

U N D C P

# Eastern Horizons

News on the fight against drugs and crime  
in East Asia and the Pacific

No. 1

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**Turn on music,  
Turn off drugs**

**A success story  
from Laos**

**UNDCP Breaking  
New Ground in  
Training**

**UNDCP and ESCAP  
to Fight Against  
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**It's only just  
begun**

**Illicit drug use in  
highlands of East  
Asia reduced**

**Turning the tide  
in Yunnan**

## TERRE DES HOMMES AND ABC BERLIN HONoured WITH UN GRAND AWARD

**On October 25, 1999, Terre des hommes, in collaboration with the agency ABC Berlin, were honoured for their campaign against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism.**

The United Nations in cooperation with the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) presented the project with the UN Grand Award for excellent public relations in Tokyo.

The UN awards were established in 1990 by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in order to recognize campaigns that address priority issues of the United Nations. The short video "Toys", acknowledges the problem of sexual exploitation of children in tourism and is intended to be shown to long distance flight tourists.

Six European airlines – Lufthansa, Air Europa, Sabena, Alitalia, Olympic Airways and the charter airline LTU have agreed to show the spot free of charge during their long distance flights and a German version is also being shown free of charge by 17 German TV stations. "We hope that this distinction will encourage all involved in the fight against sexual exploitation of children in tourism to

intensify their work," said campaign coordinator Christa Dammermann of Terre des hommes.

The advertising agency, EURO RSCG Thomsen Rohle in Dusseldorf was in charge of creation and the spot was carried out in cooperation with the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. "This award confirms us in our fight against child prostitution and shows the high quality of the campaign we supported," remarked German Minister, Dr. Christine Bergmann. However, the battle against the exploitation of children is far from over.

As Anja Schlicht, project manager at ABC Berlin stated, "It is wonderful getting honoured for projects which we ourselves consider important. Nevertheless, we know that communication can contribute only partially to the implementation of the rights of the child and that there is still a lot to be done."

## UNDCP REPRESENTATIVE HONoured IN VIETNAM

Mr. Jens Hannibal, the Representative of UNDCP in Vietnam was honoured with the "Certificate of Merit" by the Government of Vietnam in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the success of the national drug control programme in Vietnam. The certificate signed Deputy PM Pham Gia Khiem, Chairman of VNDCC was presented to Mr. Hannibal at a function on the eve of his departure upon completion of his two and half year assignment in the country.

*– Information provided by UNDCP Country Office in Vietnam and edited by UNDCP Regional Centre, Bangkok.*

## REACHING OUT: INCREASED TIES BETWEEN THE UNDCP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Undeniably, music can be a powerful medium to convey critical messages to today's youth as few teenagers would admit that music is not an integral part of their daily lives.

Fortunately, top Japanese musical artist, Mr. Tetsuya Komuro, has decided to take advantage of this opportunity to produce a CD comprised of a campaign song for drug abuse prevention. The CD entitled, 'Happiness x 3, Loneliness x 3' contains four arrangements of the song performed by TM Network (Japanese), Julio Iglesias Jr. (English), Sheila (Spanish) and Wang Lee-Hom (Chinese). Reaching young audiences in Japan and other Asian countries, Mr. Tetsuya Komuro decided that the proceeds from his CD sales should be donated to an appropriate cause.

Thus, in conjunction with a signing ceremony on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2000, a meeting was organized in Tokyo with UNDCP Executive Director Pino Arlacchi and the chairman of the board of directors of Drug Abuse Prevention Centre (DAPC) to announce his decision to donate the profits to these respective agencies who will subsequently use the funds to strengthen their battle against drugs.



## JOINED HANDS TO FIGHT DRUGS

Being the largest slum community in Thailand, Klong Toey has suffered severe social problems including drug addiction, prostitution and crime. In August 1998, UNDCP started collaboration with the Duang Prateep Foundation located in the Klong Toey Slum area in order to combat these social problems through "Klong Toey Slum Community Youth Development Project" for a proposed period of 12 months (8/98-7/99). The project aimed at creating a supportive environment for youth in the slum area through community-based approaches to primary prevention of drug abuse.

The project targeted youth from 12 communities in the Klong Toey Slum area. Youth groups were organized in each of these communities and each group initiated a va-

riety of activities including youth camps, sports events, anti-drug parades and weekly meetings to discuss problems prevailing in the community. They exchanged and shared information of their experiences with other youth groups at a discussion forum and seminar sessions organized by the Foundation.

The project was successfully completed in July 1999. The participating youth showed improved confidence in handling drug prevention activities and the communities were seen to more strongly advocate drug prevention. The Foundation has since continued its drug prevention activities in a phase II project entitled "Klong Toey Addictive Drug Problems Campaign" for a proposed period from January 2000 to December 2000.

# GLOBALIZATION SHOULD WORK FOR PEOPLE NOT PREY ON THEM

The latest UN Human Development report has been the last of the second millennium at the dawn of the new century. "Globalization" was its focus.

Global markets, global technology, global ideas and global solidarity can enrich the lives of people everywhere, the report argues. The challenge is to ensure that the benefits are shared equitably and that this increasing interdependence works for people - not just for profits. Globalization is also increasing human insecurity as the spread of global crime, disease and financial volatility outpaces actions to tackle them.

