

# Milestones



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Regional Office for Central Asia



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## CARICC AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE



*On 22 March 2009, the framework agreement on the establishment of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) entered into force, thus opening a new page in the history of the Centre.*

The entry in force follows the ratification of the CARICC Agreement by the parliaments of five of the CARICC countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan). The fourth ratification instrument was placed with the depository – the MFA of Kazakhstan – on 20 February 2009. This allows CARICC

to begin the transition from pilot phase to full fledged functionality.

CARICC is to serve as permanently operating regional information and coordination inter-state agency that shall assist in organizing, undertaking and coordinating agreed joint international operations to combat illicit drug trafficking. The Centre shall also ensure the collection, storage, protection, analysis, and exchange of information on trans-border crime associated with illicit drug trafficking.

CARICC's activities are carried out by the staff of the Centre supported by the liaison officers of the member states as well as liaison officers of observers (non-member states and international organisation) seconded to it.

The first meeting of the CARICC Council (management board) was held in Almaty on 26 Febru-

## Partnership



ary 2009. The Council approved CARICC's strategic plan for the next two years and endorsed candidates for the post of CARICC Director and deputy director who are to be approved by the heads of the CARICC member states.

CARICC continues to develop partnerships with non-member states and organisations. France and Interpol were recently granted observer status at CARICC. Requests of Italy, Finland, and the USA are expected to be considered soon.

CARICC Agreement is open for other states to join either as observer or as a full member. Thus, CARICC aims at close cooperation with other countries of the wider region such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and China. The Centre will be closely cooperating with international organisations such as Interpol, Europol, World Customs Organisation and others.

Secure communication platforms "I-24/7" of Interpol and "CENCOMM2" of WCO were made available to CARICC during the pilot phase of operations of the Centre.

CARICC's achievements to date include serving as the regional focal point for operation "TARCET" on precursors and controlled delivery exercises. CARICC's efforts to foster cooperation and information sharing among the countries resulted, for instance, in seizure of 41 kg heroin in Azerbaijan and 28 kg of heroin in Turkmenistan in two different operations coordinated with Turkish authorities. Altogether, the operations initiated by the liaison officers and coordinated through CARICC have resulted in the dismantling of more than 10 drug trafficking groups, the arrest of several traffickers and the seizure of approximately 200 kg of heroin.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION INTO DOMESTIC LAWS AND PRACTICE

On March, 31 – April, 1, 2009 UNODC ROCA jointly with the General-Prosecutor Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNDP, OSCE, OECD and World Bank held in Tashkent a workshop on implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) into domestic laws and practice.

Uzbekistan acceded to the UNCAC in June, 2008. The Government established a Working Group comprised of representatives from 12 key national agencies to draft a national anti-corruption action plan, which would include measures to implement the UNCAC. A Deputy Prosecutor-General Mr. Sharafutdinov, who is chairing the Working Group, accepted enthusiastically the UNODC/ROCA/GLO900 proposal to hold the workshop for the purposes of providing the members of the Working Group and other national stakeholder with the main requirements of the UNCAC, with the anti-corruption tools developed by the international organizations, and with good practices and lessons learned of by other countries in both prevention and suppression areas.

30 Uzbek participants (including 16 members of the Working Group) representing Supreme Court, General Prosecution Office, ministries of interior, justice, national security, finance, economy, foreign affairs, states committees on customs, tax, statistics, NGOs and private

sector attended the workshop. Other participants were officials from national anti-corruption agencies of Latvia, Slovenia, and Kyrgyzstan, prosecutors from Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and United States, as well as representatives of UNDP, World Bank, OSCE, OECD, embassies of the UK and USA.

