



The 6th Meeting of the AIPA Fact-Finding Committee (AIFOCOM)
to Combat the Drug Menace
10 - 14 May 2009, Le Meridien Chiang Rai Resort
Chiang Rai, Thailand

COUNTRY REPORT OF THAILAND

1. OVERVIEW

In 2008, the drug situation in Thailand caused more grave concern as an emerging threat to the well-being of the society and of the individuals with an increasing trend in the number of the arrests for drug-related offences and the estimated number of drug users/abusers. The prevalence of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants or ATS still persists. Methamphetamine in tablet form or Yaba is still a major drug of concern. Most Yaba found in Thailand has been smuggled from neighboring countries in Thailand through the north of the country, mostly for domestic consumption. Over the past three year, it has been noticeable that drug smugglers from neighboring countries being active in smuggling Yaba into Thailand along the borders through official and unofficial border points of entry. No production of methamphetamine hydrochloride or ICE is detected in Thailand. The abuse of Ice in the country is quite limited and found in entertainment places in big cities only. Same as ecstasy, it is mostly trafficked into Thailand from overseas. Due to its relatively high price, the demand for ecstasy is limited to the wealthy groups.

Currently, opium poppy cultivation in Thailand has dramatically decreased. The Royal Thai Government has emphasized on cooperation with countries in the subregion in order to jointly solve the problem. Furthermore, Thailand has vast experiences on alternative development under the implementation by the Royal Project and Mae Fah Luang Foundation. Thailand is ready to share the experience and concept to all interested countries and also ready to be a learning center on alternative development in this region. Additionally, during the 52nd Session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs recently held in March in Vienna, Thailand together with Peru proposed a draft resolution on alternative development which was greatly supported by member states of the United Nations. The draft resolution also requests the UNODC to support by organizing an international conference on alternative development in 2010.

2. CURRENT DRUG SITUATION

2.1 Opium

In 2008, the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Thailand was estimated at 288 ha, a slight increase from 231 ha in 2007. With an average opium yield of 15.6 kg/ha, the potential production of opium was around 4.5 tons in 2008 a slight increase compared with 3.6 tons in 2007. However, around 98% of opium poppy crop was eradicated in 2008 with a net opium production left at 56 kg. The upward trend of opium poppy cultivation during the last two consecutive years, even in an insignificant amount, led to the efforts made by the authorities concerned to re-introduce the crop control plan

focusing on implementing alternative development programs in remote, problematic areas of opium growing in the North of Thailand. In cooperation with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), the 8-year plan (2009-2016) has been drafted by the Royal Project Foundation. It is to reaffirm the national commitment to provide alternative livelihood for the remaining opium farmers. The Royal Thai government also commits itself to the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th special session (UNGASS) in 1998 and the ASEAN declaration in pursuit of drug-free ASEAN by 2015. Thailand, therefore, stands ready to make a contribution to the reduction in the regional and global opium poppy cultivation with sharing its expertise in sustainable alternative development through the Royal Project and the Doi Tung Development Project as regional centres of excellence to provide technical assistance and to promote capacity-building activities for interested countries.

2.2 Heroin

Thailand is not a heroin production country. Also the abuse of heroin has steadily been decreasing since the war on drugs was declared in 2003. Thailand is still one of the transit countries for heroin trafficking from the Golden Triangle to the global market. In 2008, the supply of heroine in the Golden Triangle continued to decline while heroine from the Golden Crescent became the major source of trafficking. The drug cases still revealed that the West African drug trafficking syndicates continued to involve in international heroin trafficking from the Golden Crescent to Asian market, particularly, China. In cooperation with an Indian syndicate and a Chinese syndicate, they used India, Nepal, United Arab Emirates (UAE), China and Thailand as their bases to collect heroin. During 2006-2007, Chinese law enforcement arrested 76 Thai nationals for heroin smuggling into China with 66kg of heroin seized. In contrary, with the close cooperation between Thai and Chinese law enforcement agencies in 2008, the situation was changed. The number of Thai nationals being arrested consequently declined to 15 persons with 30kg of heroin seized, while Philippine nationals were increasingly arrested in China. The West African syndicate often exploited Southeast Asian, West Asian and West African female as their couriers for transportation of heroin to China via India, Nepal, UAE and Thailand by air traveling. In December 2008, a joint investigation of PNSB, Phuket Police, the Royal Thai Third Navy and DEA resulted in an arrest of Thai male and a seizure of a large heroin shipment with an amount of 104 kilograms in Phuket Province during the attempted exportation of heroin by sea to the third country.