It is indeed well known that criminals are reaping the benefits of globalization. The "uncivil society" has better thriving conditions than ever before and a number of interesting find-

ings on drug and crime related matters are presented in the report.

- The illegal drug trade - supplying 200 million customers - is worth around US\$400 billion, or 8% of the world trade, that is roughly the same as textiles (7.5%) and gas and oil (8.6%).

- A global growth industry is trafficking in woman and girls for the sex industry - 500,000 a year to Western Europe alone. It is now a US\$7 billion-a-year business.

- Illicit Trafficking in weapons is a growing business - destabilizing societies and governments and arming conflicts in Eastern Europe and Africa. In Albania there were five times as many murders in 1997 as in 1996, a rise attributed to the illegal arming of civilians.

- In Belarus drug related crimes increased from 4 per 100,00 people in 1990 to 28 in 1997, and from 1 per 100,000 to 8 in Estonia.

- At the heart of all this is the growing power of organized crime syndicates, estimated to gross US\$ 1.5 trillion a year - a major economic power rivaling the multinational corporations.

The Report recommends an agenda for action to tackle the challenges of globalization at all levels: Reforms of global governance to ensure greater equity, new regional approaches to collective action and negotiation and national and local policies to capture opportunities in the global marketplace and translate them more equitably into human advance.

Big numbers, scaring threats to development and peace. In Asia and the Pacific, I think - the same threats are bolder than everywhere else.

The United Nations faces the challenge to monitor and control more effectively expanding transnational activities that threaten the integrity and stability of global governance and the global community in general. The corrupting and subversive activities of transnational criminal organizations are a significant challenge to a working system of global governance. These organizations pursue their self-serving goals by creating their own autonomous transnational system of quasi-governance, which undermines and jeopardizes the public law and order on which society at all levels depend.

So far, these actors and the consequences of their activities are under-researched by stu-

dents of global governance.

Along with the commonly embraced benign concept of non-state actors, it is also important to recognize and address the "dark side" of an internationally expanding civil society. In comparison with most other civil society actors, transnational criminal organizations have dramatically different goals and methods of action. They want to minimize their vulnerability to state control of their illicit activities, and they seek to enhance their illicit "business" opportunities - by any means necessary, legal and illegal. Thus, they pose a great risk to the integrity and stability of public order at all levels.

To contribute to a better understanding of what works (and what does not work) in the international fight against drug abuse and narco-trafficking and against organized crime the UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific is glad to launch a renovated newsletter.

UNDCP-Eastern Horizons (previously called UNDCP in East Asia) will report on activities by civil society, governments and UN bodies in the Asian fight against the Dark Side of globalization.

The newsletter will be as good (and as bad) as the readers and customers will want it to be. The quality of its reporting will be largely due to the news we receive from our network. Please help us to help all our and your partners in this endeavour. If we succeed, better information will make the public opinion more aware that globalization should work for people, not predate on them.

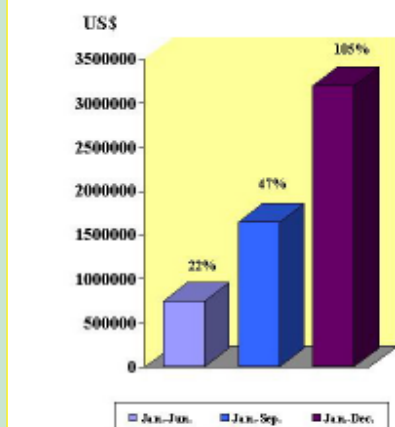
- Sandro Calvani

## INCREASED UNDCP ACTIVITIES IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Commission of Narcotics Drugs (CND) of United Nations Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) approved in November 99 the UNDCP global budget for 2000-2001.

In East Asia and the Pacific the programme portfolio will be increased by 97.5%. The UNDCP budget for drug control activities in the region will expand from \$13.1 million in 1998-1999 to \$25.8 million in 2000-2001.

UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific:  
Total project delivery rate in 1999



# 200 SCHOOLS SING AND DANCE AGAINST DRUGS

On January 30<sup>th</sup> 2000, a big crowd of students and youths from Bangkok and the nearby provinces gathered at the City Centre Point to watch the anti-drug music competition and performance by groups of students from secondary schools and technical colleges.

As part of the campaign on TURN ON MUSIC, TURN OFF DRUGS, the music competition was organized by UNDCP Regional Centre in cooperation with the Office of Narcotics Control of Thailand, BECTERO Entertainment, a well-known media production company and the Ministry of Education. The aims were to promote public awareness on drug problems among students and youths and to encourage them to say YES to music and say NO to drugs.

Recently the abuse of synthetic drugs, especially methamphetamine, has spread to students and youths throughout the country. The survey of ABAC-KSC Internet Poll Research Centre in September 1999 revealed that over 600,000 students were involved in drugs. Almost 55% of them abused methamphetamine, 20% marijuana, 18% volatile substances, and 7% other drugs. In recognition of this emerging problem, UNDCP Regional Centre has

cooperated with ONCB to launch public campaigns against drugs among students and youths. In addition to the mass Anti-drugs Parade on 26 June 1999, the Music Competition was launched to encourage groups of students to create anti-drug music and songs.