The workshop was divided into six main sessions. The first session introduced international anticorruption legal frameworks, initiatives and tools. The second was devoted to the anticorruption measures undertaken by Uzbekistan. The rest four sessions covered four main chapters of the UNCAC - Preventive measures, Criminalization and law enforcement, International cooperation, Asset recovery - as well as challenges and good implementing practice in each of these areas. The participants evaluated the workshop very positively having noted that the topics presented/discussed and the materials distributed would provide a significantly valuable contribution to the process of drafting/completing the national anti-corruption action plan and lobbying its adoption with relevant authorities.

As a follow-up to the workshop, UNODC ROCA is committed to provide the working group with the recommendations and assistance with adoption of the national anti-corruption strategy.

## HEROIN BONFIRE

Nearly two tons of illicit narcotics were set ablaze in a large scale drug burning ceremony organized by the Uzbek National Security Service. James Callahan, Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), took part in the celebration. The drugs, consisting of 501.2 kg of heroin and 1,104 kg of opium, were seized by Uzbek law enforcement agencies throughout 2008. A total of 1,711 kg of drugs were incinerated.

The ceremony follows a record breaking year of seizures by Uzbek law enforcement agencies. A total of 1,472 kg of heroin and 1,062 kg of opium were seized in 2008, doubling the catch in 2007 and beating all previous records for heroin seizures. Marijuana and hashish seizures also increased by 19 per cent (810 kg) and 28 per cent (68 kg) respectively.

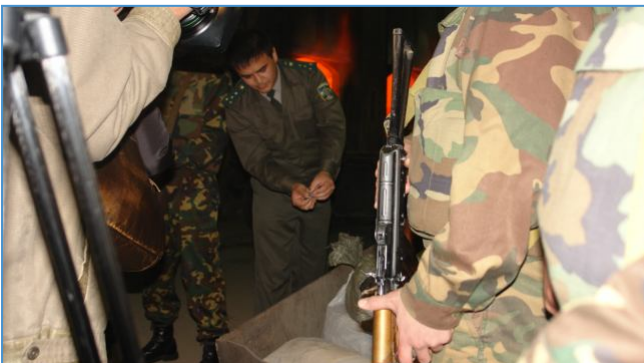
Mr. Callahan noted that the size of recent seizures attests both to the increased pressure by traffickers to move stockpiled opiates across the borders to destination markets and to the increasing efficacy of Uzbek law enforcement authorities.

UNODC ROCA currently manages a portfolio of projects aimed to strengthen the capacity of Uzbek law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking. These projects



tackle both the material needs of drug law enforcement agencies such as precursor testing kits, radios, night vision goggles and the training needs for effective policing such

as search techniques, informant handling, controlled delivery techniques, criminal intelligence analysis.





## DRAMATIC INCREASE IN SEIZURES EFFECTED BY UZBEK LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

2008 was a successful year for Uzbek law enforcement agencies in the field of countering opiate trafficking. Law enforcement agencies increased the total volume of opiates seized in the first nine months of 2008 nearly three-fold compared with 2007. Heroin seizures increased most dramatically by 489 per cent. In total, 1,151 kg of heroin and 995 kg of opium were seized. Although annual seizure totals are not yet available, UNODC estimates these figures will be over 1 ton for opium and 1.5 tons for heroin. If these estimates prove correct, 2008 will have produced the largest ever total annual heroin seizures and the largest ever total annual opiate seizure (in heroin equivalence).

Uzbek opiate seizures have generally mirrored production in neighboring Afghanistan. Afghan production rose sharply throughout the 1990s and Uzbek seizures followed suit. Continuing this par-



allel trend, seizures fell sharply in 2001 and 2002, then began increasing slowly. By 2004, opiate seizures in Uzbekistan were once again over half a ton per year. Yet seizures dipped between 2005 and 2007.

One explanation for the declining level of seizures in 2005-2007 had been adjustments in trafficking routes. According to government officials, opiate trafficking patterns were believed to have changed, with traffickers preferring to transport opiates through Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, bypassing Uzbekistan. However, the recent increase in seizures indicates that there is still a significant flow of opiates passing through the country.

