

The Government of Lao PDR and UNODC jointly launched the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June



The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Security and the Narcotics Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Lao PDR, launched the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at That Luang Square in Vientiane Capital on 26 June 2008. The launching was attended by a large number of senior government officials and representatives of UN agencies, international community and the diplomatic corps. Advocacy materials such as posters and VCDs were also distributed to raise public awareness on the danger of drugs.



In the event, the message of the United Nations Secretary General was delivered by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Sonam Yangchen Rana. On behalf of the Government of Lao PDR, Mr. Soubanh Srithirath, Minister to the President's Office and Chairman of Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, delivered the statement for the International Day and led the burning ceremony of seized drugs.



For this year, the seized drugs that were burned at the ceremony included 64 kilograms of Methamphetamine, 3 kilograms of heroin, 980 grams of opium and 822 kilograms of dry cannabis.



With concerted efforts on drug control, Lao PDR has made significant achievements in reducing opium poppy cultivation in the country. Opium production in Lao PDR has declined steadily from 124 metric tons in 1998 to 9 tons in 2007 representing over 90% decline in opium production during the past decade. To further strengthen the drug control efforts, the Government of Lao PDR promulgated a new narcotics law in January 2008 and is in the process of drafting a comprehensive drug control master plan for 2009-2013.
