

International Cooperation

Nowadays, every country has to face with drug problem in one way or another. The problem has become a major threat to all societies in the world, therefore, it is necessary for every country to cooperate in fighting against drug menace. The international cooperation works are described as follows:

1) Bilateral Cooperation

USA

Since 1974, the US Government has annually provided financial support to the work of narcotics control in Thailand under the bilateral agreement between USG and RTG. The average amount of the support is about 3 million US dollars per day. The agreement not only lubricates the success of narcotics control in Thailand, which has been contributed by various responsible agencies such as Royal Thai

Police, Customs Department, Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Narcotics Control Board, etc., but also expands mutual cooperation between US and Thailand as well as other nations in this region in combating the illicit international trafficking in narcotic drugs. Moreover, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) which was set up in September last year carried out many narcotics control courses under the oversight of Joint Committee and supervision of US Program Director and Executive Director from Royal Thai Police.

Financial Support from the US Government in 1999

Areas of Support	US\$
Narcotics Law Enforcement	3,429,000
Narcotics Crops Control	750,000
Demand Reduction	140,000

Regional Narcotics Control Assistance	10,000
Total	4,329,000

Germany

The Thai-German Narcotics Control Programme (TG-NCP)

The ONCB implemented the second year of the Thai-German Narcotics Control Programme which was supported by German Government with 2.75 million DM during 1998-2000. The programme was reviewed in January 1999 in order to be in line with the current narcotics situation as well as the restructuring of narcotics control administration in Thailand pertaining to the Office of the Prime Minister's Order No. 141/B.E.2541 (1998). Moreover, it is expected that the programme's result will be taken into account to be promoted in the next National Narcotics Control Plan (2002-2006) for the sustainability. As a result, the duration of the programme was proposed to be extended to September 2001 with no additional financial support and 5 main outputs of the programme were finally concluded as follows:

1. Participative, multilateral drug abuse control approach is developed

and promoted through ONCB decentralized structure.

2. ONCB as a clearinghouse for demand reduction activities is strengthened.

3. Capacity in asset forfeiture is also strengthened.

4. ONCB's human resource management system is completed.

5. Management functions of TG-NCP are ensured.

The project activities in 1999 include; supporting community, existing authorities and organizations in 4 pilot provinces namely Payao, Nongbualampoo, Pattalung and Singhaburi in setting up community's narcotics control plan by using bottom up model and decentralization strategy and supplementing the implementation on the plan, providing international training and in-house training for the officers from relevant agencies on assets forfeiture, producing and distributing local drugs abuse prevention media, doing

action research, supporting ONCB human resources management program, etc.

Regional Information-and Action Networking on Community-Based Drug abuse Control “RIAN-CB-DAC” within the scope of the Drugs and Development Action Programme

Under agreement between the GTZ and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), GTZ provided 200,000 DM to the ONCB to implement the RIAN-CB-DAC during 1999-2000. The aim of the project promoted by the financial contribution is to enhance the abilities of communities in the consolidation of experience gained in the field of the community-based drugs abuse control and in the dissemination and exchange of pertinent knowledge and skills with relevant partners at regional level.

In 1999, the communities had been strengthened in terms of their abilities to process and offer to others their knowledge and skills in the aforementioned area and in their access to authorities and decision-makers at provincial and national level. Meanwhile, the exchange of CB-DAC

knowledge and skills between communities and government authorities had been enhanced. In addition, the existing CB-DAC networks had been strengthened at local and national level as well as in Southeast Asia i.e., Laos PDR and Vietnam.

Australia

ONCB coordinated with Australian Embassy to facilitate the participation of H.E.Mr. Jurin Luksanawisit, Minister to the Prime Minister’s Office in Drugs Sport Summit held in Australia during 13-18 November 1999 and also his study visit for observation and attending briefing at Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (AUSTRAC) in the afternoon program of November 15, 1999.

