



Country Progress Report

On Drug Situation in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) 2014

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National Assembly of LAO PDR



Presentation outline

- I. Drug Situation in Lao PDR
- I. National Drug Control Strategies
- II. Measures Taken on Drug Control
- III. Challenges
- IV. Further Actions in Combating the Drug Menace



I. Drug Situation in Laos-1



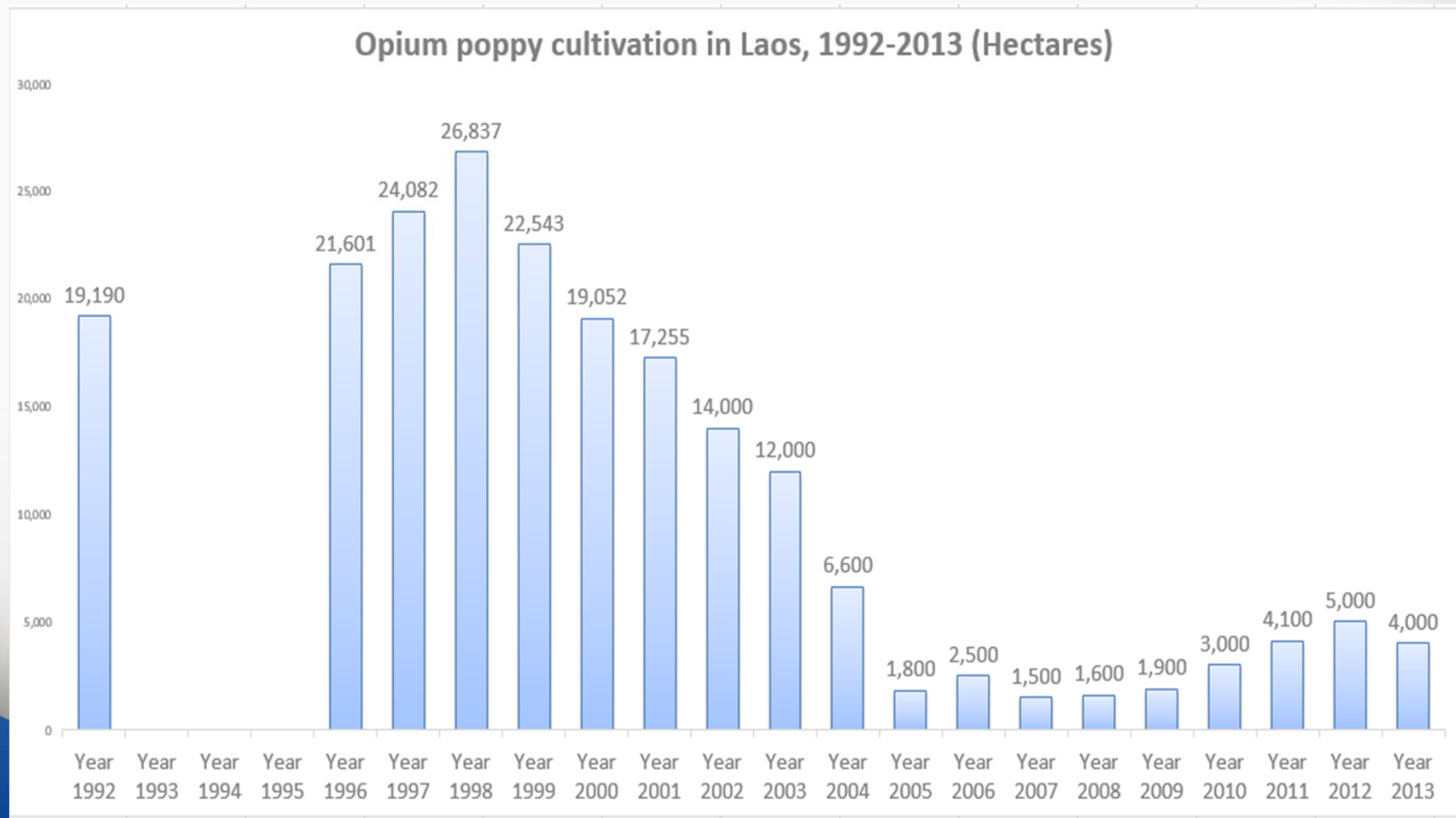


I. Drug Situation in Laos-2

- Lao PDR is landlocked country, situated in the hub of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and has very long border with members of the GMS countries. With this geographical location, my country is being used as transit route for illicit drug trafficking.
- Illicit drugs are global issue worldwide, the danger of drug as well as its impact and bad consequences to the well-being of the people and the socio-economic development of the country.
- The GoL has improved several drug related judicial instruments, making them more effective and relevant to real circumstances.

