



ATCPDE BULLETIN

Reaching out
through
preventive
drug education

Official Publication of the ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education • June 2003 • Volume 8 No.1

RP hosts 12th ASEAN-IFNGO Drug Abuse Prevention Workshop



Some 200 foreign and local delegates gather in Manila for the 12th ASEAN-IFNGO Drug Abuse Prevention Workshop. They are seen during the entrance of colors.

The Philippine Council of NGOs against Drug and Substance Abuse (PHILCADSA), in cooperation with the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) and the International Federation of NGOs against Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) hosted the 12th ASEAN-IFNGO Workshop on the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse held on 8-10 October 2002 at

Continued on p. 11

Therapeutic Community – regional response to addiction in Asia

Evelina A. Mejillano, HSD
*Professor, U.P. College of Education
Member, ATCPDE*

The 5th Asian Federation on Therapeutic Community (AFTC) Conference was held in Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, 19-23 August last year. It was attended by 242 participants from 19 countries and the UNDP.

It was organized by the National Council on Social

Continued on p. 9

UNODC launches new ATS Data and Information System Project

Jeremy Douglas
*Project Coordinator, UNODC
Bangkok, Thailand*

To address the lack of data related to Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) abuse in East Asia and the Pacific, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC - formerly UNDCP) Bangkok Regional Centre launched a new regional ATS data and information system project in the latter part of October last year.

This data and information system project was designed to establish an infrastructure for the

Continued on p. 10

GO ASEAN!

The ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education (ATCPDE) has been set up to serve the training needs of the member countries for technical assistance in primary prevention. For many years, it has been able to provide training programs, develop training materials, and undertake research involving all 10 members. But these activities have become scarce. Like the Philippines, other member countries have been unable to share the counterpart funding for training and other development programs. As a consequence, the ATCPDE has been constrained to gravitate towards programs designed locally for government and non-government agencies.

This year however, the ATCPDE has vowed not to allow financial constraints to prevent it from serving member countries. With its theme **GO ASEAN!** It has started to go virtual through the electronic medium. The ATCPDE website can be accessed by the members for the Center's publication, researches, including the recently concluded WHO funded research conducted May 2001. The address is www.pia.gov.ph/atcpde.

Likewise, the ATCPDE research on the "State of the Art of Preventive Drug Education" was approved as a regional research activity at the last ASOD meeting held in Malaysia. Member countries agreed to participate in the research, with the Philippines taking the lead. Members can access the research framework and the major research instrument after it has been validated. They can translate it in their national language and undertake the research in their respective countries. Results can be shared and put together by the Philippines and will be reported at the next ASOD meeting.

The website is expected to link all the member countries for other activities including a regular exchange of ideas through the internet. I invite the member countries to send their web addresses and materials for inclusion in the ATCPDE website.

There are several training programs which member countries can avail of such as Drug Prevention at the Work Place and the Community-Based Drug Prevention Program.

Going ASEAN means two-way communication. We are eager to hear from you either via the internet or by writing to us and informing us of your activities on primary prevention. Without your active participation, we cannot **GO ASEAN**.

I expect to hear from you soon. MABUHAY!

Leticia Peñano-Ho
Director, ATCPDE

The ASAMBA experience

Dennis D. Bacea
FDIC Project Coordinator

If the youth is given the opportunity, they can bring tremendous changes in society. They have so much energy and idealism which may not be found in other people. Unfortunately, the adults seem not to care. In socio-economic and political endeavors, the youth are among the last in their priorities. As a result, many young people become drug dependents, juvenile delinquents, school dropouts, and gang members. Some of them found drugs as their "reliable friends".

This sad reality prompted the Foundation for Drug Information and Communication (FDIC) to mobilize a community against the spread of drug abuse among the youth and the community as a whole. The project, which aims to change how most people look at the youth, was supported by the UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Among the Youth (*Global Initiative*).

(Similar projects under the auspices of the *Global Initiative* are currently being implemented in other parts of the country and of the world. The FDIC's initiative started in November 2001).

Asamba-GMM Habitat for Humanity was chosen as the site for project implementation. Asamba, situated in Sitio Mendez, Baesa, Quezon City, is an urban poor community made up of about 297 families living in houses they built themselves through the GMM Habitat for Humanity program. More than half of the population is composed of young people (25 years old and below), most of whom are attending high school classes at the nearby Pugad Lawin High School. Some are in college, and the others are either working or non-working out-of-school youth. Drug abuse and drug pushing were identified

Continued on p. 8

FDIC challenges media

Rutchie Cabahug-Aguhob
PIA-10

“Perhaps, drug-related stories can be focused on the ill effects of dangerous drugs on a user rather than on the amount of drugs used or seized during a law enforcement operation.”

This was the suggestion of Estella G. Ponce, board member of the Foundation for Drugs Information and Communication during the workshop that followed the media update on the “Programang Pang-edukasyon at Pangkabuhayan” movement held 14-15 January 2003 at the Pearlmont Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City.

The two-day activity was attended by media practitioners from various cities and provinces of Northern Mindanao who committed themselves to take part in the PALAD Movement and became advocates in the drug abuse prevention and control campaign of the government.

Ponce said it has been observed that generally, drug abuse stories reported by media are focused on volume and value of drugs rather than on the number of lives who will be affected by the drugs. Emphasis, Ponce stressed, should be given on the evil effects of such drugs on the persons who are hooked on them, their families, and the community where they live.

“For example, a writer can write that a tenth of a gram of certain drugs can make a person restless for 72 straight hours. You can imagine if a person continuously moves around for that length of time! As human beings,

Continued on p. 8



Students distribute anti-drug collar pins to MRT passengers.

Singapore celebrates Anti-Drug Abuse Day

Central Narcotics Bureau
Republic of Singapore

The Singapore Anti-Drug Abuse Day falls on 26 June every year and coincides with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. To commemorate the occasion, a series of interesting activities were lined up for the schools in June 2002 to encourage the students to stay clear of drug abuse.

Special Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign Package

Every student in Singapore received a green and white anti-drug ribbon collar pin and they were encouraged to wear the collar pin during the week of 24-29 June 2002. The colors of the ribbon signify health, vitality, and strength. The design for the year

2002 collar pin differed slightly from the past years because we hoped to brand the collar pin as a collectible item for the students, as well as to generate a greater interest and awareness among them. Every collar pin was individually packaged in a transparent capsule, together with a scrolled-up note to explain the significance of the Anti-drug Abuse Day and the ribbon collar pin. The words ‘kNOw drugs’ was also incorporated as part of the design for the collar pin to further enhance the message.

A speech by the chairman of the National Council Against Drug Abuse was also read to the students by the school principals on 26 June to mark the launching of

Continued on p. 7

ACUPUNCTURE

A drug addiction management tool

Arsenia M. Basoc, MD

*Assistant Professor, UP College of Education
Member, ATCPDE*

Acupuncture is a component of the health care system of China that can be traced back for at least 2,500 years. Traditional Chinese Medicine with acupuncture as its most popular modality is currently used for health maintenance and as a treatment intervention for numerous diseases.

The World Health Organization has provided a list of conditions that respond positively to acupuncture. Chinese literature and several international publications teem with case histories attesting to its beneficial effects in pain management, acupuncture analgesia, obstetrical and gynecologic problems, plus its efficacy in enhancing the immune system.

The National Institute of Health has funded a variety of research projects on acupuncture, clinical trials, and other studies on the mechanism by which acupuncture may have its effects.

A National Institute of Medicine committee of experts gave their medical endorsement to the use of acupuncture in the treatment of a variety of ailments. Among these are addiction, smoking cessation, and stroke rehabilitation. Acupuncture may be useful as an adjunct treatment, an acceptable alternative or can be included in a comprehensive management program for said ailments.

Serious medical research and experimentation with the healing powers of acupuncture has led to its discovery as a highly promising

weapon in the fight against chemical dependency. Anecdotal evidence and clinical success stories strongly suggest that acupuncture can alleviate many of the symptoms of withdrawal, thus facilitating detoxification and encouraging acute addicts to continue treatment.

A technical review on the subject of acupuncture use in detoxification programs, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in 1991 concluded that in the interest of uniformity, controlled research conducted in the future should involve five needles in each ear, placed in the traditional acupuncture points: "kidney," "lung," "liver," "sympathetic," and "shenmen." The panel found no reason to experiment with electrically charged needles, single - ear treatments, or deviations from the standard detoxification points.

There have been several clinical studies suggesting its use in treating the withdrawal symptoms of opiate addiction. A study in rats showed that ear electroacupuncture suppressed signs of morphine withdrawal. Ear acupuncture treatment releases endorphins which relieve the withdrawal problems.

A 1989 study published in the British Journal *The Lancet* by Milton L. Bullock concluded that acupuncture was highly effective in treating alcoholism. This result was considered encouraging by an available research on acupuncture as part of a detoxification protocol published in the *Journal of Substance Treatment*. The

analysis also cited seven experiments done on animals in which acupuncture effectively reduced withdrawal symptoms.

An acupuncturist and a psychiatrist Dr. Ken Carter, who works in a pre-trial detoxification clinic in the District of Columbia Superior Court told News Briefs that acupuncture have a soothing, relaxing effect which is extremely helpful to addicts seeking lifestyle change, particularly in effecting change in the magnitude of drug withdrawal.

The Lincoln Clinic in New York City is the premier detoxification center utilizing acupuncture in the US. According to Dr. Michael Smith, clinic director, acupuncture provides a strong calming effect on substance abusers and diminishes drug craving. Clients describe the effects of acupuncture as allowing them to feel relaxed yet alert. That feeling of relaxation is the essential benefit derived from the acupuncture protocol, but the greatest advantage is that it forges a bond between physician and patient even before verbal communication is established.

Acupuncture, an ancient Chinese art of healing continues to be relevant. It is a modality worth exploring for individuals trying to withdraw from drugs, alcohol and for smoking cessation. Further researches on acupuncture and other forms of alternative medicine may lead to discoveries that biomedicine has yet to unravel in their effort to improve drug addiction management. ■

Youth can have fun without drugs

Lilia Villamorán Dulay

*Director, PETIS, Dangerous Drugs Board
Member, ATCPDE*

The problem of drug abuse as a national social situation has increased to an alarming degree during the past several years. The youth are the country's hope of tomorrow, but unfortunately they are the number one victims. While the causes are varied, we can no longer hide the hard fact that drug abuse has gradually eroded the young minds of the country's potential human resources.

Young people are generally influenced by two powerful sentiments in their societies - hope and fear! The HOPE that they will create a better world than their forebears without discarding fundamental values and the FEAR that they will make things worse. These are felt during the time of transition between the dependence of childhood and the independence of the adult; a time when the past is questioned and the future is determined; a time of searching for fundamental truths that will eventually shape their lives and those of their children.

Unprecedented challenges confront the youth of today, making it specially difficult for them to follow patterns of behavior established in other times and especially hard for older people to guide them. Thus, much depend on the creativity, energy, and commitment of young people themselves if new pathways to development are to be found within the context of existing cultural values. Fundamental to this great cause is the health of Youth-FREE FROM DRUGS.

Young people in all societies are involved and committed, devoting their

time and energy to improving the lives of their families and communities today and the succeeding generation

Such commitment to social development enhances their self-esteem and will eventually give them a sense of accomplishment. It offers a constructive rather than a destructive channel for the energy of youth. It provides an opportunity for enriching experiences and a venue for responsible interactions with others.

Young people are willing and able to take greater responsibility for their future, but whether they can do it, is heavily dependent on their relationship with others. How well we listen, how well we respond to their needs, how well we guide them in determining their own future in cooperation with others, how much we trust them, how much we make it possible for young people to achieve self-esteem through constructive action is the challenge to society.

The youth must be taught how to say NO to drugs. This must be done in a very interesting and educational manner such as through the use of local folk media, interesting documentaries, teaching a moral lesson, workshops on drug abuse prevention, group discussions, etc.

The youth must learn how to react to different kinds of pressures such as:

1. If the pressure is friendly or teasing them, they can respond in the same way.
2. If the pressure seems threatening,

then they might first have to walk away.

3. They must have a ready-made reason to say "NO". They could simply say "NO I don't want to", "I am not into drugs", "I have given them up", etc.
4. Keep the reason simple and honest. They don't have to explain why they don't want to use drugs.
5. Give polite but firm answers without disappointing or embarrassing friends.
6. Sometimes friends won't take "No" for an answer, so repeat the answer.
7. Have something else to do, e.g. "I am going to the movies."
8. Change the subject.
9. Avoid situation where people will be using drugs.
10. Choose friends wisely.
11. Practice saying "No" to Drugs with friends.

Meaningful Alternatives

It is an acknowledged fact that youth involved in healthy sports and recreational activities do not end up drug dependents. Youth organizations are purposely and gainfully engaged in the following activities:

- a. Community projects
- b. Sports and recreational activities
- c. Educational programs
- d. Livelihood activities
- e. Religious activities
- f. Cultural activities

Mobilization of Youth for Healthy Living

The youth can easily stay away from drugs if they are kept busy. Hence, they should be mobilized and tasked to formulate action programs that will cater to the needs of their members.

What every one should consider now is how to bring the “unorganized youth” into the fold of youth organizations so that they too can contribute their share in nation building. With regards to the strategy of primary prevention, increasing membership in youth clubs/organizations is viewed as a right approach to drug prevention.

Through this membership drive, it is hoped that more youth will spend their free time and utilize their boundless energy in activities of mutual benefits and interests. It is envisioned that the successful implementation of this strategy will bring about meaningful and healthy interaction among the youth and a venue for sharing common concerns, aspirations and hopes. In short, what the youth need is a sense of direction. I am very optimistic this strategy would produce positive results.

The youth of today are sincere. They speak the truth, they are dedicated, hardworking, trustworthy, fearless, and courageous. They are full of vigor and vitality and have that inner drive to reach the maximum limit of their aspirations. Only, their energy should be properly channeled.

To the youth of today: use your vigor and energy to keep away from drugs. **LIVE, HAVE FUN WITHOUT DRUGS. ■**

Paper presented by Lilia V. Dulay during the 1st Plenary Session of the 1st Asian Youth Congress on Drug Abuse Prevention held at Bali, Indonesia, 26-29 August 2002.

Singapore celebrates ...From p.3

the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2002.

A ‘Special Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign Package’ was given to all secondary school students. The package contained the anti-drug ribbon collar pin, as well as a copy of a bumper edition of our Preventive Drug Education Quarterly newsletter – *Choices*.

All Primary Six and Secondary One students took part in a campaign quiz during their life-skills lessons in school. Teachers were provided with all the

reminder to the students.

The Singapore MediaCorp News Broadcasting supported the campaign by requiring their news broadcasters to wear the anti-drug ribbon collar pins from 24-29 June 2002.

To widen the scope of this event, 80 students from a Secondary School assisted in distributing the anti-drug ribbon collar pins to the general public at all major Mass Rapid Transit train stations and bus interchanges on 26 June 2002. This



Copies of the quarterly newsletter – *Choices* (L) and the green and white collar pin (R) make up the special anti-drug campaign package.

questions and answers for the quiz and they were requested to go through the answers with the students and clarify some misconceptions. The students were then rewarded with memo planners or comic towels provided by the Central Narcotics Bureau. The gifts carried the anti-drug message that served as a constant

way, they also served as our anti-drug ambassadors, spreading the anti-drug message to the public.

The 26th of June is a significant day in Singapore being the day when every Singaporean, young or old, rally in one voice against drug abuse to make it a drug-free nation. ■

The Asamba ... *From p. 2*

as among the most serious problems in the community.

The main objective of the project is to create a culture whereby the youth are viewed as resources. They were to lead their peers and work with the rest of the community in drug abuse prevention efforts. The project targeted young people with ages ranging from 13 to 21 years old.

A series of asset-building and skills training for the youth have been programmed to enhance the skills of young people in (a) responsible decision-making; (b) making choices for self, the group, and the community; (c) communication; and (d) goal-setting not only as beneficiaries but as active problem solvers.

Through these trainings, the youth in the community called the Asamba Youth, was encouraged to recruit new members and initiate new activities. Likewise almost the same activities were initiated to include other groups in the community such as women and parents, who were made aware of their roles in prevention.

The various activities appealed to the youth. They felt good about themselves. The activities gave them a sense of accomplishment. Among these are projects that ranged from performance (music and drama) to outdoor recreation such as wall climbing which was not quite familiar to them.

Alternative activities for drug abuse users were found vital to drug abuse prevention. These activities are drama, music, arts, crafts, gardening, cooking, and sports. This conclusion was reached after discovering that drinking sessions follow basketball games where other drugs are taken. FDIC felt the need to integrate certain values in each activity. Hence, it was agreed that alcohol should likewise be considered a very dangerous drug.

FDIC is also working with different church groups to come up with activities designed to promote spiritual growth as part of prevention strategy. Weekly bible studies are held in the community. A number of young people who were actively involved in the project also became members of church organizations.

Part of the project is the introduction of these young people to other youth outside their community. The purpose was for them to learn from other experiences and be able to practice their skills in communication.

FDIC's youth arm called Junior Drugnet, the CWS students from the Mapua Institute of Technology, Village United Methodist Church Youth Fellowship, and the Evangelical Alliance Church Youth Ministry participated in a number of activities.

Livelihood projects are planned for implementation this year, targeting both adult and youth groups. This is to provide economic support to the community and will be used to encourage people to participate in decision-making. Each group will choose a livelihood project and plan its implementation. The FDIC will provide the seed capital and necessary trainings.

There are number of changes noted in the attitudes of young people in the community, particularly those who are actively involved in the various activities introduced by FDIC. Those who used to be shy and passive are now active in various community activities. A volleyball tournament was successfully held last year through the initiative of the Asamba Youth. Another one is being scheduled to be held this year.

Although we are still far from having a united community, the youth responses are truly encouraging. The more than one year implementation of the project did not really overhaul the youth's personalities. We still hear about meetings that did not push through because of petty quarrels or laziness. There are still a lot of young people in the community who must be reached. The Asamba Youth is aware of these and is trying to find ways to reach them. What is important is that, right now, they already have a vision and are willing to work for its realization.

The project has effectively reached its specific target - the youth. The problem of substance abuse among them is not isolated from the other problems in the society. The Asamba experience proved that it is only through committed and concerted effort that we can truly do something about drug abuse. ■

FDIC Challenges ... *From p. 3*

our bodies should rest and have at least eight hours of sleep and rest to recharge for the next day. Taking dangerous drugs endangers one's health," Ponce, a retired pharmacist and consultant of the PALAD Movement added.

Generally, Ponce said, newspaper readers are busy. They do not have the time to read the entire story. What the reporter should do is present the ill effects of the drugs in the first paragraph or the lead before writing other details of the story. Ponce also noted that it is seldom that reports on success stories of the program in the area of rehabilitation, treatment, and prevention are written.

Inject human interest in the story. Write about the initial reaction of the user's family and how they try to cope with the situation. How is the user regarded by his friends or how does the user relate to other members of the community? These were Ponce's guide questions for the media practitioners.

"You in the media can help a lot in creating awareness and promoting advocacy to this campaign. While our law enforcers are doing their part, you too, can do yours. We believe that information, education, and communication are still the most significant parts of the campaign," Ponce added.

This is why the Dangerous Drugs Board and FDIC, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency, have embarked on this media update. The PALAD Movement will get the cooperation and support of the community and all the sectors of society including the families, the private and the religious sectors, and the local government, Ponce further pointed out.

According to Regional Director Olivia T. Sudaria of the PIA, the

Continued on p. 9

Cagayan de Oro Media Update is the first of Mindanao of DDB/FDIC's series of nationwide anti-drug abuse and prevention campaign held in Mindanao.

The other component of the campaign, she said, is the promotion of livelihood projects designed to address poverty, which has been identified as among the key factors that pushes individuals to abuse dangerous drugs.

The PALAD Movement, a flagship program of the DDB and FDIC, in

cooperation with PIA, is a one-year program consisting of media update activities in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, including the National Capital Region, Sudaria further disclosed.

The activity, Sudaria added, is aimed at updating media practitioners on recent developments and trends in drug prevention and control efforts. The media practitioners are motivated to use various strategies to disseminate

them and encourage participation of concerned authorities and the public in the PALAD Movement.

Meanwhile, Lucita Contreras of the Preventive Drug Education and Training Division of DDB said the PALAD Movement will be launched in Malaybalay City sometime next month. The activity will be attended by Rep. Jose Miguel F. Zubiri of the 3rd district of Bukidnon, one of the proponents of the recently enacted comprehensive anti-drug abuse law. ■

Therapeutic... *From p. 1*



Some members of the Philippine Delegate during a plenary session.

Welfare of Thailand, the Asian Federation of Therapeutic Community, Office of Narcotics Control Board, Daytop International, and US State Department. The theme was *“Therapeutic Community (TC) – A Healing Community: A Regional Response to Addiction in Asia.*

This activity was designed to achieve the following objectives: 1) organize a network of TC programs in the region; 2) orient the new TC program practitioners; 3) share best practices in TC programs; and 4) enhance competencies of TC service providers.

The Philippines was represented by a group composed of presidents, directors, officers, and owners of treatment and rehabilitation centers headed by Dr. Evelina A. Mejillano, a professor from the University of the Philippines College of Education. Dr. Mejillano was invited by Justice Ammuray Intuputi, President of the ASEAN Federation on Therapeutic Community as a funded participant. She chaired the 2nd plenary session on Basic Elements that define a TC and also chaired Workshop XI on Client Assessment and Treatment Planning.

It was during the 2nd plenary session that participants and speakers agreed that the evaluation and outcome of the studies conducted are essential to the growth of a therapeutic community.

The highlight of the conference was the arrival of Dr. Andrea Barthwell, Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, USA who delivered the closing remarks and presented a gift to the President of the Asian Federation. ■

The new Dangerous ... From p. 12

ment of Social Welfare and Development

- Usec. Franklin M. Ebdalin, Department of Foreign Affairs
- Usec. Ramon C. Bacani, Department of Education
- Dir. Isabel Inlayo, Commission on Higher Education
- Miss Marielou A. Chua, National Youth Commission, and
- Dir. Gen. Anselmo S. Avenido Jr., Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

The two regular members are Atty. Jaime M. Vibar for the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and Chairman/President Miguel A. Perez-Rubio for the non-government organization (NGO). The permanent consultants are NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and the Chief of the PNP, represented by PSSupt. Angelito L. Gerangco.

Retired Police Director Miguel G. Coronel was appointed by President Arroyo on 29 July 2002 as Executive Director with the rank of an undersecretary. Coronel also served as the Secretary of the Board and administrative officer of the secretariat.

Usec Miguel G. Coronel's stint with the Board was short lived as he was appointed by President Arroyo as head/chief of the newly created office the Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Center (ASIIC) under the Office of the President. Retired Police Director General Efren Q. Fernandez took over as Executive Director of the Board also with the rank of undersecretary last 24 February 2003.

However, the positions of Deputy Executive Director for Administration and for Operations are still vacant to date. Serving in acting capacities are Atty. Cesar G. Posada and Mr. Romeo J. Sanga, both from the DDB Secretariat. ■

UNODC launches ... From p. 1

exchange of accurate and comparable data and information to prevent and control ATS abuse and for a better understanding of ATS patterns of abuse in the region.

The UNODC project staff is presently completing a review of available ATS information and data sources and is collaborating with related networks for purposes of collecting and sharing ATS regional data. Eventually the project will help prioritize strategies related to the regional ATS situation and result to a more united effort toward the reduction of ATS trends. The project also intends to set up a foundation that will serve as regional ATS data clearing house.

Other activities of the UNODC ATS data project include finalizing the current review of available ATS information, designing an on-line ATS library and database, and continuing development of a regional ATS survey and data collection system.

From 3-8 November 2002, UNODC hosted an inception meeting in Bangkok attended by delegates from the participating countries Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. There were expert presenters from UNODC headquarters in Vienna and the Multicity Epidemiology Workgroup of the National Centre for Drug Research of Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, Malaysia and an observer delegation from Indonesia. Japan, as donor country, also observed and participated in the meeting.

The activity consisted of working and training sessions where the need and use of accurate and

	INCREASING	STABLE	DECREASING
CANNABIS	1	16	10
OPIOIDS	10	10	2
ATS	10	10	
SECOPIA		1	1
HEROINS	1	12	1
COCAINE	1	1	
MARIJUANA		1	

Photo shows how each drug category was ranked at the ATS Data and Information Systems inception meeting held 3-8 November 2002. (Photo courtesy of Wayne Bazant, UNODC.)

comparable data were extensively discussed. With the information and training obtained at the meeting, each national delegation subsequently developed and presented a draft national workplan which will be finalized upon their return to their home countries. Their plans will be implemented within the framework of the project.

It was during the same inception meeting that the national delegations concluded that ATS abuse is a serious threat in every country and that very soon ATS abuse will surpass opiate abuse as the number one regional drug abuse problem.

Readers interested in the project can inquire through e-mail using jeremy.douglas@unodc.un.or.th; mail inquiry to UNODC, 6th Floor UN Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200 Thailand; or call telephone number (66-2) 288-2491. ■

RP hosts 12th ASEAN ... From p. 1

the Holiday Inn, Manila, Philippines. The theme of the Workshop was *Maximizing the Utilization of Indigenous Sports and the Arts as Alternative Strategies for Drug Abuse Prevention*.

The workshop brought together some 200 foreign and local delegates representing seven of the 10 ASEAN NGO umbrella organizations against drug abuse. These include BASMIDA of Brunei Darussalam; BERSAMA of Indonesia; PEMADAM of Malaysia; MANA of Myanmar; PHILCADSA of the Philippines; SANA of Singapore; and NGO-ANCC-NCSWT of Thailand.

Other participants in the workshop were officials of the United Nations Drug Control Programme, Australia's National Council on Drugs, Japan's Drug Abuse Prevention Center, the Colombo Plan Bureau Drug

Advisory Programme, and the Asia-Pacific Association of Non-Government Organizations on Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention (ASPAC-NGO). Not represented this year were Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

The workshop which had Hon. Teofisto Guingona Jr., Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines as keynote speaker featured a demonstration of indigenous sports and arts, a Gallery Walk, (an exhibit of ASEAN's traditional sports and arts, and an actual demonstration on the use of theater arts as drug abuse prevention advocacy medium.

There were recommendations drawn during the Workshop. These included:

1. The need for a specific policy statement by ASEAN NGOs on the issue of the utilization of indigenous sports and the

arts as alternative strategies for drug and substance abuse prevention.

2. The involvement of the members of the community on drug abuse prevention is crucial, whether they be community or political leaders or famous personalities such as artists. Strategies employed must be creative and innovative to be able to attract the youth. These programs and strategies must be monitored, documented, and evaluated.
3. The programs must contain the elements of socialization, recreation, and discipline. The implementation must be holistic in nature.
4. Publicity is essential to create public awareness. Adequate publicity will draw public and government support.
5. NGOs must be involved and the determination to succeed must be present to ensure the successful implementation of relevant and accredited programmes.
6. The ASEAN region must support and promote ASEAN indigenous sports and the arts through annual festivals at national and ASEAN levels.
7. ASEAN NGOs must promote and provide opportunities to involve youth in these programmes and activities. In future deliberations, the involvement of the youth shall be required. ■



RP Vice-President Teofisto Guingona Jr. receives a plaque of appreciation from the organizers. He was the keynote speaker for the 12th IFNGO-ASEAN Workshop on the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Editor
Evelina A. Mejillano

Editor-in-Chief
Belina SB. Capul

Managing Editor
Jose Reuben Q. Alagaran II

Associate Editors
Minerva Y. Quemuel
Elnora D. Trabajo

Layout Artist
Arnel F. Orea

Composers
Evelyn V. Baldemor
Virginia P. Orea
Evelyn D. Cielo

Contributing Writers
Drug Education Committee Members
and Guest Writers

*The ideas of the authors do not necessarily reflect
the views of the editors.*



ASEAN Member Countries

Brunei Darrusalam

Cambodia

Indonesia

Laos People's Democratic Republic

Malaysia

Myanmar

Philippines

Singapore

Thailand

Vietnam

ACROSS THE BOARD

The new Dangerous Drugs Board

Lilia V. Dulay
Acting Director, PETIS
Member, ATCPDE

The new Dangerous Drugs Board was created pursuant to RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002, repealing RA 6425. This new law took effect on 4 July 2002, while the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9165 became effective November 27, 2002. The new DDB was placed under the Office of the President.

Mandate

Under Section 77, Article IX of the Act, the Board shall be the policy-making and strategy-formulating body in the planning and formulation of policies and programs on drug abuse prevention and control. It shall develop and adopt a comprehensive, integrated, unified, and balanced national drug abuse prevention and control strategy. For the purpose, the Board approved the National Anti-Drug Program of Action (NADPA) on November 8, 2002.

Composition of the Board

As provided under Section 78, Article IX of the Act, the New Dangerous Drugs Board shall be composed of 17 members, three of whom are permanent members, the

other 12 members shall be in ex-officio capacity, and the remaining two shall be regular members.

The three permanent members are all Presidential appointees, one of whom shall serve as Chairman. The two other appointees have the rank of undersecretary. One shall serve for four years and the other, two years. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed as Officer-in-Charge to Chair the Board, Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. of the Department of Interior and Local Government. Undersecretaries Bernardo T. Lastimoso and Edgar C. Galvante were appointed permanent members.

Among the 12 ex-officio members of the Board are:

- *Usec. Ma. Mercedes N. Gutierrez*, Department of Justice
- *Usec. Antonio S. Lopez*, Department of Health
- *Usec. Antonio C. Santos*, Department of National Defense
- *Sec. Jose Isidro N. Camacho*, Department of Finance
- *Sec. Patricia Sto. Tomas*, Department of Labor and Employment
- *Usec. Marius P. Corpus*, Department of the Interior and Local Government
- *Usec. Lourdes G. Balanon*, Depart-

Continued on p. 10