysia in the context of reporting about drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. ■

UNODC Photo



Pre-Testing Modules on Prevention of ATS Abuse among Young People: A Two-Day Training for Policy Makers

3-4 July 2006
Pasig City, Philippines

Since 2005, UNODC has been developing a good practice guide on prevention of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) use among the youth, specifically a set of training modules for ATS prevention policy, and advocacy. The above training was held to pilot test the training modules with policy makers and managers of relevant government agencies/programmes.

As part of its capacity building initiative for national drug control agencies in drug abuse prevention, the UNODC Regional Centre through the project "Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drug Abuse in East Asia" organized the training with the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), the Philippine Government's national drug control policy making body, and the focal point for the

project. Funding for the training was cost-shared by UNODC and DDB.

A field trip was made to a community-based centre which had integrated drug abuse prevention. Of the 34 participants, 26 were the official repre-

sentatives from various agencies. Observers during the training also played key roles in developing drug abuse-related policies in their respective agencies. It was the first time for majority of the participants to attend such type of training. ■

UNODC Photo



17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm

Vancouver, Canada
30 April – 2 May 2006

The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Support Team in Bangkok co-chaired a session on "Scaling Up" during the conference. UNODC was represented by Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, whose discussions focused on the "comprehensive package" of interventions which UNODC recommends as the basis for the response to HIV/AIDS and illicit drug

use. He also discussed the comparative advantage of UNODC in reaching out to key national authorities and in working with other international bodies. The Conference programme included a satellite meeting arranged by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Western Pacific titled "Good Practice in Harm Reduction: Case Studies from Asia", which was intended to reinforce the progress already made in developing elements of the comprehensive package for HIV prevention and care, particularly with drug users.

At the session's closing, Mr. Fujino stressed the continuing efforts of WHO in compiling and sharing good practices and reiterated the need to tap UNODC comparative advantages in reaching out to different authorities, including those on drugs and HIV in prison settings. ■

UNODC Meets with Viet Nam Leaders

Upon the invitation of the Government of Viet Nam, Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, UNODC Executive Director, paid an official visit to Viet Nam, 1 – 2 March 2006. Mr. Costa met with Viet Nam President Tran Duc Luong, Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem, Ministers of Public Security, Foreign Affairs, and Labour and Social Affairs, and major donor ambassadors. He also visited a drug treatment centre and met students at the Hanoi National University.

The discussions with Viet Nam's Government leaders focused on trends in drug abuse – heroin and ATS especially among Viet Nam's youth – and

high risks for HIV transmission among injecting drug users. They also discussed trends in the trafficking of drugs and persons. The emerging issues related to transnational organized crime, money laundering and corruption; and the need for institution/capacity building were also discussed.

Viet Nam has a very young population, and it is vital that these young people are properly educated about the risks of drug abuse and HIV infection. UNODC is keen to help Viet Nam expand its drug treatment services, both in compulsory centres and through community-based voluntary treatment. Mr. Costa welcomed Viet Nam's rapid

economic development but warned that this opened the country to an increased threat from transnational organized crime. He urged the Government to accelerate its ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption. ■

Project Provides Assistance to Human Trafficking Victims

By Judith L. Dixon
Senior Consultant

Through the UNODC Regional Centre, direct support for the victims and witnesses of human trafficking is being provided particularly for repatriated women and child victims. The capacities of selected rehabilitation centres and facilities are being expanded. Three regions have been selected for the project activities based on trafficking numbers, availability of rehabilitation centres and NGO activities. The project focuses on the restoration of the physical and mental well being of trafficked victims, vocational training and support for re-integration into the community, support for victim/witnesses who assist with a prosecution of offenders and community development and awareness-building.

Seven countries worldwide are now involved in UNODC technical cooperation projects in the fight against human trafficking with the aim of assisting countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical steps for action. In the Asia Pacific region, the Philippines falls under the above three categories for persons trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour. Internal trafficking takes place from rural to urban areas within the country, while other destination points for trafficking victims from the Philippines are found in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America. Poverty and unemployment,

law enforcement issues and a culture of migration all contribute to this illegal activity.

The Government of the Philippines has taken steps in recent years against human trafficking. In 2001 a National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons was launched, and in May 2002, the Government ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. In 2003, the first comprehensive anti-trafficking law was passed which imposes harsh penalties against traffickers and clients.

PROJECT STATUS

A monitoring visit completed in June 2006 enabled the UNODC team to visit the centres, meet with the local leaders and assess project progress. Project orientations have been completed by the UNODC National Project Officer in all three regions. Case Plan Managers are operating in each rehabilitation centre. Victim assistance workers (VAWs) have been appointed and are working with prosecutors. A number of victims are already being supported under the project and several prosecutions are underway. One region reported successful prosecutions against traffickers.

While VAWs have been designated, regions with a large number of bars and clubs are faced with major issues around prosecutions and convictions and cooperation with law enforcement personnel.

In Calbayog City on the island of Samar, the issues of transport costs, rural poverty and lack of employment possibilities were most significant. The problem of trafficking offences being reduced by law enforcement to the less serious offence of illegal recruitment was also cited by all three project regions.

In spite of these limitations, each Barangay (village) clearly demonstrated its commitment to the project. Local leaders such as the mayors, councilors and local government representatives pledged their commitment – in particular with their assistance in vocational training and job placements for the trafficking victims. Local centre staff and members of the Regional Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in each region are assessing their specific issues and working to address difficulties they face. ■

UNODC project "Support to Victims/Witnesses of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Philippines" is funded by the Human Security Fund of the Government of Japan.

Strengthening Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Drug Users in Prison Settings

Inception and Advocacy Workshop
17-21 April 2006
Bangkok, Thailand

The participants were from the Narcotics Control Bureaus, Ministries of Health, Public Security, law enforcement and justice system of the six MOU countries: Cambodia, PR China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The meeting provided a forum to discuss drugs and HIV/AIDS in

communities and custodial settings and to strengthen regional partnerships. It was agreed that a comprehensive package must be available for addressing drug abuse and HIV in closed settings. Closed settings provide a captive clientele and can be good pilot sites for interventions. ■



UNODC Publishes 3rd Annual Report on Patterns and Trends of ATS Abuse in East Asia and the Pacific

By HaNhi Tran
UNODC Regional Centre

The annual report describing the most recent patterns and trends of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and other drugs of abuse in East Asia and the Pacific was released in July 2006. The report, entitled 'Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and Other Drugs of Abuse in East Asia and the Pacific 2005,' is the third report in a series of annual publications for the UNODC Improving ATS Data and Information Systems project, aimed at improving the collection and sharing of ATS data among countries in the region. The report includes regional and national overviews of drug trends in East Asia and Pacific, along with comparative data from the past two annual reports.

The report is based on information submitted by drug control agencies in 13 countries in the region. Through the project, these national agencies have developed a network of law enforcement agencies, treatment centres, and research agencies at both the provincial and national levels from which they can collect data.

For the third annual report, the countries submitted data to the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), an online data collection network. DAINAP was established by UNODC in May 2005 as a replacement for the Regional ATS Questionnaire (RAQ) to enhance the quality and efficiency of data collected in the region. For the first two annual reports, national counterparts completed the RAQ, a hard-copy survey questionnaire.