2.3 Methamphetamine (Yaba)

Methamphetamine in tablet form or Yaba is still a major drug of concern of Thailand. Each tablet of Yaba with WY logo and recently found TG logo generally contains 10-25% of methamphetamine and 60-70% of caffeine. Most Yaba found in Thailand has been smuggled from neighboring countries into Thailand through the North of the country mostly for domestic consumption. However, the stern interdiction along northern border led to the change in transshipment areas from the North to the West or/and the Northeast and the East, though relatively lower level. Case information and intelligence revealed that the drug was more frequently transported from Myanmar to Lao PDR, then to Cambodia, and further shipped to Thailand via northeastern and eastern borders. The retail price of methamphetamine in 2008 remains stable with a slightly decrease to 200-250 Baht/tablet (US\$ 5.7-7.1/tablet) compared to 200-300 Baht/tablet (US\$

5.7-8.6/tablet). Over the past three year, it has been noticeable from the drug cases that drug smugglers from neighboring countries being active in importation of Yaba into Thailand along the borders through official and unofficial border points of entry.

2.4 Methamphetamine Hydrochloride (ICE)

No production of methamphetamine hydrochloride or Ice is detected in Thailand. But case information and intelligence revealed that the number of Ice production located in neighboring countries. According to case reports of Malaysia, the Philippines, Fiji, Cambodia and Myanmar over the past two year indicated a number of large-scale Ice production sites dismantled in 2007, one in Cambodia, two in Malaysia and in 2008, one in Myanmar and two in China. Consequently, countries in South East Asia faced a lot of troubles of Ice abuse in each country. For domestic consumption in Thailand, the abuse of Ice was quite limited and often found in entertainment places in Bangkok and nearby provinces as well as tourism-based provinces. Sometimes, ICE was found being used with Ecstasy, Cocaine and Ketamine. All of them are classified as club drugs. In 2008, the volume of ICE seizure was stable compared to the previous year. It was also noticeable that over the past two consecutive years the number of Ice cases was on the rise with a half amount of Ice seized in 2006.

2.5 Ecstasy

There is no ecstasy production in Thailand. Ecstasy is mostly trafficked into Thailand from overseas, particularly the Netherlands. Epidemic areas of ecstasy abuse can be found in Bangkok and tourism-based provinces. However due to its high price, the demand for ecstasy use is yet limited to the wealthy groups. Ecstasy is one of club drugs often used in private parties or entertainment places. Singaporean and Malaysian groups remain major syndicates actively smuggling ecstasy from Europe to Thailand via Thailand-Malaysia border. Case information revealed that syndicates of Thai, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese origins involve in ecstasy smuggling into Thailand via Bangkok International Airport by air passengers and air mails.

2.6 Cocaine

African drug trafficking network remained a key syndicate actively involving in cocaine trafficking from producing countries in South America to Thailand via Malaysia by air passengers. Asian nationals female were often used as their drug couriers. In 2008, case information revealed that an African syndicate changed their importation method into Thailand from South America through using the postal system. Cocaine abuse in Thailand is limited among some certain groups of well-off abusers and foreigners and often found in private resident and entertainment places in Bangkok and tourism-based provinces.

2.7 Ketamine

Ketamine abuse has been found in Thailand since 1989. Classified as club drugs like ecstasy, Cocaine and ICE, ketamine abuse is often found in entertainment places or small parties held in private apartments. Ketamine, both in liquid and powder forms, has frequently smuggled into Thailand via Thailand-Malaysia border and Thailand-Cambodia border for domestic consumption which the youth are the main ketamine abusers.

However, the trend of abuse has decreased because of the continued stern suppression in each country affected in the region. However, ketamine cases in 2008 indicated the rising trend.

2.8 Volatile Substances

Based on the registered drug treatment patients in 2007, the abuse of volatile substances among the youth remains a cause of concern as an increase in the number of treatment admission for volatile substances. Widely used volatile substances are glue, thinner and lacquer. Children and teenagers are the main abuser. In order to ensure that volatile substances are under control, Thai authorities have made their effort to monitor and prevent volatile substances not be used as the substitute for hard-to-find drugs.

2.9 Marihuana

The continual eradication and suppression during the past 20 years has dramatically dropped down the amount of marihuana growing in Thailand. Most marihuana has been brought in from neighboring countries to Thailand along the northeastern borders. Most of which was further transported to Malaysia via Thailand-Malaysia border bound to Australia, USA and European market, while some was distributed for domestic consumption. Recently, case information revealed that marihuana has increasingly smuggled from Lao PDR to Thailand with an amount more than 100kg in each shipment. Over the last two consecutive years, marihuana seizure was on the rise.