The success of Uzbek law enforcement agencies is also a credit to the UNODC capacity building projects. UNODC has working in partnership with Uzbek law enforcement agencies to increase their capacity to interdict drugs and precursors. This support includes improving criminal intelligence collection and analysis and forensic laboratories capacity; facilitating regional law enforcement cooperation and intelligence sharing; strengthening control of precursor chemicals; and providing advanced narcotics training for law enforcement including training in controlled delivery techniques.





News from the region

## RECENT SEIZURES BY UZBEK LEAS



## WHO-UNODC JOINT PROGRAMME ON DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT AND CARE:

As one of the side events to the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) held in Vienna, representatives from UNODC and WHO signed the joint programme. The joint UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care is a milestone in the development of a comprehensive, integrated health based approach to drug policy that can reduce demand for illicit substances, relieve suffering and decrease drug related harm to individuals and families, communities and societies. The programme aims to promote the understanding that drug dependence is a preventable and treatable multifactorial health disorder and that drug dependence treatment should become a part of the mainstream health care and social welfare system without discrimination with respect to other chronic general and mental health disorders.

UNODC in 2009 has also launched the Treatnet II: Treating drug dependence and its health consequences – a global project that has been conceived as a segment of the Joint Programme. The project will employ three synergic lines of action: systematic advocacy to promote a sound understanding of drug dependence and its treatment and counteract stigma and discrimination; capacity building for service providers; and support to the development and strengthening of drug dependence treatment services. The project covers five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – guided by a regional project team based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Similar regional project teams are located in Lima (covering Latin America), Nairobi (covering Africa) and Bangkok (covering Southeast Asia). For further information please see [www.unodc.org/treatnet](http://www.unodc.org/treatnet) or contact [kamran.niaz@unodc.org](mailto:kamran.niaz@unodc.org)

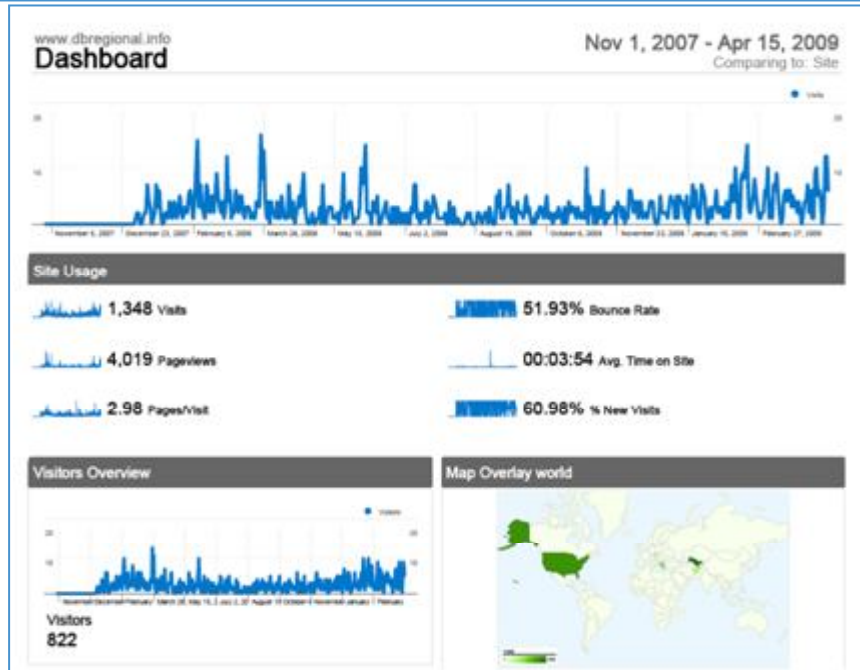


## SUMMARY ON THE REGIONAL DATABASE WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.DBREGIONAL.INFO](http://www.dbregional.info)

DB Regional – an online regional database for data sharing between UNODC offices and counterparts – was developed in the first stage of the Paris Pact Initiative project. At that time, the ROCA database website of the Regional Office for Central Asia demonstrated the advantages of making statistical data available for all UN staff as well as international and national partners.

