



The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the AIPA Fact Finding Committee to Combat the Drug Menace  
(11<sup>TH</sup> AIFOCOM)  
12-16 May 2014, Vientiane, Lao PDR

---

## **CAMBODIA'S COUNTRY REPORT**

### **I- INTRODUCTION**

Since the 90s, cross-border criminal and illegal activities relating to drugs have come into Cambodia's territory and have increasingly been rising in recent years. Cambodia has therefore suffered from the drug trafficking, distribution and utilization. It has even become recently exposed to drug syndicates who use Cambodia as a drug production site of ATS.

### **II- Drug Situation in Cambodia**

#### **a. Drug trafficking**

Cambodia still continues to be affected by the import of drugs from the Golden Triangle, Golden Crescent and Latin America regions. ATS, Heroin has been imported into Cambodia from the Golden Triangle through the northeastern provinces of Cambodia. Besides, Cocaine and Methamphetamine-ice powder have been imported by the international drug criminals from Latin America and Golden Crescent through Phnom Penh and Siem Reap International Airports. Through this import and transit of these drugs, it has been used to supply domestically and export to other countries in the region and other regions by land and water ways and posts.

#### **b. Processing and Production of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS), Plantation and Extraction of Plants Oil.**

Through cooperation on the suppression of drugs crime, it shows that the drug criminal groups still continue their action to process and produce drugs illegally. In fact, in 2013 competent authorities suppressed a case where it was at the preparation for drugs processing and production through which a lot of the production materials including molds (logo999) and ingredient substances for drugs processing and production were seized in Sankat Toeuk Laok, Khan Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh.

On the other hand, Marijuana plantation has been reduced and almost eliminated. However, law enforcement officers and local authorities still continue to search regularly for family based marijuana plantation for elimination regardless the plantation is organized for commercial purpose. Nevertheless, it was also reported that during the year 2013, the extraction of Safrole-Rich Oil was at a very low level.

### **c. Drug Abuse**

The Royal Government, National Authority for Combating Drugs still continues to pay attention on prevention of the drug abuse in order to reduce it to a minimum level and towards its full eradication.

There are no consistent statistics as to the exact number of drug users in Cambodia. In 2012, the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) provided an official estimate of 5,000 to 6,000 people of drugs users. However, in March 2013, during the Annual Drug Control Conference, NACD officials suggested that the actual number of drug users was considerably higher and likely to be over 10,000. The general consensus among the Royal Government of Cambodia and international agencies indicates that there are currently around 13,000 drug users in Cambodia.

Methamphetamine pills are the most widely used kind of drugs in Cambodia, although crystalline Methamphetamine is becoming more widely available and its use is on the rise, particularly amongst youth in Phnom Penh.

It is also noted that users of Methamphetamine (Ice) are from the ages between 18 to 35 and, the drug abusers having no real jobs have been still standing at a higher level. At the same time, drug injection has been also continuing and a concern in Cambodia.

### **III- Overview of Drug Law and Legislation**

Law on the Control of Drugs, 1997 – The Law on the Control of Drugs 1997 (amended in 2005, 2011 and again in 2012) is the major legislative framework governing illicit drugs and substances. The law prohibits both consumption and possession. However, the law does offer people caught using drugs (positive urine test or in possession of a small amount) a coerced choice between imprisonment for up to six months or drug treatment and parole. The law also provides for people caught using drugs to be held in treatment facilities on orders of a Civil Court, acting on a complaint by spouse/parents/ relatives or the prosecution. The law also promotes harm reduction [Articles 45, 53, 100, and 107] including making provisional National Strategic Plan.

Cambodia signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the three UN Drug Conventions on 7 July 2005. The ratification process was completed in September 2007, when Cambodia acceded to the 1972 Protocol of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia has adopted national laws and approved several conventions as follows:

1. Law on the Management of Medicines (09 May 1996);
2. Law on the ratification to allow the Kingdom of Cambodia to be the member of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (25 February 2005)
3. Law on ratification to allow the Kingdom of Cambodia to be the member of the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971(25 Feb 2005)

4. Law on ratification to allow the Kingdom of Cambodia to be the member of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances, 1988(25 Feb 2005);
5. Law on ratification to allow the Kingdom of Cambodia to be the member of the Protocol 1972 which has amended the Single Convention on Narcotic Drug, 1961(05 Sep 2007);
6. Law on the amendment of the law on the Management of Medicines (08 Nov 2007).
7. Law on Control of Drug (This law based on the Convention of 1961, 1971, 1988 and the protocol of 1972 and the international Human Right Treaties. Currently, drug crimes are more serious and the old law applies light punishment to perpetrators. Therefore, the law applies punishment on wrong-doers twice heavier than the old one. Under the law, a person who traffics more than 80 grams of drug will be facing life imprisonment. The punishment is in line with other countries in the region. The new law has 9 chapters with 125 articles).
8. Law on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism.

