

U N D C P

Eastern Horizons

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

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International Day
against Drug Abuse
and Illicit Trafficking
26 June 2000

lights on

harm of drug abuse,
corruption and violence

โครงการ "เดวส์ไฟ"
ต่อต้านการบริโภคยาเสพติด การทุจริต
และการลักลอบขนยาเสพติด
โดย UNDCP (United Nations
International Drug Control Programme)
ศูนย์ สยาม เซ็นเตอร์ หรือ
Siam Discovery Center

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Meeting in
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New UN leader in Asia

The Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia Mr. Adrianus Mooy recently retired from the service of the United Nations. His successor is Dr. Kim Hak-Su, who prior to his appointment was the Ambassador for International Economic Affairs of the Republic of Korea. He has vast experiences in central banking, development planning, government think-tanks and private sector management, as well as international organizations.

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL AND CRIME PREVENTION RECEIVES PRIZE IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

The International Police Association has awarded the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention the World Police Prize 2000. The award, which consisted of a statue representing justice and a cheque for 10,000 Swiss francs, was given in recognition of ODCCP's "exceptional service to the police and the community".

It was received from the Associations president, Armand Jaminet, by ODCCP's Executive Director Pino Arlacchi at the 10th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders in Vienna.

The International Police Association is an NGO representing 300,000 police officers of all ranks in 61 countries. It seeks to promote mutual assistance among its members at national and international level.

ESCAP DEBATES DEVELOPMENT in a Globalized World

Regional economic performance including trade and financial flows and their contributions to the process of economic recovery were the main focus for discussion at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 56th annual session from 1 to 7 June 2000 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

The topic for this year's session was "Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis."

A special feature of this year's session was a panel discussion focussing on the integration of

developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system.

Delegates at the 56th annual session of the Commission discussed implications of recent economic and social developments in the region and suggested policy responses. Other subjects from the agenda were environment and natural resources development, socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas, transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development, statistics and least developed, landlocked and island developing countries.

Especially noteworthy was the establishment of a new working group on drugs and crime in Asia.

NETHERLANDS TO CONTRIBUTE \$4.3 MILLION for UN Efforts Against Drug Abuse

With an agreement signed recently in Vienna the Government of the Netherlands has pledged 10 million Dutch Guilders (\$4,318,000) to the UNDCP. The funds, most of which will be allocated for projects aimed at demand reduction, is the highest amount ever pledged by that country to the United Nations Programme – more than triple its previous annual contributions. That puts the Netherlands among the top contributors to the Programme.

The agreement was signed by Jaap Ramaker, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Vienna, and Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP).

Commenting on his Government's decision to increase its pledge, Mr. Ramaker said this new

contribution was "further proof of the strong support of the Dutch Government for UNDCP's worldwide efforts in reducing the demand for illicit drugs". The Netherlands welcomed the Programme's recent shift to a more thematic approach and stronger emphasis on financial monitoring and evaluation. Mr. Arlacchi observed that the decision of the Dutch Government to apply those funds largely to activities in the prevention and treatment fields "will give much-needed impetus to UNDCP's work in these areas. The fact is, prevention works and we need to do far more of it".

United Nations members in 1998 committed themselves to achieving significant reductions in demand for and supply of illicit drugs by 2008.

UNDCP Calls for Web Drug Crime Classified as a Universal Crime

Mr. Pino Arlacchi Executive Director of the UNDCP has recently stated that he has asked his office to explore the possibilities of giving universal jurisdiction to Internet crimes because wrong doing in cyberspace so easily evades traditional jurisdictional lines.



Pino Arlacchi

Mr. Arlacchi further stated that "Internet crime and money laundering, for instance, are two very important aspects of modern criminal activities that cannot be easily chased and challenged through the

conventional traditional instruments, that are all based on national jurisdiction."



Amphetamines problem costs the Thai economy over Bt100 billion a year says TFRC

A study by the Thai Farmers Research Centre (TFRC) indicates that the amphetamine problem continues to grow despite the government's attempts at suppression.

In a recent poll of 728 workers in Bangkok, over 88.6% of respondents used tonics or other stimulants to combat chronic fatigue. About 20% of polled workers admitted to the consumption of amphetamines for additional physical stimulation. The study identifies Bangkok as a major market for the trading of amphetamines. An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 workers are prone to amphetamine abuse spurring high demands in a city where the overall market is valued at over one billion baht a year. (1US \$ = 40 Baht)

Interviews conducted among the polled workers revealed the social acceptability of amphetamines compared to narcotics such as Heroin. Workers discounted or were unaware of the addictive potential of amphetamines, perceiving the drug simply as a stimulant that allowed them to work longer for more money.

The TFRC suggests a multidimensional approach to the solution of amphetamine usage that will include support, partnership and cooperation on many levels. It is felt that suppressive measures aimed at deterring traders will reduce supply in the short-term, but subsequent shortages and price rises will lead to increase in production. In the outline of its recommendations for effective demand reduction the TFRC called for the use of communication and educational tools among target groups such as teenagers, social support for users and proper treatment of addicts. It also acknowledged the current economic climate and disintegration of the family as contributory factors in the crisis.

UNDCP Regional Centre Calls for a United Message on the Approach to Drugs and HIV/AIDS

A regional consultation at Hua Hin by UNAIDS with its co-sponsors in the region and national counterparts offered an opportunity for the UNDCP Regional Centre to present a new message on the preferred strategies to deal with HIV transmission as an adverse consequence of drug abuse.

The message was prompted by a suggestion from the UNAIDS/UNDCP Joint Task Force on Drug Use and HIV Vulnerability that the UN system should provide a clearer outline of its position related to "harm reduction".

In delivering the message, Dr. Sandro Calvani, Representative of the Regional Centre, acknowledged many sensitivities in the region to the debate over the concept of "harm reduction", its meaning, and its relationship to the general political and ideological debate about drug abuse. For example, one group suggests that harm reduction methods encourage drug abuse, while the opposing factions confront the effectiveness of international efforts to control illicit drug supplies.

To reach a consensus among the UN family, Dr. Calvani reflected and expanded upon a recent draft position statement prepared by UNDCP headquarters suggesting that approaches by the UN toward interventions into the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse should be guided by the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction endorsed by the UN General Assembly at the Special Session in 1998.

The Guiding Principles recognize that demand reduction programmes should cover all areas of prevention, from dis-

couraging initial use to reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse.

Dr. Calvani further emphasized that "harm reduction" methods to prevent HIV transmission such as needle exchange and drug substitution should be considered within the framework of tertiary prevention strategies of demand reduction and should not be considered as

substitutes for demand reduction programmes.

A number of points were outlined in helping to decide about the appropriateness of the demand reduction interventions. These included: the need for an overall comprehensive goal that in-

cludes prevention, opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation and interventions to reduce the health and social consequences of drug abuse; the selection of priority activities according to the particular needs of the community in question; evaluating the effectiveness of interventions by looking at the impact on the community as a whole as well as the target population; providing interventions that are based on sound evidence and that are sensitive to local culture; and ensuring the interventions at least do no harm.

The message was especially relevant at a time when HIV infection through drug abuse is growing in some of the countries in South East Asia and challenging national government and non government agencies to better integrate their HIV/AIDS and drug demand reduction programmes. – *By Wayne Bazant, Demand Reduction Adviser, UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific*

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NEW CD-ROM ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Professionals in the drugs and alcohol field have a new tool to help them navigate their way through the maze of apparently never-ending information. Published by the International Council on Alcohol and Addiction (ICAA), the Encyclopaedia on Substance Abuse, comes in the form of a CD-ROM that allows users to access a collection of over 30,000 articles.

The CD-ROM incorporates articles on a wide range of topics including the UN drug conventions, reports on the work of international organisations as well as a documentation section carrying key documents on alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

For more information contact: ICAA/LH-publishing, ICAA Case Postale, 189, CH 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland or visit the website <http://www.landborgen.com/encyclopaedia>.

Targeting HIV Vulnerability among Mobile Populations

The regional Task Force on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability is a time-limited, multi-sectoral regional Task Force for South-East Asia. The Task Force has been reconstituted. UNAIDS-APICT has appointed UNDP, specifically the South East Asia HIV and Development Project (SEAHIV-UNDP) as convener for 2000.

The Task Force provides a forum for identifying priorities and gaps as well as proposing programmatic and policy action with the aim of accelerating both in-country and multi-country efforts to practically address the needs of mobile populations and their vulner-

ability to HIV/AIDS.

The Task Force holds quarterly meetings, the first of which was convened on 27 January 2000 in Bangkok. Task Force composition, 2000 work plans and the Task Force terms of reference were developed and adopted at the January meeting. The Task Force has been given the mandate to provide technical appraisal of mobility-related project proposals and to make recommendations.

At its first meeting, the Task Force has appraised and made technical recommendations on the Seafarers project design consultancy in Myanmar and

Thailand, the Cambodia Civil/Military Alliance regional workshop proposal, and the Vietnam fisherman intervention proposal.

New mobility-related projects in the region were also discussed. These included Asian Development Bank TA on prevention of HIV among mobile populations in the Greater Mekong sub-region, the Myanmar Irrawaddy River Love Boat Project, and the Mongolia National Railway Project.

More information about the Task Force is available at <http://www.undphiv.apdip.net/sea.htm>

Human Trafficking from China

The grim discovery of 58 bodies in an airtight container at the port of Dover, England, brought the world's attention to the global illegal trafficking in humans.

The dead, most of who were in their early 20s and from the Fujian Province of Southern China had reportedly traveled overland for four months through Russia and Central Europe before reaching Dover. They represented only a small proportion out of the millions who risk their lives to cross borders illegally each year hoping for a new life.

Worldwide more than four million migrants are smuggled across borders each year. The International Organization for Migration estimated that in 1996 alone the global immigration racket was worth as much as the drugs trade with annual profits of \$7bn a year.

The growth in the illegal trade in humans has been attributed to the tightening in legitimate

means of immigration and the increase in activities of organised criminal syndicates who operate sophisticated trafficking networks across continents.

It is evident that fighting the trade will not be easy. It will necessitate the tackling of the root causes of poverty and persecution that forces people to make such desperate choices. Greater co-operation between governments in investigation and prosecution, enacting of anti-trafficking laws and protection of the victims of the trade will also be required.

Among the myriad of issues to have emerged from this tragic accident, the deaths of the Chinese migrants highlights the essential contradictions in the 1951 Geneva Convention, which confers on the individual the right to claim asylum but places no onus on the countries to admit them.



AUSTRAC is able to make contact with the EGMONT group on this matter. Their website also contains information concerning the work of the Australian Financial Intelligence Unit including detailed annual reports. The South Pacific Forum Secretariat will also provide assistance to the countries they support.

