



ข่าวเพื่อสื่อมวลชน สำนักงานสารนิเทศและประชาสัมพันธ์ กระทรวงสาธารณสุข

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THREE TONS DRUGS SET ABLAZED, THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH REVEALED 'MULTIPLE DRUG USE' BECOMES MORE POPULAR AMONG DRUG ADDICTS

The 35th Destruction Of Confiscated Narcotics Organized by The Ministry of Public Health, altogether 2,924.69 kg. 5.99 litres of confiscated narcotic drugs were gathered, amounting up to 3,600 Million Baht, while Amphetamine continued to be the first in the rank. The result of this year's drug rehabilitation and addiction treatment within the past 6 months illustrated that 30,000 patients who has gone through the program showed a changing additive behavior. The preference of drug from "Single drug" now migrated to "Polydrug use" which can cause more damaging effects on the brains.

On the 26th June 2007, Dr. Morakot Kornkasem, Deputy Minister of Public Health was an honorable chairman for the 35th Destruction of Confiscated Narcotic drug ceremony and this event is joined by government authorities concerned, as well as diplomats from various countries. On this occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking, the ceremony was held at The Utility and Environment Management Centers, Bang Pa-In Industrial Estate, Phra Nakhon Sri Ayudhya Province.

From 12,672 drug seizure cases, the total weight of the confiscated narcotics being destroyed amounted 1,122.91 kg., of which 5.99 litres were in a liquid form with a total value of 3,600 Million Baht. Drug seizures comprised of methamphetamine (Yaba) 833.32 kg, approximately 9.25 million tablets, Opium 20.41 kg, Ecstasy 6.6 kg, approximately 26,396 tablets, Cocaine 6.65 kg, Marijuana 0.86 kg, Codeine Tablet 186 kg, Codeine Solution 5.99 litres and other Psychotropic Substances weighing 9.75 kg. The Narcotics Suppression Bureau brought in an additional 1,801.78 kg Marijuana and Hashish, valuing over 14 Million Baht to be destroyed in the Destruction of Confiscated Narcotics Ceremony. The total weights of confiscated drugs were 2,924.69 kg, 5.99 litres, with an estimated street value of over 3,614 Million Baht.

The burning process of confiscated narcotics under took "Pyrolytic Incineration method", where the narcotic substances would be set ablaze in over 850 degree Celsius. Such high heat would break the drug molecules into carbon within a short time without causing any pollution to the environment.

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Dr. Morakot stated that Thailand has continuously devoted much energy and efforts in solving the widespread of drugs and to alleviate the effects of drug taking. Moreover, great emphasis was placed on the tight control of precursors, rehabilitation and addictive treatment to cure patients with an effort to help patients return to the society. Over 800 Hospitals of all levels under the Ministry of Public Health must comply with policies to provide as many rehabilitation programs close to patients' home so as their results to be conveniently measurable. The goal is to obtain 30,000 patients to undertake rehabilitation program. According to the report dated from 1st October 2006 to 31st March 2007, there were altogether 28,137 patients who undergone the rehabilitation program, of which 5,266 were Voluntary System, 15,475 were Compulsory System and 7,376 were in Correctional System.

Thanyarak Institute of Drug Abuse, Department of Medical Services reported that, in 2007, 3,840 patients joined the rehabilitation program, of which 81 percent are male, 33 percent are unemployed individuals and 80 percent of the patients lived in Bangkok and Central region. Moreover, it was founded that 2,071 patients, which is 54 percent were addicted to methamphetamine. Among methamphetamine addict group, as many as 1,505 patients or 39 percent, age between 20-29 years old. One in every 3 patients would belong to methamphetamine addict group and the most frequently used technique is smoking. A major cause of drug addiction is "friends' persuasion", totaling 1,616 patients or 42 percent, followed by "individual urge to try" totaling 1,528 patients or 40 percent, with an increasing tendency.

According to an analysis of drug usage in 2007, the patients' habits have changed in a more health damaging direction. In 2005, "Single drug use" accounted for 85 percent of total drug usage and declined to 80 percent. In contrary, "Poly-substitution" surged from 6 percent in 2005 to 14 percent in 2007. By using multiple drugs, they act as stimulus causing greater and faster damages to the nervous system and the brain than single drug usage.

Dr. Morakot further stated that The Ministry of Public Health has initiated a policy for Thanyarak Institute of Drug Abuse, an expert in drug rehabilitation, to establish a 24 hour call center to provide consultations to people with drug addiction problems via 1165. On average, 15-25 people phoned in, of which 90 percent often questioned about the location of rehabilitation centers because their family members are facing drug problems and would require a treatment. Most of the callers were parents, while the remaining 10 percent reported illegal drug selling.