

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.

BANGLADESH: CSR TO PREVENT HIV IN PRISONS



UNODC in collaboration with Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organized a seminar on corporate social responsibility (CSR) on 19 June 2013 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The seminar brought together more than 20 medium and large sized corporate houses discussing the importance of engaging with the prison community in HIV prevention activities. It was felt that the involvement of the private sector can help boost HIV prevention and treatment activities already running in various prisons across Bangladesh and will also ensure sustainable development. During the seminar, a work-plan was developed to strengthen corporate partnership in the country. A tentative timeline was jointly agreed upon to mobilize resources for maximizing prison HIV activities. The seminar was attended by the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of Standard Bank Limited, Inspector General of Prisons and the Country Coordinator of UNAIDS.

INDIA: WORKSHOP ON PROBITY IN PROCUREMENT FOR BMRC

On 12 July 2013, UNODC conducted a half day workshop on probity in procurement for the officials of the Bangalore Metro Rail Cooperation Limited (BMRC) in Bangalore, India. BMRC is a government undertaking that does high volume procurement from both national and foreign companies. 50 procurement officials, only those that had done procurement above a threshold of Rs. 10 million participated in the workshop. During the 3 hour workshop, UNODC provided an overview of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the relevant Indian laws corresponding to the UNCAC provisions. Article 9 of the UNCAC - *public procurement and management of public finances*, principles on probity and actions that can be taken to strengthen these were also discussed at the workshop.

INDIA: STRATEGIC PLAN TO EXPAND THE REACH OF OST IN THE NORTH EAST



Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) is an efficacious and safe method of managing opioid dependence and preventing the spread of HIV amongst injecting drug users. It is therefore imperative that OST is easily accessible to opioid dependent drug users seeking treatment. To this end, UNODC in collaboration with the National AIDS Control Organization, North East Regional Office (NACO, NERO) organized a meeting to develop a strategic plan to increase the reach of OST in the North East of India. Apart from officials from NACO, NERO the workshop was attended by representatives from state level drug user networks from the North East region who shared experiences, concerns and challenges faced while implementing OST programs. Key recommendations that emerged during the meeting included awareness generation on OST amongst family members, formation of OST support groups, increasing the number of centres dispensing OST and sensitizing policy makers.

INDIA: REVIEW OF MIZORAM DRUG POLICY

Mizoram is one of India's North Eastern states which for decades has witnessed drug abuse problems and HIV infections amongst its population. In Mizoram, drug treatment is offered by a number of government agencies and non governmental organizations. In order to ensure the effectiveness of these services there is an urgent need to develop an integrated model of service delivery that harmonizes the responses for injecting drug users (IDUs) ensuring that comprehensive services are available, accessible and affordable to the majority. In view of this, a state consultation was organized in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Mizoram and UNODC to review the Mizoram state drug policy. The meeting attended by the Chief Minister of Mizoram and the Social Welfare Minister brought stakeholders together who shared their experiences in the field. There was a consensus that drug abuse is a grave problem in Mizoram manifesting itself through high incidences of mortality, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, loss of jobs and social discord. Some of the outcomes of the meeting included (i) setting up a committee to draft a comprehensive drug policy for Mizoram and (ii) setting up a monitoring committee to review the implementation of the anti drug measures.

INDIA: UNODC PRESENTS AT NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE



UNODC was invited to present a lecture on "Transnational Organized Crime, Human Trafficking and Illicit Drugs" at the National Defence College, New Delhi, India.

The lecture attended by 100 senior defence and civil service officers from India and abroad, focused on trends in transnational organized crime globally and in South Asia. With regard to illicit drugs, the presentation highlighted regional drug trafficking routes and health consequences related to drug abuse. Human trafficking in South Asia was also discussed with a special focus on trafficking in India. The lecture was followed by an interactive session where participants exchanged their experiences.

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER



The Office bids farewell to Alpa Mittal who is relocating to Ho Chi Minh City with her family. We thank Alpa for two years of dedicated service at UNODC and wish her all the best for the future.

The Office welcomes on board Ms. Anju Pun who joins UNODC in Nepal as a Program Officer on the drugs and HIV project. Anju has 8 years of experience in the development sector especially in the field of drugs and HIV. Before joining UNODC, she worked with UNDP, Nepal.