Working with the Private Sector

The United Nations provided a web location on projects currently underway with members from the private sector, located on the United Nations website. A representative from the World Customs Organizations (WCO) stated that his organization is working closely with the private sector through the negotiations of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). Model MOU's are available at the WCO.

Technical and Training Assistance

It was suggested that all international organizations should maintain contact with the APG in order to help out the jurisdictions should the need arise. Contact in the sense of any training and technical assistance initiatives that would be helpful for the Asia/Pacific region. A list of contact points for each international organization was prepared for distribution at the annual meeting.

The group proposed that the APG Secretariat establish a website that can be accessed by all members and provide them with links to all of the above sites plus any other sites that would be beneficial to the members.

Asia-Pacific nations move TO STOP PROFITS OF CRIMINALS

The purpose of the a recent meeting in Sidney was to discuss the involvement of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) in the International Money Laundering Information Network Web page and the Anti-Money Laundering International Database (IMoLIN/AMLID). The meeting was also convened to assess the needs of the APG members to enable them to find the answers they need in relation to Money Laundering. As an aid to help in this need, the following priorities were identified.

Necessary Legislation

The group agreed it was best to offer assistance in the form of "Internet" help. For instance, in order to aid in the development of new laws or to make improve-

ments to current laws, model laws can be viewed on the UN administered IMoLIN website or the Financial Action Task Force website.

The ODCCP representatives suggested a web page from IMoLIN can be devoted to helpful links that would enable the user to find the most up-to-date sources on anti-money laundering initiatives around the world. They also suggested that the legal advisory section within the United Nations offices in Vienna, Austria offer assistance to countries in need of legislation drafting.

Reporting of Suspicious Transactions

Information should be included into laws regarding reporting requirements for suspicious

transactions. A representative for the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (AUSTRAC) suggested their website which contains Australian guidelines for reporting suspicious transactions.

AUSTRAC is also a member of EGMONT, an organization that is exclusively for financial intelligence units. AUSTRAC offered to make contact with the EGMONT group on behalf of the requestor. The South Pacific Forum Secretariat offered to provide information on all countries they support.

Establishment of Financial Intelligence Units

Information and assistance will be provided to establish a Financial Intelligence Unit.

An introduction to AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS, ATS

ATS are synthetically produced drugs which have a powerful stimulant effect on the central nervous system. ATS are known by a variety of street names in different countries. (see box)

The drug comes in various forms and can be inhaled, injected intravenously, snorted or ingested orally. Illicit amphetamine appears as crystals, chunks, and fine to coarse powders, off-white to yellow in colour and supplied loose (in plastic or foil bags) or in capsules or tablets of various sizes and colours. Ecstasy, a derivative of amphetamine, is usually sold in small tablets which come in a variety of sizes and colours. It is also available as powder.

ATS are produced from a variety of cheap accessible substances such as ephedrine to which other chemicals are added. These precursors are often used in industrial production of other legal substances and are part of legal international trade. The drug can also be produced in make-shift laboratories using materials such as over-the counter cold and asthma medications containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, red phosphorous, hydrochloric acid, drain cleaner, battery acid, lye, lantern fuel and antifreeze.

Effects

ATS act on the central nervous system in a way that resembles adrenaline. The effects of ATS depend on the amount taken, the person's experience with the drug, their expectations, the mood they are in and the way in which the drug is taken. Immediately after smoking or intravenous injection, the user experiences an intense "rush" or "flash" that lasts only a few minutes and is described as extremely pleasurable. Smoking or injecting produces effects fastest, within 5 to 10 seconds. Snorting or ingesting orally produces euphoria – a high but not an intense rush. Snorting produces effects within 3 to 5 minutes, and ingesting orally produces effects within 15 to 20 minutes. The drug can stay in the body for a long time and its effects lasts longer than

other stimulants such as cocaine.

Immediate effects

The immediate effect of amphetamine is to speed up the activity of the body. The drug can cause the user to feel energetic and full of confidence. Other effects include feeling wide awake and alert and reduced appetite. Users are known to stay awake for days

COMMON STREET NAMES FOR ATS (Amphetamine Type Stimulants)

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| China: | Yao tou wan |
| Indonesia: | Shabu-shabu |
| Japan: | Shabu |
| Philippines: | Shabu |
| Thailand: | Yaa-baa |
| USA/UK: | ICE, speed |

without eating. Some users become anxious, irritable and aggressive with a sense of power and superiority over others. How-



Crystallised Methamphetamine

US and Thai governments to tackle METHAMPHETAMINE ADDICTION

The US Department of State has provided about US\$200,000 to develop a programme for tackling methamphetamine addiction. Thai and American experts will work together on a new programme, specifically for Thailand, which will focus on a behavioural approach. Several working group meetings will take place over many months to develop curricula and training materials for health professionals.

At different stages of treatment a psychiatrist may be needed or a nurse or a recovering addict. There must be flexibility in the programme as one approach which works in one community may not work in another.

It was also reported last month that scientists in the USA have found harmful physical changes in the brain of methamphetamine addicts that can last for many months after drug use has stopped.

ever, as the dosage increase, the initial effects are often replaced by a “driven” state with mixed feelings of depression, unrest and euphoria. Higher doses produces cycles of unproductive frenzied activity alternating with exhaustion and extended sleep, followed by depression and further unrest. Very high doses can cause headaches, blurred vision, tremors, stomach cramps and loss of coordination. Due to the unknown strength of street amphetamine, some users have overdosed and experienced strokes, heart failure and seizures, occasionally resulting in death. Most deaths, however, are due to accidents while under the influence of amphetamines.

Long-term effects

Regular repeated use of amphetamines may result in mal-nutrition as the user is less likely to eat properly and subsequently becomes prone to illness. Frequent heavy use, or high doses can cause psychosis, symptoms of which include hallucinations; hearing voices, paranoia and fear of harassment. Heavy users may be prone to sudden, violent and irrational acts which result from drug-induced self-centeredness, distortions of perception and delusions that other people are threatening them. Tolerance can develop fairly quickly and users often steadily increase their intakes of the drug, sometimes reaching levels that may exceed their initial dose by several hundred times.

In lower doses, ecstasy acts similar to other drugs in the ATS group, but with the additional effect of intensifying feelings of intimacy and sensory perception. Fatalities from the use of ecstasy have been associated with high body temperature, dehydration and prolonged physical exertion from activities such as dancing. The effects of long term use of ecstasy are not yet confirmed, but there is concern about potential chronic central nervous system deficits.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal can occur when a dependent person stops using the drug. Symptoms usually begin several days after abstinence and include fatigue, intense hunger, deep depression, long but disturbed sleep, irritability, and anxiety. Memories of the euphoric effects contrasting with the unpleasantness of withdrawal often induce an intense craving for the drug for ten weeks or longer. – *Excerpt from AHRN Newsletter, January - April 2000*

ASEAN Ministers decide Joint TOUGH RESPONSE TO DRUGS/CRIME THREATS



The 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) was held in Bangkok from 24-25 July 2000 under the chairmanship of Thailand, and was followed by Post Ministerial Meeting (PMM) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) from 25 -29 July. The AMM Meeting was attended by all the Foreign Ministers of the ten ASEAN Member Countries and Papua New Guinea.

The representatives of the Southern African Development Community and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor also attended as guests of the host country. The ARF has 23 participants, namely 10 ASEAN member countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam), one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea), 10 dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia, the United States and the European Union), plus Mongolia and North Korea.

The issues that were discussed were: political and security cooperation, regional and international issues, East Asia cooperation; sustainable recovery through resilience and integration, international economic crisis, Asia Pacific economic cooperation, people oriented approach and external relations.

Major highlights of the discussions were the need to strengthen cooperation on transnational issues affecting the region, especially those related to environment, trafficking in persons, trafficking of illicit drugs, and HIV/AIDS.

Moreover, during the meetings emphasis was put on the importance of greater regional and international coop-

eration in dealing with the rise of transnational crime, which threatens the economic prosperity and stability of the region. Efforts of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime to strengthen the regional capabilities was acknowledged and a call was made to deal with this problem and expedite the process leading to the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Combatting Transnational Crime.

In this regard, the Meeting noted the progress being made towards the completion of the elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its 3 additional Protocols. The contribution of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar on “Building Capacities for Fighting Transnational Organized Crime” held in

Bangkok on 20-21 March 2000 was also welcomed in promoting regional cooperation on this issue.

T a k i n g note of the threat from drug abuse and drug trafficking on the security and stability of the ASEAN region,

particularly its relations with transnational crime, enhancement of joint efforts were urged among all affected states in combatting the drug menace, especially the newly emerging drugs like Methamphetamine or Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS). In this regard, the ASEAN agreed to advance the target year for realising a drug free ASEAN from 2020 to 2015.

In addition, Thailand’s decision to hold a high level meeting of nations to address the problem of illicit drugs with UNDCP taking a lead role was supported at the ARF Meeting.

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New Action Against Drug Abuse and HIV Vulnerability Proposed at Hua Hin Meeting



UNDCP has proposed a new project idea to reduce HIV vulnerability from drug abuse as part of the larger plan to encourage regional action in support of national responses to HIV/AIDS.

The idea was introduced in Hua Hin from 18 - 20 April 2000 during a consultation of UNAIDS partners and co-sponsors who are seeking more concrete measures in the priority areas of condom promotion, life skills among youth, care and support - including the prevention of mother- to-child transmission, drug abuse and HIV vulnerability and population mobility and vulnerability.

Drug abuse as a contributing factor to the spread of HIV in South East Asia is becoming more problematic in the region according to a recent studies of national

drug and HIV policies in Asian countries. China, Myanmar and Vietnam are countries especially worried about the issue, since more than 50% of identified HIV infected people are drug injectors. The situation is further complicated by high rates of needle sharing. One of the most dramatic examples is in Xinjiang Province of China where surveillance showed a rate of 100% sharing among the sample of drug abusers.

Through combined technical assistance by UNDCP, UNAIDS Asia Pacific Inter Country Team and UNICEF, and with the support of the international donor community, the project idea will work toward the strengthening of government and non government responses in South East Asia to the drug abuse related transmission of HIV/AIDS.

The idea proposes to first conduct preliminary assessments in the critical geo-

graphic areas of the region, then encourage national interdepartmental mechanisms to bring together drug control and health officials to consider practical policies for prevention and intervention.

These efforts will be enhanced by the expansion of the work of UNICEF in the development of life skills education through non government agencies. Addition measures under the idea will include HIV prevention and care activities incorporated with existing drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation strategies, and the development of best practices that are relevant to the region and more easily accessible to programme planners and implementers.

