



# Message

**Ms. Patricia Yoon-Moi Chia**  
**Secretary-General**  
**The Colombo Plan**

The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was launched in 1951, recognized and reacted in a significant way to the drug issues in the Asia Pacific region as early as 1970s. The Drug Advisory Program was established by the Colombo Plan in 1973 to strengthen and maintain regional capability to participate effectively in international control and prevention of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Since its inception, the CPDAP's activities are based on the philosophy that the prevention and control of drug abuse require the combined efforts of Governments, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and communities. CPDAP has consistently maintained a policy of supporting and encouraging the mobilization of NGOs as partners in the implementation of drug demand reduction strategies in member countries. It was in this spirit that the Colombo Plan co-sponsored the first three NGO international conferences in Jakarta in 1979, in Manila in 1980 and in Kuala Lumpur in 1981. We are extremely pleased that our collaborative intervention led to the establishment of the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations (IFNGO) for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse to help in sharing experiences and strengthening the lines of cooperation amongst a large number of NGOs which are involved in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in the region. Since then, the IFNGO has been contributing immensely to the overall efforts of drug demand reduction in the region. This includes the establishment of the IFNGO ASEAN NGO Forum which had its first conference in 1990 in Kuala Lumpur.

Our support to this 17<sup>th</sup> IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop is in line with our objective of harnessing NGOs and community resources to assist member Governments to reduce drug related problems. We believe that an effective partnership between government organizations and NGOs would be the most effective mechanism which can reach communities at risk, to deliver treatment services to drug dependents and mobilize the larger community towards drug prevention and awareness.

The Colombo Plan Secretariat wishes to record our deepest appreciation to BASMIDA (*Persatuan Basmi Dadah*), the National Anti-Drug Association of Brunei Darussalam, for coming forward to host the 17<sup>th</sup> IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop from 3-5 December 2007 in Bandar Seri Begawan. On this occasion, we would also like to assure member Governments and NGOs of Colombo Plan's continuous support to your efforts to address the drug issue, particularly in the fields of capacity building and human resource development.

I wish the participants of this conference success in your deliberations.