

Milestones



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

June, 2010

Regional Office for Central Asia



“THINK HEALTH, NOT DRUGS”

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING HELD ON 26 JUNE, 2010

On June 26, media representatives, representatives of state agencies and foreign embassies participated in a press conference organized by UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and the National Information and Analytical Centre under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Journalists were provided with press kits containing information on a long-term international anti-drug

campaign, the theme of the campaign, the overall drug situation in Central Asia and actions taken by the Uzbek government to combat the illicit drug trade as well as UNODC assistance to the government.

The World Drug Report (WDR), launched on this special occasion, identifies trends in the evolution of global illicit drug markets and informs policymakers with solid evidence. The publication also helps position UNODC as a primary source of information for the media.

On the same day, journalists and embassy representatives observed a drug burning ceremony during which Uzbekistan law enforce-

ment destroyed 1371 kilograms of drugs seized over the prior year and used as evidence in criminal prosecutions.

The Government of Turkmenistan conducted the 1st session of the Law Enforcement Roundtable on 25 June 2010. The event was organized in line with Turkmeni-

“As we prepare for this September’s United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, we must recognize the major impediment to development posed by drug abuse and illicit trafficking. As this year’s theme stresses, it is time to “Think Health, Not Drugs”.

*Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General*



Events



stan's "National Drug Action Programme for 2006-2010." The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and EU-UNDP Border Management Pro-

State Customs Service, the State Migration Service, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Justice,

represented in Turkmenistan.

In his welcoming remarks First Deputy Chairman of the State Drug Control Service of Turkmenistan Mr. Yazmukhammet Yagmyrov emphasized the importance of the event which will help to consolidate efforts in the fight against drugs and strengthen information sharing and ideas on how to make these efforts more effective and destructive for drug dealers and criminals.

The UNODC also attended the drug burning ceremony organized by the Government of Turkmenistan in Kasamly-julge place where 674 kg and 133.89 grams of drugs were destroyed on 26 June 2010.

There were many other events devoted to 26 June such as sport competitions, concerts of popular musicians/singers, seminars for school children and their parents and teachers in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



gramme for Central Asia (BOMCA) acted as co-organizers of the meeting.

The meeting brought together more than 50 representatives from the Government of Turkmenistan, including senior level officials from the State Drug Control Service, the State Border Service, the

the Ministry of Healthcare, the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office, Democratic Party of Turkmenistan, National Movement "Galkynysh", trade unions, as well as representatives from all diplomatic missions and international organizations such as UNDP, TACIS, Europa House, IOM, OSCE, TIKa and USAID





ASSISTANCE TO KYRGYZSTAN

On 4 May the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) donated modern law enforcement equipment (cameras, digital voice recorders, body armor) to the Ministry of Interior and the National Security Service of the Kyrgyz Republic. This immediate UNODC assistance was provided upon request of the Interim Government in Kyrgyzstan to help restore the Rule of Law in the country. The assistance aims at strengthening the capacities of law enforcement agencies in countering illicit drugs and organized crime, which have a high potential to destabilize the country and the entire region. In this respect, the UNODC expects that the equipment will be used in international cooperation initiatives, such as controlled delivery operations.

The hand-over ceremony for the National Security Service was organized at NSS premises on 28 April 2010. The NSS representative expressed appreciation to UNODC for providing the equipment at a time when it is needed to counter illegal activities in the country.

The hand-over ceremony for the



Ministry of Interior was organized at MoI premises on 4 May 2010. The hand-over Protocol was signed by Mr. A. Botobaev, Head of the MoI Counter-narcotics department and Ms. Z. Akisheva, Head of UNODC Programme Office. Mr. A. Otobaev expressed appreciation to UNODC for the donation of equipment to the Ministry of Interior, as well as for the

assistance in countering illicit drugs and organized crime provided to the Government of Kyrgyzstan over the last years. He also informed the participants of the ceremony on the achievements made by Kyrgyzstan in implementation of the National Drug Control Programme which is coming to an end in 2010. He made an assurance that the Ministry of Interior will strengthen its efforts in countering drugs both at the national and regional levels, including through controlled delivery operations.

The ceremony was followed by a meeting of the Working Group on elaboration of the National Drug Control Strategy for the period of 2011-2015.





DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT FROM THE HIV/AIDS PERSPECTIVE

On April 1-2, UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and the National Information and Analytical Center on Drug Control organized the national workshop “Effective Management of Healthcare for Drug Users: New Approaches” in Tashkent. This workshop was conducted within the framework of the regional project “Effective HIV prevention among vulnerable populations in Central Asia and Azerbaijan 2006-2010. The workshop was aimed at raising the awareness of participants of the evidence-based health and social protection interventions for drug users and the effective management of service delivery, discussing means for monitoring and evaluation of the accessibility of those services, the possibilities of integration of a wide range of services, tailored to the needs of drug users, at local level and agreeing on priority territories in the country for expanding the accessibility of HIV-related services for drug users with a focus on opioid substitution treat-



ment. There were 34 participants representing the Ministries of Health and Interior (drug dependence treatment service providers), the National Information and Analytical Center on Drug Control, as well as local NGOs, international organizations and UN agencies.

The opening presentation made by



Dr. Nina Kerimi, UNODC Regional Project Coordinator, was devoted to reviewing issues of accessibility of effective HIV-related services for drug users worldwide and discussing terms and definitions: what is meant by the effectiveness of an intervention, what are evidence-based interventions, and how to measure the accessibility of services for drug users.

Participants then received information on the actual accessibility of health services for drug users in Uzbekistan from a presentation made by Dr. Lyudmila Tursunkhodjayeva, Chief Narcologist, Ministry of Health. She focused her presentation on data related to registered drug users and those who have undergone treatment in narcological dispensaries/hospitals. Her presentation was complemented by two presentations, the latter giving more detail on narcological services in Tashkent-city (Dr. Yelena Popova, Deputy-Chief Doctor, Tashkent-city Narcological Dispensary) and Samarkand (Dr. Ludmila Artemova, Deputy-Chief Doctor, Samarkand Oblast Narcological Dispensary) with brief presentations from other provinces. The emotional discussion that followed these presentations revealed quite diverse opinions on what should

be considered effective health care for drug users. The issue of access to opioid substitution treatment (psychosocially assisted pharmacological treatment of opioid dependence) was the most contentious one with Dr. Tursunkhodjayeva, being the chief specialist in national narcology,



expressing her strong disapproval of OST as a method of drug dependence treatment.

A presentation by Dr. Sergey Dvoryak (Director, Institute for Public Health Policy Research, Ukraine) that followed the discussion highlighted the



modern evidence-based methods of drug dependence treatment and case management, including the mainstreaming of HIV prevention and treatment among drug users. The presentation was met with appreciation and opinions were expressed that updates in clinical knowledge of narcologists were welcome.

The next day of the workshop started with a presentation by Mr. Makhmud Abdukhalikov, an independent lawyer, on the legal aspects of access to health services for drug users. His presentation was based mostly on the legislative and policy analysis conducted in 2007-2008 within the framework of the UNODC project. Mr. Abdukhalikov gave examples, extracted from the

current national legislation, of the legal obstacles that hamper access to effective health-related interventions for drug users. He pointed out that some legal provisions open the way for human rights violations such as the lack of confidentiality for registered drug dependent patients, discrimination on the basis of health status, etc. This presentation triggered

another hot debate on human rights, medical ethics, and the letter and meaning of the national law and its actual implementation. A suggestion was made by UNODC to send out the country report on legislative analysis to all interested parties.

After that, components of a model of integrated services for drug users were presented by Dr. Kerimi and, as a



group work, participants were asked to develop their own model of services suitable for use in the provinces with a high prevalence of drug use and HIV. The presented models developed by national participants demonstrated the need for more extensive trainings for narcologists for expanding their knowledge of the comprehensive package for HIV (and

related harms) prevention among drug users and, in general, for improving their understanding of what is the public health approach to drug use and drug dependence. The group work generated common interest and discussion on which provinces to choose for the future piloting of the model of integrated services. Three provinces were recommended as priority territories. After concluding remarks and a roundtable for participants' opinion on the value of the seminar, the session was closed. Although the seminar was charged with strong emotions and at times its atmosphere became tense, all the participants found it very informative and useful, and expressed their interest to continue

working with UNODC on developing further health and social protection services for drug users. UNODC will continue providing technical assistance to the Government of Uzbekistan in the area of HIV prevention among injecting drug users, which should eventually contribute to halting a fast growing HIV epidemic in the country.