The idea calls for a budget of approximately 2.1 million dollars to be used over a period of three years in six countries of the region. – *By Wayne Bazant, Demand Reduction Adviser, UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific*

Youth will be Protagonists of Primary Prevention Programme

The global initiative on the primary prevention of substance abuse was successfully launched at the regional level through a training workshop in Hanoi from 10 - 13 April. Delegates from the target countries of Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam were introduced to draft materials and the opportunity to try them out on themselves.

The materials were organized into a workbook for project operators and a facilitators guide, intended to provide an understanding of the objectives and principles of primary prevention, basic knowledge about the needs of young people, awareness of local networks and the im-



Intense work and successful results of the UNDCP/WHO/VNDCC regional workshop of primary prevention of substance abuse in Hanoi

portant roles of significant adults. The materials also guide decisions about consultations and referral of young people for further support and care, if needed, and offer some basic knowledge about project development and management.

The workshop was led by a technical officer from WHO Geneva and by the drug demand reduction adviser to the UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok with national facilitation provided by a representative of the Vietnam National Drug Control Com-

UN READY TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

The message was loud and clear – there is total commitment from the UN and countries around the globe to fight transnational organized crime on all levels – following the conclusion of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held from the 18-20 April 2000 in Vienna.

After the Tenth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which convened from 10-17 April 2000 in Vienna, the main outcome of the three-day event was the endorsement of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice based on the conclusions and recommendations made by the UN Congress.

Encompassing an extensive list of measures aimed at fostering security and economic development, the 40 Member States resolved that there was an immediate need to develop more effective means of collaboration and provide legal, technical, and mutual assistance to combat transnational organized crime.

In addition to approving the Declaration, the Commission also reviewed the status of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Committee on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime and its three protocols that recently convened its tenth session on 17-28 July 2000 to finalize the Convention.

Once the negotiations are concluded, the Declaration will be presented for adoption to the General Assembly's fifty-fifth session which was declared "The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations" and opens at the UN Headquarters in New York in the afternoon of 5 September 2000.

Following the adoption of the Declaration, which places a high priority on the expeditious adoption and entry into force of the draft UN Convention and its three protocols, a High-Level Political Signing Conference hosted by the Italian Government will be held in Palermo, Italy.

"The United Nations has a special role to play in the era of globalization," according to Mr. Pino Arlacchi. "It can serve as

an impartial organization to which countries can look for solutions to trans-border problems, such as organized transnational crime. Criminal justice issues are at the core of the concept of human security."

For further information see <http://www.uncjin.org/cicp/cicp.html>

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO BE RECOMMENDED FOR THE ADOPTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice : Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century
- Follow-up to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
- An effective inter-national legal instrument against corruption

mittee.

Participants represented the national Red Cross organizations for Philippines and Thailand, the Council Against Drug and Substance Abuse and the Dangerous Drugs Board of the Philippines, Anti-Narcotics Coordinating Centre of Thailand, as well as the Youth Union, Ministry of Education and Training and Student's Union of Vietnam.

The next of stage of project activities are anticipated later this year, with the delivery of national and local training in each of the three countries.

This will be linked to the development of proposals for small grants to be supported by the global initiative. Overall financial support to the joint WHO/UNDCP project is provided by the Government of Norway. – *By Wayne Bazant, Demand Reduction Adviser, UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific*

Sixth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP)

The Sixth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will be held 5-10 October 2001 in Melbourne, Australia.

The theme for the 6th ICAAP is Breaking Down Barriers. Most of the barriers that block an effective and humane response to HIV/AIDS are human made, be they political structures that block dialogue and exchange, economic structures that stress profits over cooperation, or ways of thought which prevent necessary change. Recognising this, the planners of the conference will become a venue that changes old ways of doing and seeing, and which invites participants to share in this process.



Further information see <http://www.icms.com.au/6icaap>

UNDCP OPIUM ELIMINATION Programme Launched in Laos

A new six-year strategy to eradicate opium poppy and reduce its production in the northern regions of the Lao PDR was recently announced in Vientiane by the government of Laos and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

The new programme, A Balanced Approach to Opium Elimination in Lao PDR, addresses the growing problem of opium poppy production and abuse in the northern part of the country. The Chairman of the Lao National Commission of Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), H.E. Minister Soubhan Srithirath, announced the new programme at a signing ceremony in the President's Office in the Laotian capital.

"The northern target area is physically and economically isolated," said Dr. Halvor J. Kolshus, the UNDCP Representative in Laos. "Measures to address food security, provide alternative income sources, better health facilities and reduce poverty are essential components of the drug control programme." The Lao PDR is the world's third largest producer of illicit opium after Afghanistan and Myanmar. According to the most recent UNDCP estimates, 123.5 metric tons of opium were produced from the 26,800 ha under cultivation in Laos, a 40 per cent increase in area since 1992. About 80 percent of the opium produced in the country comes from eight provinces in the northern region. The majority of the Lao PDR's estimated 63,000 opium addicts live in the northern region.

Opium has traditionally been used as a cash crop to trade for rice and also has medicinal purposes in the northern regions. In 1998, 57 per cent of the annual opium production in the Lao PDR was consumed locally. The national opium addiction rate for people aged 15 and above was 2.1 per cent, the second highest opiate ad-



diction rate in the world after Iran.

The addiction rate for the northern provinces is nearly twice this figure. "The rural poverty in the target area needs to be addressed if opium growers are going to be able to break the cycle of production and addiction," said Kolshus.

"The programme gets to the root of the problems. The improvement of health services, the development of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services, alternative development and law enforcement are all essential components.

UNDCP needs the support of the international community to make sure this programme is fully funded."

The Government of the Lao PDR has been receiving assistance from the international community for drug control activities since 1989. Total requirements for the new programme in the north is US\$ 80 million. For the first component of the new programme, UNDCP will contribute approximately US\$ 4.7 million and the Lao government will contribute about US\$ 500,000. - Information provided by UNDCP Country Office in Lao PDR

Legal Workshop in Yangon

The first national legal workshop in Myanmar was held in Yangon on 20 - 23 June 2000. The workshop was an educational output of UNDCP project C74, which is a legal project aiming at strengthening the capacity of the Judiciary in the region.

The workshop was very successful. Among the 35 participants, there were 20 senior Judges and Prosecutors, as well as other high level officials, who deal regularly with drug related offences in their respective jurisdictions. The group included two officials from the Attorney General's office, who are in charge of drafting a new anti-money laundering law.

The competence and dedication of the participants showed that there is no shortage of human resources in Myanmar. These human resources, full of good will, are thirsty for such skill developing training and for international contacts as the C74 workshop provided.

The level of the discussions that ensued during the workshop was impressively high both from the legal-technical and the social-philosophical point of view.



Participants studied the subjects with great enthusiasm.

The participants initiated quite animated discussions on practically all aspects of drug issues, particularly money laundering, international co-operation, demand reduction, and transnational organised crime. Their participation remained intensely attentive until the last item of the agenda was exhausted. The participants made it abundantly clear that more training was required if adjudication of the drug-related offences in Myanmar were to be successful.

On the last day of the workshop the

UNDCP team was invited to participate in a high profile drug destruction ceremony in the outskirts of Yangon, where Secretary One presided.

The UNDCP Project Co-ordinator and three Ambassadors were invited to ignite the fire at a drug burning ceremony, where several tons of heroin, amphetamines, other drugs and precursors were destroyed. The event was widely publicised in the local and international media and helped hold the spirits high on the last day of the workshop.

Organized Civil Society to Prevent Drug Abuse

IFNGO is the International Federation of Non-Government Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) comprises non-government organisations in the world who are engaged in anti-drug and substance abuse activities.



It was first mooted at a conference for Non-Government Organisation (NGO) workers in alcohol and drug abuse prevention in Jakarta in 1979. The issue was raised again at a similar meeting the following year when the conference was held in Manila, and the Federation was finally launched in 1981 under the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

In the following years annual conferences were held. They aimed at developing collaborative efforts and interaction

between non-government organisations to prevent and control alcohol and drug abuse.

In between conferences, the IFNGO Secretariat facilitated the exchange of information as well as prepared and co-ordinated projects in close liaison with the United Nations agencies. They included the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the United Nations' specialised agencies such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the World Health Organization, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Labour Office (ILO).

Today, the IFNGO is an important force, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, and looks toward continued growth in membership to project activities which are of mutual benefit to participating countries.

Currently, the IFNGO has 54 registered members in 32 countries including:

Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, United States of America.

More information is available at <http://mmserve.com/drugs/ifngo>

Commemoration of the WORLD ANTI-NARCOTICS DAY 2000



The Thai Ministry of Public Health presided over the 24th destruction of confiscated narcotics on the 28th of June 2000. More than 1000kg of narcotics were burnt in the environment friendly furnace at the Bang Pa-In Industrial Estate, Ayutthaya. The nar-



cotics were from the 1,949 finalized cases and included large consignments of Methamphetamines, Heroin, Opium and other illicit drugs. The burning of the narcotics took place in the presence of local and foreign media.

Downward trend in Cases, Arrests and Seizures in Yunnan Province

Figures released by the Office of Yunnan Provincial Narcotics Control Committee show a slight downward trend in the number of cases, arrests and quantities of Heroin and Chemicals Seizures in 1999.

After steady increases between 1995 to 1998, the number of cases and arrests decreased by 13% and 12% respectively from 1998 to 1999. The quantities of Heroin and Chemicals seized decreased by 39% (5,151kg to 3,212kg) and 30% (350,270kg to 246,720kg) in the same period. A notably decrease of 46% (3,978kg to 2,161kg) was observed in drug cases involving more than 10kg of confiscated Heroin.

In contrast ATS seizures increased more than twenty-fold from 18.1kg in 1998 to 383.97kg in 1999.

Reasons for the new trend are:

- Less opium cultivation in Myanmar;
- More Methamphetamine production and trafficking creating new priorities for law enforcement agencies, and less focus on heroin;
- Strengthened enforcement actions making it too risky for traffickers to use the major roads and consequently establishing more sophisticated methods of concealment;
- Change to new routes via Southern Myanmar;
- Change from larger to smaller shipments, confirmed by less decrease in cases and arrests;
- Traffickers avoiding well-known inland checkpoints where most of the seizures were made during 1996 to 1998.

'Businesses can take a leadership role in overcoming the AIDS challenge'

The American International Assurance Company (AIA) of Thailand and Thailand Business Coalition on AIDS (TCBA) have clearly demonstrated that sound business ethics and a social conscience can work together.

