

UNODC IN SOUTH ASIA: 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: National sensitization workshop on comprehensive HIV prevention in prisons



On 21 October 2010, UNODC together with the Directorate of Prisons, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh initiated comprehensive HIV prevention interventions in six prison sites in the country, the first of its kind in prisons of Bangladesh. This initiative entailed a two day national level sensitization cum training workshop on HIV prevention in prison settings in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training brought together stakeholders from the Directorate of Prisons, Department of Narcotics Control and the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NASP) - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and NGOs. The Inspector General (IG) of Prisons, inaugurated the workshop addressing 28 participants, including Jail Superintendents, Deputy Jail Superintendents, prison doctors, representatives from NGOs and UNAIDS. The group discussed and learnt about the components of the comprehensive HIV prevention package of services, especially condom programming, antiretroviral therapy, Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST), needle syringe programmes and HIV-TB services. These discussions were especially relevant, given the issues of overcrowding and drug use-HIV related vulnerabilities amongst inmates.

The IG, Prisons highlighted the need for the roll-out of OST in its intervention sites at the earliest, given the high number of drug users in the prisons. He also informed that Bangladesh is developing a new 'Prisons Act', and that UNODC would be invited to participate in the recently set up Prisons Committee. The prison staff appreciated the in-depth information they received related to drug use and HIV and looked forward to similar interactions in the future.

Maldives: Workshop on Proposal Development for drug use prevention conducted for NGOs



Within its cooperation project to strengthen national capacities in drug use prevention and treatment, funded by the EU, UNODC and the Department of Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Services, Ministry of Health and

Family, Government of Maldives conducted a workshop on Proposal Development for 17 NGOs on 31st October. The workshop, which was held at the UN building, was inaugurated by Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed, who emphasized the need for civil society engagement to effectively deal with drug use in the Maldives. To facilitate their action, NGOs learnt how to address drug use and how to write sound proposals to secure funding under this project. The proposals submitted by the NGOs are now being qualified and evaluated. Based on the outcome of the evaluation, NGOs will receive support to implement the proposed idea.

India: Eight Computer Based Training (CBT) centres for Drug Law Enforcement set up in country

As a follow up to the Agreement signed between National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) and UNODC, the installation of CBT modules on drug law enforcement has been completed at the NACEN headquarters, Faridabad and the Regional Training Institutes located at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Kanpur. UNODC with the assistance of the Central CBT Unit, Bangkok has also trained about 30 CBT managers in the use of the CBT modules and the methods for conducting training programmes. Customs officers in India will now have the opportunity to learn about Drug Law Enforcement in an interactive training environment on the CBT as against conventional class room sessions. The project plans to conduct two training programmes exclusively on CBT in each centre for Indian law enforcement personnel and three regional training programmes for officers from other countries in the region. In addition, NACEN will also use the CBT modules as part of their ongoing training sessions. On completion of the trainings, UNODC proposes to assess the impact of the CBT modules in enhancing the skills of the law enforcement officers.



UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER



UNODC ROSA bids farewell to Shradha Mahapatra, Communications Officer, who moved on to her new assignment with the Aga Khan Foundation in Afghanistan. During her tenure at UNODC, Shradha was key to making the new UNODC website a reality and keeping it updated with stories on UNODC's work in South Asia. We wish her all the best for her new work and life in Afghanistan.



Our office welcomes Madhyama Subramanian, our new communications officer. Madhyama is a graduate from the National Institute of Design Ahmedabad, with a specialization in Communication Design. She has worked in communication projects with various development agencies like UNDP, UNESCO, SDC and NGOs like FXB Suraksha, Wildlife Trust of India and the BBC World Service Trust.



Our office also welcomes Sonal Marwah, a consultant with the Small Arms Survey, Geneva. Sonal has joined our office premises, from where she is working on the Indian Armed Violence Assessment, a project designed to promote research on armed violence India.

High level Government delegation of Australia visits the UN



Recently, a high level delegation of Government officials from Western Australia visited India. On 4th November, they visited the joint UN project team on HIV prevention in

the North East of India. During the meeting held at the UNODC premises, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF and UNODC briefed the delegation comprising the Western Australian Deputy Premier, Dr Kim Hames, Minister for Health and Indigenous Affairs and other Health Advisors on how the UN supports the Indian Government in implementing a comprehensive HIV prevention programme in the North East.