



The 6th Meeting of the AIPA Fact-Finding Committee
(AIFOCOM)
to Combat the Drug Menace
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Chiang Rai, Thailand

COUNTRY REPORT OF VIETNAM

I. GENERAL DRUGS SITUATION IN VIETNAM

1. Drug crime problems:

Fully aware of the difficulties and favorable factors in the political -security and socio-security strategies, last year, the government, National Committee on AIDS, Drugs, Prostitution Control of Vietnam actively took their initiative of launching comprehensive measures to successfully implement the National Drug Control Master Plan period 2006-2010. As a result, drug crime and drug abuse situation in Vietnam in the past years have been continued to be under control. The number of drug cases and drug offenders continued decreasing in comparison with the same period of the year before. Drug criminal violations were less obvious and publicly than those in the previous time. However, in the national scale, drug crime and drug abuse situation continued taking place complicated, implicitly and unpredictably. The most complicated areas were border - line of the North-West, Northern part of Central provinces and South -West provinces, particularly.

In the North - West area: The drug control agencies of Vietnam have detected a number of drug trafficking syndicates that committed trafficking drugs from the "Golden Triangle" into Vietnam. The common drugs trafficked were opium, heroin and ATS. The number of ATS trafficking and the amount of ATS in single case tended to be remarkably increasing. 90% the amount of seized heroin and opium in the northern part were trafficked through this area and account for 50%, 70% the seized heroin and opium nationwide in which a lot of cases with the total seizure

number up to 20 cakes of heroin and thousands of synthetic drugs tablets. A part from that, the situation relating to drug abuse and poppy cultivation in those areas were more complicated than other areas.

On the Northern border line: two discrepant drug trafficking trends at the same time existed. The number and the amount of psychotropic substances trafficked from outside into Vietnam continued decreasing compared with the year of 2007. Meanwhile, opium and heroin trafficking cases from Vietnam to outside tended increasing. Almost all National border gates, open-economic zones, trading areas on this border line found drug trafficking cases. Among them, some National border gates such as Mong Cai, Tan Thanh, Huu Nghi and Lao Cai very often found drug trafficking with great amount of drugs.

The South- West Border line: the major types of drugs trafficked into Vietnam were ATS, in which there was even ice form of Methamphetamine. Some certain amount of the trafficked illicit drugs were used to meet the demands of drug abusers at the social evil pots, casinos at Moc Bai, Ta Keo Border Gates and the others further went to Hochiminh City and some provinces of the South-West part of Vietnam. Along with that, on this route, the fact has showed that trafficking precursors have been increasing for the past years. Among some detected cases, there were some cases with more than 10 tones of precursors.

Costal and island areas: The drug control agencies of Vietnam have found some drug trafficking routes to exercise drug trafficking from the Northern provinces to the Central Costal provinces and Southern Ports.

Inland: Cannabis production and trafficking emerged as an unusual phenomenon in the last year. Some persons did cultivate by themselves or hired farmers to cultivate in some northern provinces for exporting. Also ATS abuse in the night clubs, discotheque in the big cities continued taking place complicated.

The modus operandi used for drug trafficking were more and more spontaneous, sophisticated and artful. In some cases, drug criminals used internet as a communication means to conduct drug crime activities.

They also used trans-national trucks as a common means to traffic drugs into Vietnam by the land - road. They also used advanced telecommunication technique to operate members of the drug syndicates. Drug traffickers were well equipped with fire-arm weapons and decisively opposed drug law enforcement. Together with land road, sea routs, postal services were also used by drug traffickers to commit drug criminal activities.

2. Drug abuse situation

According to the statistic figure by the Standing Office on Drugs Control of Vietnam, by end of 2008, it was Regis rated more than 170,000 drugs abusers, decreases approximately 9,000 cases in comparison to that in 2007, including:

- Drugs abusers in community and in Treatment – Education – Social Labour Centers: accounts for 61.27% in which 30.05% are in Treatment – Education – Social Labour Centers.