Member countries can log-on to DAINAP and submit quarterly and annual data regarding recent trends of abuse, health and treatment, arrests and seizures, and data collection networks. The 13 countries which provided data through DAINAP in 2005 included: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. ■

The 2006 report showed that methamphetamine and ecstasy continued to dominate the region, with six of the 13 countries reporting methamphetamine as the primary drug of concern, and 8 of the countries reporting an increasing trend of methamphetamine abuse. Seven of the 8 countries which ranked ecstasy as a drug of concern reported an increasing trend of abuse.

Thailand and Myanmar reported higher seizures of crystal methamphetamine, or ice, a higher purity and more potent form of methamphetamine than in previous years. Lao PDR and Cambodia reported seizures of ice for the first time in 2005.

Opiates, particularly heroin, and cannabis continue to have a widespread presence in the region. Three countries reported heroin as the primary drug of abuse, while two countries reported cannabis as the most abused drug in the region. Other drugs, including benzodiazepines and ketamine, have emerged rapidly as prominent drugs of abuse. The benzodiazepine nimetazepam was ranked as the primary drug of abuse in Singapore and third in Brunei. The club drug ketamine was reported as a drug of abuse in five countries. Inhalant abuse continues to be an entrenched problem, particularly among urban youth.

The report is available at <http://www.apaic.org>. ■

Scientific Support to Strengthen Regulatory and Law Enforcement Control of ATS and their Precursors

The strengthening of the regulatory and law enforcement control of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors is a priority area of action of UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS). This includes the strengthening of forensic capabilities in the area of drug characterization/impurity profiling by means of promoting the utilization of standardized laboratory data as a primary source of information for operational law enforcement, regulatory and health purposes, and for reporting and trend analysis.

It is essential that laboratories are provided with the necessary ways and means to successfully accomplish their assigned tasks, and that they be fully integrated into national control systems, allowing for the systematic and timely information exchange and feedback with other national authorities concerned.

UNODC launched the project "Scientific support to strengthen regulatory and law enforcement control of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors in East, South and South-East Asia." The project inception meeting, held in Bangkok on

25-26 May 2006, brought together two staff from each of the 10 participating countries (one laboratory scientist and one national drug control agency staff assigned as the national focal point and responsible for coordinating national project activities). The 10 participant countries are Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Mr. Chan Kee Bian, project coordinator, said that the meeting was aimed at assessing baseline

information for the project, i.e., the current situation of each country/laboratory/technical capability/capacity of the laboratory and personnel, in particular also of existing laboratory-client relationships, and identifying the requirements and expectations of participants from the project.

The meeting was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with funding from the Government of Japan. ■

UNODC Photo



Drug Injection is the Main Cause of HIV Transmission in Viet Nam

At the annual meeting review by the National Committee on AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution Control, the Minister of Health reported that the HIV epidemic remains concentrated among high-risk groups. Injecting drug use is still the main cause of HIV transmission in Viet Nam. About 53 per cent of newly detected cases of HIV infection were injecting drug users. Drug-related harm reduction activities were still carried out in small scale and limited in behaviour-change communication. There was also limited distribution of clean needles/syringes and condoms.

In 2005, the Party commissions started a campaign to strongly advocate for the adoption of this approach. As a result, a provision on harm reduction activities was stipulated in the new Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, which was approved by the National Assembly in June 2006 and will become effective in January 2007.

The annual meeting was chaired by Deputy PM Pham Gia Khiem together with Ministers of Health and of Labour and Social Affairs, and Vice

Minister of Public Security. According to the Ministry of Public Security, illicit drug trafficking (mainly heroin and ATS) is still unfolding in a complex manner along the border provinces in the North West (especially in Son La and Hoa Binh), Northern Centre, Central Highland and Western South.

The Standing Office on Drug Control (SODC) reported that the number of registered drug users in 2005 increased by 56 per cent as compared with 2000 to over 158,000 people at present (which include 1,234 students, 1,024 government employees, and over 30,000 prisoners). The average annual increase of the drug population over the last five years was 10 to 12 per cent.

According to the report by the Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, drug users in Viet Nam are getting younger; the number of drug users under 30 increased from 42 per cent in 1996 to 68.3 per cent. The number of female drug users increased from 3.1 per cent in 1996 to 4.5 per cent in 2005. Sixty per cent of female drug users were

sex workers and 50 per cent of them were HIV infected. Heroin and ATS use have become more popular, from 5 per cent and 1.4 per cent in 1996, to 87 per cent and 4.5 per cent at present, respectively. The report further showed that 86.3 per cent of the drug population are injecting drug users.

Deputy PM Pham Gia Khiem said drug problems remained a major concern of the Party, the National Assembly, the Government and the public at large. He called for continued efforts to consolidate the judiciary system and institutional organizations to effectively control illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs.

At the same meeting, he pointed out the lack of awareness and concern among the local government and authorities, as evidenced by the 34 provinces out of the 64 that had prepared a plan of action. He emphasized the importance of expanding and intensifying international cooperation, especially cross-border law enforcement cooperation. ■

Source: UNODC Viet Nam Country Office

Cannabis - The World's Most Abused Drug

The 2006 World Drug Report devotes special attention to cannabis, the world's most abused illicit drug. Cannabis was used by an estimated 162 million people at least once in 2004, equivalent to some 4 per cent of the global population age 15-64, and consumption continued to increase.

The harmful characteristics of cannabis are no longer that different from those of other plant-based drugs such as cocaine and heroin. The UNODC Executive Director warned that cannabis was now considerably more potent than a few

decades ago and said it was a mistake to dismiss it as a "soft" and harmless drug. Evidence that cannabis can cause serious mental illness is mounting.

"National policies on cannabis vary and sometimes change from one year to the next," he added. "With cannabis-related health damage increasing, it is fundamentally wrong for countries to make cannabis control dependent on which party is in government. Policy reversals leave young people confused as to just how dangerous cannabis is.

The cannabis pandemic, like other challenges to public health, requires consensus, a consistent commitment across the political spectrum and by society at large."

"After so many years of drug control experience, we now know that a coherent, long-term strategy can reduce drug supply, demand and trafficking," Mr Costa concluded. "If this does not happen, it will be because some nations fail to take the drug issue sufficiently seriously and pursue inadequate policies. Many countries have the drug problem they deserve." ■

Global Sport Fund for Healthy Life Skills

Star athletes and school children joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Qatar National Olympic Committee (QNOC) to kick-off the Global Sport Fund, intended to use sport to teach healthy life skills to young people to prevent drug abuse and crime.

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa and the Director General of the QNOC, His Excellency Sheik Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, were joined by Dutch footballer Ronald de Boer, midfielder with Qatar's Al-Rayyan football club, and two members of the Qatar National Handball Team.

The athletes held sporting exhibitions and talked with schoolchildren about the importance of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. They emphasized that sport is about tolerance and cooperation as

much as competition.

"Thanks to the generosity of QNOC, we have the opportunity to teach children through sport to learn to live together, play together and make better choices in life," Mr. Costa said. "If you can have a healthy and active society because of access to athletics, then you've changed the lifestyle through sports and that's a good thing," added HE Sheik Saoud. "The Global Sport Fund is an opportunity to extend this message to children around the world."