The Royal Government of Cambodia established the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) in 1995, and the NACD Secretariat-General in 1997, to manage and coordinate all aspects of drug control in the country. Among the drug control strategies adopted by the Royal Government of Cambodia, and to be coordinated by the NACD, is the reduction of risks caused by drug misuse.

In February 2013, the Government of Cambodia approved the New National Strategic Plan on Drug Control (2013-2015) which outlines the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) plan to further implement the Drug Law. The National Strategic Plan consists of 5 Strategies, 7 Strategic Measures, 35 Programmes, and 103 Activities.

The 5 priority strategies include:

1. Drug Demand Reduction
2. Drug Supply Reduction
3. Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Re-Integration
4. Law Enforcement
5. International Cooperation

Law enforcement capacity remains limited in Cambodia. Corruption within law enforcement agencies should be addressed with further efforts to reduce drugs trafficking and abuse. The Royal Government of Cambodia has sought to reform and enhance the capacity of law-enforcing institutions. It is working with concerned parties to take a multi-pronged approach to combat the domestic production and distribution of drugs. Cambodia is also seeking to improve the awareness, capacity, commitment, professionalism and accountability of law-enforcing institutions in order to improve implementation of the Law on Drug Control.

With growing understanding that solely focus on law enforcement and punitive approaches alone cannot control the production, sale and use of drugs, the Cambodian Government is adopting strategies aimed at reducing demand. The Cambodian Government has conducted a public awareness campaign through the media and prevention activities in schools and started a community based drug treatment program. Under this program, law enforcement

has been enabled to provide a supporting environment allowing differentiation between drug users from drug traffickers. A methadone maintenance program for heroin users and needle exchange program has also been implemented by the Ministry of Health with technical support from the UN and funding support from Australia.

#### IV- Measures taken for Drug Control

NACD has the following priority demand reduction strategies:

- ❖ Increase public awareness of the Drug Law and dangers of drug use;
- ❖ Encourage participation from influential groups such as parents, friends, community, and religious groups;
- ❖ Increase the inclusion of drug issues into the school curricula and organize training for core teachers in schools;
- ❖ Increase awareness activities outside the education system, such as by establishing library or drug document center; and
- ❖ Cooperate with relevant Ministries and Institutions to train provincial medical staff to undertake drug treatment.

In addition to its Ministerial partners, NACD works in close collaboration with the UNODC.

Based on the results in 2013, different special events were organized such as International day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Ceremony; International children's day; World day against Child labor including training of law enforcement officers, monks, Focus persons in university, Pagoda, schools and community which participated by approximately 6,454,446 people, increased 104.89% as compared to 3,150,110 people in 2012.

#### A. Supply Reduction:

With active participation of law enforcement officers and cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions:

In 2013: Intensified anti-drug operations resulted in the arrested of 1,830 drug personalities and suppressed 889 cases.

#### Total quantity Seized by Authority

Drug Type	Year 2013(Gram)	Year 2012(Gram)	Increase	Decrease
Methamphetamine (WY)	17,334.91	10,660.61	62.60%	
Methamphetamine (Ice)	32,448.82	28,066.47	15,61%	
Heroin	38,337.68	319.06	Maximum increase	
Cocaine	12,851	41,077.5		68,71%
Ketamine	1,016	1,051.1	Approximate	
Dried Marijuana	168,537	2,460	Maximum increase	

## **B. Harm Reduction, Treatment and Rehabilitation**

### **-Harm Reduction:**

National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) continuously advised and coordinated with relevant ministries and non-government organizations in order to implement the harm reduction cause of drug abuse through 42 national and international meetings, trainings, workshops with 1,817 participants. The programs such as Noodle/ Syring program, new foundation plan call “Community support for harm reduction, program of AIDS integration and danger prevention of drug, strategy of drunken instrument political promotion towards harm reduction of drug abuse, Strengthening program reflect to HIV/AIDs amongst high risk groups; policy on prevention and combating HIV/AIDs (including cause relating to the illegal drugs; reflection of HIV/AIDs through communication, disseminating meeting on searching to implement the HIV/AIDs and drug prevention program; etc.

