

Policy on Narcotics Control of Thailand

According to the 8th National Economic and Social Development Plan B.E.2540-2544 (1997-2001), it stated that in order to improve potential of Thai people by encouraging immunity of the family institute as well as to develop social environmental system against drug. Thai government support private sectors and people organization, especially children/youth group, in-out school and labor group to implement the activities such as promoting community participation for defending themselves from drug, etc. At the same time, the government has to implement activities in accordance with private sectors such as suppressing and carrying out the prosecution process to the drug producer/trafficker seriously and continuously, developing treatment and rehabilitation system as well as encouraging communities participation in order to protect the drug addicts from relapsing.

Narcotics Control Board, which is the highest drug control policy maker, has been developing policy in accordance with the drug situation. The important policy could be determined in 5 topics as follows:

1. Control caffeine substance, which is used by drug producer to mix in methamphetamine tablet. Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Commerce has determined caffeine under the control of the Commodities Control Act B.E.2495 (1952) and to be enforced in 32 districts along the border areas.

2. Establish organizations, which perform drug problems solving along the border area to be in line with suppression and interception plan in northern and northeastern region.

3. In order to increase incentive of the scientists who's responsible for scientific detection work, the government has amended the Regulation of the Prime Minister's Office of Paying of Reward Money in Narcotics Case B.E. 2537 (1994).

4. Classify target areas of problems solving into 3 major areas as follows:

- Low level; a target area which has low expansion of drug abuse in 7 provinces.

- Intermediate level; a target area which has many kinds of drugs user groups in 25 provinces.

- High level; a target area which has severe drug producing, smuggling and trafficking in 43 provinces.

5. ONCB approved 6 items of narcotics control framework as follows:

5.1 Villages/Community, free from drugs.

Encourage the villages/community to show their attention to be villages/community free from drugs at least 50% throughout the country and ONCB would certify at least 25% of them.

5.2 School/Educational institutes, free from drugs.

School/educational institute would be free from drug at least 50% and control the increasing rate of students who are the drug users to be not more than 10 %.

5.3 Give treatment to the drug addicts who are in voluntary system at least 300,000 people.

Increase at least 5 centers/provinces of treatment centers which can provide service incomplete treatment and rehabilitation program and improving at least 2 rehabilitation centers which can provide complete program as well as establishing at least 8 treatment and rehabilitation camps/provinces.

5.4 Rehabilitate all groups of drug addicts in compulsory system and correctional system.

Improve the potential and efficiency of rehabilitation procedure by using therapeutic community model and implement in 8 correctional institutions, 70 prisons and 24 observation and protection centers.

5.5 Drug suppression.

Suppress drug producer/trafficker and decreasing the problem of drug smuggling from the border areas.

5.6 Decrease the quantity of narcotic crops

Control opium poppy cultivation areas and destroying all confiscated marihuana.

Significant Activity of the Past year

Villages/Community Free from Drugs to celebrate His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej Birthday Project was one of the main projects designed for celebrating His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej sixth cycle birthday on 5th December 1999. The project idea was to use community participation to prevent and solve the narcotics problem in their own communities. Which community can be free from drugs will be proclaimed

as a Village/Community Free from Drugs to Celebrate His Majesty the King Birthday. In doing so the Selecting Committees who come from various agencies and presided by inspectors of the Prime Minister Office from 13 districts. After having evaluated and approved those selected villages/communities, the committee will send the list of their names to the Follow-up and Evaluation sub-committee and the Project Directing sub-committee to obtain a certification. Every community or village that is free from drugs will receive that “Village/Community Free from Drugs Flag”. Thereafter, there were 6,637 communities/villages selected and approved by the committee as follows:

Number/Year	1999	2000
Provinces joined the project	75 provinces and Bangkok	42 (No.1/2000)
Villages/communities	8,149	5160 (No.1/2000)
Approved villages/ communities	4,001	2,636 (No.1/2000)