



## REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON DRUG MATTERS (ASOD)

21-22 August 2007, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

### INTRODUCTION

1. The 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) was held from 21 to 22 August 2007 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

2. The Meeting was attended by Dato Haji Abdul Majid bin Mangarshah, Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, Brunei Darussalam, Pol. Lt-Gen. Lour Ramin, Secretary-General, National Authority for Combating Drugs, Kingdom of Cambodia, Pol Com. Gen. Drs. Made Mangku Pastika, Executive Director, National Narcotics Board, Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Ounseng Vixay, Head of Permanent Secretariat, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, Lao PDR; Prof. Mahmood Nazar bin Mohamed, Deputy Director-General (Operational), National Anti-Drug Agency, Malaysia, Pol. Col. Tin Maung Maung, Director of International Cooperation, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Union of Myanmar; Undersecretary Romeo G. Vera Cruz, Vice Chairman, Dangerous Drugs Board, Republic of the Philippines; Mr. Ng Seng Liang, Director, Central Narcotics Bureau, Republic of Singapore; Mr. Chartchai Suthiklom, Senior Narcotics Control Advisor, Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Kingdom of Thailand, Pol. Sr. Col. Nguyen Cong Son, Director, Standing Office on Drugs Control, Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Mr. Keo Chhea, Coordinator, Specialised Programmes Unit, Bureau for External Relations and Coordination, the ASEAN Secretariat; and their respective delegates.

3. Observers from ICPO-INTERPOL and International Federation of Non-Government Organisations for the Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) attended the Open Session of the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD. The List of Delegates and Observers appears as **ANNEX 1**.

### OPENING CEREMONY

4. Pol. Sr. Col. Nguyen Cong Son, Director, Standing Office on Drugs Control of Viet Nam, delivered Welcome Remarks, in which he welcomed all Delegates to the Meeting.

5. His Excellency Pol. Sr. Lt. Gen Le The Tiem, Vice Minister of Public Security of Viet Nam graced the Opening Ceremony of the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD and delivered the Opening Speech. In his remarks, Pol. Sr. Lt. Gen Le The Tiem underscored the importance of ASOD in achieving the goals of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015. While commending ASEAN Member Countries for their successful efforts in significantly

reducing production of opium, he drew their attention to the fact that the region is facing increasing threats of synthetic drugs such as ATS (Amphetamine-Type Stimulants). In this regard, he called on ASEAN Member Countries to intensify efforts in the field of drugs control and expressed confidence that the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD would produce strategies that strengthen regional cooperation in dealing with the emerging threats and ensuring the attainment of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015. Full text of the Opening Speech appears as **ANNEX 2**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: TRANSFER OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF ASOD**

6. Mr. Chartchai Suthiklom, Senior Narcotics Control Advisor, Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand, handed over the Chairmanship of the Meeting to Pol. Maj. Gen. Cao Xuan Hong. The Meeting then unanimously elected Dato Haji Abdul Majid bin Mangarshah, Director of Narcotics Control Bureau, Brunei Darussalam, as Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. The Meeting considered and adopted the agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS**

8. The Meeting was held in Plenary Session and in five Working Group Sessions on Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Law Enforcement, Research and Alternative Development.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION AND PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY REPORTS**

9. The Heads of Delegation congratulated the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson on their elections and thanked the Standing Office on Drugs Control of Viet Nam for its warm hospitality extended to their respective delegations. ASEAN Member countries made presentations on the progress of their respective national efforts on drugs control. In their presentations, ASEAN Member Countries shared Pol. Sr. Lt. Gen Le The Tiem's assessment that despite its significant success in the eradication of opium poppy production, the drug situation in the region remains grave, particularly due to emergence of new synthetic drugs, increasingly complex web of illicit drugs trafficking and their severe impacts on the society. In this regard, ASEAN Member Countries agreed that a comprehensive approach of drugs control that involved all elements of the society and enhanced cooperation at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels that included sharing of information and best practices on drugs control are critical. In this connection, the Meeting noted Thailand's approval of the Philippines' request for sharing of best practices on alternative development, which it had extended to Aceh province of Indonesia. The Country Reports appear as **ANNEX 4**.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TAKEN DURING THE 27<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF ASOD**

**5.1 Follow-up proposed workshop/Training and Project activities**

10. The Meeting noted Singapore's briefing on the preparation for the implementation of "Basic Training Course on Investigation on Anti-Drug Money Laundering: Second Phase" project, which would be funded by Japan General Exchange Fund (JAGEF) and scheduled to be held in Singapore on 28 November to 7 December 2007.

