



Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

It is indeed a **special honour** for me to address you today at this Seventh meeting of Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference. On behalf of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japanese government for hosting this year's ADEC meeting.

I wish in particular to thank for the invitation to address you once again at the beginning of this new year which is very special for all of us.

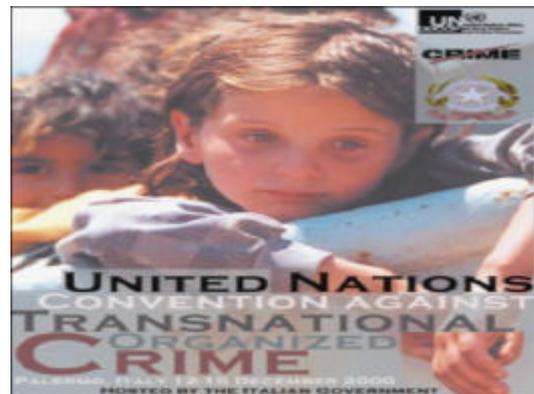
The year 2001 was declared by the UN the year of dialogue among civilisations and September 11, 2001 was the UN universal peace day. We have witnessed instead one of the worst world economic, political, and military security crisis. Indeed the world has changed deeply. We might even say that we are living in the year one, month five, of the new world era.



“Build a stronger Global Human security and build it now” is the call which comes to our ears loud and clear.

Justice and freedom are the two twin towers of humankind that are now growing taller over and above different cultures, political systems, uneven economies including intolerable destitution and poverty in many Asian countries. A common sense of global responsibility is now felt to be the essential goal for sustainable development and enduring peace.

Facts of catastrophic magnitude, not academic opinions, have demonstrated that terrorism and drugs are linked in an evil alliance. Both use money generated by illicit activities. Therefore our response must be resolute and fully synergetic. The new “quantum leap” made in the fight against terrorism should not result in a zero sum with the fight against drugs. Rather both should go to scale, at the magnitude required by the clear and present danger we now face.



The United Nations Charter, the Vienna Conventions on drugs and drug related crime, the UN Palermo Convention on Transnational Organized Crime of December 2000, and the Rule of Laws which translated such universal consensus in national legislations, represent together the unremitting search for ways and means to build humankind's freedom from fear.

Freedom from fear is not a dream of philosophers. Rather it is a universal human right and it is the inseparable other side of the coin, of freedom from want that every people of the world is searching. These are the fundamental reasons why our gathering make sense, and why we will exchange views and share experiences during this conference.

Since many experts will analyse the complexities of our present fight against globalization of drug crimes, I wish only to highlight a few trends which I believe are the main concern of the international community.



First is the impact of Afghanistan ban on opium and opiates production, trafficking and abuse on Asia.

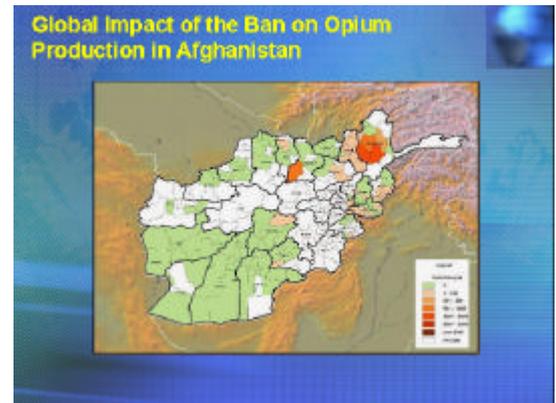
Second is how to maintain and enhance decreased opium and heroin outputs in Myanmar.

Third is how to contain growing demand of amphetamines in particular in South East Asia.

Fourth is how to respond to increased drug trafficking in China, including the production of ATS in South China.

Fifth, there is still too much complacency in the policy of drug fighting in Asia.

Let me take a few minutes of your time to express what we at the United Nations think on these five subjects.

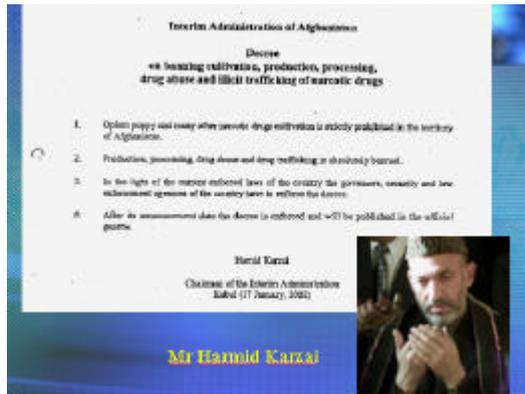


1. As you know, Afghanistan was the source of three-quarters of the world's illicit opium in 1999 and nearly as much in 2000. In the season leading to year 2001 harvest, however, a ban on cultivation was imposed by the Taliban regime. The result was a decrease in over ninety-four per cent in the opium harvest this year. This resulted in an overall decrease of two-thirds worldwide. But the existence of large surplus stocks from the two previous Afghan harvests has limited the effect on global heroin markets. By our estimates, a shortage would only start to happen if the ban were sustained for another year.

The United Nations helped to launch an urgent initiative to provide humanitarian assistance to farmers severely affected by the sudden ban, a situation aggravated by serious drought. Such assistance was also felt to be important to promote sustaining of the ban. Support was being provided by traditional donors and donors within the region. Work began in Nangarhar Province in August but had to be interrupted in September 2001.

There were reports before the end of 2001 that opium has been planted in some of the key crop areas that will be harvested this year – the planting season ended in December 2001. We are not yet able to verify the extent of this resumed cultivation. Countermeasures are also difficult to define for the immediate short term. The situation calls for close attention on the part of the international community.

¹ The following seven paragraphs on Afghanistan are adapted from a UNDCP speech at UN Commission on Narcotics Drugs on 12 December 2001 in Vienna.



The interim government chaired by Mr Hamid Karzai has issued a new decree to ban completely the production, trafficking and consumption of opium and opiates in Afghanistan. We are actively engaged in the discussions related to the post-conflict period in Afghanistan. This involves the Afghanistan Support Group, as well as the various UN machinery set up in New York and at the field level, where we have already re-established a presence in Kabul.

All governments here represented will be involved to varying degrees in shaping the post-conflict agenda in Afghanistan, be it through the UN or other mechanisms. It is absolutely

essential that all of you lend your voices to the call for serious attention to drug control in post-conflict Afghanistan.

There will be many voices raised in support of many different issues. But we believe firmly that the continuation of opium poppy cultivation, heroin manufacture and drug trafficking in Afghanistan will jeopardize the chances for peace and stability. The international community needs to speak with one voice if we are to take advantage of this very narrow window of opportunity to maintain the reduction in illicit opium production in Afghanistan and worldwide.

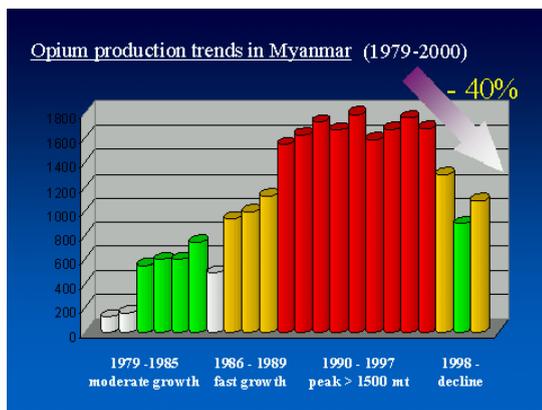
So far the Afghanistan crisis has not caused immediate effects on Myanmar. And this leads me to the second point:

2. On opium production : a joint US/Myanmar Government Opium Yield Survey was conducted 2-6 March, 2001 to assess opium poppy crop. The team went to the poppy fields in the Shan State of Myanmar where, according to UNDCP Yangon², 95% of the national opium

² UNDCP Myanmar 2001:

- a) In a bid to mobilize and raise public awareness about the drug problem, UNDCP Myanmar launched the first drive of its "Civil Society Initiative" on 12 October 2001. The "Stars against Drugs" event recorded the commitment of a group of well-known local celebrities who agreed to lend their names, status and time to drug prevention campaigns. These include several youth-targeted awareness raising initiatives. All of them are to be simultaneously launched on 26 June, marking the International Day against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking. Another drug prevention-orientated step was undertaken as recently as January 23, 2002. Thanks to the signature of the "Memorandum of Understanding to Counter Together the Drug Problem in Myanmar", eight Myanmar-based non-governmental organisations and UNDCP committed themselves to work together in a consortium. The signature of the document marked the inception of a permanent and accessible forum through which projects and activities can be planned and implemented in a coordinated and synergetic fashion. The consortium will concentrate its efforts on five areas. These are: drug abuse awareness raising and advocacy; provision of wider access to treatment and rehabilitation for drug users; HIV/AIDS prevention among injecting drug users; community-based drug abuse prevention; and poverty alleviation by generating alternative means of income for opium growing communities plagued by food shortage.
- b) In 2001, the Myanmar-based UN agencies formulated a Joint Plan of Action to respond to the HIV/AIDS plague nationwide. Seven priority areas have been identified including targeted condom use, behavioural development, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, reduction of the harmful consequences of injecting drug use, blood safety in rural areas, surveillance system, enhancing the capacity of national NGOs and the communities. The government estimated that 30% of the national HIV positive cases are attributed to intravenous drug use. Against this background, UNDCP is to play a central role in implementing the fourth component of the Joint Action Plan, since it directly touches upon its drug control mandate. The field office in Myanmar has led the formulation and negotiation of this component with the stakeholders. It is estimated to cost US\$2.6 million for an initial 2 year period. Within this framework, UNDCP's role will be to strengthen and support the network of implementing partners, coordinating and monitoring their activities in order to ensure internal synergy as well as proper integration with the other modules of the Plan.

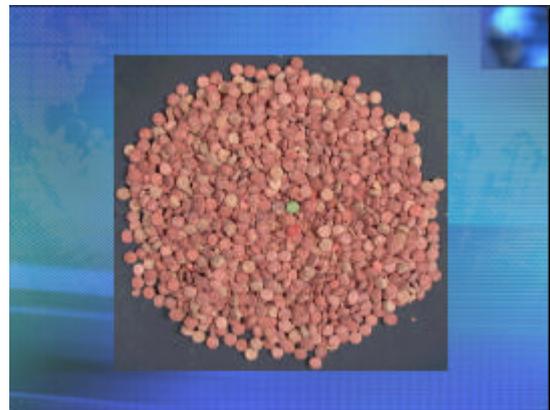
cultivation is concentrated. US/Myanmar assessment of the samples collected confirms lower opium yields this year compared to the last year and far lower yields than yield samples collected during the mid-1990s. Current opium production was estimated by the US at 865 metric tons against 1,085 metric tons in 2000, confirming a continual downwards trend since 1996. During that year, opium production peaked at 1,760 metric tons. Ever since, Myanmar opium production has steadily declined by some 50%. To some extent, this drastic reduction can be attributed to adverse weather conditions. On the other hand, the Government's commitment to drug eradication activities, coupled with enhanced cooperation with UNDCP, also played a crucial role.



On cross-border law enforcement cooperation : strengthened regional coordination and exchange of intelligence led to the arrest of four major drug traffickers by Myanmar police. The most significant case is the one of Tan Xiaolin. Widely believed the leader of South China's largest drug smuggling and money laundering syndicate in half a century, he was sentenced in absentia by Chinese criminal authorities. Arrested in Myanmar, he was finally handed over to China. The operation was facilitated through a UNDCP promoted bilateral agreement.

3. Serious problems of ATS abuse exist in Thailand and the Philippines, while all other countries in the region report the trend to some extent. In recent months, Cambodian officials

have especially noted emerging ATS abuse trends. Chinese officials have also recognized the problem, although its extent is uncertain.

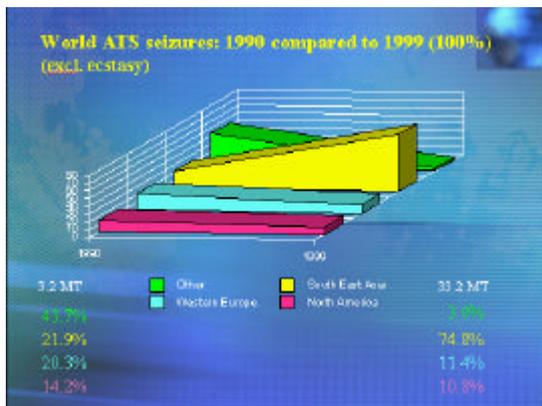


The form of administering ATS varies from one country to the next. Ingesting pills is the most common method, while some countries such as Thailand report an increasing number that are "chasing the dragon" (inhaling) similar as with "ice" in East Asia. The affected populations are essentially two distinct groups: those who use ATS for instrumental purposes, to enhance or prolong work performance; and those in those in the adolescent and young adult age group who use ATS for social and recreational purposes. Methamphetamine and ecstasy are two of the most prominent forms of ATS that are used in the region.

ATS is also representing a significant innovative factor in trafficking trends.

Heroin and methamphetamine produced in Myanmar are trafficked largely through transit routes crossing the porous Chinese and Thai borders; to a lesser extent over the Indian, Bangladeshi, and Lao borders; and through Yangon onward by ship to other countries in the region. Although Thailand remains an important route for heroin from Myanmar to Southeast Asia, trafficking through China has increased significantly over the past several years. China shares a 2,000-kilometer border with Myanmar. The majority of heroin produced in Myanmar is now trafficked through China en-route to the international market, reflecting China's importance as a transshipment route. Most

seizures of Myanmar heroin now take place in China and in particular in the Yunnan province bordering Myanmar. Yunnan Provincial Narcotic Control Committee reported total provincial seizures of 8,000 kg in 2001, almost 3 times more than the year before. The total seizures of heroin in China in 2001 doubled compared with in 2000 ending up to record high figure of 12,300 kg. Europe and USA are no longer dominating as destinations for heroin originating from East Asia, as Australia has emerged as a new major destination.



The dominant part of the crystallized methamphetamine produced in South China is aimed for Japan, the Philippines, Korea and the Taiwan Province of China. Record seizures of ATS are reported from Japan, mainly crystallized methamphetamine from China but also in the form of tablets from Southeast Asia. Japan seized 85 kg of ATS in 1995 compared with 1,975 kg in 1999 and 1,026 kg in 2000. There are reports from Japan of a growing volume of seizures of methamphetamine tablets originating from Southeast Asia. It is interesting to notice the price difference, one tablet (street price) cost US\$1.- in Bangkok and US\$20.- in Tokyo.

Most of the drugs produced in the region are exported out of the source country for consumption in another country. Major cases involving trafficking of drugs are consequently to be considered as transnational and need to be well organized by a number of people to prevent intervention by law enforcement agencies. Therefore the main part of the international drug trafficking is to be considered as organized crime

per definition in the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. The level of trafficking of drugs in the region makes organized crime an important issue to be addressed.