UNODC and QNOC partnered in 2005 in a ground-breaking agreement to establish the Global Sport Fund. The Fund, made possible by a generous contribution from Qatar, will provide grants to NGOs for projects that use sport to prevent drug use and criminal behaviour among

young people. It will sponsor events, youth camps and exhibitions and hold training seminars for coaches and young people. QNOC is also providing facilities at its Doha headquarters to house the GSF and the newly opened UNODC office.

The GSF Grant Programme is designed to encourage NGOs to be creative in developing sport-related prevention projects that best meet the needs of young people in their communities. ■

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BLOs Along Mekong River Enhance Cooperation

The Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) along the Mekong River have enhanced cooperation with each other by agreeing to develop better narcotics intelligence sharing mechanisms. Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand have agreed to share information, especially on procedures in information exchange.

Thailand, through the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, agreed that they will increase their provision of technical and financial assistance to Lao PDR and Myanmar BLOs. The three countries agreed to increase joint patrol along the Mekong River to cover more areas.

Through the BLO mechanism, the three countries will enhance communication networks, intelligence networks and joint operations for the effective suppression of drugs smuggling and trafficking, focusing on the Mekong corridor. ■

In August, a team from UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP), the Department against Transnational Crime (DTC) and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) conducted a joint mission covering Muse, Tachileik, Kawthoung, Myawaddy in Myanmar aimed at determining the possibility of expanding the BLOs to cover human trafficking.

Results of the mission showed that to date, cross-border cooperation on trafficking has been limited at the local level, although there are significant variations between the four border locations. In Muse, on the border with PR China, cooperation with the Chinese police is most advanced, with good relations between the two police forces, and the ability to informally share information and intelligence. For the three loca-

tions on the Thai border, the lack of clear anti-trafficking focal points have created problems in effective cross-border cooperation, with sharing of intelligence and cross-border contact in general much more limited. For the Myanmar side, the establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force (ATTFs) means that a clear law enforcement focal point on human trafficking is in place that can provide the foundation for cross-border cooperation. The challenge will be to find equally clearly mandated law enforcement units on the Thai and Chinese sides of the border.

The assessment team identified several needs that extend to all four locations visited. These include the need for office and communication equipment for the ATTFs. Another limitation is the limited staff of the ATTFs. There is a need for the establishment of a shelter for illegal migrants and/or trafficking victims. ■

UNODC Goodwill Ambassador at US House of Representatives

On 14 June, a briefing and hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations of the Committee on International Relations of the US House of Representatives was held on the subject "Modern-Day Slavery: Spotlight on the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, Forced Labor, and Sex Trafficking at the World Cup."

Along with Ms. Julia Ormond, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador, testimonies were given by the following: Ambassador John Miller, Director

of the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State; Ms. Sharon Cohn, Vice President of Interventions, International Justice Mission; Mr. Charles Kernaghan, Director, National Labor Committee, as well as two Russian victims of trafficking.

At the hearing, Ms. Ormond spoke about her experiences meeting with victims of trafficking in various countries. She emphasized that solutions to combating modern-day slavery do exist and can be achieved with the strategic allocation of re-

sources. She commended the work of various NGOs and the media on bringing attention to the matter, but also stressed the importance of government enforcement in highlighting these atrocities and combatting them.

At the end of her statement, she urged the US Government to support UNODC in its efforts to ensure that the Protocol against Trafficking in Human Beings is signed, ratified and implemented by all United Nations Member States. ■

Students Raise Money to Support Drug Awareness

Six Japanese schoolchildren presented a donation of about US\$ 150,000 to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Antonio Maria Costa to help raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse in developing countries.

The "Young Civic Ambassadors", aged from 14 to 17, represented the Tokyo-based Drug Abuse Prevention Centre (DAPC), which has raised more than US\$ 4 million for UNODC over the last 12 years.

Photos show Mr. Shunzo Abe (first from left), DAPC Planning Director; H. E. Mr. Yukiya Amano (fifth from left), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna; Mr. Antonio Maria Costa (sixth from left), UNODC Executive Director, with the Young Civic Ambassadors during the handing over of the donation. ■



UNODC Photo / Vienna

Do More to End Farmers' Dependence on Illegal Drugs

Opening the 49th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said providing alternative sources of income for farmers in illicit drug producing regions was critical to global efforts to curb drug supplies.

"Governments and farmers who have taken major steps to reduce illicit crops have done their part. Now it is up to the international community - particularly the drug consuming countries, as well as aid and funding partners - to help," Mr. Costa said.

"This requires significant investment. Sustainable alternative development is not working to the fullest extent, in large part because the international community is not living up to its side of the bargain. At most, 10 per cent of those who need assistance receive the required support," Mr. Costa said.

Sustainable alternative development was the main theme at the meeting of the CND, the central policy-making body within the United Nations system dealing with illicit drugs. It is also the governing body for the work of UNODC in the drugs field.

The UNODC Executive Director said most illicit drug crop growers lived on the margins of society, in remote, impoverished communities. It was not enough simply to eradicate their crops of opium poppy or coca.

"Many are from minority or indigenous communities, threatened by armed conflict and intimidation. The cards are stacked against them and destroying their crops can push them over the edge into humanitarian crises, even into the arms of extremists. We should help growers, not impoverish them. The international community must have the wisdom to fight drugs and poverty simultaneously," Mr Costa added.

He called for a comprehensive development strategy that included better transport and infrastructure, improved security, health care, rural development, criminal justice, better education and good governance.

Mr Costa said the century-long international effort to control illicit drugs had been remarkably successful in many areas. World opium production, for example, had fallen to less than 5,000 tons a year from around 30,000 tons 100 years ago.

"World production and consumption of both heroin and cocaine have stabilized, consolidating a trend that began in the 1990s," he said.

But the good news on reducing supplies of opium and coca did not extend to cannabis.

Governments and farmers which have taken major steps to reduce illicit crops have done their part. Now it is up to the international community - particularly the drug consuming countries, as well as aid and funding partners - to help.

"Cannabis is the weakest link in the global drug control chain and the global market for this illicit drug continues to thrive," Mr Costa said.

Country implementation of the control regime varies considerably. Greater resolve, continuity and coherence are needed. ■

27th ASOD Meeting

Photo by Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Thailand



Thailand hosted the 27th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) on 1-2 August, 2006 at the Imperial Mae Ping Hotel, Chiang Mai. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Police General Chidchai Vanasatidya, Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Justice, Royal Thai Government.

The meeting discussed the increasing trend of ketamine abuse and trafficking in the region, and

the progress made in placing ketamine into the control list under the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The meeting reaffirmed its strong determination to pursue a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015. ■

Police Talk to Police

Police play an important and active role in supply reduction, demand reduction, and harm reduction in drug-related HIV/AIDS prevention. Harm reduction cannot, and will not, work without the active support and leadership from police. This was the main focus of the Senior Police Harm Reduction Seminar, organized by the Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Project (ARHP) from 12 to 15 April 2006 in Sanya City, Hainan Province, PR China.

The seminar facilitated police understanding, and support for comprehensive harm reduction approaches in drug-related HIV/AIDS prevention. It was noted that the role of law enforcement agencies in drug related harm reduction is limited due to lack of understanding of the approach and its potential positive and negative impacts on the whole drug control policy.

The seminar was attended by 50 police representatives from Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Viet Nam; 28 of them holding strategic positions in national police services and narcotic control bureaus.

The regional seminar also aimed to increase police awareness of HIV prevalence and transmission in the community, and to facilitate police understanding, acceptance and support for comprehensive harm reduction approaches.

