

COUNTRY REPORT OF VIETNAM
DRUG SITUATION IN VIETNAM IN 2010

I. DRUG CRIME AND EVIL SITUATION

1. Drug Crime Situation

Under the direct impact of the regional drug crime, drug criminal activities of Vietnam in 2010 still remained complicated, concentrated mainly along border route in North-west, Central-northern, North-east and South-west. In North-west border route, 12% of total national drug case was investigated and arrested, heroin, narcotic accounted for over 48% and 92 % respectively. Along this route, a large amount of heroin was illegally trafficked into Vietnam by many drug criminal armed groups. The drug enforcement agencies have investigated a great number of drug sales and traffics with tens of heroin bars or tens thousands of methamphetamine tablets.

In 2010, there were 6 officials and fighters of drug enforcement agencies died, more than ten people were injured in fighting against drug crime activities.

There is an increase trend in criminal activities of international drug criminal gangs, especially South-west air traffic. Some drug trafficking and sale networks from oversea to Vietnam and to the third country operated by Africa-rooted criminal groups continue working in Southern provinces and cities, mainly in Ho Chi Minh City.

In land, nearly ten cases of illicit crystal typed methamphetamine tablets made from Delcogen, a popular cough-released medicine in the market were investigated.

2. Illicit drug addiction situation

A common characteristic of drug addicts is to concentrate mainly in low-educated and ex-convict groups. Recently, in the rural areas, the number of drug addicts has increased due to young people working in the urban area, border route, and industrial zones addicted.

By the end of 2010, the number of nationwide recorded addicts is 143,196 cases, reduced 3,175 cases compared with 2009 (- 2.2%). In which: drug addicts living

in the community account for 62%; in detoxication center 26%; in Prison, education center are 11%; The numbers of addicts who are teacher are 105 (account for 0.72%), pupils and students: 350 (2.4%), Male account for 97%, female: 3%.

Type of drug: heroin is still the most popular drug, followed by crystal synthetic drug, opium, marihuana and other kinds of drug. The appearance of some synthetic drug out of defined list (exp: HP and 2C-B printed pressed tablet with glutinous rice flavor, GHB or so called “sea water”...) made investigating and treating activities difficult and urgent matters for the society.

A new trend of pattern and type in drug using in Vietnam is marihuana combined with synthetic drug used in discotheque and bar clubs.

3. Poppy cultivation situation

During the 2009-2010 crop, 37.3 hectares of poppy cultivation and re-cultivation were detected and destroyed (down by 32.2 hectares, equal to 54% compared to the 2008-2009 crop, in 2010-2011 crop, about 28 hectares of poppy plant destroyed (down 9.3 hectares, equal to 75% compared with 2009-2010 crop). It is very hard to detect poppy cultivation as the majority of poppy plants are grown in small, neighboring and solitary area...

Generally, narcotic containing plants are grown in small amount and for breeding cattle purpose in some regions. However, it is noted that beside some existed poppy re-cultivation areas, there are some new poppy cultivation areas discovered in 2010.

II- DRUG CRIME PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSSION RESULTS

1. Drug crime prevention and suppression activities

To the end of November, 2010 the drug control task forces under Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Finance investigated and arrested 16,123 drug crime cases, 23,497 offenders, seized 316,753 kg and 12 bars of heroin; 28.17 kg opium; 8,623.2 kg cannabis plats and 211.3 kg dried cannabis; 21.996 kg and 221,685 methamphetamine tablets and many other

The People' Procuracy at all levels have accepted 12,681 drug cases, 17,641 accused (increase 805 cases, equal to 7.07%; 823 accused, equal to 5.71%). The People' Procuracy at all levels have handled 11,754 cases/15,537 accused.

The People's Court at all levels have accepted 11,862 cases with 15,099 defendants under instance procedures, 11,314 cases/14,252 defendants on trial, in which: 187 defendants were under death penalty and life imprisonment; 518 under 15-20 years imprisonment; 2,723 defendants under 7-15 years imprisonment.

