

UNODC helps countries and its people to reduce illegal drugs and crime throughout the world and to address justice and human security. It helps Member States with technical assistance, legal advice and research within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the three United Nations Conventions on Drugs.

UNODC South Asia is present in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

NEPAL: WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG JOURNALISTS IN SOUTH ASIA



UNODC partnered with the International Center for Journalists over a six-week online course titled: South Asia's Youth at Risk – Multimedia Storytelling by Young Journalists. The course offered journalists lessons on writing narrative stories, photographing trauma survivors and interviewing children. The course primarily focusing on human trafficking, drug use and health issues among youth in the region culminated with a conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference brought together international experts and seasoned

journalists discussing these issues and giving the participants an opportunity for cross-border collaboration on stories. UNODC presented a global and regional perspective on human trafficking and drug use and also offered technical support through the course. The participants will be publishing their stories in their home media outlets by summer 2013 and UNODC will also be publishing some of these stories on its South Asia website.

MALDIVES: UNODC'S WORK ON DRUG USE PREVENTION

The project, 'Strengthening the National Response to Combat Drug Abuse in the Maldives' which UNODC has been implementing in partnership with the Government of Maldives since January 2010, formally came to a close in February 2013. After more than three years of extensive work in the area of drug demand reduction in the Maldives, the project achieved some notable results. These include the empowerment of civil society to deliver services for the drug using community as well as preventive actions targeting the youth and the public in general. One of the key results has been the National Drug Use Survey, which is the first of its kind assessing drug prevalence in the Maldives. Another important development was the ratification of the new Drug Act in 2012, which has resulted in the creation of new institutions in drug control, such as the National Drug Agency and the Drug Court(s). Despite achievements, a lot needs to be done and UNODC is committed to continue supporting countries in South Asia to further develop capacities to strengthen drug control and the rule-of-law within its overall framework of the Regional Programme for South Asia (2013-2015). The project was supported by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Sweden.

INDIA: HIV PREVENTION ACTIVITIES



In its work in HIV prevention amongst injecting drug users in India, UNODC continues to reach out to the drug using community with essential services like the needle-syringe programme, opioid substitution treatment, anti-retroviral therapy and counselling. As part of the 'Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria-Round 9 grant for HIV in India', recently UNODC organized two training of trainers in New Delhi, India for master trainers who would in turn train peer educators and

outreach workers working in targeted interventions for injecting drug users. These trainings were based on training manuals prepared by UNODC for health service providers.

INDIA: NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU TO ESTABLISH 9 NEW CBT CENTRES

In March 2013, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Government of India signed its second agreement with UNODC to set up 9 computer based training (CBT) centres at the zonal headquarters of the NCB. CBT has been developed by UNODC to strengthen law enforcement agencies in drug identification methods, intelligence collection, search techniques, money laundering etc. Prior to this, the NCB has already established 4 CBT centres in India that train various agencies like the police, paramilitary forces and customs. These centres have emerged as focal points for interaction and coordination among the different law enforcement agencies.

SPECIAL MESSAGE

UNODC would like to congratulate Mr. Ravi Kant, President, NGO Shakti Vahini, who along with his brothers was facilitated with the Vital Voices Global Leadership Award for his efforts to end violence against women. The award was presented at the Vital Voices' annual ceremony in Washington, D.C. by Mr. Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States. Mr Ravi Kant has been working with UNODC on anti-human trafficking work in India.

NEPAL: ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKSHOP



In line with its mandate to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), UNODC was invited to deliver a presentation on the UNCAC and its perspective in Nepal, at a conference in Kathmandu organized by Transparency International, Nepal. Nepal has a number of strong legislations dealing with different aspects of corruption; however their implementation requires further strengthening. Within the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Asia

(2013-15) and on the request of the National Vigilance Centre, Government of Nepal, UNODC will also soon be conducting capacity building activities in the country.

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER

The office would like to welcome Ms Archana Oinam and Mr Shantanu Chowdhury



Archana joined UNODC in April 2013 as a Technical Officer for the drugs and HIV project. Previously Archana was working with the Population Foundation of India.



Shantanu joined UNODC in April 2013 as a Technical Consultant and supports the office's initiatives on drug use and HIV/AIDS in the North East of India. Previously Shantanu was working with the National AIDS Control Organization's North East Regional Office.