2.10 Cannabis resin

According to the arrests at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Nepalese is an active smuggler of cannabis resin from Nepal to Thailand. The drug is partly destined to the third country, particularly Japan while the rest is distributed to foreign tourists in tourism areas in the country.

3. NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

Drug control strategy of Thailand comes out of an idea of disconnecting drug demand from drug supply and being obliged to the principle that “drug addicts are patients who are in need of treatment while drug traffickers are those who must be punished under the judicial process.”

3.1 War on Drugs

In 2003, as drug situation posed serious threats to the security of the nation as a whole, the Royal Thai Government declared the first three-month war on drugs during 1 February-30 April 2003. Since then the war on drugs has become the highlight of Thailand’s national drug control strategy adopting four pillars of the drug strategy covering supply reduction, demand reduction, potential demand reduction and integrative management for the national fight against drugs. It could be said that Thailand’s war on drugs represents two following simple purposes, to mobilize national forces to fight against drugs and to give a clear signal that there is no save haven for drug traffickers in Thailand. The war on drugs could be divided into different phases with different focuses as follows;

Phase 1: 1 February-30 April 2003

The three-month comprehensive campaign against drugs was launched with the objective to stop illicit drug trade and suppress illicit drug trafficking groups in every single area throughout the country.

Phase 2: 1 May -2 December 2003

The highlight was on the demand and potential demand reduction to eliminate or reduce the drug epidemic in villages and communities to the controllable stage that the drug problem would not harm the well-being of the public. After the end of this phase, the victory over drugs declared on 3 December 2003 as a tribute to H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Birthday on 5 December 2003

Phase 3: 3 December 2003 -30 September 2004

The focus turned to monitor the drug epidemic, maintain the momentum of the national efforts to fight against drugs and strengthen communities to combat the drug threat with a view to ensure the sustainable success of the war on drugs where the drug problem would not resume as a serious threat to the well-being of individuals and security of the Thai nation.

Phase 4: 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005

It aimed to develop the drug surveillance system as an early warning system for emerging trends of drug menace in all aspects of the drug problem, covering supply, demand and potential demand sides.

Phase 5: The three-Year Roadmap for National Drug Monitoring and Sustainable Campaign against Drugs (2006-2008) was launched with a view to fulfill Thailand's commitment to the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th special session (UNGASS) in 1998. It divided into three phases with different highlights in each single year. In 2006, the focus was on addressing the remaining drug problem, establishing public trust on the government's commitment to fight against drugs and enhancing the capacity of the nationwide drug monitoring mechanisms at national and provincial level. In 2007, efforts aimed to ensure the effectiveness of the nationwide drug monitoring system, to expand anti-drug community model, to strengthen villages/communities along the border areas, to reduce the number of new drug addicts/users and to strengthen the National Command Centre for Combating Drugs (NCCD) including its mechanisms at all level with a view to secure the sustainability in victory over drugs. In 2008, it was to highlight on keeping close watch to the drug situation and the spread of drugs and maintaining the momentum of the national fight against drugs with a view to achieve the national target of the illicit drugs production-free country by the year 2008.

On 2 April 2008 at the Government House, the new operational plan on drug control entitled "People Alliance against Drugs" (1 April – 30 September 2008), based on the concept of "3 Minuses, 3 Pluses and 3 Focuses," was also launched as an additional guideline to address the re-emerging drug problem. It was to cope with illegal drug use, to curb public concern over drug menace and to ensure integrative efforts made by agencies concerned. The government also demanded provincial authorities to play a leading role in addressing the drug problem in each province.

Based on the seriousness of drug situation since Thailand has long been facing the problem of illicit drug production, illicit drug trafficking and illicit drug consumption, the Government has placed drug control as the national agenda. The drug control policy has been placed as the top priority of every Government.

Intensify efforts are given by the Royal Thai Government to solve drug problems in comprehensive and systematic manner. Pursuant to Policy Statement of the Government of Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, to the National Assembly on 29 December 2008, drug issue was placed as the country's urgent problem under Policy on Social Welfare and Human Security item 3.5.7 which states " Intensify efforts in solving the narcotic drug problem in a comprehensive and systematic manner, from prevention to suppression to rehabilitation of drug addicts, in tandem with improving relevant legislation in accordance with the evolving situation and ensuring strict enforcement of laws, and enhance cooperation with neighboring countries and the international community in addressing the narcotic drug problem". Cooperation with neighboring countries and international community in fighting against illicit drugs is also enhanced enthusiastically to address drug problems.