Japan

ADEC-V

At the beginning of the year 2000, Mr. Sorasit Sangprasert, Secretary-General, NCB together with other Thai delegates attended the Fifth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC-V) in Tokyo, Japan during January 24 – 27, 2000. The Secretary-General took an honor and privilege proposed by the host to

present a brief on Drug Situation especially ATS in plenary session for all participating countries mostly from Asia and Pacific as well as 2 main international organizations, ICPO and UNDCP. The meeting was concluded with the success and Joint Communiqué reiterating concerns over drug problems, especially ATS and all efforts in Asia-Pacific region to implement the conclusions of the Twentieth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1998, the Asian Drug Law Enforcement Conference, Tokyo 1999 together with the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Asia and Pacific.

JICA

Drug Abuse Prevention Activities

Last year, an ONCB staff attended a training course called Drug Abuse Prevention Activities Cooperation with Japan and USA.(Asian Region) during October 11- November 4, 1999 in Japan supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). She was trained the recent development of drug abuse prevention activities in Japan and also encouraged to share her knowledge and experience and brainstormed with other

participants for the improvement of measures against drug abuse in the Asian Region.

Control of Drug Offences II

During October – November annually, JICA will provide a seat for a staff either from ONCB or other concerned agencies in a Seminar on Control of Drug Offences II to bring his idea for solving drug problems, to identify the most effective countermeasures against drug offences, to promote mutual understanding and friendship and to foster international solidarity as well as cooperative spirit among participants for future effective international cooperation for drug offences control. Last year, a representative from PNSB, Royal Thai Police was accepted by the host to attend the seminar held in Japan from 17 October –3 November 1999.

JICWELS

From 22 June through 16 July 1999, Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS) hosted the 14th Study Programme for Overseas Experts on Drug Abuse and Narcotics Control: Challenges for Promotion of the Countermeasures against Amphetamine

Type Stimulants Abuse in Tokyo, Japan. This forum is held annually and provide participants a chance to improve their capability in planning and administrating drug abuse and countermeasures, especially Amphetamine Type Stimulants among various drugs classified into narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors through lectures and study visits to related organizations and institutes. As for 2000, an ONCB staff was acceptably seated in the 15th Study Programme, which was held from 20 June through 14 July 2000 in Tokyo, Japan.

Malaysia

Lately, ONCB, Thailand was a host of the 22nd Thai-Malaysian Cooperation Meeting for Law Enforcement during 27-28 September 1999 at Chiang Rai Province, presided by co-chairmen, Mr. Payont Pansri, Ex-Secretary –General, NCB and Dato Salleh Bin Mat Som, Director of Narcotics Department, Royal Malaysian Police. The meeting discussion came to an agreement leading to mutual cooperation during 1999-2000 regarding precursors and chemicals control, Thai Conspiracy Measures and Malaysian Special Law, rapid information exchange and the epidemic of codeine cough

remedy. As for 2000, Royal Malaysian Police will take turn as a host of the 23rd meeting, which will be held in Penang, Malaysia approximately in August.

Republic of Korea

In the middle of June, the Secretary-General, NCB and delegation from Thailand had a chance to share in-depth discussion over current drug situation with approximately 120 participants from 17 countries and 2 international organizations in the 11th Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO) in Pusan, Korea from June 14-16, 2000. The Secretary-General willingly accepted the invitation to share and present effective methods to reduce both supply and demand of illegal drugs in the 2nd session as well as in the 3rd session as a co-chairman. All participating members were wholeheartedly consent to implement the meeting' s purposes including to share information about international drug trafficking organizations and their illicit trafficking activities, to establish the mechanism for regional cooperation to tackle drug crimes and to review the effective methods to reduce drug abuse altogether.

Union of Myanmar

Thailand by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) has organized the Third Myanmar-Thailand Meeting on Cross-Border Drug Enforcement Cooperation at Rayong Province during 17-18 August 1999. The said meeting has set up for considering the drug law enforcement implementation mutually between Thailand and Union of Myanmar by discussing in both operational level and policy level. Thailand by ONCB and Myanmar by CCDAC will take turns in hosting the meeting twice a year.