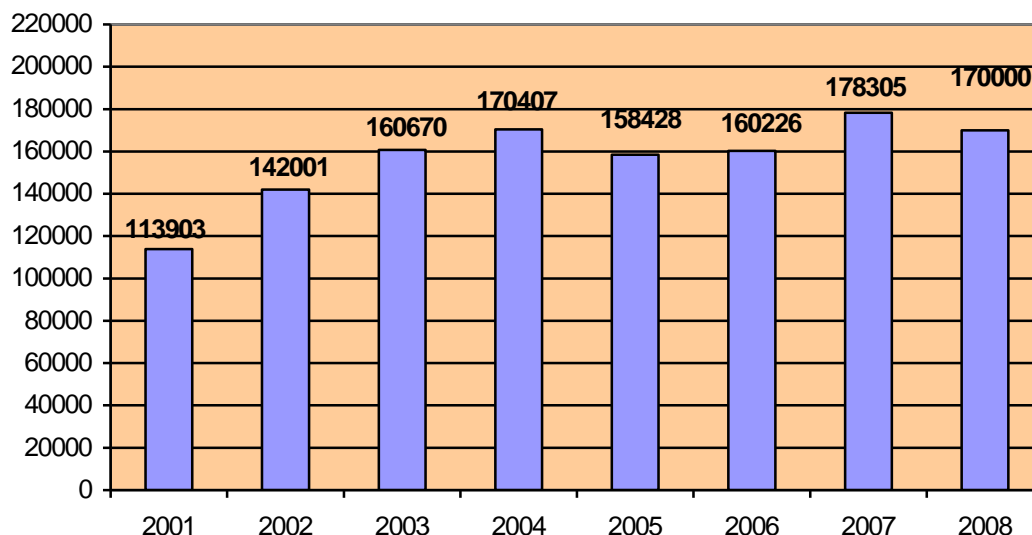
- Drugs abusers who are in prisons and detention centers: accounts for 38.73%

43 out of 64 cities and provinces nation wide have the increase in the drugs abusers and 21 out of 64 cities and provinces have the decrease in the drugs abusers

Component of the drugs abusers: Unemployed accounts for 53.82%. Male drugs abusers account for 95.67%; female drugs abusers accounts for 4.33%. Drug abusers infected by HIV : 25,792 cases (14.46%)

Drug abusers by the types of drugs: Heroin is the first choice, accounts for 88.13%; opium accounts for: 10.21%; cannabis: 0.79%; ATS: 0.35%. The Admission ways: injecting is 63..52%; smoking is 22.65%; sniffing 13.52%.

**NUMBER OF DRUGS ADDICTS
(2001-2008)**



3. Situation in replanting drugs trees

However, the problem of replanting drugs trees still exists. In 2007-2008, Vietnam has detected and destroyed approximately 70 ha opium poppy (completely destroyed) in which the recultivation of drug trees mainly appears in remote and hinter lands and borders areas ...Cannabis recultivation is still happening with a small size.

II. MEASURES AND DRUGS CONTROL RESULTS

1. Building up and implementing drug control strategy and policy

Continue to implement the Drug Control Master Plan up to 2010 by focusing on building up projects of the National Drug Control Target Program ratified by the Primer Minister of Vietnam.

- Amendments for Drugs control Law have been approved by National Assembly. The main amendments including: clear responsibilities of specialized drug prevention and suppression agencies; harm reduction intervention; drug detoxification and rehabilitation.

- Open hot campaigns to suppress drugs crime on the occasion of the anti-drug month and the entire people involved in drug prevention day (26th June).
- Develop a tentative national strategy on drugs control in Vietnam by 2015 and the vision of 2020.

In order to gain more suitable directions and policies, Related Ministries and Sectors and localities nationwide have been reviewing the actual situation of the drugs addicts and the situation of the drugs trees recultivation. To base on the assigned mandates and functions, Ministries and Sectors under the National Committee on AIDS, drugs and prostitution control have mapped out a number of measures to consolidate the organization, also training course to enhance further capacity and the coordination ability in order to do well with the drugs control on land and sea routes; prevention of the poppy recultivation; propaganda and get people involve in hot anti drugs campaign launched by the government, National committee.

2. Anti Drugs Propaganda and Drugs Prevention Campaigns

In the past year, a variety of anti drug propaganda and drug prevention programs were launched with the wide participation from political social organizations. For example, the Anti-Drug Mobilization Campaign launched in Son La; Forum on Drug Control matters held by the National Fatherland Front, Discussion on who to help ex-drug abusers to prevent relapse and reinterpretation; live show and direct talk with the TV audience on the drug treatment topic; Some favorite programs were Panorama on drug control issue; The new aspect of the drug prevention activities in 2007 was, the Youth Association extended their anti drug propaganda programs to the industrial zone and processing zone therefore there was very strong affect to the young workers and other group outside of the school.

The central mass media and local mass media also actively participated in drug control activities by spending significant amount of time to broadcast and promote drug control activities. Apart from broadcasting information relating to drug trafficking cases, there was wide range of drug control topics such as good practice in drug treatment, poppy

alternative development, etc. Also, last year, many valuable anti drug propaganda materials such as booklist, leaflet were issued. Anti drug campaigns created strong movement right from the community and attracted the concern from different social class.