Over 200 schools and colleges from Bangkok and the provinces entered the competition and submitted their recorded tapes to the organizers. After two rounds of screening, 10 outstanding teams were chosen by the Selection Committee to participate in the final competition. Prior to the final contest, a three-day Music Camp/Workshop was organized from the 21-23 of January at the UN Convention Centre and ONCB to further train these selected students on sing-



The group taking the second place in the anti drug music competition



The winners of the TURN ON MUSIC, TURN OFF DRUGS music competition

ing and performance skills and integrate anti-drug messages into their music and performance. A joint press conference on the competition was launched to attract the media and the public to the event. In addition, anti-drug messages and interviews were also broadcast by various radio and TV channels.

In the afternoon January 30<sup>th</sup>, the 10 finalists put on their outstanding performances in front of the large audience at the City Centre Point in Bangkok. The announcement of the winners were made at the end of the competition. The finalist awards and complimentary prizes were jointly presented by Dr. Sandro Calvani, Representative of UNDCP Regional Centre and Khun Rasamee Vistaveth, ONCB Deputy Secretary-General.

The Music Competition attracted a lot of interest and participation from educational institutions, students, and youths as well as mass media and the public as a whole. It is hoped that these participating students will continue to use music as a vehicle to carry anti-drug messages to their friends and the society.

## ASIAN HEADS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT: MORE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ESSENTIAL

Recognizing that the countries of the region are linked by the problems of the illicit drug trade, it has recently been determined at a meeting that collaborative efforts and the exchange of information, training and operational assistance, are the key to future success in the drug control efforts.

The twenty-third meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific took place in

Bangkok from the 7-10 of December 1999. Delegates from thirty-three countries participated in an open and constructive meeting.

It was acknowledged that the majority of States within the region have entered into subregional drug control agreements, both with and without the assistance of UNDCP support; nevertheless, more effort is required to strengthen the commitment to develop these agreements further and enter into operational exchanges.

Another outcome of the meeting was the recommendation that signature analysis on major seizures of ATS should be undertaken and the results made available to all drug law enforcement through the regional focal point of ATS information that will be established by the UNDCP. The last notable recommendation was the States of the region should establish a national capacity for data collection to collate and analyze information on the illicit production and trafficking of heroin.

# ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AT ITS BEST: A SUCCESS STORY FROM LAOS

**Among the mountainous areas of Laos the Palaveck project has set a successful example in how to effectively eliminate the production, consumption and trafficking of illicit drugs like opium through close co-operation between the Lao Government and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).**

The project is running in highland areas, where the people have a tradition of producing opium. Today, Laos is the third largest opium producing country in the world. More than half of all opium produced every year is consumed locally, the rest finds its way to other parts of the world through illegal drug trafficking. Drug control efforts thus remain a major concern of the Lao government and continuous to be given high political priority.

One of the first projects targeted at curbing opium poppy production was an UNDCP funded project for drug supply and demand reduction started in the remote area of Palaveck Sub-District. Among people who historically have been deeply involved in illicit opium production and trafficking inhabit the area.

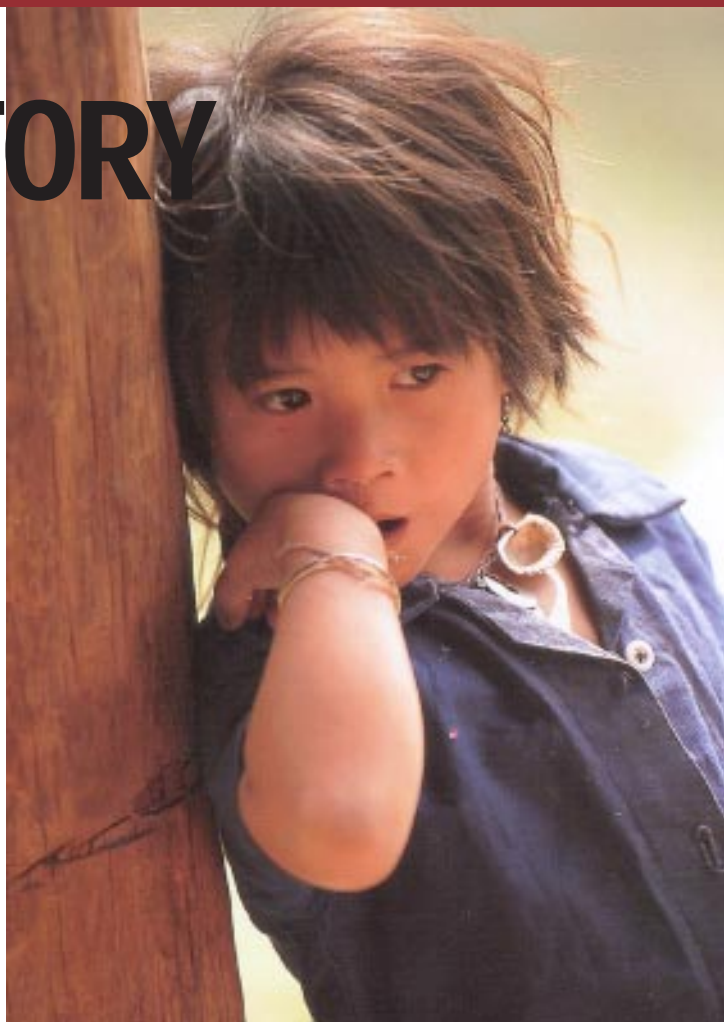
The project was implemented during a period of seven years, starting from July 1989. At the beginning of project, the Palaveck Sub-District was an isolated and remote area. Travelling from Vientiane to Palaveck took several days, food shortages and various diseases were common, malaria was a major cause of death, and more than 50 percent of the children born in the area did not reach the age of 5 years. Opium poppy cultivation was a main income for the farmers, but often also resulted in drug addiction and thus a situation of poverty for many people.