11. Singapore also briefed the Meeting on the progress of a project on joint training programme with the Australian Federal Police on "Integrated Narcotics Enforcement Programmes".

12. Thailand briefed the Meeting on the progress of its project on "Precursor and Chemical Control for ASEAN Narcotics Law Enforcement Officers which was implemented in Thailand in July 2007. Thailand also informed the Meeting that it would host a course for anti-narcotics law enforcement officials from 18 countries on 10-21 September 2007.

13. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat's briefing on the status of a proposed project on "ASEAN Controlled Delivery Training" which would be implemented by National Narcotics Board (NNB) of Indonesia. The proposed project had been approved by ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) and was being submitted to China for funding consideration.

14. The Meeting was also briefed by the ASEAN Secretariat on the progress of project on "Study on Achieving a Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Status and Recommendations" which commenced on 9 July 2007 and is expected to be completed by end of October 2007. The Meeting noted suggestions from Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam on the need for an agreed definition of "a drug-free" situation and a regional database by which ASEAN Member Countries' efforts in achieving a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015 could be measured. The Meeting also noted the ASEAN Secretariat's clarification that the purpose of the study is, among others, to propose a benchmark by which "a drug-free" situation can be measured and that a workshop be convened to discuss the findings of the study. The Secretariat's briefing appears as **ANNEX 5**.

**5.2 Follow-up on ASEAN Cooperation and Coordination with Dialogue Partners and relevant Regional Organisation**

15. On ASEAN's cooperation and coordination with its Dialogue Partners, the ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meetings of ACCORD Task Forces and the status of ACCORD Account. The Secretariat's briefing appears as **ANNEX 6**.

16. On ASEAN's cooperation with relevant Regional Organisations, the Meeting was briefed by the ASEAN Secretariat on the report of the ASEAN-ECO Workshop-cum-Study Visit on Combating Illicit Drugs, which would be implemented with the support from Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand later this year. The project proposal

was submitted to Japan for funding consideration under JAGEF. The Secretariat's briefing appears as **ANNEX 7**.

### **5.3 Follow-up of Recommendations of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD**

17. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat's briefing on the follow-up of the recommendations of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD, which appears as **ANNEX 8**. The Meeting endorsed Thailand's proposal that follow-up measures of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD be discussed at the Working Group sessions in the following day.

### **5.4 Draft ASOD Work Plan**

18. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat's briefing on the draft ASOD Work Plan, which appears as **ANNEX 9**. The Meeting noted the Philippines's clarification that it has submitted two inputs on the draft ASEAN Work Plan to the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting also noted Viet Nam's suggestions on the need to improve the draft Work Plan so that it could serve as an effective guideline for ASEAN Member Countries in enhancing cooperation on drugs control, particularly in attaining the goals of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015. In this regard, the Meeting endorsed suggestions from the Philippines and Viet Nam to convene a workshop to draft ASOD Work Plan. The workshop may be convened in conjunction with the above-mentioned workshop on the study of achieving a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015.

### **5.5 Reports of Relevant ASEAN Meetings**

19. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat's briefing on the reports of other ASEAN Meetings related to combating illicit drug trafficking such as the 11<sup>th</sup> ASLOM, 7<sup>th</sup> SOMTC, 10<sup>th</sup> DGICM, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ASCCO and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> SOC-COM, which appears as **ANNEX 10**. The Meeting noted Thailand's suggestion on the need to enhance cooperation between ASOD and other ASEAN sectoral bodies involved on drug matters so as to avoid programme duplications, and the need for a reporting line mechanism through which ASOD's decisions could be transmitted to and for consideration by ASEAN Leaders. The Meeting also noted Indonesia's offer to ASEAN Member Countries to use its Transnational Crime Centre (TNCC) facilities and joint inter-agency coordination and operation centre of Indonesian National Narcotics Board for information exchange. In this regard, the Meeting agreed that those issues be discussed at the above-mentioned workshop on the study of achieving a drug-free ASEAN and on the draft ASOD Work Plan, to be held later this year.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: ASEAN BASELINE SURVEY**

20. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat's briefing on the ASEAN Baseline Report, which appears as **ANNEX 11**. The Meeting agreed that the above-mentioned workshop would also discuss inputs ASOD might have on the key indicators for ASEAN Baseline Report, for transmission to and further discussion at the forthcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> SOC-COM in November 2007.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ASEAN CHARTER**

21. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat's briefing on the progress of the establishment of the ASEAN Charter, which appears as **ANNEX 12**. The ASEAN Secretariat informed that any recommendations and suggestions for the establishment of ASEAN Charter be coordinated internally within individual ASEAN Member Country. The Meeting noted Thailand's clarification that it had, in its capacity as Chairman of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD, provided inputs to the High Level Task Force on ASEAN Charter in the course of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASCCO held at the ASEAN Secretariat on 10-11 July 2007. In this regard, the Meeting agreed on two approaches on the matter: (i) each ASOD Focal Points of ASEAN Member Country provide inputs on the Charter through their respective national members of the HLTF and (ii) each ASOD Focal Points submit their inputs to the current Chairperson of ASOD, for transmission to and consideration by HLTF, which would consult with ASEAN sectoral bodies in the course of the forthcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> SOCCOM in November 2007.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: WORKING GROUP SESSIONS**

18. The five Working Group sessions were on preventive education (chaired by the Philippines), treatment and rehabilitation (chaired by Malaysia), law enforcement (chaired by Thailand), research (chaired by Singapore) and alternative development (chaired by Viet Nam). During the Working Group Sessions, each country shared its experiences and best practices in their respective areas. Member Countries also submitted various recommendations for consideration at the plenary session.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF WORKING GROUP SESSIONS**

19. The Meeting considered and adopted the reports of the Working Groups which appear as **ANNEX 13**.

20. The key recommendations of the Working Groups endorsed by the Meeting are as follows:

- a) Endorsement of Thailand's concept paper on Training Workshop for Youth Leaders on Social Development and Drug Abuse Prevention;
- b) Extension of exchange programmes on anti-drug awareness not only among the youth/students, but also to include parents and teachers associations;
- c) Exchange of information and materials (in English) on drug treatment and rehabilitation.
- d) Commencement of a study on precursor disposal, seeking the most effective and economical way to manage seize precursors appropriately so as to cause no pollution to the environment and damage to people's health.
- e) Establishment of "an opium poppy-free" definition as one of the indicators in defining "a drug-free" situation.

- f) Adoption of a comprehensive approach on alternative development and its integration with social, educational and poverty alleviation programmes.

21. The Meeting agreed that the chairmanship of the Working Groups be rotated on alphabetical order. The Meeting tasked Chairmen of the Working Groups to monitor implementation of each of the Working Group's recommendations. In this connection, the Meeting welcomed Indonesia's offer to chair the forthcoming Working Group on Alternative Development.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL PAPERS**

22. No technical paper was discussed.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: DISCUSSION OF NEW PROPOSALS**

23. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on 2 project proposals on (i) "Providing Prevention Tools for the Grassroots Service Providers in ASEAN", and (ii) "Upgrading Specific Drug Law Enforcement/Investigation Skills, including Key Chemical Identification, Labs Investigation and Handling and Controlled Deliveries in ASEAN", which appear as **ANNEX 14**. The Meeting endorsed the two concept papers and tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to process them through ASEAN mechanism.

24. Viet Nam briefed the Meeting on its concept paper on the Workshop on ASEAN Work Plan in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, which appears as **ANNEX 15**. The Meeting endorsed the concept paper and tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to work with Viet Nam on the finalisation of the concept paper and to process it through ASEAN mechanism. However, the dates for the workshop would be subject to funding availability.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER MATTERS**

25. The ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that India has indicated interest in having a consultation with ASOD on drug matters. The Meeting agreed that an ASOD + India Consultation would be held in conjunction with the forthcoming 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOD in Brunei Darussalam and tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to follow through the matter with India.

26. The Meeting noted Thailand's briefing on ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Seminar on Narcotics Control, to be held in Xian, China, on 19-21 September 2007.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: PRESENTATION BY ASOD OBSERVERS**

**13.1 IFNGO**

27. The Meeting noted with appreciation presentation by Dato' Haji Mustapha, Honorary Secretary of International Federation of Non Government Organizations for the

