



Study Tour Report **South-South Cooperation**

Malaysia & Vietnam

May 2007



South-South Cooperation

The notion of international cooperation came to existence with the UN charter, which pledges to “employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social development of all people.” The ‘north-south cooperation’ and technology transfer from the north to south was considered as the bridge to fill the technological competence gulf between the developed and the developing countries. Over the years, it was realized that within the group of developing countries also there were marked differences. This made people to think of cooperation among the developing countries themselves thus giving rise to the concept of ‘south-south cooperation’

The concept of South-South cooperation was developed in the 1970s focusing on the significance of mutual cooperation among developing countries. The cooperation entails an equal relationship between the South and the South. The countries in the south generally share certain commonalities such as similar developmental experience and are also faced with common challenges such as high population pressure, poverty, hunger, disease, environmental deterioration, etc.

The UN has continually been supporting various activities to promote South-South Cooperation in the form of policy support and capacity-building activities among others. In 2003, the UN General Assembly decided to declare 19 December, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. The assembly urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation, and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical, and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives.

Since 2002, facing a concentrated HIV epidemic among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and in Prisons I.R. of Iran has implemented extensive measures for controlling the epidemic, which has made Iran a pioneer country in the region and also among Islamic countries in the provision of comprehensive services to IDUs and in prisons.

In this context and in frame South-South Cooperation, UNODC Iran has adopted the development of more collaboration between south countries as a major policy during recent two years. Improvement of the regional HIV and drug control programmes and measures among the mentioned groups, through exchange of experiences have been the pivot of this initiation.

With facilitating study tours to Iran from countries of the region, UNODC Iran has supported interested countries in developing HIV/AIDS and drug prevention and care programmes in the community and in prison settings.

This report is trying to present a global picture of joint activities between UNODC Iran and other UNODC offices in the wider region during 2007 in the frame of South-South Cooperation by providing brief information of study tours to Iran from Myanmar, Malaysia, China, Vietnam, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.



Contents

Study Tour Report.....	5
1. Participants.....	5
2. Place visited	5
3. Date	5
4. Coordinator	5
5. Purpose of the visit.....	5
6. Outcome.....	6
7. Report	6
Annex I.....	7
Agenda.....	7
Annex II.....	8
Pictures	8



Study Tour
Vietnam & Malaysia Delegations
May 2007 – Iran



The Delegation from Malaysia & Vietnam Visiting UNODC Premises in Iran



Study Tour Report

1. Participants:

Malaysia	
Name	Position
Datuk Mustafa bin Osman	Director General, Headquarters of Prison Department
Dato Hassan bin Haji Sakimon	Director of Rehabilitation and Treatment, Department of Prison, Rehabilitation and Treatment Prison Headquarters
Prof. Adeeba Kamarulzaman	Head, Infectious Diseases Unit, University of Malaya
Vietnam	
Mr. Pham Duc Chan	General Director, Department of Prison Management, Ministry of Public Security
Mr Le Anh Ngoan	General Director, Department of Health Care, Ministry of Public Security
Mr. Nguyen Nhu Cong	<i>Translator</i> , International Relations Department, Ministry of Public Security
Mr. Gray Sattler	Regional Adviser HIV/AIDS, UNODC Regional Center for East Asia and the Pacific
Ms. Sonia Bezziccheri	Associate Adviser HIV/AIDS, UNODC Regional Center for East Asia and the Pacific

2. Place visited: Tehran, I.R. of Iran

3. Date: 05 – 10 May 2007

4. Coordinator: UNODC Iran / UNODC Thailand

5. Purpose of the visit:

For most countries in the South East Asia region there is a continuing need for advocacy and awareness rising for HIV as it relates to both drug use and in prison settings. This work is necessary in order to secure high-level political and bureaucratic support in both areas. With regard to drug use, in most cases the need now is to strengthen support; with regard to prison settings advocacy efforts are more focussed on awareness rising and developing support for the implementation of the comprehensive package of services related to HIV, AIDS and drug use.