The two-day programme in PR China covered a range of issues relating to the police role in com-

The seminar facilitated police understanding, acceptance and support for harm reduction approaches in drug-related HIV/AIDS prevention.

bating the spread of HIV, including police approaches to supporting harm reduction, legal and policy issues and occupational exposure.

Australian Federal Police representative in Beijing, Mr. Ian McCartney, delivered the opening

address along with Ms. Jiang Jiqing, from PR China's Ministry of Finance and Commerce, and Mr. Zhang Jun from PR China's Ministry of Public Security. Mr. McCartney spoke of the high priority Australia places on helping countries combat HIV/AIDS, bolstered by Australia's Global HIV/AIDS Initiative totalling A\$600 million over ten years from 2000 – 2010.

The seminar adopted the theme: 'police talking to police about harm reduction.' It was felt that the best people to speak to police about effective approaches to dealing with the spread of HIV, were the police themselves and HIV/AIDS experts as resource persons.

The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific was represented by Mr. Qianrong Wang, Senior Law Enforcement Technical Adviser, and Dr. Manjul Khanna, Project Coordinator for "strengthening comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care among drug users and in prison settings." ■

Training Module on Human Trafficking

A training module on trafficking in persons is now available with the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, UNODC. The module aims to explain the concept of human trafficking, define the chain of crimes (act, means and purpose of trafficking) that make up human trafficking; and distinguishes between human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants.

The module defines trafficking in persons, giving specific examples. It also illustrates other applicable provisions of criminal law, which can be particularly useful in situations and in countries without national legislation on human trafficking or where national provisions do not reflect the

gravity of the crime. Such offences include but are not limited to the following: slavery; slavery-like practices; involuntary servitude; forced or compulsory labour; debt bondage; forced marriage; forced abortion; forced pregnancy; torture; cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; rape; sexual assault; assault; bodily injury; murder; kidnapping; unlawful confinement; labour exploitation; withholding identity papers; and corruption.

The proper use of terms related to human trafficking are classified. Case studies are based on hypothetical examples included in the training module and created to generate consideration of

the distinction between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants within the context of Articles 3 of both Trafficking and Smuggling Protocols. Such cases studies depicted common situations for South-East Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America and the United States. ■

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Workshop on Training of Trainers in Participatory Training Methodologies

11-17 June 2006
Yangon, Myanmar

The "Training of Trainers in Participatory Training Methodologies" for Law Enforcement personnel and service providers in closed settings, implemented through the project "Strengthening Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Drug Users and in Prison Settings" provided enhanced skills, knowledge and different participatory training methodologies to trainers.

The project hopes to create a resource pool of master trainers by multiplier effects, within the region, on drug abuse and HIV risk prevention, sup-

port, and care in closed settings. The workshop was attended by 32 law enforcement officials working with injecting drug users and HIV from Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand. Training modules used were designed with principles of adult learning coupled with participatory training methodologies, and were found to be relatively more effective in bringing about desired training objectives. The learning then goes beyond increasing knowledge. It also increases awareness and skills, making the learning critical, useful and complete.

The country presentations defined the gaps in providing care and support within closed settings. A cross cutting issue was lack of human resource in terms of qualified trainers with experiential training expertise. The workshop provided trainers with on-the-job experience on effective training methodologies. ■

NACD Opens 6 CBT Centres

Initiated by the Sub-regional Project on Enhancement of Drug Law Enforcement Training in East Asia (Project C51) in early 2002, the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) Secretariat is now operating and managing six training centres located in key high-risk provinces/areas with ongoing technical and operational support management provided by the UNODC Regional Centre Project Office in Cambodia. More than 100 hours of high quality, interactive multi-media drugs interdiction techniques were used to train relevant drug law enforcement officers at these centres and also at six Border Liaison Offices at key international border crossing areas of Cambodia.

The CBT training system is one of the most successful training programmes in Cambodia. Close to 2,000 drug law enforcement personnel have received the training.

Meanwhile, the UNODC Regional Centre Project Office in Cambodia is assisting the NACD Secretariat in a sub-regional project on precursors in coordinating activities with key partners and organize workshops on precursors control that involved concerned industry managers and relevant law enforcement personnel. Several trainings were held and thousands of DVDs were distributed to facilitate further training at the local levels. Each DVD contains the following training subjects: general situation of precursor chemicals, diversion of precursor chemicals, roles of chemical industries, prevention of precursors diversion, how to identify suspicious order document, and control of important precursor chemicals. ■

Terrorism Field Experts

In support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) counter-terrorism work, the Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific has cooperated with the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Justice of Thailand in having a prosecutor work as Regional Expert in Bangkok for the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) since early 2005.

After the Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism initiated in October 2002, the TPB has continuously increased field-level support by assigning regional and sub-regional experts. This is to build up local expertise on counter-terrorism issues in different regions and to allow UNODC to provide the services of mentors to assist countries more directly at the field levels. ■

UNODC Reaffirms Assistance for Cambodia



UNODC Photo

Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Executive Director reiterated UNODC's support to provide the Cambodian Government with assistance on issues falling within the UNODC mandate, particularly with regard to strengthening the judicial system and structures to effectively respond to illicit drugs, corruption, human trafficking and terrorism.

UNODC is well placed to provide assistance to States with the implementation of a number of international conventions, including the drug conventions, into the domestic legal structure.

During his visit to Cambodia, Mr. Costa met with government officials, including the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister/Co-Minister

of the Interior and Chairman of the National Authority for Combating Drugs to discuss various issues relating to illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, and terrorism. During the mission, Mr. Costa was joined by Mr. Akira Fujino, Representative, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.

UNODC has provided various forms of support to Cambodia, coordinated through the Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. In particular, the project "Strengthening the Secretariat of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) and the National Drug Control Programme" has seen major progress in ensuring a strong national infrastructure regarding drug control. ■

Balancing Prevention and Enforcement Activities

Drug abuse prevention activities continued to be carried out in the context of a project promoting a comprehensive prevention programme through mass media at the central level in Viet Nam. Community-based activities will be expanded to cover five more urban areas in 10 project sites in the five provinces in 2006.

Drug abuse treatment manuals have been published aimed at ethnic minority groups. While drug prevention activities were heightened, drug abuse treatment continued in Lao Cai and Son La provinces, with a total of 55 currently in treatment in addition to 500 having received treatment. Aftercare counselling and management continued for about 500 post-treatment drug users, followed by a relapse prevention programme involving 44 community outreach workers in all three project provinces. Injecting drug use and HIV intervention programmes continued in Son La and Dien Bien. Drug interdiction equipment was also provided for Lao Cai and Son La law enforcement officers. ■

On 27 April 2006, Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations released his report, "Uniting Against Terrorism: Recommendations for a Global Counter-terrorism Strategy." In presenting the report to the General Assembly, Mr. Annan noted that the recommendations in the report were based on the conviction that "...terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, is unacceptable and can never be justified."

The report builds on the "five Ds" of successfully responding to terrorism:

1. Dissuading people from resorting to terrorism or supporting it;
2. Denying terrorists the means to carry out an attack;
3. Deterring States from supporting terrorism;
4. Developing State capacity to defeat terrorism;
5. Defending human rights.

The five Ds are considered fundamental and critical components of a successful response to terrorism.

The Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC provides technical assistance to Member States on request to ratify and implement the universal instruments relating to terrorism. This includes judicial and prosecutorial training. ■

Thai Monarch Receives UNDP Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations presented the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award to King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of his coronation. The award, given in May 2006, was presented in recognition of the King's ongoing efforts to promote development projects in Thailand.

In presenting the award, Mr. Annan described the Thai leader as the "Development King" and praised him on his efforts to reach out to the poorest and most vulnerable members of the Thai community, regardless of their race, religion or status. The King's contribution to development was recognized, in particular through his guiding philosophy of "sufficiency economy".

Thailand's revered King was described as a visionary thinker and Mr. Annan noted his countless initiatives in rural development and other areas such as water conservation that has benefited millions of people across the country. The King was commended for the sustainable impact of his initiatives, which saw the empowerment of the Thai population through education, economic stability, and health care. Mr. Annan noted that "If human development is about putting people first, there can be no better advocate than His Majesty".

During his visit to Bangkok, the Secretary General met with United Nations staff. He discussed the United Nations reform efforts and emphasized that the reform process needed to be ongoing and extended beyond the conclusion of his term. Mr. Annan has been pursuing reforms in the United Nations during his term. He commenced his term as Secretary-General of the United Nations on 1 January 1997 and end on 31 December 2006. ■



Secretary-General Kofi Annan (right) presents the Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award to King Bhumibol Adulyadej at a ceremony held at the Royal Residence in Thailand.

UN Photo / Evan Schneider

Comparative Study on Anti-Terrorism Legislative Developments in Seven Asian and Pacific Countries

The study reviewed the status of anti-terrorist legal provisions and practices, focusing on the existing gaps in the implementation of the 12 universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols and the analysis in relation to Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. It constitutes a preliminary review of the existing legislations and relevant documents of the seven countries.

The study has been undertaken to support the implementation of the decisions of the Bali Ministerial Meeting on Counter Terrorism (February 2004), where the delegates from 24 countries and international organizations joined efforts to address the terrorism threat in the regional context. The countries agreed to ratify and implement 12

universal instruments against terrorism and created a Legal Issues Working Group (LIWG), which would conduct a stocktake of existing frameworks and recommend appropriate legislative action. ■

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Addressing ATS Trafficking and Abuse

The Programme Facilitation Unit/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supported the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) in the development of 'Random Student Drug Test Guidelines.' UNODC supported some 40,000 urine test kits. Provincial reports indicated an increase in crime, violence and corruption due to increasing ATS trafficking and abuse. Out of 212 candidates for the police academy, 44 including 6 female would-be police officers tested positive for ATS use in random tests conducted in early 2006. ■



Mr. Gray Sattler, Australian, will join the Regional Centre in August 2006 as the Regional Adviser (HIV/AIDS), a new position established as part of the growing commitment by the global community to a dedicated response to HIV in relation to drug use, prison settings, and human trafficking. He has worked in HIV and AIDS since 1986, first as one of the organizers and lobbyists for community involvement in preventing the spread of HIV. In 1989 he joined the New South Wales Health Department, developing and managing the State's HIV education programme for drug users and was the Manager for Programme Planning in Drug Treatment Services before leaving in 1998. He has also worked with international and regional NGOs in Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Thailand, and as consultant to other United Nations agencies. Before joining the Regional Centre, he was Technical Officer (Harm Reduction) with WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific for four years.



Mr. Guillaume Le Hégarat, French, joined the Regional Centre in June 2006 as coordinator for the United Nations Regional Task Force on Injecting Drug Use and HIV/AIDS for Asia and the Pacific, which aims towards increasing the coverage of comprehensive HIV programmes and services for injecting drug users. For the past eight years, he has been working in the field of international drug control cooperation and HIV prevention in South East Asia. His initial experience in the field of HIV was in advocacy and technical support for policy changes towards comprehensive approaches in Myanmar. He played a central role in designing the Injecting Drug Users component of the first United Nations Joint Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS in Myanmar in 2001. Since then, Mr. Le Hégarat has undertaken various international consultancies in Asia.



Mr. Michel Bonnieu, French, joined the Regional Centre in April 2006 as Senior Regional Legal Advisor. Mr. Bonnieu has a wealth of experience in both legal development and international spheres. He has served as head of investigating judges in Bayonne, France, and recently as head of France's bilateral assistance project in Cambodia, where he undertook consultancy work for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Bonnieu has experience working in a diplomatic capacity, as well as on technical cooperation in many countries. At the Regional Centre, Mr. Bonnieu assists countries in the region to become parties to the international drug and crime conventions, establishing the legal and institutional frameworks, and training officials for the implementation of the conventions and related instruments.



Mr. Chan Kee Bian, Malaysian, joined the Regional Centre in March 2006 as coordinator for Project H44 "Scientific support to strengthen regulatory and law enforcement control of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and their precursors in East, South and South-East Asia". Prior to joining UNODC, he served for 27 years as a forensic chemist and a quality assurance officer in Malaysia's Department of Chemistry. He holds a BSc (Hons) in chemistry from the University of Science Malaysia and a Master's degree in quality management from Sunderland University, United Kingdom. Mr. Chan has worked several years as a technical assessor of the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Electrotechnical Commission 17025 quality management system for chemical testing laboratories in Malaysia and is a qualified inspector for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board.



Ms. Loretta Loria, Italian, will join the Regional Centre in September 2006 as a consultant on interagency networking and fund raising. Mrs. Loria holds a degree in Political Science from the University La Sapienza (Rome) and has served as a diplomat in the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs for more than 20 years. She was posted in Tirana and was in-charge of development cooperation projects of Italy in Albania; in Vienna, at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the International Organizations, as officer-in-charge of UNIDO-related matters. She has extensive experience in selection processes and follow up of Italian-funded UNIDO projects. At the Regional Centre, she would provide technical and substantive support in fundraising, advocacy, and networking-related projects.



Ms. Patricia M. Budiyo, Indonesian, will join the Regional Centre in July 2006 to support the project "Development of Cross Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia." Prior to this, she worked at the Regional Centre in 2002 as an intern, assisting Demand Reduction projects, as well as other projects including the production of Eastern Horizons. She also provided assistance to the "Mainstreaming Girls' Education into Development Process" project at UN ESCAP. Over the past 10 years, Ms. Budiyo has worked in business, research and education in Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia. She holds a Master's degree in International Business, a Postgraduate Diploma of Business (Marketing) from Curtin University of Technology, Australia and a Bachelor's degree in Economics/Business Administration from Indonesia. Ms. Budiyo is an experienced Indonesian-English/English-Indonesian translator.



Ms. Dollacha Diana Varanyanand, Thai, join the Regional Centre in September 2005 as a project assistant, assisting the "Global Programme Against Money Laundering" project. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Business English from the Assumption University. She is currently working for the "Legal Advisory Programme" and "Law Enforcement Programme" projects.



Ms. Junko Kobayashi, Japanese, will join the Regional Centre as an intern in September 2006. During her five months internship, she will be assisting the publication of the regional profile and advocacy initiatives of the regional centre, including updates on the website. She will also be working with the Representative in his various missions by preparing background information and writing brief papers. Prior to joining UNODC, she worked as intern for the East Asia Program at the Henry L. Stimson Centre in Washington, DC. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Government and Asian Studies from Dartmouth College, a Master's Degree in East Asian Studies from Harvard University, and a graduate-level Certificate from the Hopkins-Nanjing Centre, PR China.