The Fourth Myanmar-Thailand Meeting on Cross-border Drug Enforcement Cooperation was organized by CCDAC at Kyaing Tong, Myanmar during 24-25 April 2000. The meeting has followed up the result of the third meeting and discussed on the law enforcement cooperation between Thailand and Union of Myanmar.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Lao People's Democratic Republic by Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) hosted the Second Lao PDR-Thailand Meeting on

Narcotics Law Enforcement Cooperation on 23 August 1999 at Sawannakhet. The discussion in the meeting is about the cooperation on drug law enforcement at Thai-Lao border area and also about the other matter concerning the drug control. The meeting will be organized alternately with Thailand and Lao PDR once a year. The next meeting is going to be turn of Thailand which will be arranged around August 2000 at Ubonrachatani Province.

Republic of China (Taiwan)

The drug cooperation between Thailand and Republic of China is on going well. The ONCB has welcomed Mr. Wang, Kuang-Yu, Director-General of Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Justice on occasion of his visit to Thailand during 24-25 December 1999. In reciprocal, the ONCB team leading by Secretary-General, NCB consisting of 5 persons has been invited to study visit to Republic of China by Mr. Wang for exchanging the knowledge and technology in investigation of drug trafficking and also promoting the relationship of law enforcement cooperation between Thailand and Republic of China.

Vietnam

The ONCB welcomed 5 Vietnamese senior officials led by Mr. Thang Van Phuc, Deputy Minister of the Committee on Organization and Personnel of the Government of Vietnam to attend briefing and observe the narcotics control work in Thailand as well as observe the organizational structure and human resource arrangement in drug control and suppression activity at the border areas during 3-10 October, 1999.

Cambodia

After signing the Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals control between Thailand and Cambodia in May 1998, Thailand and Cambodia has joined and strengthened their cooperation in more concrete activities. From the First High Level Cambodia – Thailand Drug Control Meeting in December 1998, the two sides agreed to have annually meeting on High Level and twice a year for provincial meeting by taking turns in hosting the Meeting. In 1999, the Provincial Cross-Border Drug Control Meetings between Trat and Koh Kong Province were initiated. The

Provincial Cross Border Meeting received financial support from UNDCP. The First Provincial Cross Border Drug Control Meeting was hosted on 3 May 1999 by Trat Province. Koh Kong Province hosted the Second Provincial Meeting on 25 November 1999. Lastly, on 29 May 2000 Trat Province hosted the Third Provincial Meeting.

Regarding the Second High Level Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control between Thailand and Cambodia, it was held in Vientiane on 18 May 1999.

2) Sub-Regional Cooperation

Thailand/Myanmar/Lao PDR

The ONCB with the financial support by UNDCP organized the Workshop of Key Personnel on Drug Law Enforcement during 8-11 February, 2000 in Chiang Rai Province of the North of Thailand. The participants allied with active participation and contribution to formulate a framework and plan of action for the control of drugs and precursor chemicals as well as the drug law enforcement cooperation. The plan articulated in terms of intensifying

operational mechanism, human resource development, sectoral integration of drug law enforcement activities, building the capacity of drug law enforcement units, monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Each country would elaborate their own requirements according to the guidelines of the agreed plan of action and submit her request directly to the UNDCP for further support. The outcome of the implementation will be reported to the Third Senior Officials Meeting and the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on the cooperation in Drug Abuse Control among Lao (PDR), Myanmar and Thailand which will be held next year in Myanmar.

Cooperation under the 1993 MOU on Drug Control

During the year under review, the ONCB and concerned agencies participated and implemented various activities under the framework of the 1993 MOU on Drug Control. The main event was the Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Meeting of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control, held on 19-20 May and 21 May 1999, respectively in Vientiane, Lao

PDR. During the Ministerial Meeting, H.E. Mr. Jurin Luksanawisit, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand and Ministers from other 5 MOU signatory countries and Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of UNDCP resolved to intensify joint action to reduce drug abuse and trafficking in the subregion. They agreed to sign a new project document entitled Development of Cross Border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia which was incorporated in the Subregional Action Plan on Drug Control. The project aims to develop and expand in order of priorities, the operational effectiveness of law enforcement agencies across and along the borders of the 6 MOU countries. The project will be implemented in two phases with the China-Lao PDR, China-Myanmar and China-Vietnam borders in the first phase. The second phase will address identified needs at the Cambodia-Thailand, Cambodia-Vietnam, Lao PDR-Thailand, Lao PDR-Vietnam and Myanmar-Thailand borders. The project is fully funded by the Japanese Government in the amount of US\$ 1,819,100. The project started the first phase implementation in August 1999.

