

## Prevention Approaches and Activities

Drug prevention works need the cooperation from all government agencies, private sectors and people organization in order to achieve suitable policy on drug prevention, monitoring on the drug situation and trends of drug abuse in each target.

The main policy of the implementation on drug prevention in the year 1998 are as follows:

1. Create a complete cycle of drug prevention by coordinating with youth groups both in-school and out of school, community group and workplace group.

2. Make the public realize about the danger of drugs by using all types of media.

3. Coordinating and monitoring on the Anti-Drug Sports Playground project by using clear strategies and long term plans.

4. Closely coordinate with government agencies, private sectors and people organizations which work on treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and processing the data received from them.

5. Coordinating with concerned parties in order to support and monitor the

establishment of pilot project on the rehabilitation centre for drug addicts according to Narcotics Addict Rehabilitation Act E.E. 2534 (1997).

Activities and projects on drug prevention have been carried out continually to solve drug problems in our society. We have focused our work on 4 target groups which comprise of school-based group, communitiesbased group, workplace group and special group. However, the Royal Thai Government has given most attention to the school-based group since the number of youth offenders are accounted for more than 50% or 57,000 out of 110,000 offenders according to the drug offenders data in 1997. Some significant drug prevention activities and projects in the recent years can be summarized as follows;

# **1. Drug Prevention in Schools**

## **1.1 Teachers Training Course on Counseling Techniques**

In 1998, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration had joined together in organizing a nationwide training course on counselling techniques for school teachers. The rationale behind the project was that the epidemic of methamphetamine has become so severe and thus dramatically extending to school children. Therefore, the training course provides the knowledge on counselling for school teachers in order to enable them to help their students who have problems with drugs. The project covers 34 provinces which have severe drug epidemic problems and aims to solve the problem in risk school children group and drug addicts group.

## **1.2 Friends for Friends Group**

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board in collaboration with the

Education Department, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and Thai Red Cross have organized training courses for key leader students in order to make them capable of solving their problems and become leaders in drug prevention campaign in schools. In 1998, 867 key leader students from 50 schools were trained in the project. It is expected that the project will be extended to 379 schools around Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in the near future.

## **1.3 White School Project**

White School Project has been set up by the Ministry of Education in order to make schools free from drugs, obscene media, gambling and quarreling. The resources from schools and communities were mobilized to run this project. The emphasis has been put on the warm family, pleasant community and dependable school for students.

## **1.4 Life Skill Education for Prevention of Drugs and Deviation Behavior Project**

Life Skill Education has been taught to the student in order to prevent them from drugs, enable them to think systematically and make wise decision.

Under this project, peer groups against drug abuse have been integrated into Thai School system. These groups are such as Friends for Friends Group, Friends Warn Friends Group and Friends Help Friends Group. Members of these groups will be trained in life skill particularly communication skill, stress coping skill, problem solving skill and basic counselling skill. They will become leaders in conducting prevention activities in their school and assist their teacher in identifying and solving drug abuse problems in schools.

## **2. Narcotics Control in the Community**

### **2.1 Narcotics Control in the Severe Epidemic Community**

The project has been developed from the Community Network on Drug Control Project and lasting for 5 years (1997-2001). The objective of

the project is to encourage the cooperation among the communities, government agencies and private organizations. The target areas cover 1,118 communities in 60 provinces. These communities are selected from the communities which have been participating in the Community Network on Drug Control Project, the communities with severe epidemic problem and the communities which are ready and applied for the project. After 2 years of the project, over 700 communities have the potential to be responsible for their own drug problems. They are able to mobilize people for anti-drug campaign and organize many beneficial events that encourage people to stay away from drugs.

### **2.2 Narcotics Control in Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Project.**

Due to the difference in the administration system of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and other provinces, the ONCB has separated the narcotics control works of Bangkok from other provinces. The target areas cover 57 communities from 50 districts of Bangkok



*H.E. Mr. Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister presided over one of the opening of the sports playground in Bangkok.*

### **2.3 Anti-Drug Sports Playground Project**

The objective of the project is to provide sport playground for the people in the communities all over the country. It encourages people to play sports and get some exercise in order to stay away from drugs. Since February 1997 to October 1998, a number of sports playground have been set up throughout the country; 709 in Bangkok and 3,824 in other provinces.

## **3. Promotion and Coordination for Anti-drugs Campaign**

### **3.1 Sports without Drug Campaign**

On the occasion that Thailand hosted the 13th Asian Games on 6-20 December 1998, the ONCB in cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) have organized a

campaign against drugs and prohibited substances among the athletes by using the motto "We Support Sports without Drugs." The project aims to encourage people to play sports instead of using drugs and make the athletes realize the danger of drugs and prohibited substances.

### **3.2 Just Say No! Project**

Just say No! project is a joint project between the ONCB and the Grammy Entertainment Company. The objectives of the project are to make the youth realize the danger of drugs and create youth leaders and community leaders to fight against drugs epidemic. Activities under the project are such as the school DJ training and contest, Youth Leaders Camp, Urgent Drug lines, etc.



*Thai artists and movie stars joined the activities in "Just Say NO!" Project.*

### **3.3 Thai Stars Against Drugs Project**

The project is implemented in order to promote campaign against drugs by using artists and movie stars to mobilize the public to stay away from drugs. Under this project, movie stars and singers who are involved with drugs will be banned for 2 years. For those who have good behavior will be awarded every year.

### **3.4 Villages/Community Free from Drugs to Celebrate His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej Birthday**

The Project has been approved by the government as an important project in celebrating His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej sixth cycle birthday. On this project, the Ministry of Interior is the

operating unit and ONCB is the supporting unit. The ONCB will evaluate the villages/communities. Every community and village that are free from drugs will receive the "Free from Drugs Flag" given by His Majesty the King.

### **4. Produce and Distribute Media for Drug Prevention**

The ONCB always provides knowledge on drug prevention to the public via various media which are produced under these projects:

- Distribution of Knowledge to Fight against Drugs
- Anti-Amphetamine in the Industrial Sector
- Anti-Amphetamine in School

### **5. Important Activities in 1999**

On the occasion of the celebration for His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej sixth cycle birthday on 5 December 1999 and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the ONCB has cooperated with several government agencies, private

sectors and people organization in order to organize activities

against drugs. The activities on this occasion were as follows:



*H.E. Mr. Julin Laksanawisit, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office presided over the Campaign against Drugs marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26, 1999.*

1. A press conference on "The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" held on 15 June 1999 at the Government House.

2. "The Campaign against Drugs" held on 26 June 1999 at Central Department Store Rama 3

3. A press conference on "The Stars against Drugs Club" held on 29 June 1999 at the Government House.

These activities reflect the growing concern of the Thai government and emphasize on the Strong attempts in wiping out the drugs from our society. However, the government alone can not handle such a major problem. Therefore, the mobilization of government agencies, private sectors and

people organizations in participating on the activities against drugs is very important. This approach in now well intergrated to all narcotics control policy in order to achieve the most efficient results.



*A press conference on the international Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking chaired by H.E. Major General Sanan Kajornprasart, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.*