On March 18, 2009, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva declared to take drastic measures to crack down illicit drugs with tangible results within six months. In this connection, the government would implement a "five fences" strategy for controlling and reducing nationwide drug problems. The referred fences infer building immunity, creating activities and establishing a working process in which people concerned both public and people sectors can effectively work together and measures are integrated to keep drug addicts, drug dealers and risk groups away from drugs. This "five fences" strategy listed as follows:

Border Fence is creating activities and a working process in order to strengthen measures, prevent drug smuggling into the country along the target border areas.

Community Fence is creating activities and a working process according to all measures that facilitate strengthening and building drug immunity in the target villages/communities.

Social Fence is creating activities and a working process such as implementing integrated social order, eliminating all kinds of negative risk factor, enhancing positive factors affecting the drug immunity building in order to strengthen the societies of all provinces.

School Fence is creating activities and a working process such as strengthening school and academic institutions, and making new generation of youths to have safeguard on drugs.

Family Fence is creating activities and a working process by strengthening family institution to be more immune to drugs and be a good fundamental unit of society.

However, this decisive action and suppression must be carried out carefully within legal limits i.e. conducted lawfully and without violence and to ensure it does not lead to other problems. Moreover, the progress would be reassessed after three months.

3.2 Four Main Strategies of Drug control

3.2.1 Strategy on Drug Supply Reduction: It focuses on law enforcement efforts aiming to suppress drug traffickers and drug networks and to reduce the flow of drugs from neighboring countries and the supply of drugs. Numerous measures have been carried out including interdicting drug smuggling along the borders, pursuing further investigations, tracing and repatriating assets, imposing tax regulations, controlling precursor chemicals, being on alert for new kinds of illegal drugs, reducing re-emerging opium poppy cultivation with the provision of alternative development livelihoods, and fully cooperating with relevant countries, particularly neighboring countries through regular meetings, information and intelligence sharing and joint investigations.

3.2.2 Strategy on Drug Demand Reduction: the strategy stresses on identifying drug addicts/users and providing them with appropriate treatment and rehabilitation programs and integrating three existing systems of drug treatment and rehabilitation including voluntary service, compulsory service and correctional service or treatment within the criminal justice system improving access to the treatment and rehabilitation services and integrating three drug as well as putting in place effective aftercare services with a view to reduce the numbers of drug abusers/addicts. In this regard, authorities concerned have to commit themselves to provide appropriate treatments to drug abusers/addicts in parallel with aftercare services to help them reintegrate into their own communities and able to live on their normal life. Moreover, to ensure that drug abusers/addicts get the second chance, the number of campaigns for re-establishing a positive attitude of the general public towards drug abusers/addicts successfully recovering from drug addiction would be launched throughout the country. Under the campaign business enterprises would also be urged to allow employees who are addicts-in-treatment sustaining their jobs and to provide employment opportunities for ex-addicts. Each year an outstanding employer executing the ex-addicts employment policy would be nominated for receiving an award from the Prime Minister on 26 June, the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

3.2.3 Strategy on Potential Demand Prevention: The strategy places high importance on launching public awareness campaigns against illegal drugs and building up public immunity against drug abuse. No new drug abusers/addicts are an ultimate goal of the strategy. It is to ensure that the innocent or high risk groups or vulnerable groups will not involve in illegal drugs. According to the strategy, the young people in school and dropout are the main target. Also, villages, communities, educational institutions, and work places are due to be strengthened to fight against drugs. A number of programs organized by relevant agencies would be put in place, such as program on family network, drug-free school, drug-free workplace, anti-drug youth leaders, life skills learning, anti-drug guidance facilitators, training for the anti-drug trainer and recreational activities for the youths. Concept on the strong community against drug is also highlighted to mobilize nationwide communities to participate in the fight against drugs and show the kingdom's unity to suppress drugs.