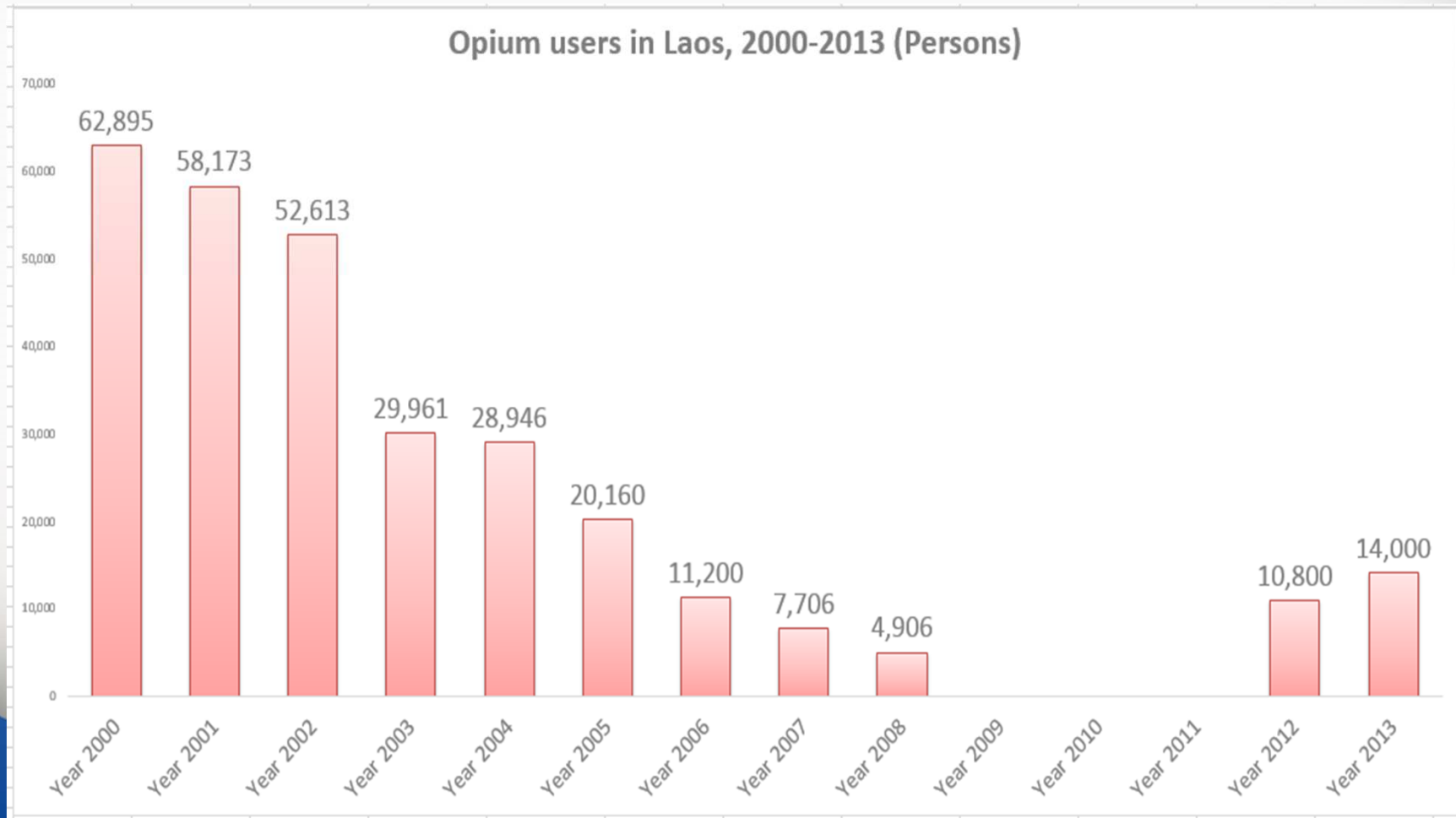


I. Drug Situation in Laos-3





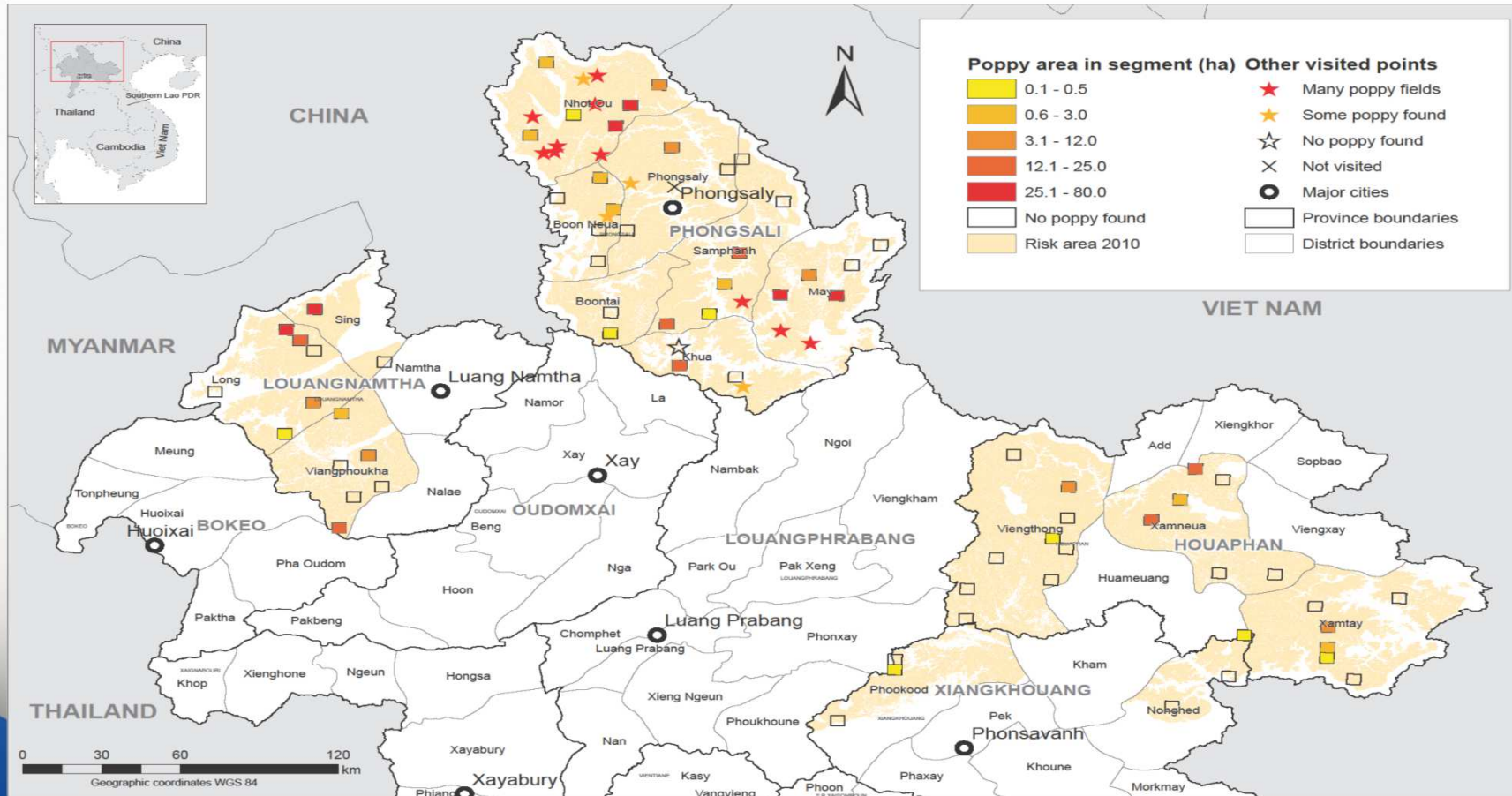
I. Drug Situation in Laos-4





I. Drug Situation in Laos-5

Poppy fields found in selected sites in Northern Lao PDR, 2011

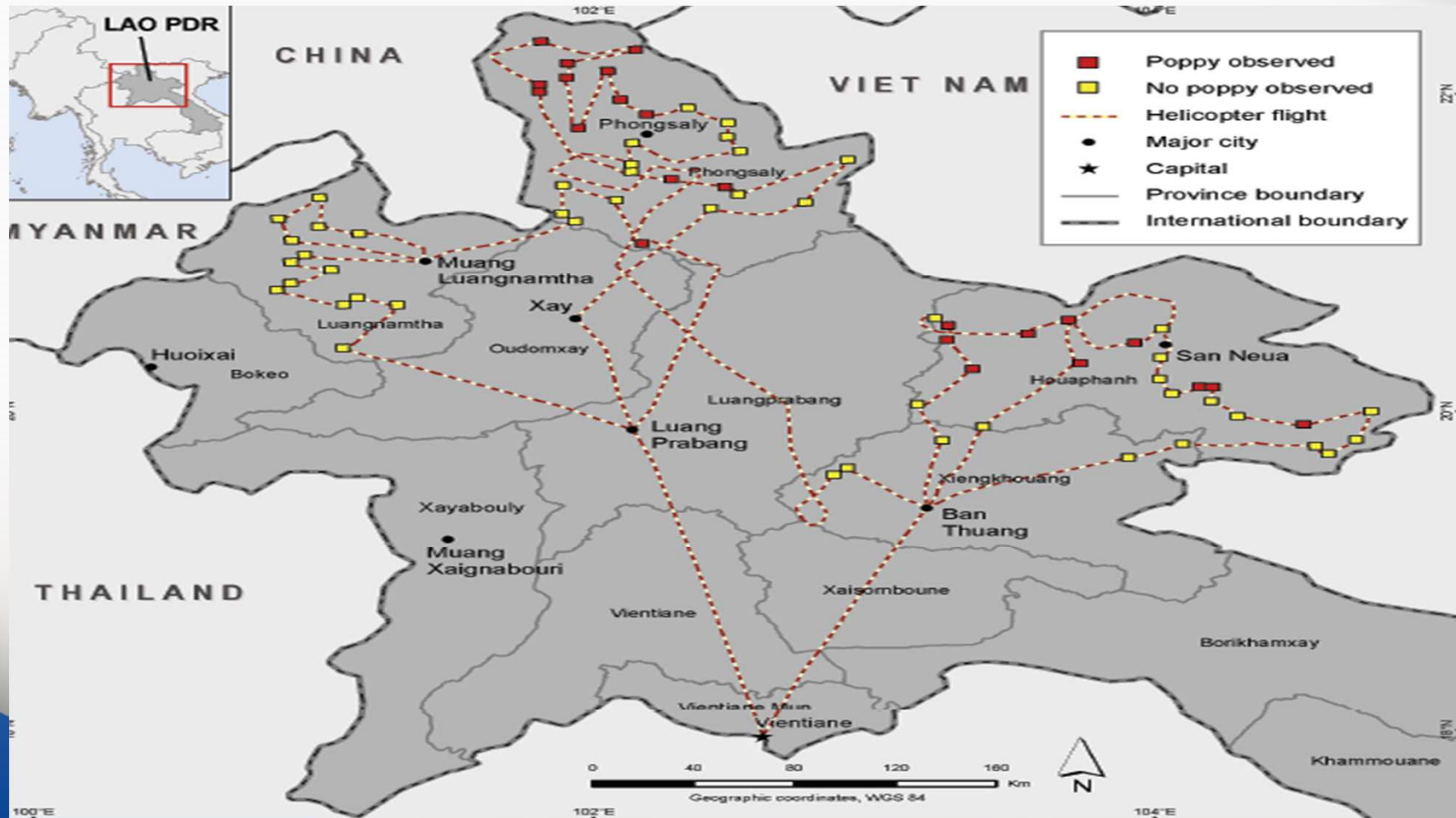


Source: The Government of Lao PDR - national monitoring system supported by UNODC
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

OPIUM SURVEY SINCE 1998



I. Drug Situation in Laos-6





II. NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGIES

1994-2000: *National Drug Control Programme:* (gradual and balanced approach to drug control with an emphasis on Alternative Development).

2000-2006: *The Balanced Approach to Opium Elimination* (alternative development, demand reduction & law enforcement).

2006-2009: *National Programme Strategy for the Post-Opium Scenario and The Action Plan* targeting 1,100 poorest priority villages; (Alternative development, demand reduction, civic awareness & law enforcement linked to 6th National Socio-economic Development Plan as a poverty reduction focused programme).