Iran has considerable experience in the provision of comprehensive HIV prevention and care services, through a continuum that covers both communities and closed settings. The Regional Center has been approached to support advocacy and awareness raising efforts for the development of the comprehensive package of HIV prevention and care in prisons in Malaysia and Vietnam. The request focuses on support for a fact-finding mission for senior Prisons Department officials to look at appropriate international good practice in the provision of drug substitution treatment in prisons. In this context, the purpose of the study tour is defined as to facilitate Senior Prisons Officers from Malaysia and Vietnam in a fact finding mission to review HIV prevention, treatment and care programmes in prison settings in Iran



6. Outcome:

The mission proceeded with the participants and according to the programme as reported in Annex I. Participants reported significant differences in the development of HIV prevention, treatment and care services in prison settings between their countries and Iran. In both cases the Iranian programme includes a wider range of services and is further developed.

7. Report:

During the five days of visit to Iran, the delegation visited many places and participated in several meetings with the Iranian authorities and officials involved in the field of drug abuse and HIV prevention, care and treatment and the following findings and recommendations are the result of this study tour:

- That South-South cooperative initiatives (in both directions) are both appropriate and beneficial and should continue, including further missions which take advantage of the cultural elements shared by Iran and Malaysia;
- That the regional programme include further efforts to develop capacity within the vulnerable communities to participate in HIV and drug demand reduction programmes at all levels;
- That UNOCD collaborate with the Malaysia Ministry for Home Affairs in the development of a pilot opium substitution programme;
- That in order to ensure that the development of a comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care programme in prisons and a continuum of care between communities and prisons settings are developed as integral elements of the national HIV programme, the Malaysia Ministry for Home Affairs should be fully integrated into the HIV programme in Malaysia;
- That a regional research and training initiative addressing the need for in-country capacity in HIV prevention, treatment and care in prison settings is needed and should be discussed with the University of Malaya and other partners;
- That further advocacy with senior prisons officers will be undertaken through meetings of the Asia Pacific Prisons Officers Association in 2007, in Vietnam and in 2008, in Malaysia, placing HIV prevention, treatment and care with drug users in prisons settings on the agenda for 2008;
- That expansion of the MMT pilot in Vietnam be recommended, to include on prison setting;
- That the regional programme include country based assessments of drug users' information needs and the most appropriate ways these could be addressed.



Annex I

Agenda

Sunday 06 May, 2007	
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome meeting at UNODC-IR
11:00 – 12:00	Meeting with Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Meeting with Judiciary Representatives
Monday 07 May, 2007	
08:30 – 09:30	Meeting with Dr. Gouya, Head of Disease Management Center, MOH
10:00 – 12:00	Visit to West Triangular Clinic
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Visit to Positive Life Non Governmental Organization (NGO)
Tuesday 08 May, 2007	
09:00 – 10:00	Meeting with Dr. Parviz Afshar, Deputy of Health and Corrective measures of Prisons Organization
10:00 – 11:00	Visit to Inmate After Care Services
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 – 14:00	Meeting with Head of Qezel Hesar Prison
14:00 – 16:00	Visit to Qezel Hesar Prison
Wednesday 09 May, 2007	
09:00 – 10:00	Meeting with Dr. Saberi, Head of prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse, MOH
10:00 – 13:00	Visit to Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS) and meeting with Dr. Razaghi, Director General Psycho Social Health Bureau of MOH and Head of INCAS
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
15:00 – 16:00	Meeting with Dr. Hamidreza Setayesh, UNAIDS Country Officer
Thursday 10 May, 2007	
09:00 – 10:00	Visit to Azadi Drop In Center (DIC)
11:00 – 12:00	Visit to Persepolis DIC
13:00 – 15:00	Wrap-up meeting (Lunch at UNODC)

Annex II

Pictures



Visit to Azadi DIC in Tehran



Meeting with the Judiciary's Representatives



Meeting with the DCHQ Authorities



Meeting with Qezel Hessar Prison Authorities



Visit from Tehran Province Inmate After-Care Center



Meeting with Head of Prevention & Treatment of Substance Abuse, MOH



Visit to INCAS



Visit to UNAIDS