The Senior Official Meeting also supported an initiative to fight the increasing abuse of methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type-stimulants and, therefore, endorsed the project idea of Taking Action against Amphetamine-Type-Stimulant Abuse in the East Asia Region. The Meeting recommended it for endorsement and formulation of a project document as well as also recommended it to be included in the Subregional Action Plan. The Ministerial Meeting endorsed the inclusion of the said project in the Subregional Action Plan.

During the period under review various activities under MOU projects were implemented in Thailand. Some significant events under the project were as follows:

1. Precursor Control in East Asia

Project aims at increasing participating countries' capability to implement adequate national and subregional measures for regulating precursors, in particular those used in heroin and methamphetamine production and to suppress their diversion and trafficking.

During 15-16 September 1999, a workshop for the setting up of the Precursor and Chemicals Control Working Group in Northern Provinces was organized. The workshop was an activity under the Project. In addition the workshop mainly discussed about the formulation of the Regional Precursor and Chemicals Control Working Group and it concluded that the working group should be set up at the regional level in the North. However, the workshop identified the problems of the working group establishment such as budget, the placement of regional office, etc. The further discussion would be made with concerned agencies in northern provinces.

Basic Precursor Training Courses were organized during 14-21 December 1999 for 355 army and district offices personnels in northern part. The training courses would complement the operation under the Office of the Prime Minister's Order No 192/B.E.2541 (1998) which enhanced the drug supply reduction in 9 provinces along the northern border area. The emphasis of the operation was put on the interception of illicit heroin and methamphetamine smuggling into the country from the border area in the North.

The precursor control booklets and precursor test kits were distributed to the trained officers.

The precursor data base system was established in Thailand as well as other 5 MOU countries. According to the Project, the system would enable countries to systematically compile data on precursors, trade transactions and seizures, as well as to effectively monitor and regulate precursor trade. In addition, being linked together in a network, precursor control agencies in each country would be able to share information more efficiently. The software user interface and data is in the native language of each country. Hands on training would be provided to participating agencies in the 6 MOU countries. However, due to some technical problem, the system has not yet been fully operated in Thailand.

2. Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia

This project has been implemented since October 1997 in Chiang Rai Province. It is aimed to make the pilot “Drug Free Community” through the participatory actions and supporting of highland communities and existing local agencies

based on their resources and uses the suitable and harmony approaches to their cultures. The implementing strategies put emphasis on the continuously integrated improvement of quality of life for addicts and their support in social environment of family and community. The main activities are drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, socio-economic development and building up capacity of communities and collective actions to resolve their own drug problems.

Activities of this project during the past year are as the following:

1) A TPR Meeting in Bangkok on 5 July 1999, this meeting was proposed to review the project implementation aiming at setting the way for the rest period of the project;

2) Selection of Internal and External Evaluators during October-November 1999, the Internal and External Evaluators were Dr. Sidthinat Prabudhanitisarn and Dr. Mark E. Barrett respectively;

3) Project implementation evaluation, which was carried out on 17-19 December 1999.

This project is going to finish by June 2000. Therefore, there was a mission to visit project sites on 24-26 February 2000 aiming at observing the achievement of the project and considering the possibility to prolong the project.

3. Subregional Development of Institutional Capacity for Demand Reduction among High Risk Groups

This project is aiming at reducing drug demand in high risk groups of each country by enhancing the efficiency of concerned organizations. However, each country has the differential factors including the type of drugs epidemic and the violent degree of high risk groups, therefore, they are different in setting up the pattern, the method and the evaluation for studying drug problems and are also different in pattern and the method in preventing and solving drug problems among high risk groups. Under the sub-regional cooperation, there is an agreement on the device/the method development for studying and evaluating drug problems among high risk groups of the six MOU countries which includes the pattern and the method development for preventing and solving drug problems. The

mentioned agreement is expected to be a significant supporting factor in preventing and solving drug problems in this sub-region.