3.2.4 Strategy on Management: The strategy aims to establish a functional management mechanism for the fight against drugs. In 2003, the National Command Centre for Combating Drugs (NCCD) was established with the objectives to supervise, direct, integrate and monitor drug control efforts of all governmental organizations and agencies concerned. The NCCD operated through a network of the Ministerial/Department Command Centres for Combating Drugs set up under Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and the Royal Thai Police Department. The Operation Centers for Combating Drugs (OCCD) also set up in every province and at all level supervised by the Minister of Interior's Command Centre for Combating Drugs. Results of the implementation would directly be reported to ONCB served as the secretariat office of the NCCD. On 11 November 2006, The NCCD was adjusted to be "the National Narcotics Control Management Centre (NNCMC)" chaired by the Minister of Defence. NNCMC convenes every month to review the drug situation and follow up the implementations of each agency concerned throughout the country for the fight against drugs. Later according to the Prime Minister's Order No. 61/2511 dated 25 March 2008, the National Narcotic Control Management Centre (NNCMC) was reorganized with an aim to put in place more efficient management system to solve the drug problem.

In 2008, in order to address the unresolved drug problem, special measures guided by the area-oriented approach were launched under the command of NNCMC as followed:

- 1) Special measure to address the drug problem in Bangkok areas
- 2) Special measure to address the drug problem in southern border provinces
- 3) Special measure in cooperation with neighboring countries

4. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 Drug Control Activities

Thailand has maintained utmost effort to prolong the sustainability of drug control nationwide by putting on high alert to deal with the uncertainty of organized syndicates and international illicit drugs trafficking. Since 2007, Thailand has focused on the drug vigilance system which has been operated on networking basis throughout the country in order to help identify and anticipate accurately drug production sources, trafficker groups, epidemic area and type of drugs.

For supply reduction, the law enforcement has permanently been preceded by local authorities along with joint operations while major legislative revisions were done if needed so as to empower the authorities to overthrow drug problem in appropriate way. The supportive integrated measures namely legal measure and taxation measure have been adopted to enhance the asset forfeiture of the conspiracy. The joint operation along the border line of Thailand and other countries help enhance the effectiveness of suppression. Some major drug syndicates and crimes, whose members vary nationalities from South East Asian countries, were arrested under support of the joint operation.

For demand reduction, drug addicts and relevant data were compiled systematically. Drug abusers underwent treatment and rehabilitation programme provided by several sectors concerned. In order to reduce the demand for drugs, Thailand also places a great emphasis on the prevention of new drug users. The ultimate goal of potential drug demand

reduction is to stop drug use before it ever begins. This approach focuses on young people through collaboration among parties concerned such as societies, communities, parents, schools, and local authorities etc.

4.2 Statistics on Drug Cases and Offenders in Thailand (2000-2008)

Year	Cases	Offenders
2000	222,614	238,380
2001	207,447	220,525
2002	208,817	220,106
2003	102,334	108,315
2004	55,423	60,669
2005	71,507	78,466
2006	82,986	91,251
2007	106,599	116,333
2008	134,843	146,170

4.3 Statistics on Major Drug Seizures and Cases in Thailand (2000-2008)
As of 2 April 2009

4.3.1 Methamphetamine (YABA)

Year	Cases	Million Tablets
2000	180,293	84
2001	169,148	94
2002	167,810	95.9
2003	63,595	71.5
2004	34,860	31.1
2005	54,076	17.8
2006	59,564	13.8
2007	80,045	14.4
2008	110,380	21.9

4.3.2 Heroin

Year	Cases	Kilograms
2000	4,925	385
2001	3,482	475
2002	2,756	635
2003	1,609	437
2004	686	820
2005	491	955
2006	425	92.8
2007	427	293.6
2008	384	199.82

4.3.3 Dried Marihuana

Year	Cases	Kilograms
2000	19,891	10,320
2001	20,525	10,921
2002	20,633	12,404
2003	15,525	13,773
2004	7,476	9,907
2005	7,225	13,288
2006	10,302	11,573
2007	10,704	15,385
2008	10,459	18,805.55

4.3.4 Ecstasy

Year	Cases	Tablets
2000	375	72,182
2001	383	68,089
2002	591	150,895
2003	664	132,990
2004	563	124,980
2005	335	34,607
2006	362	27,238
2007	326	113,755
2008	436	46,450

4.3.5 Ketamine

Year	Cases	Kilograms
2000	149	38
2001	187	95
2002	250	27
2003	325	98
2004	164	164
2005	106	48
2006	123	22
2007	74	3
2008	133	16.20

4.3.6 Volatile Substances

Year	Cases	Kilograms
2000	13,106	455
2001	10,649	360
2002	13,200	454
2003	15,410	536
2004	8,839	279
2005	6,734	171
2006	7,640	233
2007	6,521	151.4
2008	5,812	160.50

4.3.7 Cocaine

Year	Cases	Kilograms
2000	16	4
2001	25	5
2002	57	15
2003	87	11
2004	119	12
2005	88	6.8
2006	155	37.7
2007	121	18.7
2008	87	11.52

