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## REPORTS OF THE COURSE

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### **GROUP 1 PHASE 1**

#### **ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING**

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#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Crime is increasing in scope, intensity and sophistication. It threatens the safety of citizens around the world and hampers countries in their social, economic and cultural development. Globalization has provided the environment for a growing internationalization of criminal activities. Multinational organized criminal syndicates have significantly broadened the range of their illegal operations and illicit drug trafficking in particular, figures very prominently in transnational organized crime (TOC). In most countries, despite years of drug suppression and prevention efforts, the cycle of the drug trafficking and drug abuse continues. If allowed to remain unabated, the drug menace will considerably destroy the quality of life of the people. The cost to the world community due to this menace includes not only lost billions of dollars, lost of life and physical injuries, but also entails substantial public corruption. The combined effect of these adverse consequences tends to undermine the

security and stability of governments themselves.

Drug trafficking and abuse are serious issues confronting both developing and developed nations. The large consumption and demand for drugs worldwide has given a wide opportunity for traffickers to carry out their illegal activities which give them a lucrative returns. According to 1994 report of United Nation International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), it is estimated that out of one trillion dollars worldwide profits of organized crime annually, US\$500 billion comes from drug trade. In USA alone, in 1995, the Americans spent approximately US\$57 billion on drugs including US\$38 billion to purchase cocaine and US\$10 billion on heroin from overseas sources. Meanwhile in Pakistan where average per capita income is only about US\$500 annually, the amount of consumer expenditure on heroin alone is estimated US\$1.2 billion per year. This scenario points towards the heinousness of the situation, which is

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becoming worst with everyday passing.

This paper attempts to analyze the general trend of the drug trafficking worldwide which includes production, trade and consumption of illicit drugs. It will also address related issues such as modus operandi, seizures and organized mafia drug trafficking groups.

## **II. TYPES OF DRUG AND SOURCE COUNTRIES**

Though there are several types of drugs produced all over the world each type of drugs has the prominent producing areas. Such source countries are those which have either weak political systems or unstable governments. Recently, the production levels of particular types of drugs show fluctuation, whereas others remain constant. According to the "Global Illicit Drug Trend 2000 (DRAFT)" edited by UNDCP, the situations of each type of drugs are as follows:

### **A. Opiates (Opium, Morphine and Heroin)**

The well known opium poppy producing areas are the "Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Laos and Thailand), the "Golden Crescent" (stretching from the Pakistan Afghanistan boarder to northern part of Iran), Central and South America such as Mexico and Colombia. However, Myanmar and Afghanistan are by far the largest countries of those.

Myanmar which used to be top ranking country in the cultivation of opium poppy has declined since 1999. The cultivation went down from 130,300 kilograms in 1998 to 89,500 kilograms in 1999. On the contrary, the production in Afghanistan has increased considerably by about 41%, from 63,674 kilograms in 1998 to 90,983 kilograms in 1999. There was also a considerable shift of opium production from

South East to South West Asia in 1999. In Laos, Pakistan and Thailand, the cultivation of poppy has declined. However, globally opium production has increased by one-third in 1999 although opium poppy cultivation on the whole decreased by 20,000 hectares.

### **B. Cocaine**

The South American region especially Colombia, Peru and Bolivia are the leading cocaine producing countries in the world. However, Columbia is still leading among the three. In 1999 there was reported decline in coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (43%) and Peru (24%) respectively, resulting in lower coca leaf and potential cocaine production. On the other hand, 20% increase in coca bush cultivation in Colombia had been reported by the USA Government.

Although the total world output of cocaine declined in 1999 as a result of the above, the UNDCP still contends that there is no significant effect because cocaine consumption had an overall increase during the last few years.

### **C. Cannabis**

There are 120 countries having reported illicit cultivation of cannabis all over the world. The INTERPOL has listed Morocco, South Africa, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mexico. Colombia and Jamaica as the "primary" source countries for cannabis in its "Cannabis World Report 1999".

### **D. Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) such as Methamphetamine, Ecstasy, LSD etc**

Generally the main ATS manufacture areas are also the main ATS consumption areas such as East and South-East Asia, North America and Western Europe, reflecting the fact that transit trade is less important for ATS than for other drugs

such as heroin or cocaine. As for Asia, Thailand emerged as the country of largest seizures of ATS worldwide, reflecting its role as a major center of illicit production of ATS in South-East Asia. In the areas of the "Golden Triangle" where at one time was exclusively being used for the refining of heroin are now being used for manufacturing of methamphetamine as well. Myanmar has emerged as another important location for illicit methamphetamine manufacture in the region.