2009-2013: *National Drug Control Master Plan* addresses the recent rise and proliferation of illicit drug production, trafficking, abuse as well as related criminal activities through a nine point comprehensive strategy.
(this Master Plan has been extended until 2015)



III. Measures taken for Drug Control-1



- 1) Drug Control Policy and Legislation: We amended some articles of Law on Drugs and Criminal Law, making them tighten and appropriate with actual situation. Central and local authorities have issued decrees and orders to be used by concerned ministries and agencies to attentively cope with drug issues.



III. Measures taken on Drug Control-2



- 2) Civic Awareness Campaign: our Drug Control Agencies have worked actively towards drug prevention by means of drug education and anti-drug campaign to raise drug awareness in society, primarily among youth population of negative impact and danger of drugs, in 2013 is 250,000-300,000 persons.





III. Measures taken on Drug Control-3



- 3) Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation: We have also given support to the victims of drug addiction in their treatment and rehabilitation both psychologically and physically, in different settings such as centers, community-based and vocational, helping ill-fated drug addicts re-become good citizens and re-entry into normal social life, in 2013 is 7,000-7,500 persons.



III. Measures taken on Drug Control-4



- Actually we are seeking to expand the availability of Community-Based Treatment (CBT) for ATS users principally, counseling services to a much larger part of the population by enabling hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices and high schools across the country to offer such services. So far, 281 drug rehabilitation workers were trained in drug counseling and treatment.



III. Measures taken for Drug Control-5



- 4) Drug Supply Reduction, we are implementing an Alternative development programme. Actually, our local authorities of the Northern part of the country have supported ex-opium poppy farmers in remote areas to gain better living conditions by introducing sustainable alternative development and lawful livelihoods.



III. Measures taken for Drug Control-6



5) Drug Demand Reduction: We have also strived for establishing families, villages, educational institutions, firms, and other organization become drug-free places, in 2013 is 2,655 villages and 543 schools.



6) Anti-Drug Fund: We have also strive for establishing Anti-Drug Fund, which used to drug control, prevention, counter and supervision.



III. Measures taken for Drug Control-7



- 7) Law Enforcement: In 2013, Lao law enforcement agencies have made achievements in suppressing drug trafficking throughout the country with 1,434 cases, the total number of drug-related arrests was 1,943 offenders. The number of Methamphetamine pills seized in 2013 was about 15 million tablets, Heroin 291,19 Kg, Opium 98,97 Kg, Cannabis 5,581 Kg.