4.3.8 Methamphetamine Hydrochloride (ICE)

Year	Cases	Kilograms
2000	5	0.4
2001	3	0.01
2002	41	8
2003	70	49
2004	195	47
2005	586	323
2006	967	94
2007	1,410	47.3
2008	1,825	52.27

5. LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO COMBAT DRUGS

Main narcotics control laws in Thailand can be classified into 4 following categories:

5.1 Laws on controlling narcotic substances

- Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979)
- Psychotropic Substances Act B.E.2518 (1975)
- Emergency Decree on Controlling the Use of Volatile Substance B.E.2533 (1990)

5.2 Laws on designating powers and duties to competent authority

- Narcotics Control Act B.E.2519 (1976)
- Act on Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offence Relating to Narcotics B.E. 2534 (1991)
- Act on Authorizing Naval Officers for the Suppression of Some Offences Committed by Sea (No. 4) B.E. 2534 (1991)
- Money Laundering Control Act B.E.2542 (1999)

5.3 Laws on special measure

- Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act B.E. 2545 (2002)
- Act on Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offence Relating to Narcotics B.E. 2534 (1991)
- Money Laundering Control Act B.E.2542 (1999)
- Act on Procedure of Narcotic Case B.E. 2550 (2007)
- Taxation Law

5.4 Laws on controlling precursor and essential chemicals for illicit drug production

- Commodities Control Act B.E. 2495 (1952)
- Hazardous Substances Act B.E. 2535 (1992)
- Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979)
- Psychotropic Substances Act B.E.2518 (1975)
- Emergency Decree on Controlling the Use of Volatile Substance B.E.2533 (1990)
- Import and .Export Act B.E. 2522 (1979)

The followings laws are utilized to prosecute drug offenders:

- Extradition Act B.E. 2551 (2008)
- Act on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters B.E.2535 (1992)
- Legislation Procedure for Cooperation Between States in the Executive of Penal Sentences B.E.2527 (1984)
- Witness Protection Act B.E.2546 (2003)

6. ASSET FORFEITURE

There are two major legislations applied for forfeiture of property in Thailand. As a signatory to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, Thailand has firstly enacted the Act on Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offence Relating to Narcotics B.E. 2534 (1991) as a criminal forfeiture law allowing law enforcement agencies to manage properties seized and forfeited in

drug criminal cases. The proceeds from the sale of forfeited assets are used to further law enforcement initiatives to fight against drugs and to distribute to the Narcotics Control Fund after the owner convicted of a crime. Later on, the Anti Money Laundering Act B.E.2542 (1999) was also enacted in 1999 as a civil asset forfeiture law applying asset seizure measure to seven predicate offences including the drug offence. At present, after amended in 2001, this law could be applied for one more predicate offence of terrorism. In case that the said two laws could not be applied, personal income tax examination would be imposed under the Thai Revenue Code as an additional measure for prosecuting drug criminal suspects committing tax evasion. All these measures aim to cripple money influences of drug traffickers.

In 2008, Under the Act on Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offence Relating to Narcotics B.E. 2534 (1991), 1,834 alleged cases were filed for financial examination, a 26 per cent increase compared to 1,453 cases in 2007 and a total value of assets seized was at 768.6 million baht in 2008, a 29 per cent increase compared to 595 million baht in 2007.

7. PRECURSOR CONTROL

Thailand is not a chemical producing country. Most chemicals and precursors are imported for medical and industrial purposes. To control the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals from legitimate industry, the Precursor Chemical Control Committee has been set up since 1993 to formulate national strategy on precursor control, supervise the precursor control and implementation, and integrate the efforts made by precursor control agencies concerned. In accordance with the 1988 UN Convention, 23 chemicals listed in the table I and table II, have been controlled in Thailand. Moreover, in respond to domestic concern, 8 additional precursors and chemicals are also under control, comprising Acetyl Chloride, Chloroform, Ethylidine Diacetate, Glacial Acetic Acid, Phosphorus Trichloride, Phosphorus Pentachloride, Thionyl Chloride and Caffeine. For Thailand, there are 5 laws applied to control the 31 chemical substances mentioned above, including Narcotic Act B.E.2522 (1979), Psychotropic Substances Act B.E. 2518 (1975), Import and Export Act B.E.2522 (1979), Hazardous Substances Act B.E. 2535 (1992) and Commodities Control Act B.E.2495 (1952). Pre-Export Notification (PEN) is also conducted to discourage diversion of precursors and essential chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

8. INTER-COUNTRY JOINT INVESTIGATIONS/OPERATIONS

Drug suppression has still been placed at the top of the Royal Thai Government's list to execute. Areas of suppression still spotlight Bangkok, southern provinces, border areas and other crucial provinces. Suppression measures include intelligence gathering on major drug syndicates, in-depth investigation, asset seizure/forfeiture and other concerned law enforcement measures.