AIA has been in the life insurance business in Thailand for more than 60 years. Unusual among life insurance companies, it has shown an unparalleled commitment to improving the lives of people through comprehensive campaigns to raise AIDS awareness in the workplace.

Apart from its information and educational campaigns, it has sponsored a nationwide 'AIDS Concern Marathon' to collect donations for AIDS prevention.

Collaboration with the TCBA,

led to the launch on the 1st of June of this year of the ASO Thailand programme, an innovative project that offers accreditation and financial incentives to policy-holders with effective HIV/AIDS prevention policies and programmes in the workplace.

By providing such incentives, the AIA hopes to encourage the business sector to participate in AIDS prevention and risk reduction measures, and thereby expand the scope of understanding of the disease from a medical problem to a social solution.

Earlier on this year AIA received the 1999 "Award for Business Excellence in Response to HIV/AIDS" from The Global Business Council on HIV/AIDS, London.

11-13 October 2000
United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand

International
Congress

2015

In pursuit of a drug free ASEAN Sharing the vision, leading the change

"... we are concerned of the threat from drug abuse and drug trafficking on the security and stability of ASEAN region, particularly its relations with transnational crime. We urge Member Countries to enhance joint efforts among all affected States in combating the drug menace, especially the newly emerging drugs like Methamphetamine or Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). In this regard, we agree to advance the target year for realising a drug-free ASEAN from 2020 to 2015..."

33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting
24-25 July 2000, Bangkok

"... we reaffirm our concern at the increasing global threat posed by the trafficking and use of illegal drugs. We remain committed to reducing demand in our own countries, and to countering the threat from the production and trafficking of illicit drugs globally. We will work with other countries, the UN system and other groups to reduce both supply and demand. We will support regional initiatives to end narcotics production and trafficking. We urge universal implementation of the conclusions of the 1998 UN Special Session on countering the world drugs problem. We commit ourselves to address the growing new threat from amphetamines and other synthetic drugs and to convene an ad hoc meeting of drugs experts by the end of this year..."

G8 Communique Okinawa 2000
23 July 2000, Okinawa

"... we note with concern that the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS have been affecting equally the producing, transit and consuming countries of ATS, resulting in increase in critical harm to the general public by the ATS abusers, the social instability by the deterioration of the public order and impediment to the sound development of the economy due to the absorption of money into illicit drug market..."

Resolution, UNDCP Conference on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in East and South-East Asia
24-27 January 2000, Tokyo



11-13 October 2000
United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand

Regional Advocacy Workshop on Prevention of Drug Use & HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

"... health is key to prosperity. Good health contributes directly to economic growth whilst poor health drives poverty. Infectious and parasitic diseases, most notably HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, as well as childhood diseases and common infections, threaten to reverse decades of development and to rob an entire generation of hope for a better future. Only through sustained action and coherent international co-operation to fully mobilise new and existing medical, technical and financial resources, can we strengthen health delivery systems and reach beyond traditional approaches to break the vicious cycle of disease and poverty ..."

G8 Final Communiqué
23 July 2000 Okinawa

"... the AIDS toll in hard-hit countries is altering the economic and social fabric of society. HIV will kill more than one-third of the young adults of countries where it has its firmest hold, yet the global response is still just a fraction of what it could be. We need to respond to this crisis on a massively different scale from what has been done so far ..."

Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS
27 June 2000 Geneva

"... by creating millions of orphans, and by decimating health workers and teachers, AIDS is causing social and economic crises which in turn threaten political stability. In already unstable societies, this cocktail of disasters is a sure recipe for more conflict. And conflict, in turn, provides fertile ground for further infections ..."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.
10 January 2000 New York

New Report Tells it all

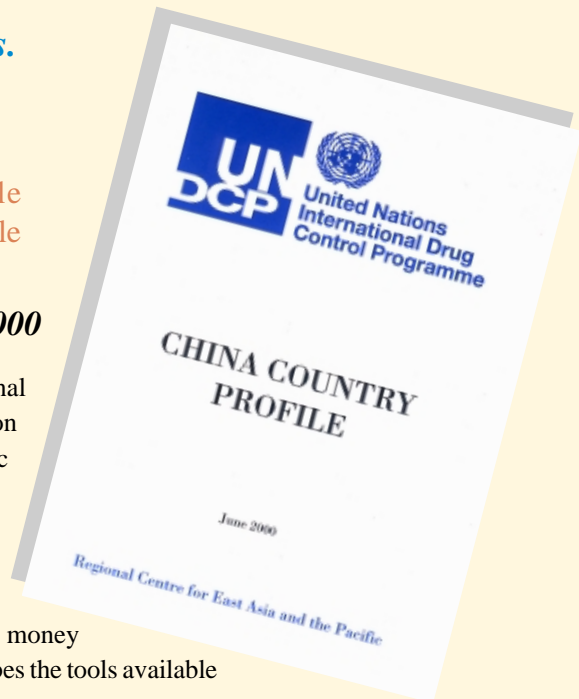
The Regional Centre has compiled and processed the available information on the drug control situation in China and it is all available in the Regional Centre's recent China Country Profile:

China Country Profile, Bangkok: UNDCP Regional Centre, 2000

The country profile is twenty-eight pages long and produced by the UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok. It compiles the available information on the drug control situation in China and processes it in an analytical framework. The overall socio-economic situation is briefly described in order to set the context for the drug control problems faced by China. After this introduction the drug control situation both regarding production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs is extensively described.

This description is then supplemented by a brief description of the development of other form of crime than drug crime especially focussing on organised crime and money laundering. After outlining the drug control problems faced by China the report describes the tools available to curb the problems.

The Chinese drug control policies and activities are extensively described, there is a focus on international assistance and finally the report looks into priorities for future international cooperation focussed at drug control in China. It is highlighted that UNDCP already now cooperates with the Chinese authorities in the field of drug control and that UNDCP is more than ready to develop this cooperation further in order to assist the Chinese facing the challenges ahead.



The China Country Profile is available at the UNDCP Regional Centre and on the Regional Centre's Website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT UNDCP/ASEAN CONGRESS OR UNAIDS WORKSHOP, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNDCP REGIONAL CENTRE
14th Floor, United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Rd., Bangkok 10200, Thailand Phone: (+66-2) 288 2091, Fax: (+66-2) 281 2129,
E-mail: rcdcp@undcp.un.or.th Website: http://www.undcp.un.or.th

UNDCP/ASEAN Congress

UNAIDS Workshop

Sharing the vision, leading the change

Regional Advocacy Workshop on



IN PURSUIT OF
A DRUG FREE
ASEAN 2015

PREVENTION OF
DRUG USE & HIV/AIDS IN
ASIA AND PACIFIC

11-13 October 2000
United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand

11-13 October 2000
United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand

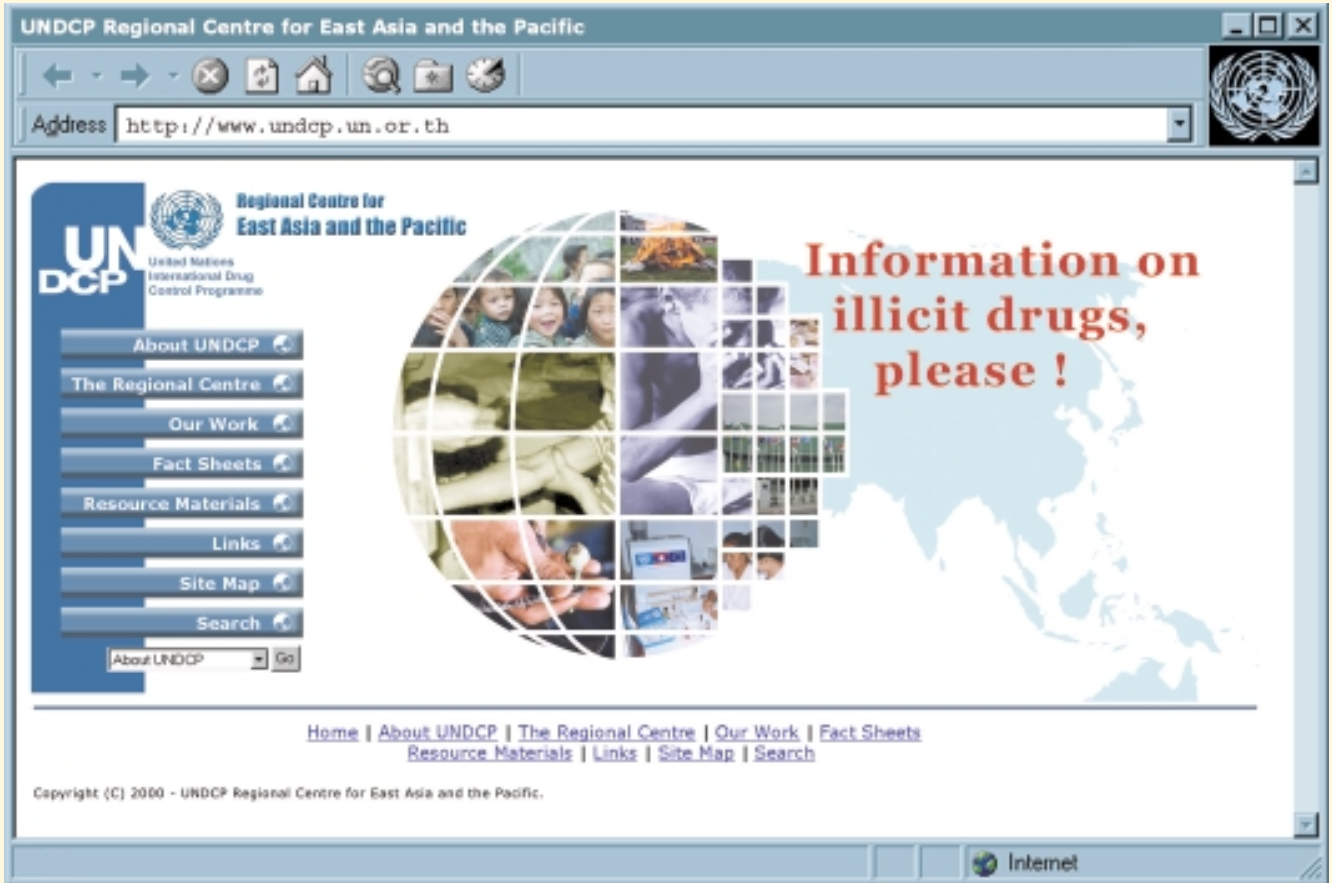
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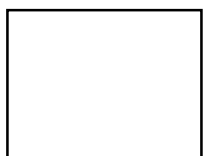
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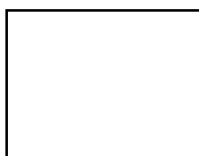
THE NEW UNDCP WEBSITE:
<http://www.undcp.un.or.th>



UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
14th Floor, United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand



UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
14th Floor, United Nations Building
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Bangkok 10200
Thailand



WHO IS FIGHTING DRUGS AND CRIME in East Asia and the Pacific, No. 2

Fighting drugs and crime demands a balanced approach of law enforcement, demand reduction, drug prevention and rehabilitation strategies. Some of the organisations carrying out this task in East Asia and the Pacific are here. We intend to add more entries on this subject in every issue of Eastern Horizons. The first list was published in Eastern Horizons II.