NEW HIV LAW ADOPTED IN AZERBAIJAN

In May 2010, a new law on HIV/AIDS passed a third reading in the Parliament of Azerbaijan (Milli Meclis). The law was developed by a parliamentary working group based on country specific recommendations for the update of national legislation and normative frameworks on drug control and HIV. The recommendations were made by national experts and supported by UNODC.

Azerbaijan has been struggling with a dual epidemic of illicit drug use and

HIV infection, the latter predominately driven by the former. This law is focused on preventing the spread of HIV among vulnerable population groups and ensuring implementation of effective and proven preventative methods and approaches.

The law is human rights based and focused on the universal accessibility of HIV related services. This ensures the implementation of evidence-based large-scale and comprehensive targeted HIV interventions, including

drug users in the public sector and inmates in custodial settings. UNTG along with representatives of the Ministries of Health, Justice and Internal Affairs, the Ombudsmen Office, Open Society Institute and Harm Reduction Network have been closely involved in the process of commenting and the provision of technical support from beginning to end. This cooperation is a striking example of interagency collaboration and multi-sector approaches.



ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING MOCK TRIAL IN KAZAKHSTAN



ior officials from the judiciary and law-enforcement agencies to experience many of the issues and evidential arguments that would arise in a genuine case. It helped the participants gain a better understanding of the pressures that investigators, judges and prosecutors face when dealing with genuine money laundering cases. Such pressures include: effective team work, sharing of information and the use of relevant evidence.

The participants and administration of the Training Institute of the General Prosecutor's Office highly recommended this type of training stressing its practical value and suggested regularly organizing mock trials.

The Global Programme against Money-Laundering (GPML) in conjunction with the UNODC/ROCA Senior Regional Legal Adviser conducted a four-day Anti-Money Laundering Mock Trial from 20 to 24 June in Astana, Kazakhstan. The training event was hosted by the Training Institute of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan and attended by 40 prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and FIU officers from Astana and the regions. The objective of this exercise was to give participants practical experience

in the investigation and prosecution of money-laundering with corruption as the predicate offence. The Mock Trial gave an opportunity to sen-



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CHEMICAL INVESTIGATION

In the framework of the NATO-Russian council project a training workshop was organized in cooperation with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Northwestern Advanced Training Institute of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The pur-

pose of the Mobile Training course was to equip Tajik law enforcement officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out effective operational activities in countering the smuggling of precursor chemicals used for manufacturing illegal drugs.

The course was 5 days in duration

and 23 Tajik officers were trained. Topics covered included: methods of chemical diversion; precursor chemical investigations; hazards in chemical investigations; chemical awareness of synthetic/club drugs, methamphetamine, heroin; drugs and precursors smuggling and concealment methods.



UNODC RENOVATES BORDER POST IN TAJIKISTAN WITH FUNDS SUPPLIED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT



The refurbished Border Guard Post at Yol in Shurobad District was formally reopened at a May 14 ceremony attended by representatives of the Border Guards, UNODC, and the United States Embassy. This remote Border Post is strategically located on the Panj River which separates Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The U.S government paid for the equipment and refurbishment. The total cost was \$450,361(US). UNODC supervised the work, which was contracted through a Dushanbe based contractor. In addition to the construction at the Yol facility, the Border Guard outpost was supplied with a Kamaz truck, UAZ jeep, and technical equipment for drug detection. UNODC implemented the USG-funded refurbishment at the Yol border outpost. Improvements included: reconstruction and refurbishment of soldier's barracks and

officers family quarters, construction of an auxiliary kitchen and storage rooms, construction of new showers and washrooms, improved water supply system and external sewage system, installation of a heating system with 3 boilers on solid fuel with natural water circulation and ventilation system, enhanced perimeter security and refurbished classroom, armory, and offices.