Numerous suppression measures have been implemented to cut the throat of drug trafficking and smuggling along borders. This covered establishment of checkpoints and outposts; search individuals and vehicles crossing temporarily and permanently permitted areas, quarantine stations and natural cross-border channels; as well as search of individuals, ground posts or personal belongings in trains, cars, coaches, buses and airplanes. These measures were still very effective and led to the numbers of seizures of drug cases.

Thailand shares borders with three neighboring countries starting from the west to the north and to northeast and downward to the east which are over 3,000 kilometers in length. This made it impossible for Thailand to totally control drug smuggling near border areas. The northern Thai border was still the main route of drug smuggling from outside the country since it is located near major drug producing sites in the Golden Triangle. Border provinces in the north and northeast were where drug smuggling was frequently detected. The Mekong River, which flows through the Golden Triangle area, was mainly used as one of the major drug smuggling routes in the region. This major route was used to smuggle illicit drugs from a neighboring country into border areas of the northern and northeastern parts of Thailand. It was also used to smuggle chemicals and precursors into drug production sources. For the western part of the country, drug smuggling was frequently found but not in big quantities. However, drug smuggling in the southern border was different from the others since this border was used both to smuggle illicit drugs into and out of the country. Another drug smuggling route, which started from drug producing sites in the Golden Triangle to the Andaman Sea downward to the south of Thailand or Malaysia, was used for heroin and methamphetamine shipments in big amount.

There has been a close cooperation in investigation into a number of drug cases, particular bilateral cooperation between Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and China. Whereas the joint operation along the border line of Thailand and other countries help enhance the effectiveness of suppression. Some major transnational drug syndicates and crime groups, whose members vary nationalities from SEA countries, Africa and EU, were arrested under support of the joint operation. The joint operation diminished opportunities from which the traffickers or smuggles would have carried out their illegal business successfully.

In 2008, the cooperation between drug law enforcement of Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR resulted in five successful arrests of drug cases in Myanmar with the seizure of 150,000 tablets of Yaba and 6,378 tablets of ecstasy. Also the Thai authority delivered a Myanmar national with Myanmar arrest warrant to the Myanmar authority in July 2008, followed by the delivery of 2 Thai nationals with Thai arrest warrants from Lao authority to Thai authority in August 2008. In cooperation with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board - ONCB, Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau - PNSB, Drug Enforcement Agency - DEA and Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision - LCDC for a joint investigation into a cocaine drug international syndicate, the Thai authority apprehended a Gana national with 420 grams of cocaine in Udonthani Province of Thailand in September 2008. In October 2008, with the cooperation between the ONCB, PNSB and DEA, a Thai female, a Gana national male and a Liberia national male were arrested with 3 kilograms of cocaine in Udonthani Province of Thailand. After that on 9 December 2008, a joint investigation of PNSB, Phuket Police, the Royal Thai Navy and DEA, a Taiwan national and a Thai national were arrested in Phuket in an attempted exportation of 104 kilograms of heroin from Thailand by the sea to the third country.

9. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Thailand is signatory to the three United Nations Conventions on Drug Controls namely Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

Also Thailand has actively cooperated with foreign countries and international organizations on drug control for more than thirty years leading to the development of numerous

mechanisms, both in bilateral and multilateral forms, serving as the platform for addressing domestic, regional, and international drug problem. The policy of giving a full cooperation on drugs control to international counterparts is still unchanged.

9.1 Bilateral Cooperation

Thailand has joined hands with countries around the world for years with the hope to reduce and finally eliminate the worldwide problem of drugs. The cooperation has been done with countries in different regions i.e. Asia and the Pacific, Africa, America and Europe.

At present, Thailand signed the MOU on drug control with Argentina, Cambodia, Poland, Vietnam, Peru, China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Tajikistan. Thus, bilateral meeting between Thailand-Malaysia, Thailand-Myanmar, Thailand-Lao PDR, Thailand-China, Thailand-Vietnam and Thailand-Cambodia have annually been organized to facilitate cooperation on drugs control. Cross-border cooperation has also been established with Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar through Border Liaison Offices set up along the border areas in each country.

