



UNODC IN SOUTH ASIA: UNODC helps countries and its people to reduce illegal drugs and crime throughout the world and address justice and human security issues. 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

India: Delhi Network of Positive People and UNODC team up to raise awareness



As a run up to the World AIDS Day, commemorated by the world every year on 1 December, UNODC with Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+) organised a football match to 'Team Up to Fight AIDS'. Young players in bright yellow and green T-shirts assembled at the football ground at the British School, New Delhi, India on 24 November 2009. Nearly 24 players from DNP+ and UNODC together, split in two mixed teams on the football field. The hour-long match kicked off to enthusiastic cheers from the crowd. The chilly evening soon warmed up as the players put up a tough fight and showed some superb skills in tackling the ball and scoring goals. The crowd kept the morale of the players high with constant encouragement. "It is inspiring to see such enthusiasm on the field! HIV related

stigma remains as one of the most stubborn problems of our times and this game is a positive step in bridging this gap," said Swasti Rana, UNODC staff. The captain from the yellow team, part of the DNP+ shares, "I am thrilled and excited to be a part of this game. I felt accepted, normal and healthy as any other player. This has made me more hopeful for a better life in the future."



A winning match: players from the DNP+ and UNODC gather to celebrate with pictures, after an engaging game

South Asia: Your 'NO' Counts



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are strengthening global efforts to address corruption through the 2009 joint international campaign on anti corruption. For the occasion of the International Anti Corruption Day, commemorated on

9 December 2009, the office undertook various activities across the region. 'Your NO Counts' article by Cristina Albertin, Representative UNODC South Asia was published in leading dailies across the region, anti corruption posters were displayed at various Indian government agencies, three media sensitization workshops were organised for media personnel to increase awareness on the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In addition, The Right to Information Branch at the Youth Parliament Foundation is organising seminars in Delhi University with the aim to develop young people's engagement with legislative process.

The North East of India: Ecstasy through music



As part of a multimedia campaign, a musical talent search, called 'Red Ribbon Youth Icon', targeting the youth between 15 to 29 years of age, was conducted in 8 districts of Mizoram from 15 October to 15 December 2009. The aim was to raise awareness on drug driven HIV and AIDS through music. The campaign was supported by the Government of Mizoram, National AIDS Control Organisation, Mizoram State AIDS Control Society and UNODC.

The young participants had to compose lyrics on drugs and HIV. A total of three participants from each district were shortlisted, and the 24 list countdown finally narrowed down to three finalists. The mega event took place in Aizawl, the capital. Hundreds of viewers thronged to see the finalists perform among much fanfare. The event was broadcast live through the popular local cable network, reaching out to over 300,000 viewers. The Health Minister, Government of Mizoram, UNODC officials and representatives from NACO's regional office in the North East of India were present at the event.

UNODC: Putting ethics to work



UNODC staff from the region participated in the ethics workshop, conducted by Susan Doering, held on 23 November 2009 in New Delhi, India. Susan is a UNODC trainer from Headquarters based in Vienna. She specialises

in training in intercultural communications, gender awareness, ethics and performance management. Through group discussions and role games, UNODC staff learnt ethics related competencies and behaviour. G. Ramachandran, UNODC driver shares, "for people like me, the ethics course is a unique opportunity! I learnt about UN core values and now understand what integrity and professionalism mean. Also, I received a certificate which makes me proud!"

Bangladesh: The burden of HIV and TB

According to UNAIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the infectious killers of people living with HIV, and accounts for an estimated 13% of AIDS deaths worldwide. Bangladesh is 6th among the 22 high burden countries for TB throughout the world. About half of the population of the country is estimated to be infected with TB. Approximately 320,000 people fall ill of TB and 64,000 die of TB each year in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh with UNODC organized a capacity building workshop on HIV-TB collaborative services for drug users from 1 to 3 December 2009 in Dhaka. Participants such as civil surgeons, chief health officers of city corporations, UN and Government officials from the National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP) and civil society organizations, attended the workshop. The discussions were on sharing country trends of HIV and TB prevalence with focus on HIV and TB among injecting drug users. As a next step, stakeholders will explore ways to support the national response to scale up collaborative HIV and TB services for drug users.

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER



The office bids farewell to Mr. Jayadev Sarangi who left UNODC to return to his post at the Government

of Delhi effective 1 December 2009.

He has been working for four years with the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia. During these years, he has contributed to position the "HIV prevention in prison" issue on the policy agenda in South Asia. The office wishes him much success in his new assignment.

The office welcomes the two new interns, Claudia Schiller from Germany and Jonathan Allen from UK, working in the regional projects on anti human trafficking and drug and precursor control respectively.