■ **AIC: Australian Institute of Criminology.** A federal government agency and Australia's national centre for the analysis and dissemination of criminological data and information. It aims to be responsive to the needs of the government and the community with respect to policy issues in the fields of justice and the prevention and control of crime.

Address: GPO Box 2944, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia, Phone (61) 2 626 092 00, Fax (61) 2 626 092 01, E-mail: adam.graycar@aic.gov.au Web page: <http://www.aic.gov.au>

■ **AMCEWG: Asian Multi City Epidemiology Work Group.** A network of epidemiologists and researchers from various cities in Asia. Twenty-three cities are currently linked through this network. Meetings are held biannually to discuss current and emerging problems of substance abuse. Indicator data gathered from each city's drug treatment and law enforcement sources are presented.

For further information please contact Dr. V. Navaratnam, National Centre for Drug Research, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Pulau Pinang, Phone: (604) 6583 444, Fax: (604) 6577 957, E-mail: dir_cdr@usm.my

■ **The Colombo Plan Secretariat.** The Colombo Plan embodies the concept of a collective inter-governmental effort towards the economic and social development of member countries and through consensus implements programmes in response to their identified needs. The Colombo Plan originated in May 1950 in Sydney, where it was agreed that the Commonwealth Countries in the area should draw up development programs covering a six-year period from July 1, and that other countries in the area should be invited to take similar action. The Plan's life has since been extended from time to time at five-year intervals. At the Consultative Committee Meeting in Jakarta in November 1980, The Plan's life was extended indefinitely.

The Plan has 24 full member countries:

Islamic State of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States, and 1 provisional member country, Mongolia.

Parts of the Colombo Plan activities are targeted towards the fight against drugs, to eliminate the cause and to deal with the effects of drug abuse.

Address: 13th Floor of the Bank of Ceylon Merchant Tower, 28, St. Michael's Road, Colombo 03, Phone: 94-1-564 448, Fax: 94-1-564 531, E-mail: cplan@slt.lk Web page <http://www.colombo-plan.org/info.htm>

■ **DAPC: Drug Abuse Prevention Centre.** The Centre was established on June 1 1987, after approval from the Japanese Cabinet on January 23 1987. The Centre was established in the acknowledgment that international efforts aimed at the eradication of drug abuse requires not only the reinforcement of conventional law enforcement activities against illegal trafficking, but also the intensification and promotion of prevention and awareness campaigns. To this end, this non-governmental organization was established to encourage drug abuse prevention activities within both the public and private sectors.

Address: 1st Okana Building, 2-7-9, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan 105-0001, Phone 81-3-3581-7437, Fax: 81-3-3581-7438, Web page: <http://www.dapc.or.jp/english/index.htm>

Any organization that would like to be mentioned in the above list is most welcome to contact the editor of Eastern Horizons.

Australian Heroin Injecting Rooms

Plans by the Victorian State Government to establish Heroin injecting rooms in five municipalities have been strongly criticised by the Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

In an interview given to a radio station, he said that the existence of such rooms conveyed a message to the community that drug taking was acceptable.

The States of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory have already completed the legislative process. It has been argued that the establishment of these rooms will allow for the professional monitoring of Heroin injection and consequently reduce the death rate from overdose.

Although injecting rooms are not against federal law, PM Howard has said that state governments should not expect any help from the federal government.

The PM expressed the view that States needed to provide more resources to help in the rehabilitation of addicts.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The International Day was observed on the 26th of June 2000 in the Grand Hall of the Siam Discovery Centre in the heart of Bangkok.

This year event was unique, not just in raising awareness on drug abuse and crime among the public and civil society, but as the first-ever large-scale collaboration between the UNDCP and business in Asia.

Present at the launch were Heads of concerned governments and Non-government Agencies, Ambassadors and Heads of Mission in Bangkok, UN Heads of Agencies, selected guests and Representatives of the Private Sector and the Media.

Activities on this special occasion centred on an exhibition of the UNDCP role in East Asia, information stalls set up by NGOs, the sale of materials and goods with the "Lights-On" logo and local handicrafts. An up-and-coming Thai band provided live music. The audience was captivated by the demonstration of the techniques used by the Police Canine Division of the Royal Thai Police to conduct drug searches. The peak point of the event was the symbolic 'switching on' of the TV screens on a geo-sphere

by government representatives, the private sector and the UNDCP.

Statements of high-ranking officials from governments, civil society and the UN all emphasized the need for the development of new partnerships and co-operative efforts in the fight against the drug menace.

His Excellency, Minister Jurin Laksanawisit, said that the organization of the event was "... an excellent example of the alliance against drugs of civil society and international organization" and added that every stakeholder should join in the battle against illicit traffickers in the bid to protect future generations.

Khun Chadatip Chutrakul, Managing Director of Bangkok Intercontinental Hotels who opened the launch, said that it was the policy of the Siam Discovery Centre to include an educational content in its activities. She hoped that the Siam Discovery Centre "will have the honor to collaborate with the "LIGHTS ON" project again in the future, as well as the other special campaigns of the United Nations' activities".

In keeping with the theme of this year's launch, UNDCP Representative for East Asia and the Pacific and creator of the



Lights On Manifesto, Dr. Sandro Calvani emphasized that 'Lights On' was a community initiative. He called upon people through out the world to "switch the lights on" all aspects of the denial that accompany drug abuse and trafficking, including corruption and violence.

The launch was a success and hopefully marked the beginning of many such collaborations to come.

On the eve of UN international drugs day AN AMBITIOUS NEW EU DRUGS PLAN FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM



E.M.C.D.D.A.

**European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction**

On the eve of the UN day against drugs (Monday 26 June), the EU now has in place an ambitious plan to tackle the challenge of illegal drugs.

For the first time, Member States will have to achieve measurable objectives in tackling drugs, and will be in a position to judge the success of their policies. Information and evaluation are cited as pre-conditions for effective implementation, follow-up and assessment of EU and Member States' drugs strategies.

In the Summit's conclusions, Member States, in co-operation with the European

Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), are 'urged to enhance their efforts to provide reliable and comparable information on key epidemiological indicators in order to better evaluate the impact of drug-related issues'.

The Action Plan paves the way for EU Member States to adopt and implement each of the EMCDDA's five key epidemiological indicators. These are a set of standards allowing countries to measure, for the first time, the extent and effects of drug use and its consequences in the EU in a harmonised way. Other indicators should also be developed by the EMCDDA in co-operation with the EU institutions, Europol

and other drugs bodies.

These latest developments put the EU and the EMCDDA in line with the new UN approach to drugs (UNGASS, 1998) in that they launch specific objectives and targets to assess the effectiveness of measures against drugs.

More information can be obtained from Kathy Robertson, Press Officer, EMCDDA, Rua da Cruz de Santa Ap_ Ionia 23-25, PT-1149-045 Lisbon, Portugal Phone: ++ 351 21 811 3000, Fax: ++ 351 21 813 171, E-mail: Kathryn.Robertson@emcdda.org Web page: <http://www.emcdda.org>

"Let us not be fooled by arguments that the money generated from drug production and trafficking is, after all, money and thus contributes to the economy of a given country. The opposite is true. Drug money moves upward, enabling a rich elite to become even richer, while the gap between rich and poor becomes even greater. Similarly, corruption simply means that only the wealthy can afford the services that should be available to all." – *UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the International Day against Drug Trafficking and Abuse.*

"Our challenge is to stop this violence, which is tearing apart whole communities and even whole countries. At the global level, it is time for us all to stand up and proclaim that we have had enough. No family, no community and no country should tolerate a drug trafficker in its midst. They must be seen as the exploiters that they are, making profits as merchants of misery." – *UNODCCP Executive Director Pino Arlacchi on the International Day against Drug Trafficking and Abuse.*

"By switching "Lights on" we want to stop darkness, secrecy and taboos on the drug abuse situation and on the quality of drug control policies. It is a call for an in-depth observation and reflection into the suffering of drug addicted people and their families, into the way drug control policies are decided and evaluated." – *UNDCP Representative Dr Sandro Calvani in his speech at the "Lights on" event at the 26th of June*

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING Celebrated in Vietnam

On the occasion of International Drug Control Day, the Viet Nam National Drug Control Committee (VNDC) has completed a Month of Action for Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking Control from June 1 to 31. Many organisations nation-wide held meetings and social activities in observance of the International Drug Control Day in Viet Nam on June 26.

A meeting was organized to celebrate the international anti-drug day by the VNDC in collaboration with the Vietnamese Youth Union on Sunday morning, 25 June 2000 at the City Hall Square in Ha Noi. The meeting was attended by Mr. Pham The Duyet, Standing Member of the Political Bureau of the VCP Central Committee, Mr. Le Minh Huong, Minister of Public Security, Standing Vice Chairman of VNDC, representatives from the local authorities and the mass organizations, and 2,000 young Hanoians. Mr. Dung represented UNDCP at the meeting.

The Ministry of Health held a meeting to discuss the special day and to review the

efforts to fight drug abuse and illegal trafficking in the first half of this year. Youth Unions of 11 mountainous provinces held a two-day festival entitled "Youth Fighting against Drug Abuse in Son La Township". An exhibition was opened on 22nd of June in Ha Noi to display anti-drug posters painted by the students from Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City's Art Universities. HCM City Youth Union launched a 20-day campaign against drug abuse from the 6th to the 26th of June. A drug treatment centre was opened in Soc Son District of Ha Noi city on the occasion of the international day against drug abuse.

The Viet Nam Women's Union also held a meeting for the occasion. Speaking at the meeting, VWU chairwoman Ha Thi Khiat stressed the problem of the millions of families nation-wide now impoverished due to their relatives' drug abuse. Teenagers and young adults currently account for 75 per cent of the total number of 104,547 addicts nation-wide. - *Information provided by the UNDCP Country Office in Vietnam*

US Drug Czar Opts for Increased Drug Control Cooperation with China

The United States' senior anti-drug policy-maker paid a visit to China in mid June to forge strategies for combatting drug trafficking and setting up effective treatment programs.

