

REPORT  
OF  
THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE SIGNATORIES TO  
THE 1993 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON DRUG CONTROL  
Siemreap, Cambodia  
17 – 18 May 2005

**1. Introduction**

The senior officials Committee Meeting (SOC) of the signatories to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control was held in Siemreap, Cambodia From 17 to 18 May 2005.

**2. Opening of the Meeting and Election of Chair**

Mr. Loy Sophat, Permanent Vice-Chairman of the National Authority for Combating Drugs welcomed the Delegates and mentioned that each signatory countries of the MOU and UNODC had always shared views, strategic plans, best practices, and developed new Action Plan to effectively combat illicit drugs in this region. He requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the international community and the well-advanced countries to assist in strengthening the capacity of drug control institutions in the region for more effective efforts in drug control activities.

The Delegations were welcomed to the Meeting by Mr. Chartchai Suthiklom, Head of the Thai Delegation, in the capacity of previous Chairmanship of the MOU SOC Meeting held in Krabi, Thailand in May 2004.

The Meeting unanimously elected Mr. Teng Savong, Under Secretary of State of Ministry of Interior, and Secretary General of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, Cambodia, as Chairperson. The Chairperson thanked all Delegations for his election and,

on behalf of the Government of Cambodia, welcomed the Delegates and expressed his pleasure in hosting the Meeting.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft Agenda was proposed and adopted by the Meeting.

### 4. Statements by the National Delegations and UNODC

The Heads of the National Delegations and UNODC each made statements. The Delegations thanked the Cambodian Government for hosting the meeting and providing excellent support.

The following are some highlights of the statements made by the Delegations.

The Head of the **Cambodian** Delegation informed the Meeting that significant progress had been made in drug control efforts. Cambodia's drug law enforcement was further strengthened with the amendment of the existing drug control legislation and accession to the three United Nations Conventions by the National Assembly. Furthermore, the first-ever five year's national master plan on drug control had been prepared and implemented from 2005. This plan mapped out specific activities covering the three major fields of drug control, namely demand reduction, including drug-related harm reduction-alternative development and law enforcement. Further, a Principle Guideline for treatment and rehabilitation had been also drafted which would be completed soon

The Head of the **Chinese** Delegation noted that the countries of the subregion had carried out practical cooperation and achieved remarkable success in various fields of drug control. In order to further strengthen the MOU mechanism, he proposed that intelligence exchange and law enforcement cooperation be improved and strengthened among the MOU countries. As for alternative development, substantial assistance on funding, technology and favourable marketing policies be provided for poppy cultivation areas of the

region. He further called for more efforts on preventive education, as well as treatment and rehabilitation for ATS abusers. He added that the Chinese Government will continue to conduct practical and effective cooperation with subregional counterparts, support UNODC to play its unique role in the regional drug control cooperation and make greater contribution for the containment and eradication of regional drug problems.

The Head of the **Lao PDR** Delegation emphasized that through concerted efforts and joint actions amongst the MOU countries, important contributions could be made towards making the region free from drug by the year 2015. He further mentioned that the Lao Government had declared 7 provinces and 31 districts as opium-free, and that it would accomplish the goal to eliminate opium by 2005. Four main factors such as providing comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation to the remaining opium addicts, providing adequate alternative development, providing adequate law enforcement and preventing and controlling of the high demand for illicit drugs were cited as indispensable factors to ensure the sustainability of opium elimination in the country.

The Head of the **Myanmar** Delegation stressed that opium cultivation and production had decreased significantly over the years due to the implementation of the Fifteen Year Plan launched in 1999 with three, five-year phases. He informed the Meeting that the Wa Special Region Two would declare the ban on opium cultivation on 26 June 2005, which would make the high-density areas along the border with China free of opium. Results of the Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme survey showed a decrease in the cultivation of poppy and the production of opium in 2004. This trend was equally confirmed by the United States Opium Yield Survey results. The delegate further highlighted several successful drug interdiction cases in 2004, involving cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries, particularly the case of 592.5 kilograms of heroin seized from the fishing trawler Soe San Zone that led to the investigation and arrest of drug traffickers in Thailand and Yunnan Province of China. He further referred to the recently enacted legislations of anti-money

laundering and mutual legal assistance underlining that Myanmar now stood ready for cooperation in line with international norms and practices.