UNODC Photos

Ms. Alexa Sharples, British, will join the Regional Centre in July 2006 as an intern assisting the project “Promotion of Public Awareness on the Dangers of Drugs in Asia,” to produce Eastern Horizons. Alexa has just graduated from the London School of Economics with a BSc in International Relations, and will be commencing a Master’s degree in Pacific Asian Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies. She has worked for London-based think tank Policy Exchange, conducting research on asylum-seekers in G7 countries, and has also worked for Royal Dutch Shell as part of their Brand and Communications team. She is setting up a small charity supporting orphanages in Myanmar.



Mr. Jakob Thoft Korslund, Danish, will join the Regional Centre in July 2006 as an intern attached to the project “Regional Co-operative Mechanism to Monitor and Execute the ACCORD Plan of Action,” primarily assisting in data compilation, country profiling and website content updates. Mr. Korslund obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Japanese Language and Cultural Studies/Conflict Resolution at Aarhus University, Denmark, and International Christian University, Japan. He is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Development and International Relations at Aalborg University, Denmark. He has travelled extensively throughout Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He does volunteer work with the Danish Refugee Council and also works as a fitness instructor.



Ms. HaNhi Tran, American, will join the Regional Centre as an intern in July 2006, supporting the project “Improving ATS Data and Information Systems.” She will provide assistance in updating the website for regional and national ATS trends in drug abuse, conduct research to expand the website’s library, and assist in preparations for the project’s annual meeting in October. Ms. Tran obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Harvard University, where she focused on the application of psychology to the law, specifically criminal behaviour. She has devoted her time to assisting marginalized communities – mentoring and teaching English as a Second Language to refugees and immigrant youths in Boston, and working with mental health patients.



Ms. Caroline McQueen, New Zealander, joined the Regional Centre in June 2006 as an intern to assist in the area of transnational organized crime. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and is currently completing her Master of Arts, both majoring in Political Studies from the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. Prior to joining the Regional Centre, she completed an internship at the United Nations Institute of Disarmament Research, Geneva, assisting in the area of small arms and light weapons. In her previous employment, Ms. McQueen has tutored at the Department of Political Studies (Islam and terrorism) at the University of Otago, and has worked as a welfare advocate.



Ms. Jeanette Pastor, Australian, joined the Regional Centre as an intern in June 2006, supporting the “Primary Prevention of ATS Abuse Amongst Youth” project. Ms. Pastor assisted in the collection of data for the UNODC profile of drugs and crime in the region. She holds a Bachelor of Asian Studies and will complete a Master’s of International Relations by the end of 2006. She has focused on the politics and development of Asia-Pacific region, and recently completed her dissertation on alternative development pathways in East Timor. Prior to joining UNODC, Ms. Pastor travelled throughout Asia pursuing volunteer opportunities in Indonesia, Thailand and Vanuatu, and with personal interests in the area of responsible travel. For the past few years, she worked as an adviser to international students at Macquarie University, Sydney.



Ms. Céline Artal, French, joined the Regional Centre in March 2006 as an intern supporting the projects, “Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse” and “Strengthening Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care for Drug Abusers in Custodial and Community Settings.” Ms. Artal holds a Master’s degree in Foreign Applied Languages from the Université Paul Valéry in France and a Master’s degree in International Human Rights from the University of Denver Graduate School of International Studies, United States. Prior to joining UNODC, she pursued consultancy work on European immigration and integration issues in Washington D.C., United States, and has worked with the United Nations Children’s Fund in France.



Ms. Fiona Dempsey, Australian, joined the Regional Centre as a volunteer Australian Youth Ambassador for Development in March 2006, providing assistance in the area of terrorism prevention. Prior to joining UNODC, Ms. Dempsey was practicing as a Solicitor in Queensland, Australia in a range of areas including employment and discrimination law. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and International Relations, as well as a Bachelor of Laws and a Certificate of Comparative Law from the University of Queensland. Previously, she completed a clerkship in Singapore and has been employed as a university tutor in the areas of Law (ethics) and International Business at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). She has also worked as a Research Assistant at QUT on a project investigating the experiences and expectations of students from rural areas studying business at QUT.



Ms. Marika McAdam, Australian, joined the Regional Centre in March 2006, to assist in the areas of criminal justice and human trafficking during her placement as a volunteer Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. Ms. McAdam holds a degree in law and international relations from Monash University in Melbourne. For the past few years, she has worked with the Castan Centre of Human Rights Law on a range of projects, from researching the cultural impact of tourism in South-East Asia, to auditing Australian legislation for complicity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In 2005, she volunteered at Advocates Sans Frontiers in Timor-Leste where she assisted in various legal capacity building projects. Ms. McAdam is a Lonely Planet travel writer.

Lost in the Past

Early 1900s – Early Days of the International Drug Control Treaty System

By Akira Fujino
UNODC Regional Centre

Vienna, 9 December 1929

“In the year 1926, in Hamburg, there was discovered a great smuggling of heroin, of which the destination appeared to be Shanghai. This case is dealt with in the publication of the League of Nations C.589.M.225.1926.XI.O.C.488. ... Dr. F[...] R[...], who was connected with this matter, was born in 1899 in Edelsthal in Austria, and is a native of that place, ... unmarried, residing in Shanghai M.D. at 14, Kinkiang Road. He often undertakes journeys of which the object is not known, to Europe, and during the course of the summer of this year was in Austria and Vienna. According to information given confidentially, Dr. R[...] is engaged in the intoxicating drugs traffic on a large scale.” – Letter from the Direction of the Union of Police (Intoxicating Drugs Station), Vienna, to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, New Scotland Yard, Londonⁱ

Available information shows that in the early 1900s Shanghai was being used as a transshipment point for drug smuggling from Europe to the Far East. Joint international operations were often conducted.ⁱⁱ Traffickers were also using the International Settlement at Shanghai. Following the receipt of the above letter from the Austrian Police, records show that the Home Office and the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom Government discussed that Government’s involvement. The Foreign Office noted at the time that it was “undesirable that His Majesty’s Government should take any action which might convey the false impression that they have any special responsibility as regards the administration of the International Settlement at Shanghai or the control exercised therein over the traffic in dangerous drugs.”ⁱⁱⁱ The Foreign Office suggested that the action “might more appropriately taken by means of a communication addressed to the Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, either by the Opium Advisory Committee [of the League of Nations], the Vienna Police...”^{iv}



Photo by the Narcotics Control Division, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan

A Home Office reply agreed that communication “through the Opium Advisory Committee or the Opium Section of the League Secretariat would ... be a possible method to adopt”, although it further noted that their experience had been that “direct communication with the Government of the country concerned is more rapid and more effective a method than communication through the Opium Section of the League.”^v

Such communications reveal a number of interesting matters noted at that time. First of all, the League of Nations Secretariat had already begun to be operational in assisting Governments for practical international cooperation in regulatory drug controls and law enforcement by preventing diversions of controlled drugs and identifying companies and individuals involved. At the same time, the Opium Advisory Committee of the League played a central role in international drug control and Governments were sensitive to the deliberations at that Committee.^{vi} A letter from the Foreign Office addressed to the Under Secretary of State of the Home Office of the United Kingdom notes in connection with a case of opium smuggling through Hong Kong:

“... when the question was brought up before the Opium Advisory Committee at its 12th Session, His Majesty’s Government were not attacked; and it seems improbable that the French or any other Government will make any accusations now that the question has been discussed and settled by the Opium Advisory Committee”.