The main objective of the Palaveck project was to initiate socio-economic development that would enable the farmers to replace and eliminate illicit drug cultivation and abuse. Viable economic, social and

ecological options to substitute opium growing were tested and demonstrated. The ones proved successful are now an essential part of the 'alternative development approach' ready for replication in other opium growing areas in Laos.

The alternative development approach, introduced by the Palaveck project has over a short period of time transformed a previously food deficient area into one producing a rice surplus. Diversification of crops, livestock vaccination, promotion of income generating activities and rural credit systems, better health services and sanitation, improved irrigation systems and upgraded roads, soil conservation and environment protection, have resulted in an improved socio-economic situation for the people of Palaveck. The project has also been able to significantly reduce opium production and consumption in the area.

UNDCP is entrusted with the responsibility for co-ordination and providing leadership for UN drug control efforts. The challenges facing Laos during the new millennium rest with the gradual elimination of illicit opium production and tackling the problems of drugs, such as heroin and amphetamine, effecting its population at large. These challenges can be met through the same means as the ones used in the Palaveck project.



Over the next 6 years, Lao PDR and the UNDCP will initiate a poverty alleviating and opium eliminating programme strategy similar to the one of Palaveck. Total costs are estimated at US\$ 80 million covering the opium growing districts of Lao PDR. This programme strategy is referred to as an historic agreement between H.E. Kharntay Sipandone, President of Lao PDR and Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of UNDCP.

This agreement represents a breakthrough in diminishing a major source of opium production in Asia and enabling government and donors to address openly and systematically this deep-seated development issue that lies at the heart of the poverty and associated addiction in Northern Lao PDR. The success of the Palaveck project will be replicated throughout the opium producing highlands of Laos.

*– Information provided by UNDCP Country Office in Lao PDR and edited by UNDCP Regional Centre, Bangkok.*



*Widespread drug production, abuse and trafficking in East Asia call for a collective response from governments in the region to join forces and develop a framework for effective cooperation in drug control.*

# UNDCP BREAKING GROUND IN TRA



*Professional law enforcement officers from different backgrounds interact to solve learning assignments*

The UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok is delivering training to the drug law enforcement community in 6 countries in East Asia; however, it is training with a difference. Front line staff are being taught knowledge and skills in a whole range of drug related topics through computer based training. This project is the first of its kind in the drug law enforcement field. It should be regarded as a model, a means of establishing the best practice for other agencies to follow.

The training has been designed and developed using subject experts from all around the world. The end result is 70 hours of learning that includes high quality voice, pictures, graphics, video and animation through interaction, simulation and tests in the users own language. The training will be delivered in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam through computer networks or stand-alone computers in dedicated training sites and learning resource centres in high risk drug areas.

A management information system collects student data such as name of student, location, courses undertaken, lessons and courses completed, pre and post course examination results and many other student performance statistics.

The curriculum includes:

- risk assessment, profiling and selection methods at border crossings, inland checkpoints, airports and seaports
- risk management techniques
- search techniques – vehicles, people, premises, aircraft
- investigation techniques
- intelligence methods
- drug identification and testing
- controlled deliveries
- money laundering

Results have been encouraging as

# ING NEW INING

drug law enforcement agencies have found many benefits though actual use:

- Because this type of training is not dependent on the availability of trainers and training facilities, training is available on a continuous basis and allows personnel to be trained quickly

- Training can be provided immediately. There are not the delays usually associated with classroom training where planning, priorities and budget restrictions effect delivery timescales

- Training is available 24 hours a day and this provides flexibility. For example, students can train during down time

- Everyone gets the same training to the same standard

- There is a significant reduction in training costs. Because it is delivered close to the workplace there are real savings in the cost of student travel and overnight accommodations, as well as saving in the cost of trainers and cost of maintaining and running training activities

- Because the training has been designed to interact with and stimulate a user, this increases the retention of the learning

- The training can be accessed many times, for example for a refresher training or simply as a point of reference

- Useful training evaluation data is produced through a management information system

- It provides one to one training that allows trainees to learn at their own speed

- Students can make mistakes in private with any loss of face

This training initiative emanates from a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that UNDCP has signed with the Governments of the 6 countries mentioned previously. Widespread drug production, abuse and trafficking in East Asia call for a collective response from governments in the re-

gion to join forces and develop a framework for effective cooperation in drug control. In 1993, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and UNDCP signed an MOU to pursue collaborative efforts to deal with the drug problems in the sub-region. They were joined by Cambodia and Vietnam in 1995.

The UNDCP and the 6 MOU countries have agreed on a Subregional Action Plan outlining priority projects. Training front line drug law enforcement personnel was seen as a high priority. An in-depth training needs analysis revealed that drug law enforcement agencies needed to improve basic skills, particularly from line staff who form the first line of defence against drug and precursor trafficking. The target population was estimated at more than 1 million. Traditional training methods such as classroom training could not meet such a

demand.