2. Controlling legal drug-concerned activities situation

Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Ministry of Health Care have strictly regulate the procedure of licensing to import and export more than 40 types of precursor; coordinate with competent authorities to well perform the state management in terms of control over methamphetamine modulated precursor as: Ephedrine, Pseudo ephedrine, Anhydride Acetic... Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Health Care, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, General Department of Customs (Ministry of Finance) have coordinated closely in exchange information about enterprise's precursor importing and exporting. Implementing the "Strengthening precursor management and control" Project, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Public Securities, Ministry of Health Care has strictly control import-export drug and psychotropic drugs; and coordination for many inspection trips in export-import and using in the industries of 10 key provinces and cities.

3. Drug treatment, and harm reduction:

a) For detoxification, 29,535 people were newly admitted, equal to 119% of planning, in which:

- In detoxification center: 24,155 people.
- At home, community: 5,380 people.

Among that, 97% were involved job creation and vocational training; account for 97% of planned.

b) Regarding harm reduction activities, thanks to international community support, programs for changing the behavior and intervention programs such as supplying clean needles, methadone treatment expand in both areas and numbers of participants. The program for supplying clean needle, condom promotion have been carrying in many cities and provinces. After 3 year success pilot programme in Hochiminh and Hai phong city (with participation of nearly 2000 drug addicts), now methadone replacement program expand to many cites and

provinces including Hanoi, Cantho, Khanhhoa, Dienbien, Thainguyen.. And more in near future. Expenditures for Methadone treatment is about 1\$/day/person among that only 0.2\$ for methadone.

III. SOME DIFFICULTIES, LIMITATIONS AND REASONES

1. Difficulties and limitations

The IEC on drug prevention just only appearance activities, lack of long-term orientation as well as effective advocacy for high risk groups, suitable activities for regional and remote areas and especially for young group.

During the year, 70% of provinces with increasing number of drug addicts; monitoring, statistics addict's tasks are inadequate and not close to reality.

The results in the destruction and transformation of economic structure to replace cultivation of narcotic plants are still lacking sustainable. Higher risk of re-planting, especially in adjacent areas, remote areas will require continued attention and investment in long time to ensure drug exclusion and sustainable development.

Although the rate of detection, arrest criminals trading, illegal transportation of narcotics in the border areas has been positive, but evaluation of drug smuggling across the border into Vietnam still in large numbers. The peripheral situation approach to prevent drug from oversea of specialized forces is limited, the activities of drug-related crimes in the domestic imply potential complicating factors, especially the evil of synthetic drugs in adolescents in the provinces and cities.

Drug treatment is still ineffective, especially the management, support and jobs creation after care stage. The social mobilization of the prevention and combating of drugs and other social evils is still at low level;

Many drug treatment centers did not meet the eligibility to receive a sufficient number of addicted people. Violence and collective escape have occurred in some drug treatment units. Home and community-based treatment is very limited in results. In general, the rate of relapse remained very high.

There is no specified regulation in the coordination between provinces. Mechanism in the Steering Committee and inter-sectoral coordination are still general, not highly effective.

2. Reasons

Some units and localities have not really paid attention in directing for the prevention and control of narcotic drugs; not promptly seek to remove difficulties and problems in key areas

Funding for implementation of approved projects in the National Target Program on prevention of drug response have not met the target, not ensured a coordinated implementation of activities, especially with the difficult provinces not balance their budgets

The coordination in fighting against drug-related crimes between functional forces within and outside the country although achieved many results but not often tight and still inadequacies.

The area management to build the healthy communities, wards and towns without social evils is one of the key tasks in the prevention of drug. But in fact, lack of officials in charge of detoxification and post-detoxification rehabilitation management lead to limited effectiveness.

Strengthening and consolidating the specialized and standing forces to advise on the prevention of drug use in locals have not been paid satisfactory attention; technical means for drug crime detection, assessment, prevention and fighting have not promoted efficiency.

IV. LEGAL FRAMEWORK COMPLETION ORIENTATION

- Approving "National Strategy for prevention and drug control in Vietnam to 2020 and oriented to 2030"
- Approving and implementing the schemes of the national target program on drug prevention stage 2011-2015.
- Review and detect the responsible field inadequacies to amend and improve legislation on drug control, especially the decrees and regulations guiding the implementation of the Law for amendments and supplements of Law on drug control, issuing the criteria for recognition of recovering addicts.
- Issuing incentive mechanisms to encourage organization and individuals receiving detoxified for working help them avoid relapse.