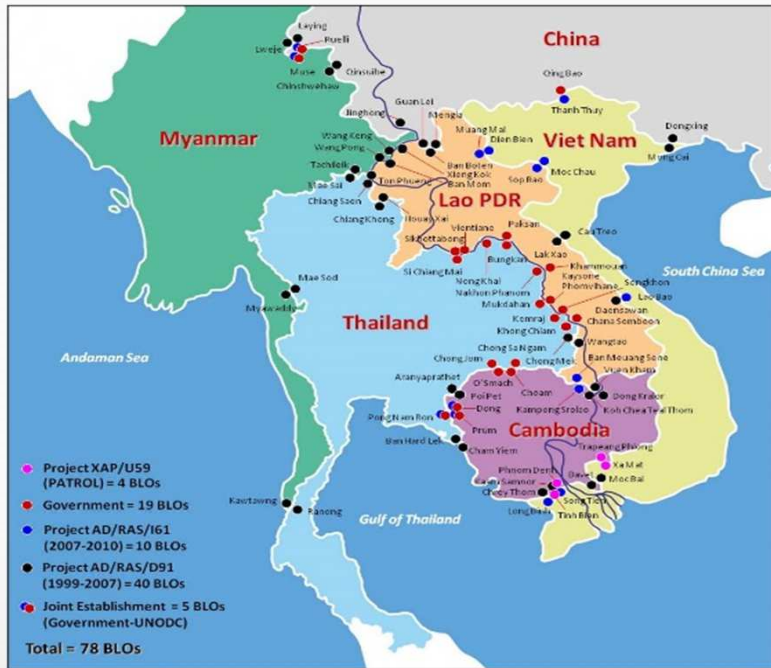
III. Measures taken for Drug Control-8



8) International Cooperation: As we all are well aware, the solution to this drug issue is not an individual responsibility of any particular country. The cooperation in the field of law enforcement must include among others: the exchange of information and intelligence as well as share of good practices and experiences. Much of the success in fighting drugs would not have been possible without such international cooperation such as Laos, China, Myanmar and Thailand had an important operation such called Joint Operation “Safe Mekong”.



III. Measures taken for Drug Control-9



- Border Liaison Offices, (BLOs)** at check-points with neighboring countries to assure the security of the international border against illicit drug trafficking and smuggling. The number of the Border Liaison Offices (BLOs): in total 18 BLOs: 1 with China, 2 with Myanmar, 4 with Vietnam, 2 with Cambodia and 9 with Thailand.



III. Measures taken for Drug Control-10

- Joint Operation “SAFE MEKONG”: Law enforcement agencies of Lao PDR, China, Myanmar and Thailand jointed operation “Safe Mekong”





IV. CHALLENGES

- 1) Drug prevention by means of drug education, drug law and anti-drug campaign are still limited.**
- 2) Increasing of drug trafficker, drug addict and opium cultivation area.**
- 3) Limited of drug treatment and rehabilitation, some drug addict are relapsed into drugs use.**
- 4) Drug law enforcement and counter narcotic in some areas weakened.**
- 5) Limited of drug monitoring, exchange information and cooperation among organizations is involved.**



V. Further actions in combating drug menace

- 1) To continue improvement of drug related judicial instruments, making them more effective and relevant to real circumstances.
- 2) Promote drug prevention by means of drug education and anti-drug campaign to raise drug awareness in society.
 - Primarily among youth population of negative impacts and danger of drugs.
- 3) Support to striving for establishing families, villages, educational institutions, firms, and other organization become drug-free places.
- 4) Improve drug treatment centers to support victims of drug addiction in their treatment and rehabilitation both psychologically and physically.
- 5) To continued cooperation with AIPA and neighboring countries for exchange of information and sharing of good practices and *experiences.*



PHOTO GALLERY











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FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION !**