

# Future Trend of Drug Situation in Thailand

Nowadays, drugs problem is becoming an international problem completely. The epidemic of drugs has spread to every regions in this world. The traffickers have formed the syndicate, strongly and efficiently worldwide. It is hardly to solve the problem individually. Every country in this world has to join hand and treat this problem as their major policies. Though Thai Government has more strictly focused its policy and suppression plan to solve the problem continuously, the problem seems more complicated and hard to reach. Comparing with last year, drugs producing, trafficking, and smuggling have obviously seen in the form of international cooperation. There are 4 main interesting factors, which are going to affect to the drugs control administrative operation and drugs situation in Thailand.

Firstly, the politic and ethnic minority groups in neighboring country remain the major concern that influences drug situation along Thai border in the next couple of years. Internal conflict in neighboring countries is the main reason that causes the necessity in obtaining fund for the army from drug business. So, it cannot be avoided that Thailand has to absorb the drug flooding, which is resulted from this effect.

Secondly, 60% of heroin produced from the Golden Triangle was transported

through China in the past. Since last year, China has emphasized on drugs transit control by using the most strict measure to the traffickers, which pressed the change of transit route to Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and India. Moreover, the reversion to Chinese sovereignty of Hong Kong is another reason that makes the international criminal groups move their base into Thailand.

Thirdly, the expansion of international economic cooperation in this region affects the flourish of drugs. The

development of international transportation routes within the region is the major factor that supports drugs trafficking and transferring more convenient. Thus, drug produced from the Golden Triangle is expected to spread widely and continually through other regions.

Lastly, the social and cultural change caused by the economic and technology advancement attract the people involved in drug business. The reason is the desire to obtain money in order to fulfill their satisfaction and upgrade their standard of living in industrialized and materialized society within short period.

According to the past experience of methamphetamine situation, it is expected undoubtedly to be the major drug epidemic in this region next year. 90% of methamphetamine is supplied within the countries. The transition of methamphetamine from the neighboring country to the other parts of Thailand tends to increase. More than 1 million tablets are transported each time. Also, the producing capacity within the country and in the

neighboring country has not tended to decrease. The transit route is expected to be changed, because of the strict suppression measures implementation of Thai authorities. In addition, the production base has been moved back to the Central in order to avoid the interception along the border of Thailand.

The domestic demand of marihuana is expected steady, while heroin is expected decreased. The production of marihuana in Thailand tends to decrease next year, since the import from the neighboring countries will increase instead. Besides, the demand of marihuana in foreign market still exists, such as Malaysia, Indonesia, United States, and Europe. So, Thailand is going to be the major transit route of marihuana from the neighboring country to the third countries. According to heroin situation, more than 80% of heroin will be exported to the other countries, especially the United States and Europe. In conclusion, these three types of drugs still play the most important drugs in Thailand next year.

Drug problems in 4 regions are varied according to the geography, characteristic of drug situation, and the prevention and suppression capability of the authorities in each region. The solution should be obvious and fulfilled all aspects concerned in order to alleviate the problems. In order to accomplish drug problem solving in the country, Thai Government by the ONCB sets up many operational plans to fight against drugs covering both demand and supply reduction.

On demand reduction, the operation is mainly in accordance with the Prime Minister Order No.141/B.E.2541 (1998) in order to efficiently control drugs expanding and drugs epidemic by unique cooperation of every sectors. Not only mobilizing the public to fight against drugs and put pressure on drug criminal, but also emphasizing on the treatment and rehabilitation, by supporting the enhancement of potential and efficiency of the existing treatment and rehabilitation centers. The proceeding narcotics control work offensively by stressing on

prevention strategy rather than solving the problem. And the realizing on the research on narcotic problems, such as the wanderer kids, which aim to study the behavior of drug use and epidemic, is another policy next year.

On supply reduction, the law enforcement policy still remains focusing on suppression and interception measures, as well as target to the major producers, traffickers, and their syndicate. So, the cooperation among related organizations within the country and abroad has to be the most important thing to be done. According to the accomplishment of the Prime Minister Order No.192/B.E.2541 (1998), the implementation of drugs suppression and interception along the border in all parts of the country has expanded. Also, the implementation under the Office of the Prime Minister's Regulation of Measure on Prevention of Government Officials from Drug Offenses will be continued, in order to decrease the high powered groups action in drugs business.

This year, the drug agencies concerned in Thailand have focused on the chemicals control measures, especially the illicit import of major precursor in methamphetamine producing, such as caffeine. At present, the examining and control of chemical precursors, tablet making machines and instruments, which are transmitted outside Thailand, has been emphasized. As these strict measures, Thai Government expects that drug producers will be affected on producing materials shortage. However, the concentrate precursor, which is going to be imported into Thailand, will be larger in the future.

The Royal Thai Government has emphasized on the cooperation among various countries in fighting against illicit drugs in the world, as the main policy. Thailand has encouraged the collaboration with other countries in bilateral, sub-regional, and international levels continuously. The cooperation has been carried out through the exchange of information, experiences, and other necessary operational cooperation on drug control.