In many localities, anti drug propaganda campaigns have been synchronously launched such as: holding socio-cultural, sport event with anti drug topics; setting up Mobile anti-drug propaganda groups, outreach groups, etc... The HIV/AIDs, Drug, Prostitution Steering Committee of provinces and cities launched campaign with title:" To build up agency, organization, school, community without drug" and integrate those campaign with other campaigns in the community.

The Committee of the Fatherland Front of provinces and cities incorporated with the local authorities to mobilize people to participate in the "building up new cultural living style in the community, that created significant change in the localities.

3. Drug crime prevention and suppression

The specialized drug prevention and suppression agencies regularly launched high peak drug suppression seasons together with doing other professional preventive measures as well as strengthening drug crime investigation activities in the main route, hot points, border lines, particularly to focus their effort on interdiction drug trafficking from outside; intensifying drug crime investigation and eradicating drug crime complicated hot pots, particularly activities that abuse night club services to commit drug crime activities in general, ATS abuse in particular.

In 2008, specialized drug prevention and suppression agencies have investigated and detected 13,371 cases / 20,781 offenders, seized 215kg heroin; 37 kg opium; 3,000,000 tablets of synthetic drugs; 900,000 tablets and ampoules of pharmaceutical addictive drugs; over 8 tons of cannabis resin..... along with number of evidences and other related assets.

The Government, National Committee on AIDS, drugs and prostitution control, Ministry of Public Security and other related sectors of all levels have decisively directed the drugs control and managed to restrained the drugs situation. The rate of detection and seizure of drugs in 25 border provinces is higher than that in the last year (heroin accounts for 70.2%); basically ATS is not allowed in discotheques, bars and karaoke bars. However, drugs crime is happening so complicated which is greatly affected by the the drugs activities in the neighboring countries, potential in domestic drugs crime is still very high.

4. Drug treatment, rehabilitation and after care management

Develop the inter-sector Plan on directing the implementation of the family and community treatment modalities; Promote the identification of the new drugs addicts and put in to the profiles for the treatment in centers; In 2007, a National Meeting on drugs treatment and rehabilitation evaluation for the 2001-2006 and the development of the drug –free communes were successful held. In 2008, Vietnam has organized drugs treatment for nearly 45,200 addicts in which the treatment in centers accounts for 80% , treatment in community is 12%. Currently, Vietnam has been implementing the plot project with the Methadone therapy in Hai Phong City and Hochiminh City.

5. Poppy eradication and alternative development

In 2007-2008 crop, there were emerging phenomenon of cannabis cultivation in large scale in some Northern and Southern provinces. The Drug law enforcement of Vietnam detected and investigated drug crime syndicates that illegally hired farmers to cultivate cannabis in Hatay, Hoabinh provinces, seized and destroyed more than 03 tones of raw cannabis, 100 kg of cannabis seeds and many other related materials. To dress this problem, the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam closely cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethnic Committee, Ministry of Defense and other relevant ministries instructing local authorities to check, monitor, destroy cannabis and strictly treat offenders; Actively promoted and teach local people how to recognize cannabis plant and cooperate with local authority in detecting,

eradicating cannabis as well as preventing any violation relating to cannabis cultivation.

6. Drug control activities at schools

The Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam together with the other relevant ministries, socio-political organizations has intensified drug prevention measures and continued effectively implemented the Inter-ministerial drug control action plan between Ministry of Education, Training and Ministry of Public Security; Regularly conducted inspection, monitoring drug situation in "hot places"; provided school teachers with anti drug knowledge, skills; together with the Youth Organization held activities such as competitions to help school children to learn about Drug Law, encouraged students sign commitment for not using drugs; integrated drug control matter in the teaching curriculum and so on.

7. International cooperation

In 2007-2008, the drug control agencies of Vietnam successfully implemented 3 United Nation Drug Control Treaties, and other multilateral, bilateral drug control agreements, treaties signed between Vietnam and other governments, international bodies; Vietnam attended the 50 COD meeting of the UN; A Delegation with high - ranking drug control officers visited and worked with the Russian Federation Drug Control Committee; Vietnam also successfully hosted the 28th ASOD meeting; ACCORD meeting; ASEAN + 3 meeting (China, Japan, South Korea); Drug control Agencies of Vietnam also received many international guests who visited Vietnam and exchanged drug control experience etc.

Cooperation between drug control agencies of Vietnam and neighboring countries has been intensified; exchange meetings between the drug control agencies of the provinces that share the border with that of the neighboring countries were held on regular basis. The drug control agencies of Vietnam also assisted Lao and Cambodia to build up capacity and exchange experiences in drafting Drug control bill.



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