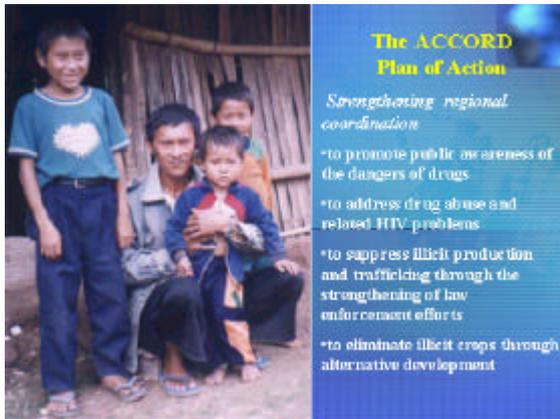
4. The growth of trafficking of heroin in China is consistent with the growth in consumption. The extremely high seizures of heroin in 2001 match the reports indicating that 70% of known HIV/AIDS infections are related to sharing of needles. In Yunnan province HIV prevalence among IDUs rose from 0% in 1994 to 70% in 1997. The spread of HIV is directly linked to Intravenous Drug Use along trafficking routes from Northern Myanmar into China. UNAIDS officials, national counterparts, and co-sponsors all agree that the IDU trends have either continued or expanded in the region. IDU is recognized as a major vector of transmission among IDU populations who are also contributing to the infection of general populations through unprotected sex. Countries most affected by the IDU trends include Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, China and Vietnam. Among these countries, IDU is either driving the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as is the case of China and Vietnam, or significantly contributing to it, as is the case in Myanmar and Thailand. Production of ATS mainly bound for the Philippines has been detected in South China. Efforts to tackle such new threat will be discussed on Thursday 7 February with the countries concerned.

5. Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, my fifth and last point is possibly the most important one. Some independent researchers have recently looked into the consistency between our East Asian consensus on “tough on drugs policy” and the related actions and budgets.

I am proud to say with no fear of contradiction that we jointly own some of the best designed drug control operational plans in the world.

The Drug Control Memorandum of Understanding of the Greater Mekong Subregion with six member countries and UNDCP has been

since 1993 the most innovative international cooperation initiative then replicated in various parts of the world.



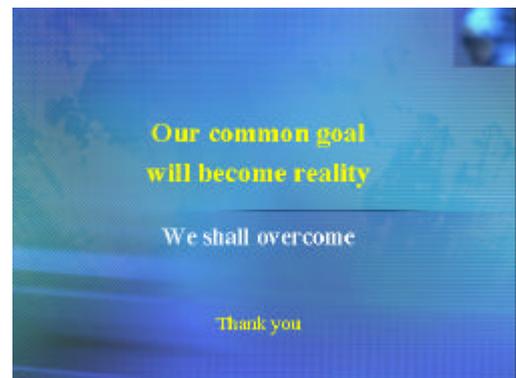
The ACCORD Plan of Action for a Drug Free ASEAN 2015 has been recognised by the United Nations Economic and Social Committee as the first political and technical drug control partnership fully owned by many countries, with clear targets, task forces, timelines, a business plan, a funding strategy and a monitoring mechanism.

We really could not do better in planning areas.

Execution and action nevertheless depend on funding. In this area researchers have appraised our official statistics as an example of complacency. The two largest and strongest Asia/Pacific economies contribute to the multilateral fight against drugs in a measure significantly smaller than their share in other multilateral affairs. Many medium income Asian countries contribute with percentages on total budgets which look like long distance telephone codes (00...) and some simply are absent in financial terms. In this way the burden is not fairly shared and it is mainly on the shoulders of poorest countries and some traditional overseas donors.

This lack of international financial responsibility is possibly the area which requires most urgent attention.

Ladies and Gentlemen, **the links between transnational crime and insecurity are now well documented** and well understood in the mind of every person who has seen the TV once in the past month. Militias, terrorists and other ruthless criminals are increasingly dependent on the illicit trafficking of drugs to finance weapons purchase and plan evil acts of mass destruction. They contemporarily push the trafficking of human beings, especially women and children, they smuggle people, they control the international sex trade furthering the transmission of HIV/AIDS. **Measures to impede trafficking operations can directly contribute to a stronger human security in Asia/Pacific.** Or else, if the activities of drug related transnational crime are not curtailed the future stability, peace and sustainable development of countries in our Region may be undermined. In such a scenario social violence, humanitarian emergencies and economic collapse may claim in the first decade of this century more lives than all wars fought in the 20th century³.



³ This paragraph is freely adapted from: Alan Dupont, HIV/AIDS: a major international security issue. Background document for the Asia/Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Melbourne, 9-10 October 2001.

I strongly believe that we have a collective mission and a mandate to show the way towards a true enduring *freedom from fear* of the humankind.

Thank you all for your attention.

