

# **Narcotics Law Enforcement**

The narcotic drugs have become a serious healthy and social problem that obstructs socio-economic development as well as a threat to national security. The current national strategy on the reduction of drug supply and demand for drugs has proven effective for drug control in Thailand. However, the success of the efforts does not depend on those measures alone. The cooperation among global community is a key element in ensuring drug-free society. Many countries and international organizations have come to work with us to find the best solution to tackle these drug menaces.

## **Opium**

The opium poppy cultivation is mostly located in 11 provinces of northern region. Thailand has applied the opium eradication measure together with crop substitution projects since 1984 which rapidly effect to the cultivation areas from 8,777 hectares in 1984 to 1,037 hectares in 1999. However, opium eradication is often hampered by the rugged weather, inaccessibility of the terrain and communication difficulty.

The raw opium was mostly consumed by the hilltribes for relieving tensions and pains as well as for some traditional cultures and ceremonies. However, some of them are smuggled for

local consuming in other region as well as exported to Malaysia and United States.

## **Heroin**

The illicit heroin is mostly produced in neighboring countries and along Thailand – Myanmar border in hilly forest with covert terrain in Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son Provinces by the Independent Chinese Haw. The movement of heroin syndicate is operated by the international organized crime such as Chinese and African Group.

For domestic trafficking, heroin is epidemic in some areas. The trader and user are still in the same groups of Drug pusher who often sells heroin together with methamphetamine.



## **Marihuana**

The marihuana plantation is scattered in every region, however, northeastern region is the most planted area in Thailand. Moreover, hashish also is illegally smuggled into Thailand from Pakistan and Nepal for foreigner consumption as well as trafficking through Japan, Singapore and Switzerland.



## **Volatile Substances**

The volatile substance epidemic persisted among youths and adolescents in every part of Thailand, the northeastern, southern, central and northern region respectively. At present,



Marihuana seized increased from 5.87 tons in 1998 to 14.66 tons in 1999. Most of them were smuggled from Lao PDR along northeastern border and from Cambodia along eastern border. The estimated exporting amount was 6.5 tons in 1999.



there are glue, thinner and lacquer which are the most popular.

## **Methamphetamine**

The movement of methamphetamine producing groups still

operates within Thai territory especially in Bangkok and suburb as well as some provinces in the central region. In 1999, there are 16 clandestine laboratories which were destroyed. Most of them are a kitchen lab which has small scales.

Syndicate. The production is smuggled across the border to the northeastern and northern region of Thailand. Some of methamphetamine also are smuggled from Cambodia.

Methamphetamine not only spreads in labor group but also among youth and student. The element of epidemic is an availability of demand and Besides, mathamphetamine is also exported to many countries for Thai labor consumption. The destination countries are Switzerland, Japan, Denmark, Germany, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia and South Korea.

### **Ecstasy, Cocaine, Katamine**

Ecstasy epidemic is a trend to increase in youths and adolescents. The



*One of kitchen laboratory was destroyed by ONCB officers and concerned authorities*

production expands intensively in entertainment places in Bangkok and big cities. Singaporean and Malay are continuous playing an important role for

smuggling ecstasy into Thai market. In March 1999, Thai authorities destroyed the first ecstasy refinery in Songkha Province. From the investigation, ecstasy powder was smuggled for tabulating in Thailand and distributing for local consumption in entertainment places as well as trafficking back to Malaysia and Singapore.

Cocaine is mostly smuggled into Thailand through Bangkok International Airport and postal parcel by Singaporean

and African. The consumption is limited fixed client groups in tourist areas such as Bangkok, Phuket and Chonburi Provinces.

In Thailand, ketamine is available in entertainment places and some illegal drug stores mostly for teenager and prostitute users. The production is smuggled from Pakistan and India.

### **Statistics of Narcotic Drug Seizure 1995-1999**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin (Kgs.)</b>	<b>Marihuana (Tons)</b>	<b>Volatile substances (Kgs.)</b>	<b>Meth Amphetamine (Kgs.)</b>	<b>Ecstasy (Tablets)</b>	<b>Ketamine (Kgs.)</b>
1995	719.85	19.88	1,580.05	539.43	15,705	1.009
1996	405.64	16.72	987.16	818.08	9,687	2.264
1997	324.63	9.10	829.73	1,910.94	80,047	3.230
1998	530.88	5.87	596.47	2,987.95	5,878	3.560
1999	405.34	14.66	1,955.34	4,481.19	30,615	0.615

## **Drug Trafficking**

Concerning drug trafficking to Thailand, some are used as local consumption and some would send to the world market by the cooperation of international drugs network. Due to the drug production in Golden Triangle area has been changed from heroin to methamphetamine, the heroin smuggling into Thailand also in the shortage and difficult to catch. For other drugs, marihuana trafficking is increased as well

as methamphetamine is exported in the same amount with the past year.