In Thailand, the high risk groups are composed of the target groups in educational institutions. At present, all educational institutions have the clear policies in preventing and solving drug problems, especially in the secondary and vocational schools. This is mainly because of the government policies, reflected by the rapid response from all educational levels continuously. However, each educational institution has different drug problems and drug user behaviors, depending on social and environmental factors. It is, therefore, essential that each educational institution should has a study on drug problems and also should develop the strategy, pattern and method for preventing and solving drug problems. After the ONCB considered such problems carefully, we found that the prevention and resolution of drug problems in educational institutions would be efficient and effective if all of us use the same standard in developing the pattern and the method for studying drug problems.

Activities of this project during the past year are as the following:

1) The Pre-workshop on the Pattern Development, the Studying Method and the Evaluation of Drug Problems in Educational Institutions which was held on 26-29 October 1999 in Bangkok;

2) The Workshop on the Enhancement of the Study and Evaluation of Drug Problems in Educational Institutions which was held on 10-14 January 1999 in Bangkok;

3) The Proposed 3rd Workshop on the Model Development and the Study of Drug Problems in Educational Institutions held on 28 February – 3 March 2000 in Bangkok;

4) The Proposed 4th Workshop on the Model Development and the Study of Drug Problems in Educational Institutions held on 14-17 March 2000 in Chonburi Province;

The targets of all these workshops were as follows:

1) To develop the pattern and the method for studying drug problems in educational institutions;

2) To enhance the understanding in materializing the pattern, the studying method and the drugs problem evaluation;

3) To study and evaluate drug problems occurred in educational institutions.

4.Enhancement of Drug Law Enforcement Training in East Asia

The project is designed to raise the level of knowledge and skills in the drug law enforcement community across the subregion through using computer-based training.

The project started with the finding of basic training needs in 6 MOU countries by Project Coordinator. The Regional Workshop on Drug Law Enforcement Training was organized on 6-8 July 1999 in Bangkok to explain the project concept and to introduce the use of computer-based training or CD-ROM to representatives of 6 MOU countries. Thailand was used as a pilot site for the project implementation and the northern provinces i.e. Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Tak

and Pitsanulok were selected to be pilot site for organizing computer-based training courses. The National Workshop on CD-ROM Narcotics Law Enforcement Training Package was organized on 27-29 October 1999 to identify the needs of concerned agencies on drug law enforcement training and to introduce the computer-based training. Seventeen sets of computer were distributed to selected agencies in the pilot provinces to organize pilot training courses on 15 December 1999-31 January 2000. The training for training managers of those pilot agencies was provided on 22-23 November 1999 in Chiang Mai.

3) Cooperation with International Organizations

The cooperation with international organizations on drug control has been continually maintained. The main international organizations are such as United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), Colombo Plan Secretariat, ASEAN, Interpol, European Union etc. The cooperation also covers the international non-government organizations such as IFNGO, Daytop International Inc., Worldview International Foundation, IOGT etc.

During 1999, the cooperation with international organizations on drug control can be summarized as follows:

United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

Thailand received good cooperation from UNDCP for technical and financial support. The coordination has been maintained for the bilateral and subregional cooperation. The short term project was implemented i.e. Development of School-based Treatment and Rehabilitation Programme which started the implementation in October 1997. The project terminated in March 1999 with the satisfactory result and the model of the project could be used in solving drug problem in schools.

The ONCB and UNDCP cooperated in organizing campaign against drugs on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Traffic. For 1999, the UNDCP theme was Turn on Music, Turn off Drugs, therefore, the music competition was organized by UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific with the cooperation of ONCB,

BEC-TERO Entertainment and Ministry of Education. The aims were to promote public awareness on drug problems among students and youths and to encourage them to say YES to music and say NO to drugs. The music competition was launched to encourage groups of students to create anti-drug music and songs. Over 200 schools and colleges from Bangkok and the provinces entered the competition. After two rounds of screening, 10 outstanding teams were chosen for the final competition which was held on 30 January 2000 at the Centre Point in Bangkok.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

In 1999, the 21st Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) was held during 6 – 8 April in Jakarta, Indonesia. Relevant decisions of various ASEAN Meetings pertaining to the ASOD were informed to the Meeting by the ASEAN Secretariat such as the First Meeting of 31st ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) held in 1997 agreed to suspend the formulation and endorsement of all project proposals designated for ASEAN Fund and the Japan – ASEAN Exchange Projects (JAEP). The Joint Declaration for a

Drug-Free ASEAN adopted by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in July 1998 were also informed and the ASEAN Secretariat requested ASEAN member countries to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Joint Declaration by utilizing the format prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat to compile relevant information on activities undertaken to implement the provisions of the Joint Declaration. Status of the ASOD projects were reported and the new project proposals were discussed and the country reports were presented. Moreover, working groups on preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation and research were convened.

During 15 – 19 November 1999, in a country training under the Training of Trainers in Interpersonal Skills and Peer Support Counseling in Drug Education Project (cost-sharing project) was organized in Bangkok and was attended by 33 Thai trainees from concerned agencies. Malaysia who is the project coordinator provided 3 lecturers for the Training.

Beside ASOD projects, the ASEAN regional workshop under the Community Awareness: the Drug Problem in the Region

Project which is under the ASEAN – COCI was also held between 19 – 22 September 1999 in Bandung, Indonesia.

Moreover, there were 2 meeting held during 1999. One was the 13th ASEAN – EC Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting during 24 – 27 May 1999 in Bangkok. The another meeting was the Senior Officials Meeting for the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime during 21 – 23 June 1999, Yangon, Myanmar.

The Colombo Plan Secretariat

The Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) of the Colombo Plan Secretariat organized the Advance Training for Women Counselors between 6 – 12 December 1999 in India and 3 Thai participants attended the Training. Moreover, in 1999, the DAP supported US \$ 1,500 to the Prathepsuwanmune Rehabilitation Center in Petchaburi Province, Thailand. In return, Thailand contributed US \$ 5,000 to support the work of the DAP because Thailand is a member of the Colombo Plan and have to contribute to the Colombo Plan every year.

European Union

Thailand has maintained the cooperation with European Union on drug control. European Union provided the assistance to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in the project entitled “Upgrading and Extension of BMA’s Services in the Field of Treatment, Care and Prevention of Drug Abuse” which is a 3-year project starting the implementation in 1998. The implementation was extended to end in February 2001. European Union also provided assistance to the NGO, Comunita Incontro for the implementation of Vocational Training of Ex-drug Addicts and Training for Thai Drug Rehabilitation Professionals in Lumsai.

Three project proposals were submitted by the ONCB at the 5th Thailand-EC Senior Officials Meeting which was held on 14-15 July 1999 in Bangkok by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The projects are as follows:

1. Agriculture for Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts Project in line with the Royal Initiative
2. Thai Youth Participation in Solving Drug Problems

3. Integration of Multilateral Cooperation and the Community in Narcotics Control

ICPO/Interpol

The cooperation with the ICPO/Interpol has been continually carried out through the exchange of information. Thailand sent representatives to attend the ICPO/Interpol meetings on various issues concerning drug law enforcement. Information printed in Weekly Intelligence Message was provided to concerned Thai agencies.

4) Workshops on Drug Matters

1. The 23rd Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLEA)

The 23rd Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific was organized by UNDCP at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 7-10 December

1999. The meeting was attended by heads of the national drug law enforcement agencies of the state members of ESCAP as well as observers from states outside the region and international organizations. The meeting reviewed the following operational issues:

- a) Illicit manufacture and distribution of stimulants
- b) Illicit traffic in heroin
- c) Illicit traffic via mail system

It recommended measures to be implemented at the national level, for promoting cooperation between the drug law enforcement services in the region. The joint data-sharing project between UNDCP, Interpol and the World Customs Organization was officially launched in June 1999.

2. The Second Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board cooperated with the NGO Anti-Narcotics Coordinating Center of National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, the Asia-Pacific NGO Committee on Drug and

Substance Abuse (ASPAC-NGO) and the Drug Abuse Prevention Network of Americas (DPNA) hosted the 2nd Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention on 8-12 November 1999 in Bangkok. The conference were supported by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Colombo Plan Secretariat and were attended by 290 participants from 43 countries and 6 organizations.

3. Intercountry Technical Workshop on the Prevention of Drug Use and HIV/AIDS

This workshop was co-organized by ESCAP, UNAIDS, UNDCP and WHO in Bangkok on 11-14 May 1999 for senior personnel of drug control and public health agencies dealing with HIV/AIDS in countries of South East Asia (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam).

The purpose of this workshop is as follows:

1) To update knowledge and skills on technologies for reducing the risk for

transmission of HIV among injecting drug users;

2) To exchange experiences and transfer technologies between drug control and public health agencies on addressing the joint problems of injecting drug use and HIV/AIDS;

3) To facilitate the establishment of working relations on issues related to injecting drug use and HIV/AIDS between drug control and public health agencies of countries in the region.

After the workshop, participants noted some important points as the following:

1) The number of countries that reported a problem with drug use as well as with HIV/AIDS were steadily increasing. Data indicated that no country in the world seems to be immune against drug use and HIV/AIDS;

2) Specific information from the region indicated that South East Asia also experienced a rapid growth of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among drug users, In some areas of the region, there were more than 70% of all injecting drug users who were already HIV-positive;

3) Experience from various regions in the world indicated that under circumstances the epidemic of HIV/AIDS could be prevented, stopped and even reverted. The successful interventions were governed by the following three principles: (a) to start early, before the zero-prevalence rates reach five per cent; (b) to provide drug user with the information they need to protect themselves; (c) to provide them with the practical means to prevent the transmission of HIV such as condoms, clean needles and syringes and oral drug substitution to reduce injecting drug use.

4. The ONCB/FANC Meeting and Observation Trip on Narcotics Control

The program was organized to realize the world communities of Royal Thai Government's long-standing threat to solve the drug problem as well as to demonstrate some measures undertaken in the northern border.

The meeting was held during January 19-20,2000 in Chiang Rai Province. The program was composed of the presentation and discussion on the narcotics

situation and narcotic control measures along Thai Myanmar Border as well as an observation trip at Doi Tung Highland Development Project (Royal Initiative) Thai-Myanmar border at Mae Sai and Tachilek and Golden Triangle Area along Thai/Lao PDR/Myanmar border. The participants comprised liaison officers stationed in Thailand from various countries and high ranking officials of Thai concerned authorities.

Oversea Visitors

Every year from the past, the ONCB welcomed numbers of foreign visitors who were interested in narcotics work. During the years of report, there were many interesting officials from oversea countries, regional and international organization both government and non-government agencies including distinguished guests. Some of the visitors were as follows:

April 1, 1999 A group of US Congress officers led by Mr. Jim Stinebower.

April 1, 1999 Mrs. Amanda Vanstone, Minister of Police and Customs of Australia.

July 6,1999 H.E. Mr. Kim Kook-Chin, Ambassador, the Embassy of Republic of Korea and Mr. Doo Ki Kim, Korea Custom officer.

September 6, 1999 A group of Netherlands senior officers led by Mr. B.A. Lutkon, Commissioner of Rotterdam Police.

September 27, 1999 A group of 27 Japanese officers led by Mr. Kazuharu Yagi, Second Secretary, the Embassy of Japan.

October 3-10, 1999 H.E. Dr. Thang Van Phuc, Deputy Minister of the Committee on Organization and Personnel of the Government of Vietnam.

October 22, 1999 H.E. Mr. William Norman Fisher, Ambassador, the Australian Embassy.

November 13, 1999 Commissioner Lars Nysten, Head of National Criminal Investigation Department of Sweden, study tour on Crops Replacement Project in northern region.

January 5,2000 Ms. Magnhild Meltveit Kleppa, Minister of Social Affairs of Norway.

February 11-14,2000 A group of 4 Norway officers led by Mr. Bjorn Solbakken, Secretary of State, study tour on Northern Narcotics Control Office.