The establishment in 2007 of a network of Paris Pact National Strategic Analysts (NSAs) based in the UNODC Country Offices in Afghanistan (COAFG), Iran (COIRA), Pakistan (COPAK) and the Russian Federation (RORB), as well as ROCA, resulted in the development of the second phase of the Paris Pact regional website (<http://www.dbregional.info/>). During this time, NSAs regularly updated the drug and crime statistical data, added new categories of statistics, as well as maintained the library of current news.

The website houses a vast bank of information comprising several databases (seizures, crime, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, news) and allows users to generate consolidated thematic tables. Data for 1996-2008 are open for registered users. Guests can view news and drug seizures statistics for



the last six years. Currently, registered users of the dbregional website are comprised of NSAs and UNODC staff in Afghanistan. Any UN staff can receive access to the databases and news regarding law enforcement activity, and developments in the political, economical, and drug and crime situation in selected Asian countries and the Russian Federation. Analysis of the traffic on the dbregional website indicates that the site has received approximately 1500 vis-

its from 78 countries and over 4 thousand pages have been viewed in the last 18 months. By country, users of top ten countries accessed the website from 39 to 266 times (see attached Appendix in pdf format). Uzbekistan ranks the first (266 visits) followed up by the US (217 visits), Austria (101), Greece (90), Afghanistan (73), Russia (72). Users of the rest of the top countries (Iran, UK, Kazakhstan and Germany) visited less 50 times.

On the whole, 44% of users already know the website and directly reach it; 37% of users got it through search engines and others (19%) - via referring sites such as <http://www.unodc.org> and <http://www.dbroca.uz>.

For the period of 2007-2008, increased data collection activities strengthened the dbregional website making it increasingly useful for persons involved to data analysis on counter narcotics, crime, HIV and related fields and in Central and South Asian countries and the Russian Federation.

### 1,348 visits came from 79 countries/territories

Site Usage					
Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate	
1,348	2.98	00:03:54	60.98%	51.93%	
% of Site Total: 100.00%	Site Avg: 2.98 (0.00%)	Site Avg: 00:03:54 (0.00%)	Site Avg: 60.98% (0.00%)	Site Avg: 51.93% (0.00%)	
Country/Territory	Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
Uzbekistan	266	4.79	00:06:41	33.08%	32.71%
United States	217	1.99	00:01:46	77.88%	75.58%
Austria	101	4.22	00:03:57	51.49%	35.64%
Greece	90	4.66	00:05:42	20.00%	22.22%
Afghanistan	73	3.12	00:02:45	8.22%	12.33%
Russia	72	2.25	00:00:41	77.78%	59.72%
Iran	47	4.07	00:09:49	94.00%	91.847%
Kazakhstan	46	2.33	00:21:02	80.43%	63.04%
United Kingdom	43	2.93	00:01:28	100.00%	62.79%
Germany	39	1.77	00:01:18	89.74%	71.79%



## UNODC LAUNCHES "PRO-HEALTH" DRUG CAMPAIGN ON WORLD HEALTH DAY

VIENNA, 7 April 2009 (UNODC) - Today, on World Health Day, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched its global campaign against drugs. "Drug control is not just about security, it's about health. Drug dependence is an illness, and should be prevented and treated as such", said the Executive Director of the UNODC, Antonio Maria Costa. UNODC's international drug campaign will run until 26 June 2009 which is World Drug Day (International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking). UNODC's 2009 campaign with the slogan "Do drugs control your life?" is being targeted at young people in order to encourage them to take care of their health and empower them not to take drugs. "Some people are pro-drugs, we are pro-health", said Mr. Costa. Around 200 million people take drugs at least once a year. Of these, 25 million are regarded as drug dependent. Every year 200,000 people die from drug-related illnesses. Young people are more susceptible to drug use. Prevalence of drug use among young people is more than twice as high as drug use among the general population; three times as high in the case of cannabis. "Much more needs to be done to pro-

vide young people with the skills, information and opportunities to lead healthy and fulfilling lives", said Mr. Costa.