Barry McCaffrey, director of the White House National Drug Control Policy Office, is the first US "drug czar" to visit China. Over two days of meetings in Beijing with China's national police force, McCaffrey said he hopes to broaden cooperation in law enforcement, sharing intelligence on trafficking in heroin and methamphetamine and exchanging experiences on treatment programs.

McCaffrey visited among other places a treatment centre in Kunming, capital of the province of Yunnan, which was visited due to its proximity to Myanmar, East Asia's main heroin producer. While little of that heroin feeds American addicts, the trade threatens important neighbours, McCaffrey said. China, like the United States, also faces rising addiction to methamphetamine, McCaffrey said.

"This drug issue has such profound impact on allies who are important for other reasons: because their political, economic future is vital to regional stability," McCaffrey said. "Standing with China will pay huge benefits to the region and therefore indirectly to the United States."

The drug business was said to include actors from various countries including Nigerians, Russians, Americans and Chinese. "It's a pretty aggressive, violent and corrupting interna-

tional criminal organization of enormous breadth," McCaffrey said.

Mr. Yang Fengrui, director of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security's anti-drug office, reported in March that China had 681,000 drug addicts last year, a 14 percent increase over the year before. Although it is believed to underestimate the problem, the figure shows China's growing problems with drugs.

Using harsh measures, the government wiped out rampant opium addiction in the first decades of communist rule. But over the last 20 years drug abuse returned as free-market reforms brought increased trade and travel.

McCaffrey described trafficking networks in the region as organized, complex and in-

CLOSER THAN US DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION

The top US policy maker on drugs ex-General McCaffrey visited Thailand in June. Thailand and the US have a long history of cooperation in the field of drug control and McCaffrey used the opportunity to praise the Thai efforts in the field.

The dedication of the Thai people have never been doubted, but the visit also triggered an intense debate about the efficiency of the current efforts, the lack of inter-agency cooperation and its consequences for the effectiveness of the drug control efforts.

McCaffrey stated the American gratefulness to the Thai people for their strong and dedicated struggle against illicit drugs in the region. Considering future efforts McCaffrey recommended a regional approach, under the auspices of the UNDCP, whose leadership he praised.

ternational. Mr. Yang the Chinese official, raised an alarm in March over a surge in drug trafficking into China from Southeast Asia. Last year, he said, police confiscated 5.3 tons of heroin and 16 tons of methamphetamine, also called "ice". The amount of "ice" seized was 10 times higher than the previ-

ous year.

McCaffrey has touted declining drug use in the United States. But he told the United Nations last month that the United States last year still had 5.1 million chronic addicts, that \$57 billion are spent on illegal drugs and that 52,000 Americans die from drugs every year.

China and the United States Sign Pact to Fight Against Drug Crimes

In order to improve the international fight against drug abuse and trafficking, China and the US have signed a pact to improve cooperation in fight against drug crimes. The agreement is considered an important breakthrough by both governments and as an important tool in the ongoing battle against both the trafficking of heroin and the production and trafficking of methamphetamine.

Of special concern to both countries is the Burmese drug theater, the new pact should enable American training and equipment to reach the Chinese officials trying to curb the inflow of illicit drugs from Myanmar. It seems that the spirit of cooperation is prevailing above other political differences on how to deal with drug control cooperation in Myanmar.

US drug czar takes campaign to the United Nations

The director of White House drug policy has pledged ‘absolute co-operation’ with the United Nations Drug Control Programme following a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

After his meeting with Annan, U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and Pino Arlacchi, UNDCP’s Executive Director, McCaffrey praised the United Nations for its initiatives in curbing opium crops as well as its other world-wide programmes, including money laundering.

Drug consumption, he said, was growing throughout the Western Hemisphere, in Europe, in some Asian nations and in Russia. He also told reporters that the situation in the United States had improved, with cocaine use down 70 percent in the last decade and general drug abuse and drug-related murders down 50 percent.

However, the United States still had 5.1 million chronic addicts, spent \$57 billion on illegal drugs and registered 52,000 deaths a year from drug abuse, he said. “The damage to society is \$ 100 billion a year,” McCaffrey said. “We can’t get at that problem unless we work in co-operation with the international community. It’s not just drugs; it’s money laundering; it’s precursor chemicals; it’s arms smuggling; it’s the relationship of drugs to chemicals.”

McCaffrey also noted the spectacular opium crop eradication programmes in Thailand, which now have limited the production in Thailand to a level far below domestic consumption. Some analysts have stated their optimism on possible increase of US support to UNDCP and South East Asia’s drug control operations.



Mr. McCaffrey speaking at Ilea in Bangkok.

American Drug Czar

STATES HIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO UNDCP'S WORK in the Region

While in Bangkok McCaffrey also met with representatives from the Regional Centre who got an opportunity to exchange views with the ex-general.

In connection with his meeting with representatives from the UNDCP McCaffrey stated that increased American support for the international fight against drugs and crime could be expected. He specifically mentioned Strengthening of Juridical and Prosecutorial Drug Control Capacity in East Asia and the computer based training project Enhancement of Drug Law Enforcement Training in East Asia, and the alternative development project in the Wa area of Myanmar as projects which had strong American interest.

The UNDCP Representative Dr. Calvani highlighted a number of crucial points to Mr. McCaffrey. The subregional drug control programmes as facilitated by the UNDCP are highly effective. The region is under an increased threat from the production of illicit ATS, which might take over heroin as top illicit production. International action plans on ATS have full consensus and political attention but lack of funding has blocked almost all action.

Important windows of opportunity for potential donors contributions to the regional drug control efforts are: The finalization of production and execution of computer based training. Second, the project of information exchange by law enforcement agencies. Third, strengthening juridical and prosecutorial drug control capacity. Finally, a regional advocacy plan to mobilise civil society and corporations to fight against the dark side of globalization is being pursued.

Six-country High Level Meeting ON DRUG CONTROL in Phnom Penh 18-19 May

High level drug control officials from the six greater Mekong subregion countries and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) have held their yearly meeting in Phnom Penh to discuss joint actions to fight drug production, trafficking and abuse.

Senior officials from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and UNDCP gathered in Phnom Penh on the 18-19 May for a two day round of bilateral and multilateral meetings with the aim of assessing progress made and ways of strengthening common efforts in the fight against illicit drugs and drug-related crimes.

Yearly meetings have been held since 1993, when the Governments of Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, China and UNDCP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control recognising that concerted international efforts were required to address the severe problems of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in the region.

In 1995 Cambodia and Vietnam joined the regional anti-narcotics efforts and became parties of the regional group. The six governments and UNDCP hold annual meetings to discuss drug control developments in the region, to assess the measures being undertaken on national and



Evaluations of past achievements were part of the programme.

regional levels to deal with illicit drug problems and to decide on new joint remedial actions.

The first Ministerial Meeting of the six Governments and UNDCP, held in Beijing in May 1995, endorsed a Subregional Action Plan for Drug Control including 11 sub-regional projects at a total cost of more than 15 million US dollars. The projects of the Action Plan have been gradually launched and today all but one (due to lack of funding) are fully operational.

Funding has been provided primarily by the governments of Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States and the Scandinavian countries. At last year's meeting held in Vientiane, the Action Plan was updated and expanded. A new strategy for law enforcement cross-border cooperation, a large-scale computer-based drug law enforcement training programme and new initiatives to fight the increasing abuse of methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type stimulants

MOU: Nice to Meet You

MOU means Memorandum of Understanding

The MOU was initially signed in 1993 by China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

In 1995 Cambodia and Vietnam joined the MOU. The South East Asian MOU was the first subregional drug control agreement in the world and a model for other regions to follow.

The MOU decision-making is supported by two types of meetings. A bi-yearly meeting is held with the participation of ministers from the MOU countries, during which new targets for drug control are set. Annual meetings of senior officials are also held to evaluate past efforts review progress and consider new programme ideas.

Further information on the MOU is available on the Internet website <http://www.undcp.un.or.th>



Signing of the project documents prepares the way for future activities

(ATS) were endorsed.

This year's meeting assessed progress made under the thirteen projects presently covered by the Action Plan in the fields of drug abuse, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, reduction of illegal drug production and trafficking, and law enforcement cooperation. It further discussed collective efforts to be launched at the cross-border, bilateral, regional and international levels.

In response to the need for a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the drug problem in the region, new projects and initiatives were discussed. They focus on reducing HIV vulnerability from drug abuse; on drug demand reduction and socio-economic improvements for ethnic minority groups; on control of chemicals used for illicit drug production; on identification of drug production sources by chemical profiling, on drug control awareness and abuse prevention; on provision of alternative sources of income for farmers involved in drug production as well as new strategies for strengthening law enforcement cross-border co-operation between the six countries and with regional neighbours such as India and Bangladesh.

The above mentioned consensus to join hands to fight the scourge of illicit drugs is in line with Asian countries' and UN's will to develop joint actions against threats to the Region by organised crime. Transnational criminal syndicates are increasingly concentrating their illicit activities - e.g. drug trafficking, arms smuggling, prostitution, money laundering and trafficking and exploitation of human beings - in Asia. The destabilizing potential of these "uncivil forces" and the fundamental threat that they pose to the very structure of states and to the liberties and security of individuals will be given increased attention by the regional group.

Two project documents, one on "Taking Action Against Amphetamine-type Stimulants (ATS) Abuse in the East Asia and the Pacific Region" and one on "Strengthening the Secretariat of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) and the National Drug Control Programme of Cambodia" were signed at a ceremony on 19 May 2000.

LIVELY DEBATES AND DEDICATED EFFORTS by Mekong Countries

Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to cooperate in the field of drug control. The MOU members hold yearly meetings to evaluate earlier targets and to set new ones.

This year's MOU meeting was held in Phnom Penh and was a senior officials meeting with participants from all the MOU countries and UNDCP. The meeting was held in a good spirit and a number of important issues was debated.

Among the most important ones were how to strengthen the local ownership of the drug control efforts. A concept paper was distributed and caused a lively debate. However, the core problem of financing the fight against the drug problem was not solved. Most of the funding for programmes is currently provided by western countries. More prosperous Asian countries and the MOU countries appear to be financially contributing less than what could be expected.

The meeting did not take any final decision concerning this issue, but now the debate is running and it is expected that it will go on until more binding commitments can be made, hopefully at the 2001 MOU meeting.

In the meantime UNDCP will continue to work for fair contributions from high income Asian countries to the common task of preventing drug production, trafficking and abuse.

Another interesting debate was the debate about local commitment from the countries and UNDCP's ability to coordinate projects. UNDCP has recently experienced problems with mobilising the appropriate participants for workshops and seminars and was raising this problem at the MOU meeting.