### III. CONSUMPTION

The consumption of drug worldwide has reached alarming level that if allowed to continue unabated, the consequences to the world community can be more severe. In the US for example about 13 million people (6.1% of the total population) used drug on a casual or a monthly basis in the year 1996. In 1995, there were approximately 3.3 million chronic users of cocaine and 0.5 million people addicted to heroin. Estimate indicates that 5 million Americans have tried methamphetamine in their life time, an illicit drug associated with particularly violent behavior. This therefore indicates that the USA has suffered a serious problem of drug use.

Disturbing enough is the fact that other countries are also experiencing an increase in the drug abuse. In Pakistan for example, the number of people addicted to heroin is estimated to be 1.52 million people in 1995. It is estimated that 20% of total European population is affected by drugs in one way or another. Cocaine consumption is most widespread in Spain, UK, Netherlands and Germany. Switzerland and Italy also seem to have rather high level of cocaine consumption. One recent survey in Switzerland revealed that 2-3% of the 15-45 years age-group had consumed cocaine in 1998. Abuse of cocaine is also reported

to spread more widely in Australia, Western and Southern Africa.

In South East Asia, the abuse of drug like cannabis and heroin still remains high. In Malaysia for example, the number of drug addicts recorded in 1999 is 191,097 (0.9% of the total population of 22 million), out of which 64% are heroin addicts. Of late the use of ATS like ecstasy and shabu has gain much ground in this region.

These three types of drugs are also widely used in Thailand Indonesia the Philippines and Laos. Other countries like China, India, Pakistan and Japan are also abused such drugs. Out of the total drug users, heroin users in China recorded 60%, India 53.5% and Pakistan 99.7%. While in Brazil and Nigeria, Cocaine is more popular.

According to UNDCP report in 1998, Laos has the highest or second highest rate of opium abuse world wide among the people of 15 years of age and above. Besides consuming, countries such as China, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan, Laos, India, Indonesia and Brazil are also known to be major transit countries used by the drug traffickers. This is because those countries are closer to the main drug resource regions. It is disturbing to note that some other drug transiting countries have also been turning into consuming ones.

### IV. MODUS OPERANDI AND ROUTES

Illicit drug trafficking has been the most profitable illegal activity in the world. According to 1999 report of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), between US\$40 -100 billion is earned from illegal drug per year in the USA alone. The drug traffickers have also spread their activities throughout the world and they resort to use all sort of

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modus operandi to evade detection by the authorities. Though modus operandi used by drug traffickers differs from country to country, internationally detected modes of concealment employed are generally as follows:

- (i) Ingestion, leg casts and body wrap;
- (ii) Use of false bottoms of luggage, concealment in imported packages such as electronic equipment, foods, false cavities of furniture etc...
- (iii) Concealment in special compartments in vehicles and ships, containers and air freights.
- (iv) Delivery by courier services;

In Japan, apart from the above modus operandi, the drug traffickers also used methods such as soaking cloth in drug solution and melting drugs in whisky. Cargo container equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) also being used to ferry in large amount of methamphetamine. The routes are often by air, sea and land, depending on geographical location of the country concerned.

In Brazil, several routes are used to both import and export drugs but usually large amounts are carrying by sea through some of the five Brazilian ports and by air through international airports placed in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Recife, Fortaleza and Manaus to USA/Europe. In Japan, due to its long seacoast, it is facing the problem of trafficking of drug in and out of the country by sea and air. While, in Laos, China, Pakistan, India, land and air routes are usually the choice by the drug traffickers because of the geographical vicinity to the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent.

The drug rings who are engaged in illicit smuggling of heroin from the Golden Triangle to USA, Australia and Europe

more often are using the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore as their transshipment points.

#### **V. DRUG TRAFFICKING MAFIA**

Due to the large profits gained from trafficking, big criminal organizations are deeply involved in drug trafficking in the world, from smuggling to illegal sales up to end user. Japanese criminal organization called "Boryokudan" continue to be deeply involved in illicit drug trafficking, especially methamphetamines/amphetamine-type stimulants. The Boryokudan groups have conspired with foreign Mafia such as Chinese Mafia, Russian Mafia, Taiwan Mafia, Cocaine Cartel and so forth. Over 500 kg methamphetamines were confiscated in October 1999 along shoreline of Japan and 9 Chinese/Taiwanese and a Japanese were arrested. In this particular case, the Boryokudan groups were involved in plotting drug trafficking from the Korean Peninsular into Japan with the conspiracy of a known criminal organization based in Hong Kong. In recent year, drug-related offences in Japan involving Iranian organized drug trafficking groups are rising sharply. Arrests have been made on charges of possessing illicit drugs for commercial purposes and/or transiting them. The Boryokudan groups are reported to have connection with them behind the scenes.