This new post will enhance border security between the two counties by providing improved facilities to house both Border Guards and specialized anti-drug officers with the aim of disrupting trafficking organizations and seizing illicit drugs. U.S. Embassy INL Officer Anne Carson commented that, "a cooperative effort is needed to stop the threat from the trans-national drug trafficking organizations operating here in Tajikistan and across the border

in Afghanistan. This new facility will help the Border Guards control this section of the border."

UNODC project-"Strengthening Control along the Tajik/Afghan Border" has operated with funding from the Embassy of the United States of America since 1999. Tajikistan shares a 1344-km border with Afghanistan which is difficult to guard because of extremely high mountains that are connected by remote mountain passes.

Gary W. O'Hara the UNODC law enforcement advisor who coordinates the border project stated, "heroin that crosses the river here at Yol ends up in Russia and Europe. This is the very beginning of what we call the 'Northern Route.' We have a long way to go but this new post should help the Border Guards disrupt the flow of drugs moving through this district."



COORDINATING EFFORTS IN COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL DRUG CRIME



An International Practical meeting for the coordination of efforts in combating transnational drug crime, organized by UNODC RERH22 project and CARICC took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 8-9 June, 2010.

The meeting was attended by the heads of operational departments of the law enforcement agencies of CARICC member states and its partners. Mr. Tofik Murshudlu, Sr. Coordinator of UNODC RERH22 project, and Mr. Beksultan Sarsekov, the Director of CARICC emphasized the role and potential of CARICC in the overall coordination of joint law enforcement activities in the region and

exchange of intelligence, as well as the issue of better utilization of CARICC capacities and services on the operational level.

The focus of the meeting was on the major threat posed by drug trafficking from Afghanistan, as well as on the exchange of intelligence and the organization of bilateral and multilateral operations in the region. Discussions were mainly concentrated on the recent drug trafficking trends in the region and emerging criminal groups and organizations. Participants were encouraged to have separate (closed) meetings with interested parties on potential "targets" for possible joint operations and/or investigations. The meeting

attracted delegates from all CARICC member-states, as well as representatives of LEA's from such countries as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ukraine, Romania, Belgium, Norway, US, Italy, Finland, France, Austria and others. Representatives from international agencies including Interpol, SECI Center, BOMCA and the Anti-Terrorist Center of the CIS took an active part in discussions and supported the idea regular meetings.



ROCA PROVIDES GIS TRAINING AT CARICC

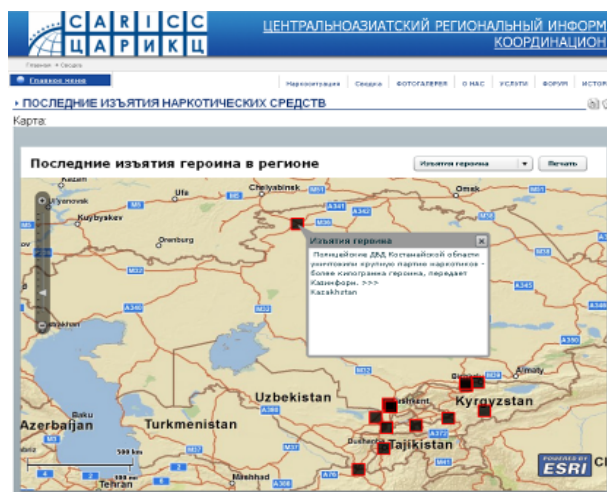
From 28 June – 03 July, the Coordination and Analysis Unit of ROCA provided a five day training course on "Advanced GIS and web mapping technologies" for the staff of the Analytical Unit of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC).

The first training for CARICC staff was organized in 2008 and included such subjects as: data analysis in LE, database basics, architecture of the internet, basics of web hosting and MS Office proficiency. This training was the logical continuation of the first and was designed for using geographic information systems (GIS) in law enforcement activities.

The training agenda consisted of three parts: - introduction to ArcGIS; - advanced GIS training course and;

introduction to web mapping technologies. The agenda included subjects on developing thematic maps at province/country levels and mapping individual drug seizures; processing satellite images; how to best use the internet map resources; introduction to the regional geo-database of ROCA CAU, etc.

At the end of the course participants with the assistance of trainers developed an online map application for the web site of CARICC to present the latest reported cases of drug seizures



(IDS) in the region. The application is based on modern IT technology and linked to the maps of the online geo-database of ROCA CAU.