The Head of the UNODC Delegation stressed the need to look into new dimensions of MOU activities as drug trafficking routes and patterns changed, and drug abuse followed along such routes. There was also a need to further enhance mutual legal assistance, including extradition, establish adequate criminal justice system, and work effectively with the judiciary. With continued alternative development efforts and eradication, Southeast Asia had continued to see a continuous decline in the illicit opium production. With continued efforts and eradication, the region expected to see a further decrease in the illicit opium production. However, he mentioned that it would be essential to make this process sustainable by working on farmers' well being, and not on their fears. Regional support was required, including sharing of best practices, and securing regional and international markets for alternative products.

#### **5. Implementation of the Subregional Action Plan (SAP) programme : Demand Reduction**

UNODC provided an overview of the demand reduction situation in the region. The following are some of the highlights mentioned:

- There was a shift in consumption of opiates with opium abuse declining and heroin abuse increasing;
- Methamphetamine abuse continued to rise, with all countries except Thailand reporting increased use;
- The rapid growth of ATS abuse especially among youth remained one of the greatest social concerns in the region;
- In specific geographic areas, HIB/AIDS amongst IDUs reached 70% and beyond; but service coverage continued to be limited to only 1% of IDUs;
- Rates of drug abusers sharing injecting equipment remained high in the region (over 50%); and

- Transmission of HIV/AIDS in custodial settings showed alarming trends where data is available.

Moreover, UNODC provided the status of implementation of the following projects:

- Improving ATS Data and Information Systems (AD/RAS/02/F97);
- Primary Prevention of ATS abuse among youth in Thailand and the Philippines (AD/RAS/01/G07);
- Reducing HIV Vulnerability from Drug Abuse (AD/RAS/02/G22);
- Strengthening Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Drug Users and in Prison Settings (AD/RAS/05/I09)

#### 6. Implementation of the Subregional Action Plan Programme: Sustainable Alternative Development

A regional overview on opium production, progress of sustainable alternative development programmes in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and of opium monitoring programmes were presented by UNODC.

Some of the highlights mentioned were:

- There is a significant reduction of the illicit opium production;
- The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) report of 2004 indicated that 90% of global methamphetamine seizures took place in East and Southeast Asia;
- Cannabis continued to be cultivated throughout East and Southeast Asia

UNODC also presented a brief summary of a new project on [“Regional Collaboration on Community-based Alternative Development to Eliminate Opium Production](#)

in Southeast Asia(AD/RAS/04/H84)” and on future regional support and collaboration on sustainable alternative development.

The meeting was informed that there was considerable experience in the alternative development in the region that may be applicable to cannabis cultivation. Cambodia could avail of this through its involvement in the above mentioned project. It was also cautioned that the profile of cannabis cultivation varied from that of opium in that cannabis was more often cultivated on a plantation situation, where as poppy was a subsistence crop.

### 7. Implementation of Subregional Action Plan Programme: Law Enforcement

A brief overview of the situation in the region regarding the supply of illicit drugs and law enforcement activities was presented by UNODC some of the highlights noted were:

- The increased seizures of crystallized methamphetamine manufactured in Myanmar, most likely aimed for destinations outside of the subregion is an indication that manufactures are looking for new products and markets;
- Precursor chemicals are still not adequately controlled by some countries in the subregion;
- Diversion of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudo-ephedrine was again detected in Malaysia in 2004
- The Philippines continued with a record number of clandestine drug laboratory seizures in 2004.

The implementation status of the following ongoing projects was also provided.