The Hong Kong-based Triad is a criminal group which has come into being as an offshoot of China's traditional secret society. Triad activities are carried out mainly within its territory and/or Triad control loose organization in Mainland China to operate drug trafficking. However, Triads have become a matter of concern not only in Hong Kong, but also in other places where there is a sizable Chinese community all over the world.

Dawood Ibrahim group is the most dreaded mafia in India with countrywide networks and foreign connections. Dawood Ibrahim has stationed himself in Dubai since 1995 and has indulged in drug trafficking in conspiracy with his family who are pretending to be transacting legitimate business.

The Colombian Cocaine Cartels are still the main drug trafficking mafia in South American States. However, Nigerian and Italian groups began to rise in the field of drug trafficking in Brazil.

Myanmar's ethnic militia organization such as Kachin Independent Army (KIA), New Democratic Army (NDA), Wa Army (WA) and Shan Independent Army (SIA) are carrying out drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle where it extends over Myanmar, Laos Thailand and China. In Colombia, it is widely known that the Force Armed Revolution Columbia (FARC) is controlling territorial position and using it for drug related activities.

## VI. DRUG SEIZURES

The data on seizure of illicit drugs is an available indicator for underlying production, trafficking and consumption trends. The United Nations have compiled a comparative list of countries regarding seizure figures along with the several top ranking countries in respect of different drugs. (See Appendix D). As for opium, among 18 countries in 1998, 7 were located in Asia region. As for heroin, 6 countries were located in Asia region. Almost 18 countries reported high seizure of cocaine were located in the American region. This data shows that some countries in and around illicit production areas known as the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent and cocaine production area are exposed to the menace of drug trafficking. Furthermore, transit countries have

developed into consumption countries.

In view of the global situation, it is pointed out that ATS has the potential to become a major drug problem of the twenty-first century. In fact, the most striking feature in Asia region was the increasing level of trafficking in countries of East and South Asia. While this area accounted for just 22% of global seizure of ATS in 1990, its share in global seizure almost doubled to reach 41% in 1998, reflecting increasing levels of production, trafficking and consumption in the region. The other region with similar growth rates was Western Europe. ATS seizure in Western Europe rose from 20% of global seizure in 1990 to 38% in 1998. ATS seizure in North America accounted for 18% of global ATS seizure in 1998, up from 14% in 1990. Among the 30 countries that reported the highest seizure, 11 were located in South-East Asia, 11 in Western Europe and 3 in North America. The seven countries i.e. United Kingdom, Thailand, USA, China, Netherlands, the Philippines and Japan, accounted for more than 80% of global ATS seizure. Thailand emerged as the country reporting the largest ATS seizure worldwide, reflecting its role as a major center of illicit production in South-East Asia. From 1997 to 1998 ATS seizure rose in Thailand by 30%, in China by 20% and tripled in Japan. Furthermore, in 1999, 1.9 tons of methamphetamine was seized in Japan, which was the highest amount in the past year. Seizure in Myanmar tripled, also exceeding those of the Philippines, and indirectly reflecting the increasing role of Myanmar as another important location for illicit methamphetamine manufacture in the region.

Several factors contributed to the surge in ATS abuse. On the supply side, economic incentive were powerful. In some countries, clandestine manufacture of

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methamphetamine could lead to profit of nearly 3,000 percent of the cost of raw materials. Such profitability derived from the following: the accessibility and abundance of precursors, which suggested that clandestine manufacture could be carried out by non-specialist and close to the point of final consumption: fewer stages in the chain of distribution with the involvement of fewer individual; and shorter distances from production area to consumption area, reducing the scope for effective interdiction. In addition, detailed information on the manufacture of ATS were widely available to the public at large through the Internet and other such network.

menace if we are to have a safer world community.

## VII. CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the foregoing analysis indicates a very big threat that drug pose to the world economies and countries. The problem is even more compounded by the existence of strong organized criminal groups and mafia that engaged in this trade, scattered around the world and earning big amount of money that makes their financial position stronger than economies of some independent states, yet their trade negatively affect world economies and destroys right of individual.

