



## ADDRESS

**Gary Lewis**  
**UNODC Regional Representative**

**Opening of Regional Computer-Based Training (CBT) Workshop**  
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- Good morning and a warm welcome to all who have travelled to be with us here this morning. I am pleased that colleagues could come from as far away as Fiji and China. We also have participants from Timor Leste, Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand and Lao PDR.
- The purpose of this CBT workshop is – ultimately – to ensure a detrimental impact on the operations of transnational organized crime (TOC) in the East Asia and Pacific region.
- It is as simple as that. But if our objective is to contribute to undermining the work of TOC networks in our region what is it that CBT can do to assist us?
- For the rest of my speech, I'd like to address the questions: why, what, who, where and when.

## WHY

- We need to be worried. If we look back at the past 15 years, I would argue that the international community has largely failed to anticipate the evolution of TOC into the sort of strategic threat which it now poses to us all – to governments, to societies, and to economies.
- What are the reasons why illicit trade flourished? It is organized horizontally. It considers borders irrelevant. Its leadership is decentralized. It uses decentralized communications very effectively. It is tech savvy. On the other hand, what is the nature of the law enforcement response? Generally, we are organized vertically. We are

preoccupied by sovereignty – important as this is – and often fail to see the importance of cooperating across borders to counteract the TOC groups which we are often targeting separately. In terms of chain-of-command we still too often operate in silos. There is limited information sharing. And we are still far too slow to grasp the importance of using new technology.

- The only effective ways to counteract TOC groups are to (1) know the extent nature and trend of the problem we face, (2) sharpen our technical skills to act and (3) cooperate beyond our borders to mount combined responses to the challenge.
- Fortunately, in Computer Based Training (CBT), we have a response which supports all three of these elements.

## WHAT

- Our workshop over the next three days will bring together regional participants from eight countries to be briefed on the new expansion phase of CBT.
- Together with partners, UNODC will deliver an integrated global e-Learning strategy and we'd like to share with you our plans for where CBT is heading in the future. We hope that this opportunity provides for effective networking among you as well.
- I am pleased that the CBT – which had achieved such success in recent years – is now being rejuvenated from our Regional Centre in Bangkok.
- What is so special about CBT?
  - This method of training is particularly effective in providing students with knowledge learning, information and raising awareness.
  - The training is available on a continuous basis and this allows personnel to be trained relatively quickly.
  - It can also be delivered at low cost (generally less than \$1 per person per hour)
  - The training can be available 24 hours a day and this allows flexibility.
  - Everyone gets the same training to the same standard.
  - There can also be significant training costs if it is delivered close to the workplace because there are savings to be made in terms of travel and overnight accommodation.
  - Because the training has been designed to interact and stimulate the user this increases retention of the learning.
  - Training can be accessed on an ongoing basis and can be used as refresher training or simply as a point of interest.
  - If the training is interrupted for any reason the student is able to return to the point of the training where he/she left off
  - It permits an assessment through baseline and endline testing of the

improvement in an officer's knowledge level.

- Finally, it provides one to one training that allows the user to learn at their own pace and make mistakes in private without any loss of face.
- Our new CBT initiative will specifically help address limited awareness, knowledge and skills among key officers and other stakeholders. It will also help address the problem of poorly defined operational procedures, lack of effective communication and coordination mechanisms and a shortage of timely and good quality intelligence.
- Key new training modules to be developed will include: migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, environmental crimes, protecting vulnerable groups (e.g., child sex exploitation and domestic violence), human rights, corruption, cyber crime and money laundering among others.
- In doing so, we will pay particular attention to developing training modules on gender- and child-sensitive investigation techniques and to include human rights considerations on specific crime types.

## WHERE

- UNODC has been providing technical assistance to address a range of TOC issues through CBT to member states and their practitioners since 1999. The existing UNODC CBT curriculum contains 78 modules and is available in 18 languages. It is currently being delivered via 300 centres in 52 countries. More than 100 of these centres are already located in the East Asia and Pacific region.
- Under our new initiative, the initial focus of work will be on supporting ongoing and new CBT activities in Timor Leste, the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion and interested ASEAN countries – such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia.
- Opportunities for providing support to the Pacific island nations will be technically assessed in the context of the development of a UNODC Pacific Programme strategy framework which will take place during 2010.

## WHO

- The training will mainly be for Front Line Officers – those operating at the sharp end.
- Colleagues in our region who will benefit from CBT include law enforcement, immigration / border officials and other specialized officers.
- In return, we would expect that our participating governments take responsibility for appointing and maintaining named National Focal Points and Training Centre Managers. These individuals will be responsible for monitoring individual CBT centre activities.

- Sustainability to this programme is critical to its success. We will encourage beneficiary countries to retain trained staff, effectively maintain facilities and fully stick to the implementation of project strategies.

## WHEN

- The answer to this is now. Our societies are being threatened by TOC groups which undermine the rule of law, promote corruption and damage our prospects for economic growth and living in safety and security.
- We face a network.
- And **it takes a network to defeat a network.**