However, the countries found that a major issue in addressing this problem was the lack of coordination between UNDCP projects, which often arranged workshops and seminars targeting the same audience if not at the same time then in very close intervals creating problems for the potential participants in relationship to their day to day professional functions.

UNDCP acknowledged the problem and emphasised its will to increase internal coordination. However, UNDCP was unable to leave its initial position, that the countries has to transfer increased human resources to the regional drug control work in order to fulfil obligations already agreed upon.

Conclusively it can be said, that it was a very lively meeting illustrating the commitment of the MOU countries, who are increasingly taking over the fields of policy formulation and the launching of project ideas. All participants were pleased to note that drug control coordination in the Mekong subregion is definitely on the right track.



On Saturday 20 May, 2000 the Region's Drug Fighters took half a day off at Angkor Wat.

Drugs and prostitution campaign proving unsatisfactory in Ho Chi Minh City

Drug addiction amongst young people in Ho Chi Minh City is increasing and the campaign to fight addiction is proving unsatisfactory, says the head of the city's Juridical Division of the Municipal People's Council, Le Minh Nhat. Ho Chi Minh City is home to over 17,000 drug addicts, 15,000 prostitutes and 4,000 beggars, according to the municipal Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. A survey of about 400 prostitutes undergoing rehabilitation at a women's education and vocational training centre revealed that 40 per cent are addicted to drugs, a huge increase from two years ago when only four per cent of the same number interviewed were addicted. Meanwhile, 60 of the 240 people at Phu Van Education and Vocational Training Centre were HIV-positive, most of them as a result of sharing needles.

Drug and crime news even more eastern than ours!



The Australian Federal police publishes a bi-monthly newsletter AFP News. The newsletter deals with among other interesting subjects, the issues of organised crime and drug control problems. Lately much attention has been directed towards e-crime.

More information is available on the web page of the Australian Federal Police: <http://www.afp.gov.au>

Russia, China and Central Asian Nations TO FIGHT DRUG, CRIME AND TERRORISM

The "Shanghai Five" nations recently at a meeting in Tajikistan reiterated their determination to fight jointly against national separatism, international terrorism, religious extremism, as well as weapon -trafficking, drug- trafficking and illegal immigration.

In the joint statement issued after the annual "Shanghai Five" summit, China, Tajikistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan said that they will draft relevant multilateral programs, sign necessary multilateral cooperation treaties and accords, and hold regular meetings of officers from justice, border, customs and security de-

partments of the five countries. Furthermore, they will hold anti-terrorism and anti-riot manoeuvres within the five-nation framework.

Every member of the "Shanghai Five" will by no means allow activities on its own territory that may undermine the sovereignty, security and social order of any other country of the group. The five nations expressed support for a proposal by the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to establish a regional anti-terrorism center in the city of Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, and agreed to prepare for further negotiations on the issue.

South East Asia Achieves Impressive Results of OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION

Impressive results were achieved between 1993 to 1999. Opium poppy cultivation was reduced by 43 percent from 197,106 hectares in 1993 to 113, 187 hectares in 1999. Opium production was reduced by 49 percent from 1998 tons per year in 1993 to 1029 tons in 1999.

According to some reliable international sources Myanmar (the largest opium producer in the region) achieved similarly impressive results. Opium poppy cultivation was reduced from 165,500 to 89,500 hectares in 1999 and opium production was reduced from 1791 tons to 895 - a decline of 50 percent.

According to reports Myanmar has also stepped up its opium eradication cam-

paign and has increased its opium poppy eradication by 20 times (or 2000 percent) from 160 hectares in 1993 to 3172 hectares in 1998.

However analysts have suggested that the positive trend could be interpreted as a reminder of the value of alternative development in comparison to Government eradication efforts which may have less influence in the overall decline.

On the other hand both the Kokang and the Wa have declared their intention to phase out opium poppy, and parts of the territory under their control was declared opium free. It is believed that this has played a significant role in reducing the area under opium cultivation.

SICILY HOSTS THE III GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

The Third Global Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention is the continuation of the first Global Initiative on Drug Demand Reduction - "The America - Asia Dialogue" (Lima, Peru, May 26-30, 1998) and the Second Global Conference hosted by the Asia - Pacific NGO (Bangkok, Thailand, 8-12 November 1999). This Third Global Conference is going to be hosted in Italy by Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta in Terrasini-Palermo, Sicily, Italy, from 25-29 September 2000.TM



short news from the region

Cambodia:

Trickle Down Effect in HIV/AIDS Spread
Despite the trend in Cambodia towards a decrease in the number of commercial sex workers carrying the HIV/AIDS virus, the virus seems to be spreading to other segments of the population. The infection rate for commercial sex workers has, according to recent surveys, declined from 43 percent in 1998 to 33 percent in 1999. Unfortunately the number of housewives that carry the virus has increased to 2.7 percent and an all time high of 6 percent for women giving birth.

China:

China Publishes White Paper on Drug Control

China has recently published a white paper on drug control. The report reveals that from 1991 to 1999, China's drug control bodies solved more than 800,000 drug cases, and confiscated 39.67 metric tons of heroin, 16.89 tons of opium 23.38 tons of methamphetamine and 15.08 tons of marijuana.

European Union:

EU Targets Its Sanctions at the Myanmar SPDC

The European Union has published a list of Burmese leaders who are banned from entering the Union. The list contains 140 names of high-ranking Burmese officials, including all members of the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). In addition to the list, the EU also issued a regulation to freeze the assets in the EU of all those listed and to ban exports to Myanmar of equipment that could be used for internal repression and terrorism.

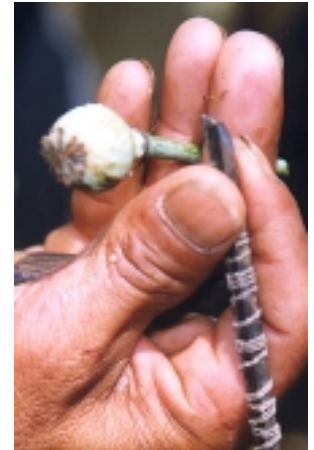
Laos:

Bombs Create Uncertainty in Vientiane
A recent series of bomb blasts have created a feeling of uncertainty in Vientiane. No one has yet taken responsibility for the blasts and several theories have emerged, but none of them have yet been backed by evidence. Foreign analysts agree that the mystery should soon be solved. Whoever may be responsible, they say, cannot remain in the shadows for long if the chaos they are trying to achieve has a political objective.

OPIUM PRICES ON THE RISE IN UNDCP PROJECT AREA

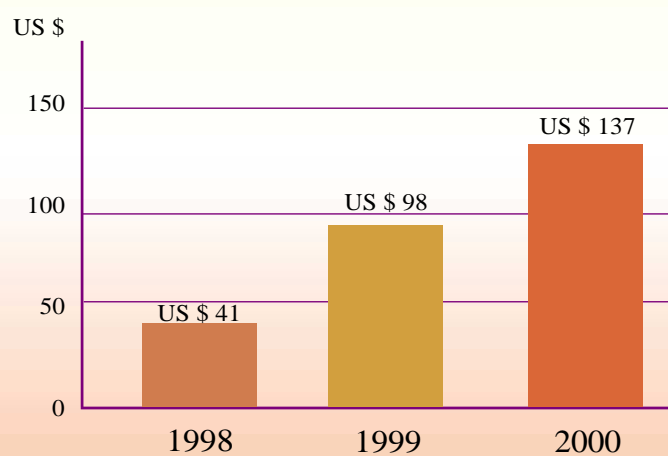
Opium prices are on the rise in the UNDCP project area of the Shan State in Myanmar. Opium prices vary between harvest and rainy season. The prices in February has risen from US\$ 41 per kilogram in 1998 through US\$ 98 per kilogram in 1999 to an all time high US\$ 137 this year.

Whether this price rise is due to an increase in demand for opiates in international markets or a direct outcome of the decreasing production of opium in the project area is however not yet clear, but most important is the trend toward a lower level of production in Myanmar. – *Information provided by the UNDCP Country Office in Myanmar.*



OPIUM PRICE VARIATIONS 1998 - 2000

Prices in February in US\$ per kilogram



Vietnam PM calls for greater support for addicts

The Vietnamese government has agreed to set up a new Drug Control Fund as part of its continuing efforts to fight abuse.

At a one day conference in Ha Noi the Prime Minister, Phan Van Khai, praised the progress that has been made in areas of alternative crops and law enforcement but said that more work was required in the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. In

some provinces, he said, the relapse rate was as high as 80 to 90 percent.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of community involvement in drug control efforts and called for a nation-wide drive to "detect and denounce drug traffickers... and assist addicts in giving up their bad habit by undergoing the detoxification right in their communities".

Thailand Aims to Strengthen Co-operation on Human Trafficking: UN Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking in Women and Children

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Korn Dabbaransi, has underlined the Government's strong commitment to strengthen co-operation to combat increasing trafficking of women and children.

Mr. Korn was speaking in his role as Chair of the newly formed Thailand National Project Committee on Trafficking in Women and Children. The committee forms part of a UN Inter-Agency Project to co-ordinate programmes to combat trafficking across the six countries of the Mekong sub-region.

The Committee, which met for the first time on 21 June, will look to ensure best use of the resources of the different government, non-government and UN agencies involved in addressing the trafficking issue. Similar committees are being formed in the other five Mekong countries: Cambodia,

China, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam. The UN project will also support the inter-country co-operation essential to countering trafficking.

As well as spelling out the need for improved co-ordination, Mr. Korn emphasised that resources were needed to help neighboring countries make provision to receive their trafficked citizens home from Thailand and other destination countries.

The strong commitment of Thai government reflects the growing magnitude of the problems.

One study estimates that as many as half of the women involved in commercial sex in the region are victims of trafficking.¹

Trafficking for child labour is also a growing problem, over 100 children being repatriated from Cambodia to Thailand in the last four months alone. This figure almost certainly repre-



Mr. Korn, Chair of Thai National Project Committee (in the center), at the committee's first meeting, 21 June 2000.

sents no more than the tip of the iceberg.

The National Secretariat on Trafficking, also recently formed under the Inter-Agency Project, has already been involved in assisting with rehabili-

tation and repatriation of people from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

¹ Linda Dorman, "Trafficking in Women and Girls in Asia" *TOGETHER-A Journal of the World Vision Partnership*, April-June 2000, p7-9.

UN Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking in Women and Children

The UN Inter-Agency Project involves six countries: Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. It is managed by the UN system, and financially supported by the UN Foundation (Ted Turner Fund) and the Government of Australia. The project aims to :

- Improve coordination within the UN and NGOs, nationally and across borders;
- Identify and address gaps in trafficking programmes in prevention, law enforcement, rescue/rehabilitation/repatriation and research/information;
- Support new initiatives and expansion of successful interventions.