The analysis further shows that formerly transit countries are progressively graduating into consuming countries. The modus operandi of transporting these drug is changing day after day both in scope and complexity that it often requires devising new method of detection. The figures of seized drugs are so overwhelming that indicates that much more drug may be produced, trafficked and abused without he detection of law enforcement, agencies. It is therefore prudent that an international consorted effort is required to fight this

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**Appendix A**

**DRUG SEIZURES**

Opium

(Kg)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
China	3,354	1,178	1,110	1,745	1,880	1,215
India	2,908	2,256	1,349	2,876	3,316	2,031
Indonesia	-	2.6	0.03	0.03	-	-
Japan	12.8	33.7	32.8	31.1	39.0	19.8
Laos	369	293	695	199	200	No Report
Malaysia	11.5	69.0	155.1	2.6	150	32.7
Pakistan	4,500	14,663	109,420	7,423	7,300	5,202
Tanzania	7u	0.15	0.13	No Report	-	-
Thailand	2,530	606	927	381	1,150	1,631

Heroin

(Kg)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Brazil	No Report	12.8	0.006	-	-	0.95
China	4,459	4,086	2,375	4,347	5,477	7,358
India	1,071	1,011	1,681	1,257	1,332	655
Indonesia	41.2	42.8	1.7	1.7	20.4	27.8
Japan	15.2	10.2	7.7	3.9	5.9	3.9
Laos	6.0	44.9	49.7	16.2	72.3	No Report
Malaysia	216	212	119	241	276	289
Nigeria	288	91.6	30.3	19.4	10.5	5.8
Pakistan	4,000	6,444	10,760	5,872	6,156	3,363
Philippine	17.4	23.0	-	1.5	30.0	1.7
Tanzania	1.9	1.3	2.8	No Report	4.8	2.7
Thailand	2,537	1,295	518	598	323	508
Uganda	1.3	2.8	1.5	2.7	No Report	1.3

Cocaine

(Kg)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Brazil	6,608	12,028	5,815	4,070	4,309	6,560
India	-	1.6	40.0	3.0	24.0	1.0
Indonesia	-	4.4	0.1	0.4	3.3	4.7
Japan	25.9	19.9	36.6	37.1	25.5	20.8
Nigeria	1,309	90.8	15.2	6.2	31.9	9.3
Philippine	8.1	9.4	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.1
Tanzania	2.2	-	-	No Report	0.2	-
Thailand	3.2	No Report	No Report	No Report	2.4	3.6

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Cannabis Herb

(Kg)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Brazil	No Report	18,836	11,731	22,430	31,828	28,982
China	No Report	No Report	466	4,876	2,408	5,079
Fiji	No Report	5.0	16.9	6.9	No Report	No Report
India	94,964	187,896	12,873	62,992	80,866	68,221
Indonesia	5,785	1,331	444	444	716	1,071
Japan	612	665	208	173	155	120
Laos	3,217	115	5,197	1,896	7,026	No Report
Malasia	962	717	15.9	1,425	3,889	1,781
Nigeria	7,461	19,732	15,258	18,600	15,905	16,170
Pakistan	No Report	20,087	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report
Philippine	4,638	10,844	2,213	2,045	2,227	No Report
Tanzania	-	-	4,012	No Report	82,539	4,618
Thailand	31,484	8,890	19,880	16,720	9,142	5,582
Uganda	No Report	7,910	No Report	259	No Report	5,530

Papua New Guinea has only a few drug cases.

Cannabis Resin

(Kg)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Brazil	No Report	1.4	6.3	8.5	12.1	-
India	7,979	-	3,629	6,520	3,281	10, 106
Indonesia	-	-	0.5	2.1	-	0.7
Japan	29.7	96.9	130.7	145.1	197.4	214.6
Malasia	No Report	No Report	965	No Report	-	-
Pakistan	189,000	189,252	357,690	192,837	107,000	69,909
Philippine	3.8	126.0	5.8	0.03	0.28	No Report
Tanzania	-	-	-	-	42.2	
Thailand	No Report	6,925	No Report	No report	45.2	20.6
Uganda	No Report	25				

Stimulants

(Kg)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Indonesia	-	25u	-	0.33	5.6	-
Japan	96.9	315	89.2	652.2	173	549.7
Malaysia	No Report	71,841u	-	No Report	2.0	-
Nigeria	1.8	94.3	45.0	10.6	309.5	No Report
Philippine	160.7	114.6	207.6	767.5	694.5	77.8
Thailand	1,289.7	812	561	442	2,135.9	2,827.9