Secondly, the fact that the International Settlement in Shanghai was being used required international joint operations. Available information shows that, among others, the British and French authorities were particularly instrumental in conducting such operations:

“It may be added in justice to the French authorities that if, owing to the unique position of Shanghai, the traffic is found to flourish in the French concession there, it is also carried on on a large scale in most parts of China.”

At the same time, such trafficking appeared to have been a common place elsewhere in China. A confidential letter from a Consul-General in 1929 speaks of the position at Shanghai relating to the traffic in opium, as supplied by the Commissioner of Police of the International Settlement:^{vii}

“THE trade in opium was formerly conducted openly in the International Settlement at Shanghai. The issue of licences to houses where the drug was sold and consumed was gradually discontinued during 1908, and ceased altogether in March 1909. Licences for the sale of opium for consumption off the premises were withdrawn during 1915 and 1916, and none was issued after March 1917. Between 1917 and 1920 plans were being evolved by powerful Chinese interests to get the greater part of the trade in smuggled opium, both foreign and Chinese-grown, into their own hands. This illicit traffic led to an alarming increase of crime in the settlement, especially crimes of robbery, extortion, corruption, bribery and murder”

By 1923, as conditions had so seriously worsened, a “special squad” was formed to “wage constant warfare against those engaged in the transport, storage or sale (wholesale and retail) of opium within

the limits of the International Settlement.”^{viii} That special squad, which arranged its own channels of information to conduct raids, reportedly succeeded in driving those engaged in storing opium in bulk, and the larger retail establishments, out of the limits of the International Settlement.

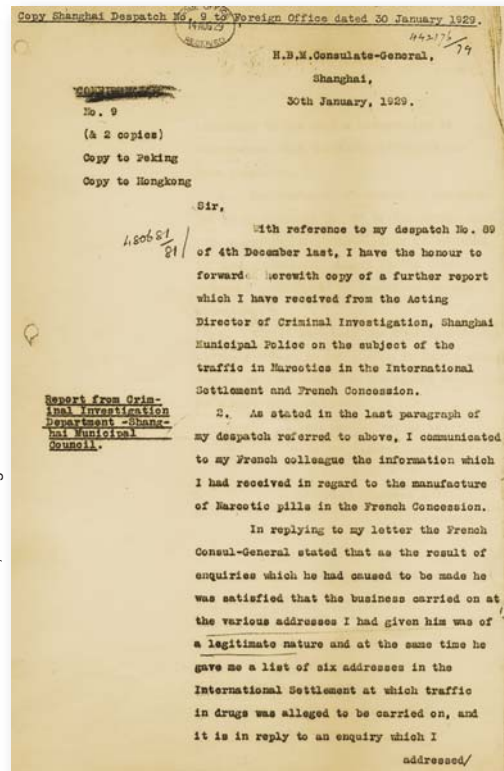
The special squad continued its successful operations and its findings recorded in the above report reflect involvement, already at that time, of organized crime groups and their extensive activities: “In 1925 the big opium traders received a number of staggering blows when the special squad at last discovered several ingeniously planned and constructed secret storage chambers with concrete tunnel connections.” It continues: “The financing of the opium traffic is in the hands of syndicates formed by wealthy Chinese.”

It was Indian, Persian and Turkish, in addition to Chinese-grown, opium that was smuggled into Shanghai at that time. Against this background of rampant transnational trafficking in opium and vigorous law enforcement countermeasures then being launched, the international community was getting ready to advance the international treaty law in drug control. It was in that year, 1925, when 41 nations gathered in Geneva to hold the Second Opium Conference to conclude a new treaty with binding measures of control, the International Opium Convention, following the very first international drug control treaty adopted in 1912.

During the decade immediately before the above confidential report was written, 1918 – 1928, drug law enforcement efforts in Shanghai appeared to have led to tangible results. The number of prosecutions by the municipal police of the International Settlement rapidly increased from 197 in 1918, and having exceeded 1,000 in 1920, to a peak in 1926 with 3,446 cases.^{ix} And yet, as late as 1929, organized crime groups reportedly sustained their trafficking activities. While available materials would not allow independent verification, that report notes, “It has been common talk in Shanghai for years that the French authorities allow these men and their associates a free hand in return for contributions on a large scale in aid of the expenses of the French settlement.” Associated violent crimes even involved a kidnapping of a Chinese member of the French Municipal Council. The report then notes, “However, on this occasion the combine appears to have gone too far, and the French authorities are reported to have insisted that [the kidnapped person’s] release should be effected without delay, under the pain of the suppression of traffic in opium in the French settlement.” And it continues, “Meanwhile, the French authorities, whether by way of carrying out their threat or in consequence of reports from Geneva [author’s note: the League of Nations] and elsewhere of the proposed visit of a special commission of inquiry into the traffic in opium in the Far East ..., have been taking repressive measures against the traffic in opium, both in bulk and retail, in the French settlement.”^x

All these incidents suggest that foreign opium continued to be diverted from licit channels into illicit traffic in large quantities, and subsequently smuggled into Shanghai. Against such background, the League of Nations moved swiftly to step up international controls over the licit movement of drugs by convening another Conference in 1931 attended by 57 States, which adopted the Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs on 13 July 1931. That Convention provided for, among other things, concept of estimated requirements for narcotic drugs, which effectively set up import quota, to be confirmed by an independent body, and without which no international trade could take place.

The Assembly of the League of Nations described the 1931 Convention as embodying “a bold conception without precedent in the



Source: Public Record Office, United Kingdom

Letter dated 30 January 1929 sent from the United Kingdom Consulate-General of Shanghai to the Foreign Office. According to the stamp on top, it reached the Home Office on 14 August of that year. The “confidential” classification was later crossed out.

history of international relations and international law”.^{xi} The President of the Conference, in his closing speech, noted the success obtained by the Conference:

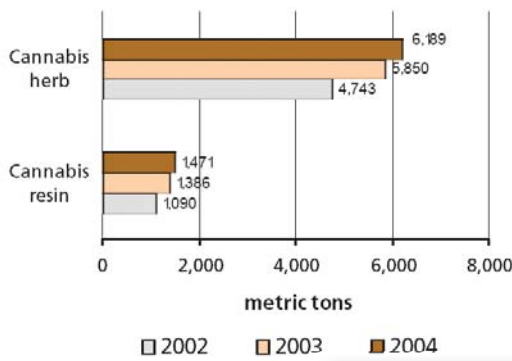
“This is an immense piece of work. Consider. There will now be a central account for the drug traffic. No country may manufacture, import, export or convert drugs without making a return. Each must furnish estimates and, at the end of the year, give an accurate account of what has been done. Each Government’s returns will be checked and discussed. A body sitting at Geneva will have the necessary authority to question Governments. ... Nothing of the kind has ever been attempted before. ...”^{xii}

The two international drug treaties, the 1925 and 1931 Conventions, adopted against the background of rampant transnational drug trafficking, effectively formed the foundation of what today’s world has as the international treaty law system for drug control, when, together with Conventions and Protocols subsequently adopted, they were consolidated into a Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.