In 2008, the ONCB hosted three bilateral meetings including the bilateral meeting on drug control between Thailand-Cambodia held during 5-8 February 2008, the bilateral meeting on drug control between Thailand-China held during 13-18 May 2008 and the bilateral meeting on drug control between Thailand-Lao PDR held during 8-11 July 2008. Also, the Thai delegation attended two bilateral meeting hosted by Vietnam and Malaysian counterparts which were the bilateral meeting on drug control held by SODC (Standing Office on Drug Control of Vietnam) during 27-31 May 2008 and the bilateral meeting on drug control held by NCIC (Narcotics Crime Investigation Department of Malaysia) during 1-4 July 2008.

9.2 Sub-regional Cooperation

Thailand cooperates with neighboring countries in the sub-region to solve drug problem. A number of significant mechanisms have been served as channels for communication and sharing experience among countries in the sub-region. Firstly, the cooperation under 1993 MOU on Drug Control between Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and UNODC have been developed since 1993, when the Governments of Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, China and UNODC signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control under the belief that concerted international efforts were required to address the severe problems of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in the region. In 1995 Cambodia and Vietnam joined the regional anti-narcotics efforts and became parties of the regional group. The six governments and UNODC hold annual meetings to discuss drug control developments in the region, to assess the measures being undertaken on national and regional levels to deal with illicit drug problems and to decide on new joint remedial action. In 2008, the Senior Officials Committee Meeting of 1993 MOU signatory countries was held during 10-14 June 2008 in Lao PDR.

Secondly, the cooperation among four countries, namely, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand established in 2001 with a view to develop a joint control of drugs and precursors smuggling along the Mekong River. Thirdly, the five-country cooperation (China, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand) on drug control, initiated by Thailand in 2003, places emphasis on precursors control and alternative development cooperation.

9.3 Cooperation with International Organizations

The international organizations which have good connections with Thailand are UNODC, ASEAN, the Colombo Plan Secretariat, EU, the ICPO/Interpol, as well as international non-government organizations such as WIF, IOGT, IFNGO, NCA, Daytop International, etc.

At the regional level, cooperation under the ASEAN framework is carried out through the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD). Various ASEAN projects on drugs control were supported by ASEAN Dialogue Partners. However, during the past few years from 1992 onward, the ASEAN Projects on drug control have been delayed due to the lack of financial support. Since ASEAN declared “Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015”, efforts have been made to achieve the target year through the ASOD mechanism which the 29th ASOD meeting was held during 24-28 August 2008 in Brunei Darussalam. Besides ASOD, The International Congress in Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 was held on 11-13 October 2000 in Bangkok. During the meeting, the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs, known as “ACCORD Plan of Action” was endorsed and adopted as a regional cooperative mechanism on drug control. Later, the 2nd ACCORD International Congress was held during 18-20 October 2005 in Beijing. The meeting adopted Regional Joint Action against ATS-related Crime among ACCORD Countries proposed by China.

9.4 Regional Trainings

Thailand has received the support from the Japanese Government through JICA and NPA in implementing the Regional Cooperation Project on Capacity Building of Drug Analysis for Improvement of Drug Law Enforcement in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Veitnam. As a result, a number of trainings in drug qualitative and quantitative analysis for scientists have been carried out in Thailand and in CLMV countries. During its implementation from July 2002 to April 2005, the project revealed itself as being beneficial to the work on investigation and intelligence in identifying illicit drug sources. Later the Japanese government agreed to support the phase II of the project implementing during 1 September 2006 – 31 March 2009.

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board, as designated by ASOD as the ASEAN Narcotics Law Enforcement Training Centre, organized, with the auspicious support of the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (DAP), “The 5th Training Course on Precursor and Chemical Control for ASEAN Narcotics Law Enforcement Officers” during 25 - 31 August 2008 in Bangkok. The trainees are from ASEAN countries, China and India. The main objective of the training is to expand knowledge on the current situation of illicit traffic of precursors and chemicals in Southeast Asia, China and India, investigation techniques and methods to conduct precursor and chemical control operations. This kind of knowledge is expected to enhance capabilities of narcotic law enforcement officers in addressing precursors and chemicals diversion in ASEAN countries

Also, during 3 – 17 March 2008, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board in cooperation with Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) of Thailand held a training course entitled ‘International Narcotics Law Enforcement’ in Bangkok. At present, 16 countries in Asia join the training programme namely, Afganistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, China, Iran, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Tajikistan and Thailand.



One ASEAN Vision