



**5TH MEETING OF THE AIPA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS
(AIPACODD)**

24 June 2022, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Addressing Challenges Together for Drug-Free ASEAN

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(AIPACODD)**

24 June 2022, Hosted by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Addressing Challenges Together towards Drug-Free ASEAN

REPORT

**THE FIFTH MEETING OF
THE AIPA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) was held via video conferencing on 24 June 2022 from 09.00 AM to 04.30 PM (GMT +7) hosted by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

PARTICIPANTS

2. The Meeting was attended by delegations from 7 AIPA Member Parliaments, observers from the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, Union Assembly of Myanmar, House of Representatives of the Philippines, and representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), ASEAN Senior Official on Drugs (ASOD), and National Authority for Combating Drugs of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NACD).
3. The list of delegates is appended as Annex A.

OPENING CEREMONY

4. The Opening Ceremony of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD was held on Friday, 24 June 2022 at 09.00 AM.

Welcoming Remarks by Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van, the Secretary General of AIPA

5. The AIPA Secretary General Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van extended her warmest greetings to the Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D., First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as to all Delegates who were present at the Virtual 5th AIPACODD Meeting. She also thanked the President of AIPA and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the meeting.
6. In her remarks, Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van stated that the issue of drug trafficking is not only urgent but has also become a long-term non-traditional security problem that brings long-term consequences in health, economic and social. In this regard, she presented a recent report from UNODC which warns that the synthetic drug trade continues to expand in East and Southeast Asia, highlighting the fact that its production and trade have hit its record levels by 2021. Such a situation has also been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which affects the prevention and control of illicit drug trafficking in ASEAN countries.
7. In the context of ASEAN, Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van acknowledged ASEAN's efforts in tackling the problem of illicit drug trafficking in the region, such as the 2016-2025 Community Security Work Plan on Drugs which has been effectively implemented. However, the ASEAN's goal of becoming a drug-free community still poses challenges as Southeast Asia continues to identify itself as the most prominent drug market in the world. In this regard, Secretary General Van encouraged for more effective regional cooperation.
8. Further in her remarks, Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van emphasized the role of parliamentarians in complementing the efforts of ASEAN to tackle this issue. In this light, she mentioned that the AIPA member parliaments have affirmed the importance of reducing demand and supply of illicit drugs through the adoption and implementation of evidence-based prevention policies and advocacy for capacity building programs, education, awareness, and strengthening international cooperation across judicial, law enforcement, and health sectors.
9. She believed that the 5th AIPACODD meeting could be a forum for AIPA Member Parliaments to update the progress status of drug prevention and control in their respective countries since the last AIPACODD meeting in May 2021. This platform, she continued, also aims to review the implementation of commitments made in the resolution adopted at the last AIPA General Assembly, which reaffirms cooperation among AIPA member parliaments in their efforts towards a drug-free ASEAN. She concluded her remarks by wishing the meeting a success.
10. The full text of the Welcoming Remarks by Secretary General Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van is attached as Annex B.

Opening Remarks by Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM Yeap, Ph.D, First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on behalf of the President of AIPA.

11. On behalf of the AIPA President, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, Honorable Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D., the First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, extended his warmest welcome and profound thanks to all delegates for their participation in the Virtual 5th AIPACODD Meeting.
12. He recalled the Acceptance Speech of the Head of Delegation of Cambodia in May 2021, in which it was acknowledged that the drug situations at both the international and regional levels continue to evolve with risks remaining as high as ever as the whole world was continuing with the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has significantly affected the prevention and control of illicit drugs within ASEAN countries. Therefore, he conveyed that it is appropriate for ASEAN to respond to this issue aggressively in its action against drugs in the region. He acknowledged ASEAN's efforts to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to illegal drugs, including by combating illegal drug trafficking activities.
13. He explained the choosing of the theme of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting; “Addressing Challenges Together for Drug-Free ASEAN”, which emphasizes the crucial importance for all AIPA Member Parliaments to discuss, resolve and find ways to effectively address the ongoing challenges in combating illegal drugs. Further in his opening remarks he acknowledged both the challenges and the commitment of ASEAN in realizing the drug-free community, as reflected in the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters chaired by Cambodia in 2021 which addressed changing trends and patterns in illicit drug activities including the continued expansion of the synthetic drug market. He also acknowledged the growing challenges of drug uses amid work and financial-related stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, of which drug uses among youth are high and numbers of young people with more liberal attitudes towards legalizing marijuana are increasing.
14. He believed that AIPACODD plays a significant role in combating dangerous drugs by AIPA Member Parliaments through the exchange of information, policies, and law enforcement among the ASEAN Member States. Such endeavors are reflected in the adopted resolutions, proposed and deliberated in the AIPACODD Meeting to complement the efforts of ASEAN in realizing the Drug-Free ASEAN Community. He also emphasized that combating the illicit drug industries and drug trafficking activities requires close, synergical and constant cooperation, which is certainly in line with the spirit of AIPACODD. The journey may be long and challenging, but he stated that preservation and unity must be central to the purpose.

15. Coming to an end of his remarks, he wished the meeting a success with fruitful outcomes from the contribution of all delegates. He then officially appointed Hon. Mr. Ty Sokun to be the Chairperson, and Hon. Ms. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri as the Vice-Chairperson of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting. Finally, he declared the official opening of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting themed “Addressing Challenges Together for Drug-Free ASEAN”.
16. The full text of the Opening Address by *Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D* is attached as Annex C.

Nomination and Appointment of Chairperson of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting

Referring to the appointment of the Chairperson of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD in the Opening Ceremony, Hon. Mr. Ty Sokun was the Chairperson of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD.

