



**Global SMART Programme**  
**Regional Workshop for East Asia**  
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**DYNAMIC DRUG SITUATION – ESPECIALLY REGARDING ATS**

- **POSITIVE:** Successful reduction in opium cultivation as well as opium production over the past decade and a half
- **NEGATIVE:** an increase in use, trafficking and abuse of synthetically produced drugs, in particular Amphetamine-type Stimulants.
  - **SEIZURES:** EAP has witnessed some of the largest methamphetamine manufacturing facility seizures in the world
    - **Semenyih** and in **Kulim** in Malaysia in 2004 and 2006 respectively
    - **Cikande** in Indonesia in 2005
    - Guangdong: superlab in **Guangdong** in China in August 2008, just to name a few.
    - ATS manufacturing equipment has also been seized in countries which were formerly only known as transit countries of ATS, such as in **Cambodia** in 2007.
    - **Subic Bay:** In May 2008, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group Task Force, seized 745 Kg of high-grade crystal methamphetamine, in the Subic Bay Freeport northwest of Manila.
    - **Java:** in March 2008, 600 kg of crystal methamphetamine was seized in west Java, trafficked from Guangdong China, by a Hong Kong based syndicate.
    - **Viet Nam:** 800,000 ATS tablets were seized by Viet Nam, trafficked via Lao PDR to Quang Binh province the same

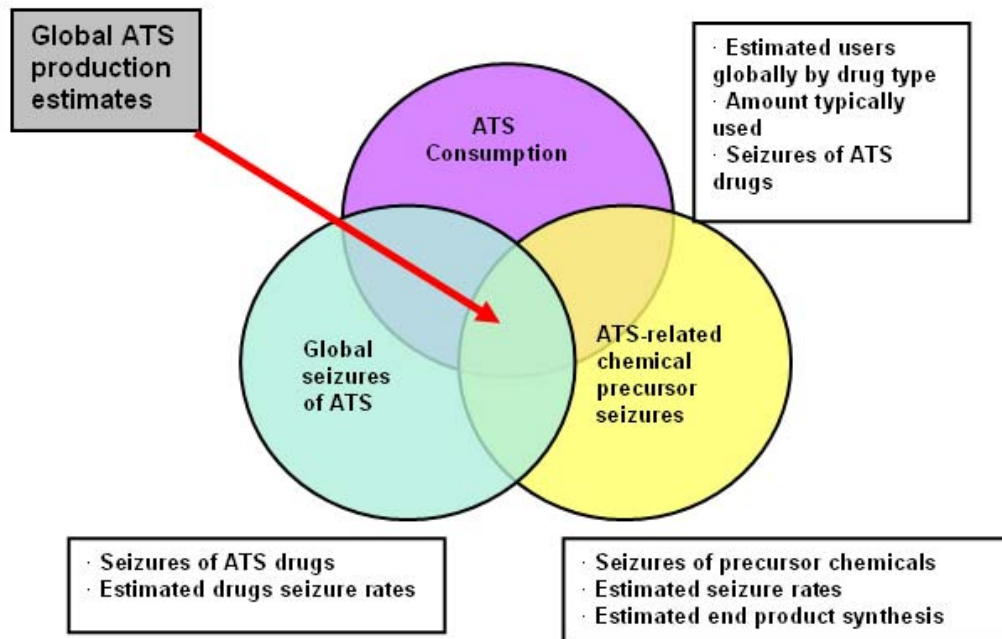
year. The size of this seizure was very significant compared with previous ATS seizures in Viet Nam.

- **ATS-RELATED ARRESTS:** Growing importance of ATS is also reflected in the number of drug-related arrests. At the regional level, methamphetamine-related arrests have been increasing over the past 5 years, while opiate-related arrests have declined.
- **ABUSE TRENDS:** We have witnessed increasing ATS abuse problems, particularly methamphetamine, with several countries (that are submitting data to our regional drug abuse information network – DAINAP) reporting consecutive increasing trend in ATS abuse over the past five years.
- **INCREASED PURITY:** Worrying is also the increasing trend in higher purity forms of methamphetamine, crystal methamphetamine, also called “ice” or “shabu”, gaining increasing market share in several countries (such as Thailand, Cambodia, China).
- **KETAMINE:** Another trend is the large increase in ketamine use. In China, annual ketamine seizures are now higher than the annual total for heroin seizures. China reports Ketamine seizure levels at 6.1 metric ton in 2007 and 5.3 tons in 2008, compared to 4.5 and 4.3 tons respectively for heroin).
- **PRECURSORS:** The data also point to increasing importance of the impact and spread of ATS and precursors from neighbouring regions. Notably diversion of chemical pharmaceuticals containing ATS precursors from India, where ephedrine is tableted simply to circumvent legal controls.

#### **PARTICULAR CHALLENGES REGARDING ATS**

- **PARTICULAR CHALLENGES:** The nature of synthetic drug manufacturing poses particular challenges for strategic information gathering and analysis, both at the national as well as regional and global level.
- **FLEXIBLE PRODUCTION:** The flexible production of ATS, which is **not** confined to specific cultivation areas, may result in displacement of manufacturing and trafficking rather than an overall reduction, following law enforcement responses.

# ATS manufacture model



- **TREND SHIFTS:** Countries can quickly move from being transit countries, to places of manufacturing, and also increasing use.

## CONCLUSION – NEED FOR MORE DATA – AND IMPROVED DATA – REGARDING SYNTHETICS

- **IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION:** We need to improve our national drug data collection systems, as well as regional information sharing and analysis
- **USE THIS TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY:** The analysis is not for its own sake, but to enable stronger and better collective evidence-based proactive responses, against a shifting and dynamic threat.
- **WHAT KIND OF CONSEQUENCES?**
  1. **MORE INFORMED DECISIONS:** better national programming in both drug law enforcement and demand reduction
  2. **MAXIMIZE SCARCE RESOURCES:** Specifically, help governments, law enforcement and health authorities to appropriately focus their limited resources, for timely and ultimately effective responses.

### 3. **BENCHMARK IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MEASURE SUCCESS:**

Collective regional data will create an evidence base from which to evaluate and measure the impact and effectiveness of the national and regional counter-drug measures.

- **IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING IN FORENSIC CAPACITY FOR LAW**

**ENFORCEMENT:** training and forensic capacity for law enforcement identify synthetic illicit drugs as well as their precursors.

- **HEALTH DIMENSION:** Improved forensic capacity is also needed for health purposes due to often shifting chemical composition. For example. presence of ketamine and/or methamphetamine in drugs marketed as “ecstasy” in Viet Nam, reported to us in 2006.)

#### **LARGER VISION:**

- **OBJECTIVE: PART OF UNODC’S OVERALL APPROACH TO ASSISTING MEMBER COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY TO USE EVIDENCE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

- Regional data collection and sharing have already been instrumental to the MOU SAP and ACCORD process.
- UNODC sees it as a continued priority to help this process.
- SMART is a key element in this process.
- We welcome the national delegates and members from donor community, in this very important step towards our common goal of a region, and the world, less affected by the harms associated with illicit drugs.