### **- Community based Treatment:**

The NACD continues to strengthen the program of the Treatment Based on Community (TBC) through the local health centers as follows:

a. Strengthening the Capacity Building to the Referral Hospitals and Health Centers in 189 places within the Country. The focus was on the treatment service and training courses in 6 provinces, in northeastern part of the country.

b. Treatment Based on Health

We took into account to treating the drug addicts based on local health.

### **-Treatment, Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts:**

Cambodia has 7 state centers and 3 private centers, the total of victims of drug addicts to the centers were 2,713 people.

## **C. Strengthening the Capacity Building of the law enforcement officers:**

In every country in the world, law enforcement officers are at the frontline of efforts to combat organized crime. So, the officials must be equipped with capacity, quality, responsibility and loyalty in order to implement the law.

The building of capacity on criminal investigation and other law enforcement is a core component of NACD's work. Technical assistance includes institutional and operational capacity building of law enforcement and judicial bodies to strengthen investigation and prosecution of organized crimes. Training is offered to police investigators, prosecutors and judges, criminal intelligence analysts, specialized drug and organized crime investigators and customs officials with a total number of 3,411 persons. NACD adopted declaration on reform of composition, function and position of Bilateral Liaison Office.

## **V. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Drug is still a matter of concern to Cambodia as criminals have used and attempted to use the country as a drug transit point and a base for illegal drug production for exporting to the third country.

However, the Government of Cambodia has subsequently smashed down and the perpetrators have been seriously punished in accordance to the law.

National Authority for Combating Drugs of Cambodia had put effort to enhance bilateral, trilateral, multilateral cooperation with the countries in sub-region, region and internationally. The NACD continued to propose relevant authorities along Thai, Lao and Vietnam-Cambodia borders to regularly hold meeting with Vietnam, Laos and Thai sides in order to strengthening and extent the cooperation of drug control. We prepare to hold meeting of Bilateral Liaison Office and bilateral meeting between Cambodia-Thailand and also arrangement of officers to train in Vietnam on Law enforcement and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Leaders of NACD will lead delegation to official visit in Vietnam and Loa PDR. In conclusion, NACD organized meetings, seminars and trainings relating to the drug control cooperation with a total number of 45 events. With this, the National Authority for Combating Drugs assigned relevant officers in going abroad for training, seminars and conferences.

## **VI-THE MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR DRUG CONTROL IN 2013**

In accordance with the results of drug control, NACD laid out its objectives as follows:

- ❖ Regularly promoting education, dissemination in all pictures and real challenging target and mobilizing to jointly implement activities for drug demand reduction;
- ❖ Enhancing the treatment Program of drug addicts, base on Community by using existing health and social, veteran and rehabilitation system. Enhance capacity of temporary centers, promoting to prepare and establish a National Center for drug addicts;
- ❖ Taking the appropriate legal and administrative measures to combat against production, plantation, trafficking, contribution, stock and use of illegal drugs from the small to larger picture;
- ❖ Strengthening cooperation with relevant ministries and institution to control the precursor chemicals which are legally and illegally imported and other substances in order to protect from altering substances into drugs.
- ❖ Strengthening the international cooperation and with neighboring countries and arrange the village-commune and community free from drug in districts-communes along the border and compile documentation on lessons learned to be exchanged towards narrowing targeted points for elimination of drug crimes.
- ❖ Strengthening international cooperation and with neighboring countries in all pictures and continuously strengthening the mechanism of bilateral liaison officers(BLOs);
- ❖ Strengthening and enhance the cooperation with regional countries and the world and national development and international partners to resolve the drug issues.
- ❖ Strengthening both national and sub-national institution, relevant authorities in order to extend the possibility of implementation of NACD's strategy effectiveness.

## **CONCLUSION**

Illicit drugs continue to be a world-wide concern and Cambodia is not isolated from it. To ensure that the drug problem remains well-contained, Cambodia will remain vigilant and sustain our vigorous drug enforcement and preventive drug education efforts. Cambodia also

continues to forge closer co-operation and work with all our partners and the community to combat drug trafficking on both domestic and international cooperation.