Furthermore, existing training budgets were already stretched and countries lacked subject experts and training specialists. Computer based training was seen as the solution to the training problem. Training and subject experts from various drug law enforcement agencies around the world designed paper based training modules, which were then converted into multimedia interactive training packages by multimedia production companies based in Thailand.

Although computer based training has seen to have benefits for the 6 MOU countries, this type of training methodology is not limited to this region. It can be used worldwide, particularly in those countries and regions where large groups of people need to be trained quickly.

## UNDCP AND ESCAP WORK TOGETHER TO GUARD AGAINST EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**“Integrating substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation into actions against sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion,” is the title of a fifteen month project that began in April 1999.**

Supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) and partially by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the project is an integrated component of the three year ESCAP project entitled, “Strengthening national Human Resources Development (HRD) capabilities through training of social service and health personnel to combat abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in GMS”.

The project was formulated in direct response to the concerns expressed by ESCAP member governments during the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth held in Beijing in October 1996 who stressed the lack of information on the situation of sexual abuse and exploitation of youth.

Implemented by the HRD section of ESCAP, preliminary findings of the three-year project indicated that sexually abused and sexually exploited children are either substance abusers or are highly vulnerable to substance abuse. Although a substance abuse component was not in the original plan of the project's

design, it was decided that the assistance of UNDCP should be sought in two areas.

First, in the development of a gender-sensitive HRD training module for social service and health personnel to enhance their capabilities in dealing with substance abuse problems among children and youth at risk and/or victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Consequently, a two week training session is tentatively scheduled for mid 2000 in Thailand where three days of the training period will be devoted to lectures on drug abuse.

The second area ESCAP requested collaboration was in the implementation of pilot projects focused on community awareness in the six participating countries – Viet Nam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, China (Yunnan), Myanmar and Thailand – with a vulnerable population at risk of sexual abuse, exploitation and substance abuse.

ESCAP in consultation with UNDCP and the National Counterpart Organization have selected sites and implementation of the pilot projects began in the beginning of 2000.

# IT'S ONLY JUST BEGUN

The major money-laundering and corruption case uncovered in Russia and the USA goes in line with the continuing trend that has brought the problem of dirty money and "hot" money to the top of the list of world-wide priorities.

By Pino Arlacchi

Anyone who witnessed events in Italy in the 70s and 80s – with the chapters on the Sindona and Ambrosiano affairs and the oil crisis, the stories of "black" funds and international aid and of hoards and kickbacks exported to Switzerland and elsewhere – will perhaps not be very impressed by reading the reports which appeared in the press world-wide.

Admittedly, the plots and characters in this case are not very original, but we should not overlook the unusual scale of the quantities at stake, and the degree to which legal transactions mingle with illegal ones, as emerging from every aspect of the story.

Although the legal profile of what is emerging will probably remain uncertain, it is sure that the sum of 10,000 million dollars transferred over a period of two years to two American banks involved represents on its own 3% of the total annual gross domestic product of Russia, a country that is still powerful, with an enormous nuclear arsenal, but a modest economic base, similar to that of a country the size of the Netherlands.

The outcome of the court case is unpredictable since it will be fairly difficult to establish the exact origin of the capital that has fled from Russia to banks in Switzerland. The USA and the European Union through channels identified by the investigators. Some of them are hedging their bets, stressing the enormity and complexity of the case that is compromising inquiries into the facts and the responsibility of individual people.

Russia today is a country with a population of 160 million and a gross domestic product of only 400,000 million dollars. The disposable income of its population amounts to \$4,500 p.a., i.e. less than the per capita income of Brazil, Mexico and South Africa, and some seventy other countries. In the Russian Federation there are no conventional criminal markets - in the sense of drug trafficking, prostitution, racketeering, gambling or even arms

profits on that scale. Other factors have to be involved - those illegal activities that, contrary to what is generally thought, produce higher figures: tax evasion, political and administrative corruption, corporate fraud and the large-scale plundering of natural resources such as oil and aluminium.

This means there has to be much greater complicity than that existing within the Russian élite itself. Even the Russian Central Bank, with big enough to launder sums on that scale. Many intermediaries, many banks and many countries are required. Or alternative bits of countries, offshore jurisdictions for example, where the "hot" money of legal and "grey" speculation can mingle easily with the dirty money produced by the trade in people and drugs, and with perfectly clean money, with nearly a quarter point of extra yield.

All this makes the work of the inquiry team extremely difficult. The great money-laundering operation and its illegal sources are blended in so thoroughly with global financial flows that it has now become a difficult undertaking to bring retrospective proceeding by traditional judicial routes. This is the reason for the meagre results, in terms of sums recovered, generally achieved in cases like that being investigated.

But money laundering, together with its inevitable connection with organised crime and corruption, has at the same time become one of the greatest threats to the security and stability of states and to our society as a whole. It is a mistake, therefore, to concentrate one's attention just on Russia and its difficult transition to democracy. The Russian crisis is just the first example of a

large country turned upside down by the forces of the global illegal market. Three years ago the same fate befell a small country like Albania, triggering a crisis that cost the international community, and Italy in particular, quite dear. And there are several other candidates for the next crisis like this.