The young are also more vulnerable to the effects of drug use. Because their brains are still developing, by taking drugs they are more at risk of memory loss, behavioural problems and even psychosis.

"There is a lot of talk about legalizing drugs to stop crime. But making drugs more readily available would create a public health disaster and condemn a proportion of every generation to addiction", said Mr. Costa. "Governments do not need to choose between public health and public security - they should do both. On World Health Day - and everyday - governments should make health the first principle of

drug control", said the head of UNODC. He urged governments to devote more resources to improve drug prevention, as well as for drug dependence treatment, care and reintegration into society.

"Drugs are a society-wide problem, so all of society needs to be part of the solution", said Mr. Costa, urging everyone to support the global campaign against drugs. The new youth-orientated branding for the 2009 campaign is available at the UNODC campaign website at: <http://unodc.org/drugs>. The campaign website will be developed and expanded over the coming months in the build-up to 26 June, World Drug Day. UNODC would like to encourage as many awareness-raising activities as possible around the globe and invites communities





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *31 March - 1 April: Tashkent.*

The workshop "Implementation Of The United Nation Convention Against Corruption In Domestic Laws And Practice" will take place. The purpose of the workshop is to train members of the working group and other relevant officials on UNCAC and other international standards, to provide information on the anti-corruption practices of other countries including their experiences with drafting/implementing national anti-corruption strategies/plans, and to evaluate the main gaps in the current Uzbek anti-corruption laws.

### *30 March - 3 April:*

A surveillance training course will be held for 30 officers of Kyrgyz Ministry of Interior by instructors from the US DEA, Helsinki Public Police and the Russian Federal Drug Control Service. The one-week course will cover subjects on initiation and coordination foot surveillance operations, vehicle surveillance, and surveillance operations in urban and rural areas. Moreover, instructors will present modern technical equipment for surveillance operations and discuss coordination of surveillance operations with special technical units.

### *1-3 April: Almaty:*

Regional workshop on health in prisons and alternatives to incarceration will be held.

### *7-22 April:*

A drug enforcement training course will be conducted for 18 mid-level operational officers with 3-5 years of operational experience from Central Asia and Afghanistan organized by All-Russian Advance Training Institute under MoI of Russia and supported by XAC/I97 project. This is the third course of 8 courses planned for 2009.

*20-25 April: Ashgabat:* A round table meeting on the introduction of OST will be held jointly with WHO.

### *12-13 May 2009 - Tashkent*

Following the successful implementation of Operation Tarcet during 2008, a high level meeting will take place in Tashkent to launch a second phase of the operation. Participants from Afghanistan and its neighbours, as well as Paris Pact Partners, will attend the session which is intended to identify courses of action for further interventions against the smuggling of precursor chemicals in the region.

*19-21 May: Tashkent:* The first meeting of the Regional Reference Group on the HIV-Drug Use-Prisons Manual Development will be held.

### *22 May: Tashkent.*

A seminar on the introduction of the new law on HIV/AIDS will be hosted jointly with Parliament of Uzbekistan and UNAIDS.

### *May: Tashkent.*

A 3-day training session on international best practices in the field of countering human trafficking will be organized by the UNODC ROCA for national law enforcement agencies. About 30 officials representing Ministry of Interior, Prosecutor General's Office, National Security Service and Supreme Court of the country will participate in the event. The training envisages enhancing knowledge of trainees on human trafficking phenomenon as well as existing international and national legal instruments and mechanisms that are being successfully employed by the law enforcement agencies of other countries."

### *15-20 June: Kazakhstan.*

A regional workshop is planned on monitoring and evaluation of the access to HIV prevention services for IDUs and prison inmates.