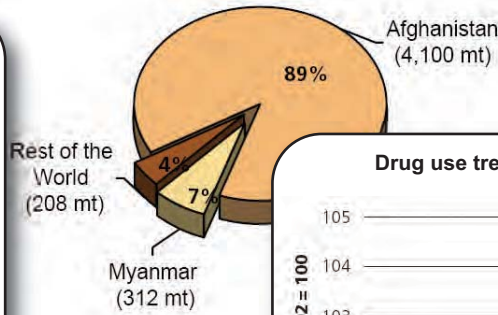
Author’s note: Texts in italics are reproduced verbatim. Names of individuals are withheld.

ⁱ United Kingdom Public Record Office File reference HO 45/24787 63396.
ⁱⁱ See previous “Lost in the Past” series.
ⁱⁱⁱ Letter from the Foreign Office to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, reference no. F.326/184/86 of 8 February 1930, in file HO 45/24787 63396, Public Record Office, United Kingdom.
^{iv} *Ibid.*
^v Letter from the Home Office to the Foreign Office reference no. S.O.74. 450,219/33, in file HO 45/24787 63396.
^{vi} Letter dated 12 December 1929 from the British Ambassador to the Secretary of State, Foreign Office, in file HO 45/24787 63396, Public Record Office, United Kingdom.
^{vii} *Ibid.*
^{viii} *Ibid.*, para.2
^{ix} *Ibid.*, para. 5.
^x *Ibid.*, para. 10.
^{xi} Document A.51.1934.XI, p. 2, in “Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs of July 13th, 1931: Historical and Technical Study by the Opium Traffic Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations”, Geneva 1937.
^{xii} *Ibid.*, p. XXI.

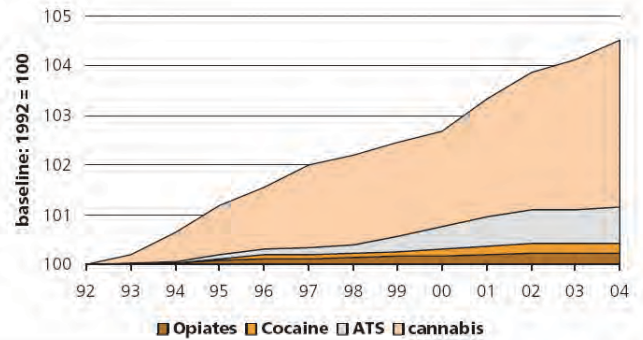
Global cannabis seizures (in weight equivalents), 2002-2004



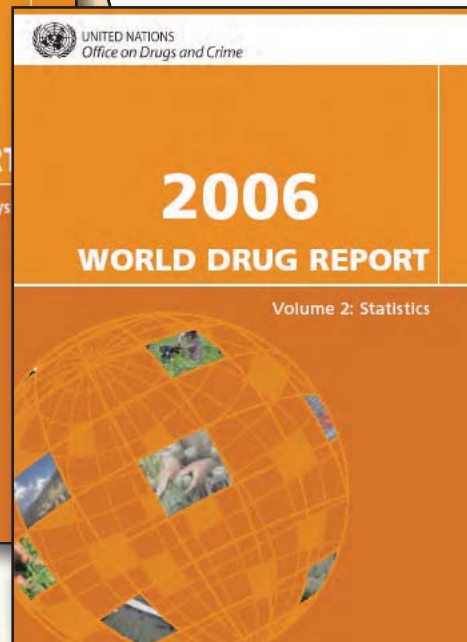
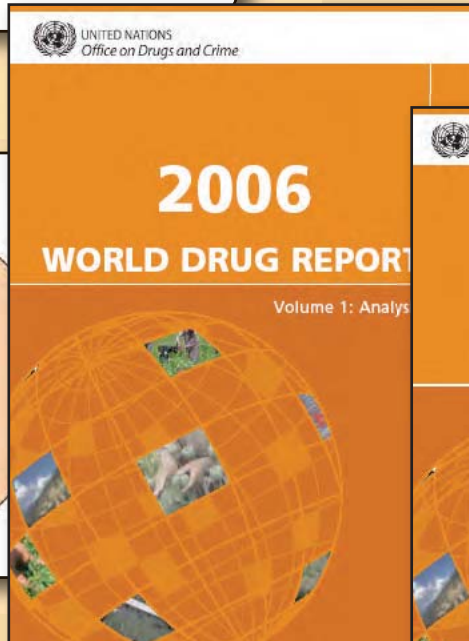
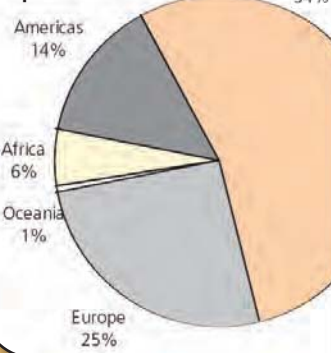
Opium production 2005



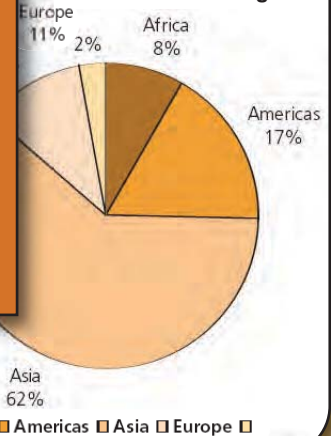
Drug use trends - all drugs (based on expert opinion, weighted by estimated number of users)



Regional breakdown of opiates abusers



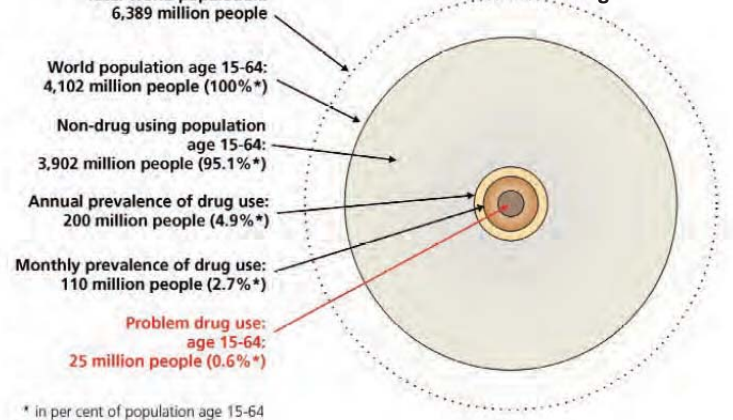
Breakdown of amphetamines users by region



Some 200 million people, or 5 per cent of the global population age 15-64, have used illicit drugs at least once in the last 12 months. More people are involved in the production and trafficking of illicit drugs and still more are touched by the devastating social and economic costs of this problem. Partially a consequence of its pervasiveness and partially a consequence of the illicit and hidden nature of the problem, reliable analysis and statistics on the production, trafficking and use of illicit drugs are rare.

The World Drug Report 2006 provides one of the most comprehensive overviews of illicit drug trends at the international level. It presents a special thematic chapter on cannabis, by far the most widely produced, trafficked and used drug in the world. The analysis of trends, some going back 10 years or more, is presented in Volume 1. Detailed statistics are presented in Volume 2. Taken together, these volumes provide the most up-to-date view of today's illicit drug situation.

Illegal drug use at the global level



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