

SIEMREAP DECLARATION

In the spirit of collaboration and of commitment to the fight against illicit drugs, the Delegations of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) jointly declare at the Ministerial Meeting of Signatory Countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control (MOU) in Siem Reap on 19 May 2005 that we:

Recognize the continued need to work together in a spirit of mutual respect, cooperation and collaboration to combat the many social, economic and security threats caused by the abuse of, and trafficking in, drugs and seek to strengthen our respective partnerships in the development and implementation of existing and future drug control and related initiatives in the region, including through regular consultations and cooperation with UNODC;

Recognize the linkages between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime within the region and beyond;

Note the importance of data collection and analysis of ongoing and emerging new developments and trends in drug trafficking and abuse as the basis for effective policy development and law enforcement action;

Express our concern about the rapid increase of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) abuse among children, the youth, and persons in labour-intensive activities;

Note with appreciation the progress made by MOU member states in the control of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, particularly heroin and ATS, through the UNODC precursor control activities, resulting in effective prevention of diversion of such substances from licit channels into illicit traffick, in dismantling clandestine laboratories and in the interception and seizure of drug trafficking;

Are alarmed by the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases mostly through the sharing of contaminated injection equipment among injecting drug users and from injecting drug users to the general population;

Welcome the successful use of computer-based training carried out in MOU countries as an effective methodology to increase awareness and expertise on drug control measures and share best practices and experience among law enforcement and border control officials;

Acknowledge the results achieved in the use of border-liaison offices established by MOU countries in the context of the UNODC project, which led to an increase in the number of interceptions and seizures and the apprehension of drug traffickers;

Recognize the diversifying patterns and routes of drug trafficking which require further maritime drug law enforcement in the region, including intensified efforts to control drug trafficking on the Mekong river;

Support the formulation of a new sub-regional action plan project under preparation by UNODC to develop regional legislative capacity including mutual legal assistance, and

Recommend that countries in the region integrate HIV/AIDS and drug treatment programmes and exchange relevant best practices and experiences, which could consist of drug dependence treatment, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, antiretroviral therapy, risk reduction outreach and referral services, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS, preventive measures, and interventions for especially at-risk populations such as prisoners and sex workers who inject drugs; and, in that connection, develop and implement a comprehensive package of interventions;

Commit to conduct joint cultural, sports and other activities against drug abuse, with shared responsibility, aimed at creating and enhancing public awareness on the danger of drug abuse;

Commit ourselves to make full use of the established computer-based training centers in the training of law enforcement and border control officials, to upgrade and further expand the network of training centers; to take steps to make such training available to relevant other professions, and to include new areas of training, such as intelligence gathering and sharing, money-laundering and asset forfeiture;

Reaffirm our commitment to sustain and further expand existing cooperation of border-liaison offices, and to take concrete steps towards their possible utilization in other areas of transnational organized crime;

Take measures to strengthen and speed up the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases related to drug trafficking and other linked forms of transnational organized crime through joint investigations and enhanced mutual legal assistance;

Urge the countries in the region and the international community to support sustainable alternative development, including market access for products of alternative development initiatives, with a view to eliminating illicit opium production in the region in the near future;

Will undertake effective and well-coordinated efforts to develop and improve mechanisms for the funding of sub-regional, bilateral and national drug control programmes and projects, through resource mobilization and related advocacy efforts, taking into account existing good cooperation between individual MOU members and donors, as well as their special concerns with selected issues;

Call upon all countries affected by drug trafficking as well as funding agencies to extend their full cooperation to MOU countries and to provide technical and financial assistance to the countries of the region to create the capacities to effectively reduce trafficking in drugs, and to advocate demand reduction and prevention efforts;

Express our gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm welcome and hospitality towards the participants of the Ministerial Meeting.

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Greater Mekong Subregion More Committed to Drug Control, Agrees to Implement Expanded Areas of Mutual Cooperation

On their second year of a second decade of regional cooperation, the six signatory countries to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control reaffirmed their commitment towards a drug-free region during the Senior Officials Committee and Ministerial Meetings held from 17-19 May 2005 in Siemreap, Cambodia. The countries to the Memorandum of Understanding include the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Union of Myanmar, Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Heads of the country delegations expressed their renewed commitment for concerted efforts to address the worsening problems of illicit drug production, trafficking, and abuse in the region. The six Governments also pledged their support for projects agreed upon in the meetings and contained in the Subregional Action Plan in the areas of drug demand reduction, sustainable alternative development and law enforcement.

In entering the second year of the second decade of regional cooperation and partnership on drug control in the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Memorandum of Understanding represents a successful model which other regions can replicate.

For three days, senior officials and Ministers and UNODC held rounds of bilateral and multilateral meetings on drug control. The Senior Officials Committee Meeting was held from 17-18 May while the Ministerial Meeting was held on 19 May. The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, through the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) hosted the meetings.

H.E. Loy Sophat, Permanent Vice-Chairman of NACD delivered the opening address at the Senior Officials Committee Meeting that reviewed the revised Subregional Action Plan and the status of the implementation of the projects included in the Plan. The meeting also discussed mechanisms to further enhance technical cooperation and interagency collaboration in the region to effectively face future challenges, building on the accomplishments of the past programmes. The Subregional Action Plan provides a strategic outline for the collaborative efforts of the MOU Governments and UNODC in addressing the problems of illicit drugs.

The current fifth Subregional Action Plan comprises ten projects estimated at US\$ 10,575,500. Funding has been provided by the Governments of Australia, Cambodia, PR China, Germany, Japan, Lao PDR, Luxemburg, Myanmar, Netherlands, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Viet Nam.

Since the signing of the MOU, subregional objectives and the needs of the individual signatory parties have been identified and included in the Subregional Action Plan, within the framework of a balanced approach and with due consideration of funding support.

The Head of Delegations from the MOU signatory countries and UNODC are as follows:

H.E. Sar Kheng
Deputy Prime Minister, Co-Minister of Interior,
and Chairman, National Authority for Combating Drugs
Kingdom of Cambodia

H.E. Zhang Xinfeng
Vice Commissioner, National Narcotics Control Commission
and Vice Minister, Ministry of Public Security
People's Republic of China

H.E. Soubanh Srithirath
Minister to the President's Office
and Chairman, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision
Lao People's Democratic Republic

H.E. Brig. Gen. Than Tun
Deputy Minister, Ministry for Progress of Border Areas
and National Races and Development Affairs
Union of Myanmar

H.E. Mr. Suwat Liptapanlop
Minister, Ministry of Justice
Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Pol. Sr. Gen. Le Hong Anh
Minister of Public Security
and Vice Chairman of National Committee on AIDS, Drug and Prostitution Control
The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Mr. Akira Fujino
Representative
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

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"The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific promotes and facilitates actions against drug abuse and trafficking, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, money laundering, corruption, and terrorism, through cooperative partnerships in the region."