What can be done, then, to fight this disease? We need an improvement in the rules for prevention, in international standards and in the very tools for control and suppression. There is an ongoing discussion on



Prof. Pino Arlacchi,  
executive director of  
the UNDCP.

a powerful strategy to be adopted soon to make financial flows more stable and transparent. This would consist in creating a world agency for security in trade, with universal jurisdiction and a supra-national workforce: a sort of world-wide financial police force with a broad mandate that includes prevention activities, capable of intervening in real time in any corner of the globe.

Before working in the world of international relations, the author used to be in favour of that strategy. But there is another, more realistic line of conduct. A series of universal anti-laundering and anti-corruption

***"A series of universal anti-laundering and anti-corruption standards should be established and adopted"***

(Continues on page 10)



# REDUCING ILLICIT DRUG USE IN THE HIGHLANDS OF EAST ASIA

The primary objective of the project is to develop community, national, and regional capabilities to reduce the illicit use of drugs and related social problems among selected highland ethnic minority groups.

Located in the mountainous regions of East Asia, the people of the ethnic highlands have traditionally had a higher level of opium abuse compared to other communities. To address the increasing drug abuse prevalence in ethnic highland villages and towns, 5 of the 6 MOU Governments (China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) have identified the need for more informed and effective approaches to sustainable community-based drug demand reduction.

In response, UNDCP is leading a 3 year regional pilot project that focuses on the development of national capacities to design and deliver programmes with a strong community base. The primary objective of the project is to develop community, national, and regional capabilities to reduce the illicit use of drugs and related social problems among selected highland ethnic minority groups. As well, the project hopes to build a network to further advocate the socio-economic development of highland communities.

Preparatory work began in 1997 with



*Ethnic highland villagers of all generations agree to combat illicit drug use.*

lish the priority of socio-economic needs with the highland communities. Drug abuse in the highlands could not be addressed in isolation; therefore, data was collected and major themes were identified including: income and food security, clean water, health care, sanitation, access to credit, roads to market, and electricity.

Another major component of the project was to build community-based detoxification centres to help men and women recover from their addictions. The centres were constructed and detoxification has occurred,

except in Vietnam which will be completed before June 2000, the targeted closing date of the project. Encouragingly, no new addiction cases have been identified.

Post detoxification care was also considered to be a critical part of the treatment continuum, particularly as it relates to assisting addicts with their social and economic reintegration into their community. Thus, post-treatment care services were established through counselling, periodic home visits, the establishment of essential services such as clean water and electricity, and the involvement of family members and friends to provide support for recovering addicts. An income generation rehabilitation plan was also implemented and supported by loans from the community trust fund created by the project.

As the Highlands project comes to a close, an evaluation was conducted and is currently under review. Tentatively, a revised draft will be available to selected parties by the end of February. Encouragingly, two countries—Myanmar and Vietnam—have received funding to continue the project's activities independently and it is anticipated that other highland communities with similar problems will benefit from the project outcomes.

the selection of the seventeen different ethnic villages. Since then, the project has been met with considerable success as all of the planned activities are either completed or underway. Numerous consultations have occurred with government officials at many levels to enhance their general understanding of community based approaches to drug demand reduction.

Baseline surveys and needs assessment exercises were conducted to estab-

cerning demand reduction and prevention in the region.

It provided a forum for exchange of information and good practices, which included practical measures for national and regional implementation of the ATS Action Plan adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the UN General Assembly.

Priorities were also established for future action to combat ATS problems at the national, regional and international levels, as ATS is acknowledged as the key global drug problem in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## STRENGTHENING FIGHT AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE

The conference on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) was convened in Tokyo from 24 to 27 January 2000 to facilitate consensus on decisive and coordinated counter-actions by Governments, not only in the East and South-East Asia region, but from around the world.

Organized by UNDCP in conjunction with the Government of Japan, the conference achieved its expected outcomes to raise awareness of the problems related to the regulation and control of ATS and its precursors, as well as issues con-

# TURNING THE TIDE IN YUNNAN

**The Chinese Province of Yunnan, due to its geographical position neighbouring Myanmar which is the second largest producer of heroin in the world, faces the most serious drug problems of any Chinese province.**

Due to the extreme situation, the authorities in Yunnan trying to control the drug situation are forced to use new and untraditional means, which have proved to be quite successful. The authorities have chosen to focus on prevention and cure for addiction where police in other places in China would treat it as a crime. But in Yunnan drug addicts are seen more as law offenders than as criminals.

The distinction enables the police to help the drug addicts to correct themselves instead of

using the harsh means used to punish criminals. Drug addicts who are identified for the first time are sent for detoxification in special centres. The Kunming camp with unguarded gates has 2,000 inmates who undergo a mixture of detoxification, counselling and bootcamp. The reputation of the centre's approach has spread and about half the inmates come from other Chinese provinces. In fact, a good portion are volunteers who pay 150 yuan (\$18) a week to go clean.

The Kunming police, like

most liberal health care officials in western countries, talk of the need for community care and counselling once the inmates return home. An approach, which visiting drug experts say, have had considerable success

in keeping people off drugs. The outcome of the efforts in Yunnan is, that it is the only province in China the number of registered drug users are actually decreasing.