- Precursor Control in East Asia(AD/RAS/00/F34);
- Development of Cross-border Law Enforcement Cooperation in East Asia(AD/RAS/97/D91)

## 8. Support for MOU Partnership in East Asia

A representative from the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), Cambodia presented the project “Support for MOU Partnership” and informed the Meeting of the current status of implementation and the outcome of the Focal Points Meeting held in February, 2005 hosted by the Cambodian Government. The following were some of the highlights presented:

- “The Project Design and Management Training” was held in December 2004 in Yangon, hosted by the Government of Myanmar. Over 30 participants attended from the MOU countries as well as from NGOs in Myanmar.
- The “Consultative Project Formulation Workshop” was held in Kunming from 1 to 4 February 2005, hosted by the Government of China. Over 20 participants from the MOU countries attended. Two draft project documents “Improvement Access for Young People with ATS Abuse to Effective Treatment” and “Enhancement of Judicial Sector and Law Enforcement Capacity, Mutual Legal Assistance and subregional Cooperation in East Asia” were drafted, assisted by two technical consultants and two UNODC Regional Centre staff. These documents were circulated to all MOU partners for approval.
- In February, 2005, a second Focal Points Meeting was hosted by the Cambodian Government. The main outcome of the Focal Points Meeting was as follows:
  - Agreed upon workplan for February 2005 to February 2006;
  - Use of project funds for 2005 to 2006;
  - The Focal Points Meeting noted with appreciation, the financial contributions made to the project by all MOU partners. At the same time, the Meeting requested those countries which had not fully met the financial contributions to do so;
  - The Meeting agreed to provide inputs to the revision of the Subregional Action Plan (SAP), and submitted new project proposals to be selected for

inclusion in the SAP for implementation at the up-coming MOU Meeting in May 2005.

Recommendations:

- The Myanmar delegate informed the Meeting that the outstanding contribution from Myanmar would be available soon. He further requested to include training on understanding and implementation of the United Nations Conventions in the list of project proposals for consideration.
- As no priority proposals were selected by the Meeting it was agreed that countries would forward their proposals to UNODC for coordination and submission to MOU partners for consideration.

#### 9. Review and Update of Subregional Action Plan

The Thai delegation presented the draft revised Subregional Action Plan for discussion and endorsement at the Ministerial Meeting on 19 May 2005.

Recommendations

The meeting endorsed the revised Subregional Action Plan, with the following amendments:

- Paragraph 1.5 of page 1: to replace the last sentence “enhancing legal assistance and cooperation and exploring action to counter money-laundering from proceeds of illicit drugs to finance terrorism” with “enhancing legal assistance and cooperation and exploring actions to counter money-laundering”.
- Paragraph 4.15.iii. : To delete the paragraph “Development of a computer-based training (CBT) programme to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers” ...etc

#### 10. Discussion of “Draft Siemreap Declaration” and “Draft Press Release”

The Meeting endorsed the draft Siemreap Declaration and the draft Press Release after the amendments.

#### 11. Presentation of the Draft Agenda for the Ministerial Meeting on 19 May 2005

The draft agenda for the Ministerial Meeting was discussed and approved.

#### 12. Venue and Timing of next MOU Meeting

The Delegation of Lao PDR expressed the willingness to host the next Senior Officials Committee Meeting in May 2006, in Lao PDR.

The Chinese Delegation expressed to host the next Ministerial Meeting in May 2007 in China.

Details on the venue and timing will be communicated to all MOU Signatory countries.

#### 13. Nomination for the Review of the Draft SOC Meeting report

The Delegations were requested to nominate a representative to review the draft SOC Meeting report who will also attend a review meeting on 19 May 2005. The nominated representatives were:

Cambodia	:	Mr. Lay Kimly
China	:	Mr. Zhao Wanpeng and Mr. Jiang Meng
Lao PDR	:	Dr. Phienephen Pholsena
Myanmar	:	Pol. Col Thein Kyi
Thailand	:	Ms. Rachanikorn Sarasiri and Ms. Chariya Sinpatananon
Vietnam	:	Pol. Lt. Nguyen Duc Long
UNODC	:	Mr. Burkhard Dammann and Ms. Soe Yee Saing

#### 14. Any Other Business

A proposal was made to hold a “Retreat of the Ministers” on the occasion of the next Ministerial Meeting in 2007. The purpose was to have an informal session among all Ministers and the UNODC Secretariat preceding the Ministerial Meeting. The host Government of the next Ministerial Meeting will coordinate with UNODC on the logistical arrangements.

#### 15. Concluding Remarks by the National Delegations and UNODC

All Delegations expressed their appreciation for the Government of Cambodia’s hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

#### 16. Closure of the Meeting

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation for constructive and open discussions by all Delegations.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 17.00 hrs.

**Source : UNODC Regional Center for East Asia and the Pacific**