

The ASEAN Regional Forum
Seminar on Alternative Development

7-8 September 2004, Kunming

Summary Report

1. With the endorsement of the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ARF Seminar on Alternative Development was held as an CBM in Kunming, 7-8 September 2004. The Seminar was co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security of China. Participants from 19 ARF members attended the Seminar. After the seminar, participants visited the Kunming Municipality Mandatory Drug Addiction Dropping Institute. The agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2.
2. Participants exchanged information of their respective countries on Drug Law Enforcement, Meaning, Role and Achievement, Experiences and Challenges and Market and Policy, focusing on their achievements and challenges.
3. Participants emphasized that drug-related crimes are posing threats to social stability and the economic development in the region and have become one of the serious concerns of all ARF participants. Combating drug problem is shared responsibility of all countries and requires joint efforts of the international community. ARF should be an important forum for strengthening regional cooperation in drug

control and prevention.

4. Participants expressed the view that the drug issue is closely connected with other transnational crimes such as terrorism. The elimination of illicit drugs requires balanced and comprehensive approaches. Whereas drug law enforcement constitutes the basis of combat against drug-related crimes, assisting drug-producing areas in developing alternatives contributes to addressing the root causes of drug-related crimes.
5. Participants shared their country-experience in alternative development. They agreed that alternative development is an important component for generating and promoting lawful, viable and sustainable economic options to illicit drug crop cultivation. Participants commended the efforts of countries in alternative development. They emphasized that the success of alternative development programs depends on the long-term political and financial commitment of communities, governments and international community.
6. Participants also discussed the difficulties in implementing alternative development programs. The multilateral cooperation is still at a lower level. The lack of financial resources, technological know-how, equipments and market access were also emphasized as major obstacles to alternative development. Some participants pointed out that the re-planting and displacement of drug-crops have even worsened the drug situation. A participatory approach is vital to

ensure that such interventions are sustainable. Trade facilitation measures should be taken to promote the competitiveness and market access of alternative development products to generate regular incomes for local peoples. Participants were of the view that regional and international cooperation needs to be further strengthened. Developed countries in the ARF should provide more technical and financial assistance to less developed countries in the region in the fight against illicit drugs.

7. The Seminar made the following recommendations:

- Countries in the region should develop and improve a comprehensive and balanced strategy for drug control and double their efforts in education on drug prevention, law enforcement, demand reduction, harm reduction and alternative development.
- Countries with drug crops planting problem should be encouraged to further incorporate alternative development into their national social-economic development plans, and promote sustainable economic growth through alternative development. Bilateral and regional cooperation to reduce illicit drug crops planting through alternative development programs should also be strengthened.
- © International community should provide possible assistance to countries, which are facing with the problem of illicit drug-crops in terms of technology, capital, planning, market and policy.
- Comprehensive efforts need to be made to encourage the opium poppy farmers to participate in alternative development programs

and a broad range of experts, including harm reduction/health, as well as other related experts should be encouraged to participate in alternative development.

- Provide assistances to strengthen capacity building of countries concerned in alternative development, particularly in developing basic social, economic and educational infrastructures.
- Further efforts should be made to enhance international awareness of the importance of alternative development and expand international participation in further cooperation with UNODC, World Bank, ADB and other international and regional agencies. .
- ARF participants should strengthen exchanges on alternative development to share information and experiences and coordinate regional policies and strategies.

8. Participants agreed that this Seminar is an important confidence-building measure within the ARF framework. It contributes to deepening mutual understanding and promoting cooperation among ARF participants. Participants suggested that a second Seminar on Alternative Development be considered at an appropriate time in order to work out and implement concrete plans and measures in promoting alternative development. Some participants proposed that ARF and UNODC could jointly sponsor future alternative development seminars.

9. Participants expressed their sincere appreciation for the efforts made by the Chinese government for hosting the Seminar. (End)