## We need an universal offensive against corruption

*(Continues from page 8)*

tion standards should be established and adopted and, at the same time, the barriers to circulation of information and investigators should be gradually brought down. This means generalizing and accelerating the dynamics already in train in the more developed countries, based on the example of Europol, the European police force and some agencies in the European Commission in Brussels.

The UN office in Vienna is in the forefront here, in proposing strategies for solving the problem. We were the first, as early as last June, to focus on a crucial point in the fight against money laundering: the need to abolish two areas of impunity: banking secrecy and the forms of offshore legislation that have blossomed in some seventy tax havens.

We are working on a proposal to introduce a universal of offensive against corruption, so as to prevent the current regime of double standards under which the corruption of a country's citizens is punished if it takes place within that country and allowed to carry on freely if outside the country's borders.

We are working in conjunction with the leaders of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as with many Member States. But we will not be successful if public opinion in the developed country, sensitive to these topics, like Italy, does not follow. – Prof. Pino Arlacchi

**– This article, taken from UNO & Society magazine Ausgabe 312/99, is the English translation of an article by Pino Arlacchi which was published in the Italian daily "Il Corriere della Sera".**

Eastern Horizons was among the curious ones who hurried to visit the Singaporean anti-drug website. We were impressed! The website is extensive, combining interactive elements, like games and competitions, together with information about different drugs such as their effects on humans and the legal ramifications for the unlucky person gets caught with any illicit drug in Singapore.

The front page of the site starts like a computer game inviting you inside to serve with the secret A.N.D.Y. millennium

force, making this curious guest feel nostalgic for the glorious days of Wulfenstein I. The professionalism behind the technical design of the website is exceptional and, which in itself makes the website worth a visit.

However, using the information on Ecstasy as an example, this guest found it hard to understand why anyone would risk up to 10 years in jail and a \$20,000 fine in order to achieve diarrhoea, extreme thirst, hyperactivity, headaches and dizziness, nausea and vomiting or loss of appetite.

<http://www.ezyhealth.com>

## SINGAPORE TAKES WAR ON DRUGS TO CYBERSPACE



Singapore's first anti-drug campaign has recently been launched on the Internet. The Internet was chosen by the Singaporeans to be the medium of the campaign in order to target youth as a group. An obvious choice since many Internet users belong to the target group and no other age group uses the Internet as frequently as young people do.

Consequently, using the Internet seems to be an idea of great potential. The central website of the campaign is organised by the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA), the Central Narcotics Bureau and Ezyhealth Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. There is access to the Singaporean anti drug website at <http://www.ezyhealth.com>.

At the launch of the website the NCADA Chairman Lim Hock

San told the press that there is no magic pill to overcome the multi-faced drug problem but this campaign was a step in the right direction. The Internet, a new ubiquitous medium in the economy, has been used by the young students as a way to learn new things. In this context the Internet is seen as one of the most important ways to get the message, "say NO to Drugs" across to youths.

The campaign focuses on active participation by creating web-based competitions which are open to students ranging from primary schools to universities. The competitions involve a webpage design and a questionnaire testing the student's knowledge about drugs. The correct answers are available at another location on the website, encouraging the students to visit all the webpages.



## ALTERNATIVES EXIST

The very successful elimination of opium poppy growing in Northern Thailand has always been based on the fact that alternatives exist. Through joint efforts of the Royal Project and the Thai/UN Crop Replacement and Community Development Projects, the opium poppy has gradually been replaced with other cash crops. One of these are coffee, which through the brand Hill Tribe Gourmet Coffee is available at among other places major hotels and tax free on Thai Airways international flights.

## METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZED IN HANOI

Methamphetamine was seized for the first time in Hanoi. One hundred and eighty-nine tablets with WY lettering on the side, 4 capsules of methamphetamine power, and 44.2 grams of heroin were discovered and confiscated by Dong Da District Police in a house search at Linh Dam living quarter. The search was conducted after the arrest of the alleged drug dealer Pham Quang Vinh (alias "the Mask").

– Information provided by UNDCP Country Office in Vietnam and edited by UNDCP Regional Centre, Bangkok.

# REDUCING ATS ABUSE IN CHINA

UNDCP project entitled, "Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building in Yunnan Province" aims to reduce the traffic of illicit narcotic drugs and controlled chemicals within China, specifically in the Yunnan province that borders Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam.



The objective of this three-year project is to be achieved by strengthening the law enforcement capabilities of the Chinese Police and Customs Administration at provincial and local levels.

Considerable time had passed since a representative of the UNDCP Regional Centre had visited UNDP Beijing, and in view of ongoing and possible projected activities, it was imperative that closer links be established. Moreover, discussions were necessary between the National Narcotic Control Commission (NNCC), the China International Centre for Eco-

nomics and Technical Exchange (CICETE), and the UNDP in respect to the project.

On October 11-12<sup>th</sup>, 1999, a meeting was organized in Beijing, China to discuss the provision of UNDCP assistance to Yunnan province. Mr. Yngve Darling, Law Enforcement Advisor for UNDCP and Mr. George Atkinson, UNDCP consultant, attended.

Discussions centered on a wide range of topics including emphasis on increased communication among involved parties, financial matters, the procurement of equipment for other countries in the region,

the organization of training courses and workshops, and the potential for future UNDCP projects.