The traffickers apply many concealment methods to transport illicit drugs. The air route is the most popular way by using body & clothes, travel belongings, international postal parcels as well as by land route from Malaysia. The important country destinations are Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kini, Germany, Netherlands and Canada.



*24 kgs of marihuana were concealed in 6 Oxygen tanks and diving equipment prepared for exporting to Japan.*



### Statistics of the Seizure of Drugs Exported

Year	Number of Cases	Type of Drugs					
		Heroin (kgs.)	Marihuana (kgs.)	Hashish (kgs.)	Opium (kgs.)	Meth-Amphetamine (Tablets)	Ecstasy (Tablets)
1995	87	412.46	2,030.00	24.08	32.90	-	-
1996	46	186.78	288.30	32.69	60.00	565	700
1997	54	168.19	633.10	25.80	37.00	1,000	15,000
1998	34	321.43	2.23	6.80	418.36	19,800	-
1999	39	186.60	6,494.50	26.50	-	17,060	-

Source: Law Enforcement Bureau, ONCB.

Remark: Data collected until March 29, 2000

## Significant Seizures of Drugs

<b>Date</b>	<b>Authorities</b>	<b>Offenders</b>	<b>Drugs</b>	<b>Scene of action</b>	<b>Concealment</b>	<b>Destination</b>
March 14, 1999	Police	2 Thais	Methamphetamine 1,000,000 tablets	Chiang Mai Province	N/A	N/A
May 11, 1999	Police	N/A	Heroin 48 kgs.	Chiang Rai Province	N/A	Bangkok
May 21, 1999	Customs	1 Sierra Leone	Heroin 8.4 kgs.	Bangkok Airport	19 Books	Ethiopia
July 8, 19 99	Police, ONCB	4 Thais	Methamphetamine 1,178,000 tablets	Chiang Rai Province	Car	Bangkok
July 29, 19 99	Army	Unknown troop	Methamphetamine 4,000,000 tablets Heroin 14 kgs.	Thai-Myanmar border	N/A	N/A
September 28, 1999	Customs	1 Togo	Heroin 33 kgs.	Bangkok Airport	Traveling suitcase	Nigeria via Ethiopia
October 1, 1999	Police	3 Thais	Marihuana 3,866 kgs	Samutparkarn Province	Hidden in container	Ghana

December 12, 1999	Customs	1 Mali	Heroin 16 kgs.	Bangkok Airport	Traveling suitcase	Ghana via Switzerland
December 23, 1999	Customs	1 Lesotho	Heroin 12 kgs.	Bangkok Airport	14 Lady purses	Nigeria via Ethiopia
January 12, 2000	Police, ONCB	2 Thais	Heroin 126 kgs	Donmung Tollway, Bangkok	Traveling suitcase	N/A
January 12, 2000	Customs	1 Filipino	Heroin 15.5 kgs.	Bangkok Airport	Traveling suitcase	Thailand
January 20, 2000	Police	1 Thai	Heroin 15.5 kgs	Chiang Rai Province	N/A	Thailand
March 14, 2000	Police	N/A	Methamphetamine 4,354,000 tablets	Prajubkirikun Province	Fish container	Thailand
March 21, 2000	Police, ONCB	3 Thais	Methamphetamine 2,038,000 tablets	Bangkok	House	Thailand



*Thai custom seized 33 kgs of heroin concealed in travelling suitcase.  
Which was prepared to export to Nigeria via Ethiopia*

## **Important Activities**

As the result of successful implementation of drug interception and suppression at the northern border of the Prime Minister's Order No. 192/B.E. 2541 (1998), the Drug Interception and Suppression Center in northern, central and southern region will be established to intercept illicit drug smuggling into the

As a consequence of implementation of measure on prevention of government officials from relating illicit drugs in order to support the prevention and suppression policy according to the Prime Minister's Order

country. The outcomes of implementation in the northern border from October 1998 to March 2000 are seizures of:

- Methamphetamine 24,335,229 tablets
- Heroin 183.52 kgs.
- Tabulating machine 6 engines
- Punching head 99 sets
- Caffeine 18.40 tons
- Acetone 800 liters

No. 141/B.E. 2541 (1998). The outcomes of the action from January 1999 to March 2000 are:

- 1,833 officials of identify government officials related drug.
- 63 officials of administration sanction.
- 188 officia
- ls were arrested

ONCB has indicated that 80 percentages of methamphetamine production which has spread all over the

country come from Thai-Myanmar border. The producing equipment and chemical are mostly smuggled from Thailand to refineries along the border. ONCB, in accordance with Commodities Control Act B.E. 2495 (1852), promulgated the caffeine controlling areas in 32 districts of 6 provinces (Tak, Mae Hong Son, Chaing Mai, Chaing Rai, Payoa and Nan)