Nomination Appointment of 5th AIPACODD Vice-Chairperson

17. The 5th AIPACODD Vice-Chairperson was nominated and appointed from the next host country. Hon. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri, Head of the Delegation of Indonesia.

FIRST SESSION

The First Session of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD was held virtually on Friday, 24 June 2022 at 09:30 am.

Nomination Appointment of 5th AIPACODD Secretary

18. For the 5th AIPACODD Secretary, Hon. Mr. Yim Leat was nominated and appointed.

Brief Introduction to the Topic by the Chairperson of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting

19. Hon. Mr. Ty Sokun, Chairperson of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting was convinced that despite being held virtually, the meeting will achieve a conducive outcome through fruitful cooperation and a sincere desire to eradicate the ever-growing drug issues. In his remarks, the Chairperson of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting briefly introduced the topic of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting. He presented the world statistics of drugs abuse situation in 2021. He also mentioned the fact that Southeast Asia is a home to one of the largest methamphetamines (meth) markets in the world.

20. Honorable Chairperson shared the information on the dynamics of the illicit synthetic drug market particularly in the Southeast Asia region, including the emergence of the drug market on the dark web, with the primary online marketplace worth at least \$315 million in annual sales. The COVID-19 pandemic has also forced drug suppliers to be more innovative and adaptive. As a result, this leads to an increase in the shipment frequencies of drug. Regarding this, he mentioned several distribution methods, including by land, sea, air, as well as the upsurge contactless method to deliver drugs to end consumers. The problem is further exacerbated by increasing economic hardship, rising inequality and mental health conditions caused by the pandemic, factors that could prompt more people to demand drugs.
21. In his remarks, Hon. Mr. Ty Sokun highlights studies that present many prospective solutions, including changing the perception of drug use as low risk, which has also been associated with higher rates of drug use. This gap between perception and reality, he argues, must be bridged, by putting prevention measures such as; youth education, public awareness raising and safeguarding of public health through the provision of evidence, as its core.
22. Honorable Chairperson also shared the continued efforts of the National Authority for Combating Drugs in ensuring the effective implementation of the content of multilateral/bilateral agreements with sub-regional countries, as well as cooperation projects with stakeholders. In conclusion, he emphasized the fact that regardless the pandemic situation, drugs are everyone's and trans-boundary issues, which needs to be addressed together. He argued that no country can tackle this issue alone, and as quoted from his speech, *"either we succeed together or fail separately!"*.
23. Last but foremost, he encouraged all Delegates to make use of the meeting to side with science and evidence and pave the path towards a drug-free society.
24. The full text of the Brief Introduction by the Chairperson of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting is attached as Annex D.

Introduction of Delegations

25. For the next order of the meeting, the Chairperson introduced the Delegations. The introduction was started with AIPA Members in alphabetical order, followed by the Delegation of AIPA Secretariat and representatives from ASOD, UNODC, and NACD.

26. The Chairperson informed the meeting on the participation of Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines and Myanmar. However, as there were no parliamentarians in the Delegation due to distinct reasons, following the Terms of Reference of the AIPACODD in which the members of AIPACODD shall consist of Members of Parliament, the Delegations of the three AIPA Members were only granted the status of Observer. The Chairperson also informed the meeting that Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines submitted their country reports and they will be included in the report of the 5th AIPACODD Meeting.
27. Delegates then went on to discuss and approve the Agenda for the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD.
28. The approved Agenda is appended as Annex E.
29. Delegates discussed and approved the Program of Activities for the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD.
30. The Program of Activities is appended as Annex F

Presentation by the Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

31. The representative from UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and Pacific presented its report on the latest drug situation in the region. UNODC reported that after a downward trend since 2014, there was a slight increase of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2021, which recorded a total 30,200 hectares. Despite growing seizures of heroin in several countries in 2021, the report however showed that the numbers remain stable, where 12.3 tons of heroin were seized in East and Southeast Asia (ESEA) and 9,6 tons of which in Southeast Asia only. The representative of UNODC mentioned that methamphetamine (meth) is one pragmatic substance for the region. It was recorded in the report that compared to the previous year, the seize rate of meth in ESEA increased by 3,8% in 2021. There were approximately 171.5 tons of methamphetamine seized in ESEA in 2021, with over one billion meth tablets for the first time, in which the proportion of seizures made in SEA increased. From the record amount of meth tablets seized in 2021, predominantly was seized in Lower Mekong.
32. The representative of UNODC stated that there was a significant increase of seizure amounts of methamphetamine in northeastern Thailand between 2018-2021, where the intensified drug flow from Lao PDR to Thailand contributed to this increase. Based on the report of the Laos Commission on Drugs Control (LCDC), there was a massive seizure of meth in 2021 where 55,664,000 meth tablets and 1,537 kg of crystal meth was seized and 2 Laotian men were arrested in Bokeo, Lao PDR. Shan State Myanmar, according to UNODC, remains the primary source for meth. It was also shared during the presentation, the wide variety of meth tablet packaging. Meanwhile, the type of meth confiscated in the region was dominated by crystal meth in tea bag packaging.

33. According to the data from UNODC, there has been fluctuation in the numbers of dismantled meth labs in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines between 2016-2021, where in 2021 the number dropped significantly compared to the previous year. Particularly in Cambodia, the data showed that more than 160.000 kg of controlled and non-controlled chemicals seized in the country between 2020-2022.
34. Regarding the crystal meth trafficking flows in ESEA, representatives from UNODC claimed during the presentation that the meth market of South Asia and Southeast Asia has been further integrated and East Asia continues to be exploited as a meth transit from North America (Mexico). It was also shared to the meeting that meth in ESEA primarily sourced from within the region.
35. Golden Triangle meth's influence continues to impact SoANNEX uth Asia. In December 2021, 154 kg of crystal meth was seized and one Myanmar national was arrested in Manipur, northeastern India. This shows that crystal meth trafficking has been expanded into India. The representative of UNODC also shared that Hong Kong and China are also exploited as transit for meth from Mexico. In this context, it was revealed that 447 kg of liquid meth and 253 kg of crystal meth had been seized in the HKIA and logistics warehouse in March 2022.
36. Further in its presentation, the representative of UNODC explained about the diversification of trafficking routes for amphetamine, where Southeast Asia used as transshipment point for 'captagon' from the Middle East. Traffickers, in this regard, use circuitous routes to disguise actual embarkation points. UNODC also informed that the prices for meth further decreased, even for high-purity meth. This is likely to indicate increased availability and accessibility to high quality drugs.
37. Forensic profiles of crystal meth analyzed in China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, 2017-2021 shows that there is a mix of meth synthesized from methods using ephedrine and P-2-P, and ephedrine/pseudoephedrine remain by far the most dominant method. The trend of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in ESEA is reported to decline constantly every year. Meanwhile, the supply of ketamine in ESEA is increasing, one of which is due to the expansion of illegal ketamine manufacture into Cambodia.
38. Put an end their presentation, the UNODC representative delivered the following conclusions:
- No disruption in methamphetamine supply in East and Southeast Asia amidst ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
 - The spill-over of methamphetamine from Myanmar hitting the region as well as South Asia, as organized crime groups reroute methamphetamine;
 - There was increases in supply and demand, but demand data is limited and is not prioritized;

- Control of chemicals is crucial to disrupt the manufacture of synthetic drugs and heroin; and
- Forensics / early warning mechanisms are necessary to keep abreast of the evolving synthetic drug market in the region.

39. The PowerPoint presentation of UNODC is attached as Annex G.

Briefing by Representative of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs (ASOD)

40. The Deputy Secretary General of Lao National Commission for Drugs Control and Supervision (LCDC), Pol. Lt. Col. Phoutsavath Sounthla, extended his gratitude for the invitation to join and deliver update on the outcomes of the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) which was held via video conference in October 2021 and hosted by Cambodia.
41. The representative of LCDC reported the outcomes from the 7th AMMD. During the meeting, the representatives of ASEAN Member States shared and discussed their country reports highlighting the drug situation and major concerns, including recent statistics on drug-related arrests and seizures in their respective countries. Despite the ongoing Covid-19 mobility restrictions, the region remains unrelated with major recorded seizures including ICE, methamphetamine, ketamine, ecstasy, and NPS. The meeting also deliberated the progress of the midterm review of the ASOD's initiative; ASEAN Workplan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025, and also the ASEAN cooperation plan to tackle illicit drugs production and trafficking in the Golden Triangle.
42. Further reported that the meeting noted with satisfaction of the Report on the Mid-Term Review on ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025, which would provide direction and guidance for further effective regional cooperation on drug control. The meeting subsequently noted the adoption of this Report at the Preparatory ASOD for the 7th AMMD. The Meeting called upon all ASEAN Member States to increase their efforts and cooperation to implement the unaddressed activities, assess the implementation of their national-level activities, and further enhance their implementation in the respective prioritized areas, in accordance with the recommendations made by this Report.
43. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the 2020 ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report (ADM) and appreciated Thailand's unwavering commitment to continue leading this initiative amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other ASEAN Member States for their contribution to the ADM Report.

44. The Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to support regional cooperation in realizing a drug-free ASEAN, through a zero-tolerance approach towards illicit drug abuse, with strict adherence to the rule of law and observance of human rights while maintaining full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of ASEAN Member States. Further reported that the Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN's resolute stand against the legalization and manufacturing of illicit drugs for non-medical and non-scientific use or measures to undermine international control over any type of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances without relevant, verifiable and reliable scientific evidence. The Meeting also urged the international community to uphold the provisions of the international drug control conventions.
45. Lastly, the Meeting called on ASEAN Member States to maintain ASEAN unity and solidarity in their participation at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and related meetings. The Meeting also recognized the importance of engaging ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Parties in pursuing the aspiration of a drug-free region. In view of maintaining the momentum of cooperation with Dialogue Partners to combat illicit drugs in post-pandemic era, the Meeting tasked ASOD to consider the resumption of its Consultations with relevant Dialogue Partners and deliver the concrete activities in the near future.
46. The Briefing Paper by ASOD is attached as Annex H.

Presentation by the Representative of the National Authority for Combating Drugs of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NACD)

47. Pol. Gen. Meas Vyrith, Secretary General of National Authority for Combating Drugs of Cambodia took the opportunity to share experiences on drug situation in Cambodia. The presentation of NACD was divided into six major parts: Government Commitment, Drug Routes & Situation, Combating Drugs Results, Case Study on Drug Prevention Law Enforcement, Assets Forfeiture, and Challenges.
48. Pol. Gen. Meas Vyrith, Secretary-General began his presentation by affirming the commitment of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia against drug offenses. He emphasized that there is no exception nor waiver for drug offenses in Cambodia, regardless of the status of the individual. On the other hand, the Royal Government of Cambodia, through its Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, is committed to providing support and encouragement to those addicted to drugs by providing treatment and rehabilitation services. Pol. Gen. Meas Vyrith, Secretary-General informed that there are 19 Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers operated by Government, Private and NGOs in Cambodia.

49. He continued his presentation by sharing information on the current drug situation in Cambodia, which is still affected by this unfortunate predicament. He stated that drug smuggling to Cambodia via land borders shared with Lao PDR and Thailand had grown a national concern. The Golden Triangle has opened the possibility for foreign drug syndicates to engage not only in drug trafficking but is also active in exploring the opportunity for local drug processing.
50. In response to the above situation, the Royal Government of Cambodia has clearly defined holistic multi-strategic measures and a national plan against drugs, including the establishment of drug control mechanisms in cities, Provinces, and Public Institutions. Since 2016, the Royal Government of Cambodia has laid down the Anti-illicit Drugs Campaign, which aims to collectively consume all resources and means to achieve remarkable results against the drug menace.
51. Next in his presentation, Pol. Gen. Meas Vyrith, Secretary-General shared some best practices and successful achievements of Cambodia, such as strengthening the Border Liaison Offices (BLOs), setting up Drug-Free (white) Villages along the border that attach to the Village Commune Safety Mechanism, and improving proper management of drug addicts for treatment and rehabilitation services by enhancing community base drugs treatment (CBTx) in public health facilities. His Secretary-General also stressed the importance of law enforcement and international collaboration in reducing the drug supply in the country.
52. Concluding his presentation, Pol. Gen. Meas Vyrith, Secretary-General reported to the meeting that since 2017 the Cambodian authorities had seized numbers of money, assets, and properties as benefits of drug crime offenses into the Combating Drugs' Budget, accounting for 4,199,138.70 USD. However, various challenges remain, especially in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the SEA route has become more favorable for cashless drugs transactions and operations. Various tactics interchange routes by using different types of concealment for transportation, and overdemand for synthetic drugs from the Production (GT) also become the challenges faced by the Royal Government of Cambodia. Lastly, he reiterated the importance of strengthening information and intelligence, enforcing the law, and enhancing international cooperation in combating the drug menace.
53. The Presentation of NACD is attached as Annex I.

SECOND SESSION

The Second Session of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD was held on Friday, 24 June 2022 at 11:00 AM.

Presentation of Country Progress Reports by AIPA Member Parliaments

Brunei Darussalam

54. In its country progress report, Brunei Darussalam informed that the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), under the purview of the Prime Minister's Office, is the country's leading agency in combating drug related crimes in Brunei Darussalam. In order to efficiently eradicate drug crimes, the Bureau reportedly has adopted two different strategies namely the reduction of supply through the prevention of the entry of drugs either through legal or illegal points of entry; and the reduction of demand through effective activities such as preventive drug education, supervision and rehabilitation.
55. Until May 2022, it was reported that Al-Islah Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre has a total of 37 residents of which 30 of the residents are males (81.1%) and 7 residents are females (18.9%), who are undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. Most of the residents use Methyl-amphetamine as their choice of drug abuse and second-most used drugs is Cannabis.
56. Further reported in its country report, that until May 2022, out of the 37 residents at Al-Islah Treatment and Rehabilitation, 10 people (27.02%) were admitted through the Minister's Order who failed their urine test while undergoing supervision scheme. 8 people (21.6%) were admitted through court order and 19 people (51.4%) of the admissions were on a voluntary basis.
57. Moreover, up until May 2022, 270 persons were reported to have been arrested, including 223 males and 47 females. 110 arrestees were new drug arrestees and 160 were repeat drug offenders. Out of the total arrests, 246 arrestees were Bruneians, 249 arrestees were of Malay background and 128 arrestees were unemployed.
58. Up to May 2022, a total of 30.6 gram of Cannabis and 7075 ml of liquid containing Mitragynine or Ketum was seized at various border control checkpoints.
59. The Country Progress Report of Brunei Darussalam is attached as Annex J.

Indonesia

60. The Delegation of Indonesia stated that threat of abuse of Narcotics, Psychotropics, and other addictive substances (Drugs) has become a global phenomenon and a threat to humanity. In response to the danger of drug abuses, Indonesia is committed to a bold national policy and implemented national actions that covers strong demand reduction as well as effective law enforcement in a balanced way.

61. Indonesia is very committed to combat illicit drug trafficking. While progress has been made in the prevention strategies, the current state of drug trafficking activities involving individuals and organized criminal groups in Indonesia are growing worrisome. In this perspective, Indonesia highlighted that the role of regional institutions such as ASEAN in tackling this issue is of utmost importance. In the 2015 Drug-Free ASEAN program, Indonesia has completed the Mid Term Review of ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drugs 2016 – 2025 that lays out the plans, national or cross-border actions and activities, including preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, research, alternative development.
62. For Indonesia, comprehensive efforts taken must also include strict and proper law enforcement measures against drug traffickers and drug-related criminals. In other words, a firm law enforcement approach against transnational organized groups and individuals involved in drug trafficking is necessary.
63. The Delegation of Indonesia informed the meeting that the country is currently in the process of amending Law Number 35 Year 2009 on Narcotics. The amendment will focus on Integrated Assessment Team, New Psychotropic Substances, rehabilitation services, investigator's authority, narcotics sample test and narcotics evidence. Further, the Indonesian Government together with the House of Representatives, particularly the House Commission III are deliberating a new amendment to the law, which emphasizes the need to have a clear conception on the terminology of 'drug addicts', 'narcotics abusers', and 'victims of narcotics abuse'. The amendment will also further regulate on the handling of addicts, abusers, and victims of drug abuse should be focused on rehabilitation efforts through a comprehensive assessment mechanism.
64. In its presentation, Indonesia highlighted that the problem of drugs is very multidimensional, not only from the legal aspect but the economic, socio-cultural, and social-psychological aspects as well. In this context, Indonesia has continued to implement international prevention standards into its national demand reduction strategies, ranging from education, early prevention to post-rehabilitation or after care programs, to achieve the objective of a society free from drug abuse and to promote the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families and communities.
65. It was reported that over the years almost one million people in Indonesia saved from the influence of narcotics, despite the fact that Indonesia has also become one of the biggest targets for narcotics distribution by international networks. These facts clearly show the complex reality, trends and existing circumstances Indonesia is facing. For Indonesia, comprehensive efforts being taken must also include strict and proper law enforcement measures against drug traffickers.

66. Concluding its presentation, Indonesia stated that ASEAN's commitment in reducing the rate of narcotic use and smuggling in Southeast Asia still requires tougher efforts. Although there has been a clear form of policy, it still needs to expand its focus from the partial and domestic nature of each AMS.
67. The Country Progress Report of Indonesia and its PowerPoint Presentation are attached as Annex K.

Lao PDR

68. The Delegation of Lao PDR opened their presentation by highlighting the fact that the global and regional epidemic of drug problems has led to an increase in violence related to terrorism, transnational crime, money laundering and other forms of violence every year. In this context, the Delegation of Lao PDR expressed the commitment of the country to tirelessly make efforts to control, one of which is by instructing the line sector, local governments and the general public to focus on the successful implementation of national drug legislation strategies such as the Law on Narcotics Criminal Code, and National Drug Control Master Plan 2016-2020 and National Agenda 2021-2023.
69. The presentation of the country progress report of Lao PDR was divided into six main subjects: 1) National Drugs Control Policy, 2) Law Enforcement, 3) Drug Situation, 4) Trafficking Situation, 5) International and Regional Cooperation, and 6) Treatment and Rehabilitation.
70. In its presentation, the Delegation of Lao PDR shared the development of their legislation and national policy to control, prevent, combat and resolve the smuggling, transportation, trafficking, and consumption of drugs and primary chemicals. The Delegation of Lao PDR also reported the current drug and trafficking situation in the country. Being geographically located in the Lower Mekong Subregion, bordering with many countries, drug traffickers have exploited Lao territory as a transit route. Further, the Delegation of Lao reported several major cases of arrest in the past year.
71. It was also reported in the presentation that Lao PDR has been working closely with friendly countries in the region as well as with international organizations in controlling and combating drugs by conducting awareness-raising campaigns, promoting vocational training and education for the public about the dangers of drugs. Cooperation is also carried out with other ASEAN countries which are also traversed by the Mekong River. Also mentioned in the presentation were three international conventions of which Lao PDR is a part.

72. The delegation of Lao PDR shared information about the treatment and rehabilitation system in their country. In Lao PDR, there are currently 18 provincial drug inspection and control departments, 13 drug treatment and rehabilitation centers throughout the country, community-based drug treatment and counseling services at 28 district offices, and 27 Border Drug Control Coordination Offices or BLOs. It was reported that last year there are in total 4,978 drug users who received rehabilitation and vocational training services at those centers, outside centers and at the community level. After being discharged by centers, a number of beneficiaries are healthy and able to reintegrate into the society.
73. Concluding its presentation, the Lao Delegation emphasized that illegal drugs are a critical problem that cannot be solved by one organization or country alone. Therefore, Lao PDR encouraged closer cooperation and collaboration, both at the regional and international levels, to implement international laws and commitments in a concrete and effective manner.
74. The Country Progress Report of Lao PDR and its PowerPoint Presentation are attached as Annex L.

Malaysia

75. The presentation by the Delegation of Malaysia was divided into four main parts: Policy and Legislation, Drug Supply, Drug Demand, and International and Regional Cooperation. In the Policy and Legislation, the Delegation of Malaysia reported that the country has conducted a review on the National Drug Policy (NDP 2017) and it was approved by the Cabinet in 2017. The revised NDP is an extensive policy that incorporates both demand and supply reduction approaches and underlines the following five thrusts of action: preventive education; treatment and rehabilitation; law enforcement; harm reduction; and international cooperation. Four main legislations that empower the government in combating drugs trafficking were listed: Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, Poisons Act 1952, Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985, and Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988.
76. Next in the presentation, the Delegation of Malaysia explained about the current situation of drug supply and demand in the country. Malaysia shared that the Narcotics Crime Investigations Department of the Royal Malaysia Police (NCID of RMP) is the main agency of the enforcement of drug laws. According to the report, there was a significant decline in 2021 for the total number of people arrested under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 of 10.8%, from 137,610 in 2020 to 122,734 in 2021. There were 7,250 arrested cases under Section 39B for trafficking, 3,336 cases under Section 39A(2) for major possession and 14,664 cases under Section 39A(1) for minor possession. The Movement Control Order has definitely impacted drug related possession activities. However, drug trafficking under Section 39A(2) has less significant impact, it only dropped by 2.7 percent in 2021 which evidently showed illicit drug trafficking despite Covid-19 Pandemic.

77. Malaysia also faces the threat of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Among the NPS detected through tests by the Chemistry Department were mainly from cathinone and phenylethylamines groups. Currently, 80 NPS were detected in the country and have been gazetted under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and the Poisons Act 1952. Having porous borders, Malaysia remains vulnerable to the drug threat due to its close proximity to the drug-producing region of the Golden Triangle. As a result, the IDTS have taken this opportunity to exploit Malaysia as a temporary hub to transport drugs to other countries especially Indonesia and Singapore for methamphetamine and ecstasy.
78. The Delegation of Malaysia reported that prevalence of substance abusers and drug addicts in 2021 were 377 out of 100,000 population, with a ratio of one person for every 265 per population. Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts categorized by case status in Malaysia decreased from 2020 to 2021 from 128,325 to 123,139. In 2021, a total of 79,816 drug dependents were detected using ATS category drugs, indicating a decrease of 4.6% compared to 83,698 in 2020. In the same period, 39,100 drug dependents were detected using heroin and morphine compared to 39,599 drug dependents in 2020, indicating a decrease of 1.3%. In addition, marijuana use also indicates a decrease of about 6.4% for 2021 compared to the previous year. The least use of drugs was in Psychotropic and others.
79. It was reported that Malaysia has continuously increased its effort in improving the quality and accessibility of treatment, rehabilitation, care and reintegration programs for drug dependents. The report also mentions some of currently implemented programs and their targets. While in the issue of law enforcement, the report mentions several scopes of services under enforcement activities, and the objectives of the enforcement approaches, one of which is to detect and detain drug dependence for treatment and rehabilitation in accordance with existing laws.
80. In the part of International and Regional Cooperation, Delegation of Malaysia Malaysia is a party to all of the three international drug control conventions which serve as the cornerstone of the world drug policy. Malaysia also expressed its strong belief in enhancing regional and international cooperation, especially in the area of information and intelligence exchange so as to assist the region to counter the cross-border nature of illicit drug activities. In this regard, Malaysia supports the establishment of ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN NARCO) and the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network, both led by Thailand. Malaysia also participated actively in a series of training on both Universal Treatment Curriculum and Universal Prevention Curriculum through the Colombo Plan International Center for Credentialing and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE). Other than that, addiction professionals in Malaysia are actively participating in events conducted by the International Society of Substance Abuse Professionals globally.

81. Concluding its country progress report, Malaysia highlighted the fact that the year of 2020 gave a significant threat to public health especially in combating COVID-19. These challenges are not limited to only in Malaysia but have impacted globally in exercising full discretion to detect and disrupt drug supplies into and out from the country. The pandemic may have expanded the drug syndicates' battle space, but these unprecedented times have also called for even more global cooperation to address these threats. The joint regional response, in this context, will determine how successfully we can further curb the nexus of illegal drug trade in the post-COVID-19 world.
82. The Country Progress Report of Malaysia and the PowerPoint Presentation are attached as Annex M.

The Philippines

83. In the beginning, the country progress report of the Philippines emphasized the joint-efforts of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) that continues to foster legislative cooperation and collaboration to combat illegal drugs among AIPA member countries through the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) – with the ultimate goal of realizing a drug-free community.
84. The report highlights the war against illegal drug proliferation – production, trade, and substance abuse – rages on, despite the progress made in trying to regain normalcy amidst the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic led to travel restrictions and border closures, drug syndicates grew more creative in the cultivation, distribution, and selling of illegal narcotics. It is, therefore, necessary for the entire ASEAN to undertake coordinated and sustainable action to combat the threat posed by illegal drugs and keep on track ASEAN's action plan towards a drug-free community.
85. It was mentioned in the report that the Philippine government, for its part, maintains its strong campaign to curb the burgeoning and ever-increasing threat of illegal drugs, which adversely affects the lives and future of countless Filipino families. The blueprint guiding the anti-illegal drugs initiatives of the Philippines is anchored on the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS), as institutionalized under Executive Order No. 66, s. 2018. The PADS serves as the cornerstone of drug abuse prevention and control measures of the government.

86. To further establish effective coordination with anti-illegal drug law enforcement agencies, the country progress report recorded that a Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, s 2021 (JMC No. 1) or the Unified Coordination Guidelines in the Conduct of Anti-Illegal Drug Operations of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was crafted and signed on July 9, 2021. JMC No. 1 aims to provide a clear coordination mechanism between the PNP and PDEA prior to the conduct of planned anti-drug operations. This is to eliminate any misunderstanding and miscommunication between drug law enforcement units that impede the drug supply reduction efforts of the government's anti-drug campaign.
87. Moreover, Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Regulation No. 4 paved the way for the launching of the Barangay Drug Clearing Program (BDCP) Manual of Operations, which provides for clear and standard guidelines for the proper implementation of the drug regulation.
88. In its country progress report, the Philippines shared the country's milestones that have been reached as a result of relevant legislation and effective law enforcement. Albeit the significant strides by the country, it was stated in the report that the Philippines government must keep up with the ever-evolving and ever-growing complexity and digital technology sophistication of criminal groups operating and maintaining the supply chain flow of illegal substances entering the country. Local drug enforcement agencies, specifically PDEA and PNP, must also receive consistent administrative and budgetary support. At the end of the report, it was suggested that the national government must continue to develop joint regional and international efforts to eliminate drug supply channels that traverse the ASEAN region in order to realize the goal of a drug-free ASEAN.
89. The Country Progress Report of the Philippines is attached as Annex N.

Singapore

90. During its presentation, Singapore reported that the country has managed to keep its domestic drug situation under control despite its proximity to drug producing regions. There are no areas where drugs are openly sold or blatantly abused. This is due in part to the tough stance it has adopted against drug trafficking and abuse. Singapore adopts a comprehensive Harm Prevention strategy to drug control which targets both the supply and demand of the drugs. Singapore believes that the success of supply reduction strategies is dependent on commitments made to reduce drug use through:
- Preventive drug education
 - Tough legislation and vigorous enforcement
 - Evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation
 - Effective aftercare and reintegration

91. Singapore's approach has worked for the country. Drug use in Singapore has reportedly remained low, with the number of drug abusers arrested decreased from more than 6,000 yearly in 1990s to 2,729 last year, despite a worsening regional drug situation.
92. The contained drug situation in Singapore is a testament to the success of the country's strategies and efforts. However, the fluidity of the drug situation and the transnational nature of drug trafficking activities will continue to pose a challenge to Singapore. The Singapore Delegation affirmed that the country will continue to work closely with their foreign counterparts to eradicate the syndicates who target the region and its citizens for their drug activities. Singapore remains committed to the vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN. Singapore actively participates at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) where every year, the commission produces a set of resolutions for member states to implement and execute in order to tackle the world drug problem. Singapore also intends to take their participation at the CND to the next level by running for CND membership for the term 2024 to 2027 to contribute more significantly as a full-fledged member
93. The Country Progress Report of Singapore and its PowerPoint Presentation are attached as Annex O.

Thailand

94. The presentation of the country progress report of Thailand was divided into three main parts: drug situation and law enforcement; treatment, rehabilitation and prevention measures; and regulation and national drug policy. According to the report, the drug situation in Thailand for 2021 indicates that temporary preventive and control measures to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have an impact on drug activity. The improved pandemic situation and the relaxation of control measures have led to the recovery of the drug situation.
95. Thailand reported that several manners of drug trafficking and smuggling arose such as various types of delivery services and postal delivery as well as technology platforms of drugs trading. As a transit country into and out of the Golden Triangle Area especially in the Northern and Northeastern of Thailand, the country continuously encounters drug trafficking. The most widely smuggled drug in the region is *methamphetamine* or *Yaba*, which is also the most endemic drug in Thailand. Therefore, Thailand has stepped up strict prohibition measures along the border and is also making more efforts to suppress drug syndicates.
96. In addition, Thailand has given great importance to enhancing cooperation among ASEAN Member States in terms of exchanging information regarding the smuggling of drugs and their precursor chemicals as well as the prohibition of drug activities through existing mechanisms, in particular the AAITF and ASITF.

97. Recalling drug treatment and rehabilitation over the past few years, Thailand reported that more than 168,000 drug users were admitted to the treatment system. Most of them were in the age group of 25-29 years and they were new drug users. However, in 2021, as reported in its presentation, Thailand has introduced a Community-Based Treatment (CBTx) System for drug users to increase their chances of easily accessing sustainable treatment and rehabilitation services. In addition, Thailand also focuses on prevention efforts in early childhood aged 2-6 years. The Executive Function (EF) Approach has been applied to these groups to develop their brain skills and improve drug resistance skills to prevent them from engaging with harmful drugs. As a result, 1,360,455 preschoolers had their brain skills developed by EF
98. The Delegation of Thailand reported that in 2021, there was a significant change in the narcotic laws in Thailand. 24 narcotic laws and regulations were merged into one comprehensive regulation named “Narcotics Code”, in order to be relevant with the changing drug situation and to be able to effectively enforce the law. The Narcotics Code has been effectively enforced in December 2021. The said important changes on drug measures according to the Narcotics Code include:
1. Adjustment of penalties on drug offenses to appropriate proportions for each offense to reduce overcrowding in prisons which is a long-standing problem in Thailand and impacts national management, both human resources and budget;
 2. Adjustment of the treatment and rehabilitation system with focus on handling drug users and drug dependencies through public health efforts rather than criminal action. Each patient's drug problem will be comprehensively resolved according to their condition and from the dimensions of health and society and taking into account the principles of human rights and equality;
 3. Adjustment of the ways to use narcotic plants profitably for medical, research and economic purposes. Recently, Thailand has removed Kratom and cannabis including hemp from Drug Category 5 and is in the process of enacting subordinate legislation to specifically control the use of the plants. The bill is currently in the process of considering the relevant sectors; and
 4. Implementation of the confiscation of assets/property related to narcotics crimes as an important policy to break the chain of narcotics circulation by first implementing and adapting value-based confiscation measures in addition to the existing actions in this case. In recent years, Thailand was able to seize the assets/property of drug dealers more than 7 billion baht which exceeded the target of 6 billion baht and this year the new target of confiscation of 10 billion baht.

99. In conclusion, the Delegation of Thailand conveyed that despite the fact that ASEAN Member States has joined and followed the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 with common aspiration to achieve a drug-free region, the statistical information of drug seizures and cases during the COVID-19 pandemic still remain high, especially in the Golden Triangle Area. Moreover, the increasing number of drug users and drug relapses have shown a high percentage. Such a situation indicates that the spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily affected the drug-related activities of drug traffickers. In this regard, Thailand urged to increase collaborative operation and cooperation among ASEAN Member States and with the international community to fight against drug abuse together.
100. The Country Progress Report of Thailand and the PowerPoint Presentation are attached as Annex P.

Viet Nam

101. The Delegation of Viet Nam highlighted that the manufacturing, trading, and transporting illegal drugs in the world and in the region continue to be extremely complicated despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has been gradually under control and people return to normal life.
102. Taking that into account, it was reported in the presentation that the Viet Nam National Assembly, Government, ministries, departments and localities, have issued many legal documents and solutions to effectively implement the Law on Prevention and Control of Narcotic Substances. Basically, the legal provisions on drug prevention and control have met the actual situation: contributing to the fight against crime; improving the effectiveness of drug addiction treatment, and post-drug addiction treatment management; ensuring the lawful rights and interests of detoxifiers in accessing local drug addiction treatment, support and treatment services as well as in the process of participating in drug addiction treatment, etc. It was also informed in the presentation that the authorities have actively coordinated in fighting drug-related crimes and implementing drug addiction treatment and post-treatment management, in which, doing well international and regional cooperation to implement these activities.

103. According to the country progress report of Viet Nam, it is forecasted that in the coming time, the situation of the COVID-19 epidemic is under control, domestic and international trade activities return to normal, and the situation of drug crimes will become very complicated. The Delegation of Viet Nam conveyed that it is necessary to do the following contents to better understand the situation of drug prevention and control: (1) Deploy the contents of the Law on Prevention and Control of Narcotic Substances in 2021 and guiding documents to be implemented soon; (2) Continue to spend resources and professional means to fight strongly against drug crimes; (3) Manage well the addicts and the illegal users of narcotics, encourage voluntary drug addiction treatment; (4) Allocate resources for drug prevention and control and drug addiction prevention and treatment in accordance with socio-economic conditions, attract socialization resources; (5) Strengthening international cooperation in drug prevention and control.

104. The Country Progress Report of Viet Nam is attached as Annex Q.

Cambodia

105. Delegation of Cambodia emphasized that drugs are a global issue and have an impact on mental health, economics, relationships, social life, and criminal record, in addition to physical body and health. In response to drug-related challenges, the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NADC) of Cambodia has made every effort to engage with law enforcement bodies and agencies, both domestically and internationally, to increase the execution of legislative and administrative measures.

106. Cambodia informed that the NADC has participated in a number of regional and international projects, including the Safe Mekong Project, which was developed in collaboration with five other countries: Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and China. Cambodia has also collaborated with the UNODC and other sub-regional nations to combat drug trafficking.

107. In respect of drug treatment and rehabilitation, it was shared to the meeting that Cambodia has drug addict treatment and rehabilitation in 2 forms: treatment-based community and rehabilitation centers. Across the country, there are a total of 454 locations, including 2 national hospitals, 25 provincial hospitals, 72 referral hospitals and 355 health centers.

108. Despite significant efforts to address drug problems, Cambodia acknowledged that there is still more work to be done, such as drafting legal documents and support mechanisms to monitor, analyze, resolve, and encourage action plan execution. Cambodia, together with other key partners, is dedicated to tackling drug trafficking.

109. The Country Progress Report of Cambodia and its PowerPoint Presentation are attached as Annex R.

110. The Chairperson invited all Delegates for comments. There was, however, no comments coming from the Delegates.

Discussion and Approval of the Draft Resolution

111. As the endorsing country, the Delegation of Cambodia presented the concept note of the proposed Draft Resolution on “*Addressing Challenges Together for Drug-Free ASEAN*”.

112. The meeting examined the Draft Resolution by going through each paragraph. Amendments were proposed and debated. Thus, the Draft Resolution was amended accordingly.

113. Consensus was reached, and the Draft Resolution on “*Addressing Challenges Together for Drug-Free ASEAN*” was approved. The Chairperson informed the meeting that the Draft Resolution will be tabled at the upcoming 43rd AIPA General Assembly.

114. The Concept Note and the Draft Resolution on “*Addressing Challenges Together for Drug-Free ASEAN*”, as approved, is attached as Annex S.

THIRD SESSION

115. The Third Session of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD was held on Friday, 24 June 2022 at 14:20 PM.

Discussion and Approval of the Report of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD

116. Hon. Mr. Ty Sokun had introduced the Draft Report to be discussed and invited comments from each delegation. The meeting discussed and adopted the above-mentioned Draft Report as the Report of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD. The Chairperson informed the meeting that the Report of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD will also be tabled at the 43rd AIPA General Assembly along with the previously approved Draft Resolution.

CLOSING CEREMONY

117. The Closing Ceremony of the Fifth Meeting of AIPACODD commenced at 14:40 PM on Friday, 24 June 2022.

118. The Chairperson invited Hon. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri, Head of Indonesian Delegation, to deliver her acceptance speech.

119. In her acceptance speech, Hon. Mrs. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri expressed her pleasure and honor to meet all the delegates of the 5th Meeting of the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs. On behalf of the Speaker of the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, she conveyed the appreciation of the Indonesian Delegation to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the 5th AIPACODD Meeting. She also expressed her appreciation to the AIPA Secretariat for the endless commitment and efforts to promote closer inter-parliamentary cooperation in the attainment of the goals and aspirations of ASEAN. This meeting, she stated, was a great success.
120. She took the opportunity to convey the readiness of the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia to host the 6th Meeting of the AIPACODD next year. She stated that it would be an honor for Indonesia to work closely with the AIPA Secretariat and the AIPA Member of Parliaments in the efforts to strengthen parliamentary cooperation to fight against drugs in the region through collective efforts.
121. Further in her acceptance speech, she mentioned that Indonesia believes that the meeting of AIPACODD provides an excellent opportunity for the AIPA Members to discuss and exchange experiences in drug prevention and control and drug addiction treatment. Therefore, Indonesia looks forward to seeing the AIPA Delegation *in person* at the 6th AIPACODD Meeting next year. Concluding her speech, she wished all delegates good health and every success in their endeavors.
122. The full text of the Acceptance Speech of Indonesia is attached as Annex T.
123. Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D, First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia thanked all distinguished delegates of the 5th AIPACODD meeting for their valuable time and efforts in the success of the meeting. He stated that the meeting was held in friendship, solidarity, cooperation, and mutual respect of all members. His Honorable expressed that active participation and contribution from delegates have successfully produced the 5th AIPACODD Resolution on Addressing Challenges Together for a Drug-Free ASEAN.
124. Further, in his closing remarks, Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D, highlighted that the meeting had exchanged views on practical experience and lessons learned from each respective country of AIPA Member Parliaments. Thus, he hoped that every country could have some takeaway lessons from the meeting and would be able to contribute and develop concrete mechanisms and effective responses to the common illicit drug challenges confronting the ASEAN community.
125. His Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D also took the opportunity to call on the ASEAN Member States to consider developing a harmonized Anti-Drug Code of Conduct or Drug Combat Protocol to address the challenges together in a systematic approach to achieve a Drug-Free ASEAN.

126. His Honorable reiterated his gratitude to all who made the 5th AIPACODD meeting a success. He also congratulated and wished Indonesia a successful undertaking as the next President of 44th AIPA and the Chair of 6th AIPACODD. Finally, he concluded his remarks by officially announcing the end of the 5th Meeting of the AIPACODD.
127. The full text of the Concluding Remarks of Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D is attached as Annex U.