Overall, all parties involved in the mission felt it was a worthwhile visit that emphasized the problem of drug abuse and trafficking in China. It was recognized that recent large seizures of ATS in the Southeastern provinces are a cause for concern and are indicative of a far greater abuse situation than the authorities are prepared to acknowledge.

# INTENSIFIED ANTI-DRUG MOVE IN NORTHERN PHILIPPINES

**An intensification of the police efforts against drug trafficking in Northern Philippines has resulted in some gratifying achievements.**

No less than 4,500 drug peddlers and users were arrested, and more than 200 kg of marijuana and 10 kg of shabu (the local name for methamphet-

amine) were confiscated.

Police records showed that during the first quarter of last year, a total of 1,413 communities in Central Luzon (located in Northern Philippines) were under the influence of illegal drug traffickers. Encouragingly, this number has been cut in half

due to increased police efforts.

Another important trend is that more than 2,000 illegal drug dependants in the region have volunteered to be treated in drug rehabilitation centres. However, the majority are been treated as out-patients due to the lack of rehabilitation centres.



**As part of their drug prevention campaign, UNDCP's country office in Myanmar has translated two posters into Burmese, Shan, Kachin, and Chinese, which are the most common languages of the areas where UNDCP operates. They have been distributed to Embassies, UN agencies, Government counterpart offices, project sites, tea shops which are main social gathering centres for the Myanmar people, trains, and railway guesthouses.**

– Information provided by UNDCP Country Office in Myanmar and edited by UNDCP Regional Centre, Bangkok.



Mr. Sandro Calvani, (Italy) In November 1999, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Sandro Calvani as the new Representative of the UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. His extensive experience with UNDCP will bring new vision and expertise to the Regional Centre, which is already apparent since his arrival just a few months ago. Dr. Calvani has been a senior manager of the WHO in Addis Ababa and Brazzaville; UNDCP Representative in La Paz, Bolivia, Barbados, Regional Office for the Caribbean; and Brussels, Belgium (EU Institutions). On behalf of the staff at the Regional Centre, we wish Dr. Calvani all the best with his new responsibilities and look forward to working alongside of him during the years to come.

Mr. Gerassimos Fourlanos, Greece has joined the Regional Centre as project coordinator of project "Strengthening of Juridical and Prosecutorial Drug Control in East Asia". Gerassimos brings to UNDCP a strong experience in international law and legal training.

Mr. Marc Morival, (Belgium) project coordinator of project "Sub-regional Development of Institutional Capacity for Demand Reduction among High Risk Groups" moved with the project office to the UNDCP country office in Vientiane, Laos. His experience will strengthen also the Lao Country office demand reduction policies.



Mr. Kesrat Sukasem, (Thailand) UNDCP programme officer has left the Regional Centre to join the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, where he will be responsible for developing ASEAN's programmes on drug issues. Good luck Kesrat!



Ms. Martina Melis, (Denmark) has joined the office as a temporary programme officer to replace Mr. Kesrat Sukasem. Martina has gained significant experience in inter agency coordination and in social awareness projects during her previous assignments with the UN.



Ms. Rebecca Miller, (Canada) has joined the Regional Centre as an intern from Queen's University of Kingston, Ontario. Rebecca will work on public information activities and legal training. She brings to us the latest knowledge on educational issues, juvenile offenders and the juridical system and on research methodology.

Mr. Sitthichai Chonrabuddha, (Thailand) project officer of "Reducing Illicit Drug Use in the Highlands of East Asia" has left the Regional Centre at the completion of his contract.

## List of documents previously distributed by the Regional Centre

1999

- Global Illicit Drug Trends 1999
- Drug Abuse Rapid Situation Assessments and Responses
- UNDCP Technical Series
- Attacking the profits of crime: Drugs, Money and Laundering
- United Nations Global Programme against Money Laundering
- Model legislation on laundering, confiscation and international cooperation in relation to the proceeds of crime
- Financial Havens, Banking Secrecy and Money-Laundering
- Hong Kong Narcotics Report 1999
- Thailand Narcotics Annual Report 1998-1999
- World Drug Report
- UNDCP Facing the Challenge
- 1998 Report of INCB
- Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted

- to Countering the World Drug Problem Together
- 8-10 June 1998: Political Declaration Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction Measures to Enhance International Cooperation to Counter the World Drug Problem
- 14. Leaflet: What do you really know about drugs?
- 15. Update October 1999
- 16. Poster: Turn on Music, Turn off drugs.
- 17. 4 Posters: Do Drugs kill? Ask the survivors (4 different pictures).
- 18. Poster: If your best friend is drugs, choose a better one in 2000.
- 19. Poster: Choose to live in 2000, choose to live without drugs.

2000

1. Summary of the Meeting on the Regional Centre's Strategies for the Pacific Region

## UN Videos about Drug Abuse

It is possible to order a number of UN produced videos about drug abuse and UN drug control programs. Among the subjects are a video about alternative development in Northern Thailand and a video about the rehabilitation of drug users. Informa-

tion about how to order the videos are available on the Internet. Either through a link available at the Internet address of the UNDCP Regional Centre, which is <http://undcp.undp.or.th> or directly from <http://www.un.org/av/special/drugs/drugunia.htm>

## Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders



United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders have been held every five years since 1955. This year the millennium congress will be held in Vienna, Austria, 10 to 17 April. More information is available on the Internet at <http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/10thcongress/10thcongress.html>