Contact Project Management Office:

UN Building 14th floor, Rajdamnern Nok Ave., Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel: 66-2-288-2213 Fax: 662-280-0268
E-mail: trafficking.mekong@un.or.th Web: www.un.or.th

Break the Silence

Important news has been reported from the recent AIDS conference in Durban South Africa. The conference did, as many before it have done, acknowledge that there were no major new scientific breakthroughs.

There were encouraging improvements in the efforts to prolong the time from infection to the actual development of AIDS, but no new cures were reported to be on the way. In fact, the most positive guesses of when a cure could be ready were within a horizon of seven years or more.

Consequently the importance of prevention was restated and in many countries great results have been achieved. Unfortunately AIDS is still a taboo in many countries, especially in Africa, but also in the countries of South-east Asia where governments deny the facts. Unfortunately for the people of these countries the silence means death.

Information on the reality of the AIDS crisis in all countries means that this silence has to be broken in order to empower people and help them to avoid contracting the deadly disease. A new disturbing trend is the increase in the number of teens who contract the disease.

Consequently, adolescents must be empowered to protect themselves and to help their peers to avoid the disease - Break the Silence!

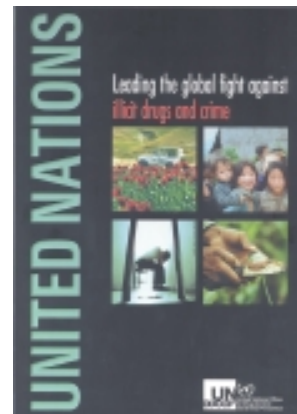
Drug Abuse Prevention in the Workplace and the Family, Prevention, Porto Alegre: SESI-RS, 2000.



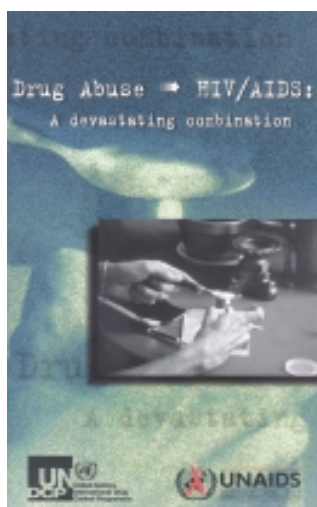
A report about a joint UNDCP/SESI-RS (Rio Grande do Sul Federation of the Industries) initiative to prevent drugs in the work place and within the family. Three types of strategies are adopted. One focusses on creating awareness and increasing peoples ability to resist the temptations of illicit drugs. Another targets those who have had some experience with drugs, encouraging them to change their behaviour and avoid further dealings with illicit drugs. The final strategy is directed at those who have developed a dependency on illicit drugs and offers and encourages treatment and rehabilitation.

For more information and additional reports please contact SESI-RS, Av. Assis Brasil, 8787 - Sarandi, 91.140-001 Porto Alegre - RS - Brazil, Phone: (55) 51 347 8527, Fax: (55) 51 347 8546 E-mail:

sesirs@sesirs.org.br or UNDCP, Esplanada dos Ministerios Norte - Ministerio da Justica, Anexo 1 - Sala 109, 70.064-900 Brasilia - DF - Brazil, Phone (55) 61 321 1377, Fax (55) 61 323 1381, E-mail undcp@undcp.org.br



UNITED NATIONS: *Leading the global fight against illicit drugs and crime*, Vienna: ODCCP, 2000. A folder introducing the ODCCP. The folder introduces in broad terms the history and activities of the ODCCP and its predecessors. At present the ODCCP comprises the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP). More information and additional folders are available from ODCCP, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43 1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43 1) 26060 5866, E-mail: odccp@odccp.org Web page: <http://www.odccp.org>



Drug Abuse → HIV/AIDS: A Devastating combination, Vienna/Geneva: UNDCP/UNAIDS, 2000. The information contained in the folder is directed at national drug control agencies as well as potential donors. It explains the relation between injecting drug use, syringe sharing and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

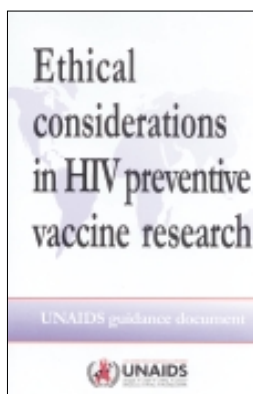
It also explain how drug use through methods other than injection can facilitate the spread of HIV/AIDS by leading to intoxication and subsequently unsafe practises. Read: Having sex without using a condom.

More information about the connection between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS is available on the web pages <http://www.unaids.org> and <http://www.undcp.org>

Report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, Geneva: UNAIDS, 2000.

An extensive report covering many aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including infection patterns across the world, the impact of AIDS on the development process and AIDS as a security threat in many regions. The report also summarizes the lessons learnt during the last ten years of the epidemic and gives valuable advice to policy makers and practitioners across the world.

The report available from UNAIDS, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, Phone: (+41 22) 791 46 51, Fax: (+41 22) 791 41 87, E-mail: unaids@unaids.org Web page: <http://www.unaids.org>



Ethical considerations in HIV preventive vaccine research, Geneva: UNAIDS, 2000.

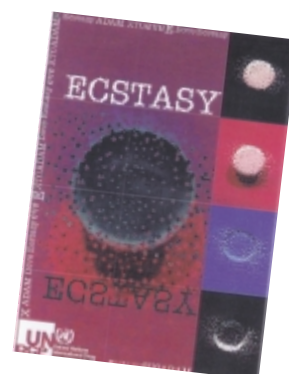
The folder deals with the highly sensitive issue of establishing ethical guidelines for research for an effective preventive HIV vaccine. The sensitivity becomes no less of an issue when it is noted that most of the researchers working in this field are based in the developed countries, but are conducting their field research in developing countries.

For those involved in this kind of research the folder is a definite must. The folder is available from UNAIDS, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, Phone: (+41 22) 791 46 51, Fax: (+41 22) 791 41 87, E-mail: unaids@unaids.org Web page: <http://www.unaids.org>

ECSTASY, Vienna: UNDCP, 2000.

An information card that gives basic information about ecstasy and the effects of ecstasy abuse. The card gives a short introduction to what ecstasy actually is and what its look like. This information is supplemented by basic information about the risks con-

nected to taking ecstasy and its negative side effects. More information and additional cards are available from UNDCP, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43 1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43 1) 26060 5866, E-mail: undcp@undcp.org Web page: <http://www.undcp.org>



speaking of people



Mr Bjorn Schimanski (Germany) has joined the Regional Centre as an intern from Trinity College, Dublin. Bjorn is working with us on pilot projects involving a cooperation between the UNDCP and the private sector and the expansion of our website.

Ms. Kemi Nejo was born in Lagos, raised and educated in the UK and lives in the US. Kemi joins us as an intern at the Regional Centre, after extensive experience in the public and private pharmaceutical sector and as a researcher. She brings to us her specialist knowledge and expertise on drugs and Public Health. She is assisting us in our Demand Reduction efforts and work on the Pacific.

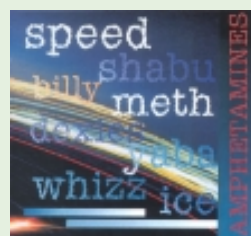


Ms. Rebecca Miller (Canada) has been hired as a paralegal consultant for project C74, "Strengthening of Judicial and Prosecutorial Drug Control Capacity in East Asia". In addition to assisting the coordinator with the daily management of the project, Rebecca will contribute to crime prevention and transnational crime issues.

new publications

Expert Working Group Report: Improving inter-sectorial impact in drug abuse offender casework, Vienna: ODCCP, 2000. The report initially acknowledges that drug abuse is a global social, health, economic and criminal justice problem and then asks how, if at all, the justice system can be involved in treatment and rehabilitation programmes. The report is available from ODCCP, Vienna International Centre, PO

Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43 1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43 1) 26060 5866, E-mail: odccp@odccp.org Web page: <http://www.odccp.org>



Amphetamines, Vienna: UNDCP, 2000. A folder which provides the reader with a basic knowledge of amphetamines. It contains information about the physical appearance, uses, actions and side effects.

More information and additional folders are available from UNDCP, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Phone: (+43 1) 26060 0, Fax: (+43 1) 26060 5866, E-mail: undcp@undcp.org Web page: <http://www.undcp.org>

List of documents previously distributed by UNDCP Regional Centre (Bangkok)

- 1/2000 Summary of the Meeting on the Regional Centre's Strategies for the Pacific Region
- 2/2000 Report of the Conference on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in East and South-East Asia, Tokyo, Japan, 24-27 January 2000
- 3/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, I. Intelligence
- 4/2000 Annual Field Report 1999
- 5/2000 Eastern Horizons No.1 March 2000
- 6/2000 Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia: External Sub-regional Appraisal Report
- 7/2000 China Country Profile
- 8/2000 Mission Report on Project Advocacy Mission (B53)
- 9/2000 UNDCP and ASEAN Drug Demand Reduction Strategies
- 10/2000 Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia: Project Performance and Evaluation Report, January-December 1999
- 11/2000 Status of donor contributions to all projects as of end March 2000
- 12/2000 Tripartite Review Meeting (Terminal): Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia
- 13/2000 Press Clippings News on Drug Control and Crime Prevention in East Asia (Nov. 1999 - May 2000)
- 14/2000 Eastern Horizons No.2 June 2000
- 15/2000 UNDCP Activities Report in East Asia and the Pacific: Thirty years fighting drugs through leadership and participatory cooperation
- 16/2000 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Seminar on Building Capacities for Fighting Transnational Organized Crime, held in Bangkok on 20 and 21 March 2000
- 17/2000 Model Drug Enforcement Policy and Suggested Training Materials for MOU Countries, II. Controlled Deliveries
- 18/2000 "Lights on" harm of drug abuse, corruption and violence (press kit), International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June 2000

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

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Articles, comments and relevant information with photos or tables attached are welcomed. Submissions should not exceed 500 words. Full name and signature must accompany all letters to the editor. Articles and letters may be edited for purposes of space and clarity.

Editor: Peter Lunding, Tel: (66 2) 288-2537 Email: peter.lunding@undcp.un.or.th **Deputy editor:** Kemi Nejo, Phone (66 2) 288 1963, E-mail Kemi.Nejo@undcp.un.or.th **For further information, please contact:** UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, 14th Floor, United Nations Building Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand Tel: (+66-2) 288-2083 Fax: (+66-2) 281-2129 Website: <http://www.undcp.un.or.th> Not an official document. For information only. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of the United Nations.

