

Co-Chairs' Summary Report
ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Precursor Chemicals and Synthetic Drugs
Bangkok, Thailand, 12- 13 February 2015

1. The ARF Workshop on Workshop on Precursor Chemicals and Synthetic Drugs was convened on 12 – 13 February 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was co-chaired by Ms. Rachanikorn Sarasiri, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand, and Ms. Megan Nichols, Director of International Affairs, Public Safety Canada.
2. The Workshop was attended by officials, experts and practitioners from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also participated in the Workshop. The List of Participants appears as ANNEX 1.
3. The Co-Chairs would like to acknowledge the presentations and contributions from the various panel members from the following countries: Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Indonesia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and the UNODC.
4. In her opening remarks, Ms. Rachanikorn underlined tremendous challenges posed by illicit drugs and precursor chemicals for the region. She highlighted that the Special Meeting on Precursor Control was recently hosted by the ONCB for participants from Cambodia, China, India, the Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. As ASEAN aspired to create a Drug Free ASEAN Community by 2015, she stressed the need to utilise existing ASEAN mechanisms such as ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and the newly established ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO), to address the illicit drug problem. She also underlined the importance of concerted efforts among ASEAN Member States and support from Dialogue Partners to cope with negative consequences stemming from enhanced regional connectivity.
5. In his opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Philip Calvert of Canada highlighted that the workshop was an excellent opportunity for ARF countries to cooperate in the area of precursor chemicals and synthetic drugs. He stated that synthetic drugs are a growing menace for all countries and that these substances are a leading source of drug-related activity in the region and will continue to grow. The Ambassador also noted that the organized crime groups involved in trafficking and production of these substances know no borders, jeopardizing the security and governance of vulnerable states and increasing the need for international cooperation.
6. The workshop focused on the trafficking and diversion of precursor chemicals and synthetic drugs in the region and identified challenges and best practices in inter-agency cooperation and border management to address this problem. Such challenges include long and remote borders, effective training and tools for law enforcement and border control, sufficient fund and resources.
7. The workshop identified trends in the movement of precursor chemicals at the national and regional levels, such as source, transit and destination countries for precursor chemicals, the most common precursors and the mode and form in which they are being trafficked across borders, seizure trends, and domestic diversion. Participants also shared best practices and challenges in countries' attempts to respond, including legislative and control measures, national plans and strategies, interagency cooperation, and international controls. Participants discussed the impact

that the ASEAN Community 2015 would have on the flow of these substances and the importance of developing safeguards and high-level collaboration to strike the right balance between trade facilitation and border security.

8. The Workshop also emphasised the need to ensure continuation of regional and international cooperation in accordance with the ASEAN Work Plan for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking to realise the goal of building a drug free ASEAN Community.

9. Based on the range of discussions at the workshops, the Co-Chairs recommended that future regional cooperation on the movement of precursor chemicals and synthetic drugs focus on:

- enhancing inter-agency cooperation and information exchange between law enforcement, border management, immigration and other agencies, at the national and regional levels, and sharing best practices in this regard;

- continuing to share trends and changes in the movement of these substances across borders to assist countries in identifying and targeting them, as the drug trade continues to evolve and adapt to interdiction and analytical tactics;

- building the investigative capacity of agencies to more effectively disrupt supply chains;

- sharing best practices to reduce and prevent domestic diversion of precursor chemicals, collaborate with industry, and identify clan labs;

- building on the efforts of the UNODC and existing bilateral cooperation to build the capacity of frontline border officials in this area to better equip them to identify and interdict precursors and synthetic drugs and enhancing networking and coordination between them;

- ensuring greater balance and coordination between the border facilitation side and the border management side in order to protect and safeguard the region from the negative consequences of enhanced connectivity such as easier trafficking of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals;

- strengthening international control measures of precursor chemicals among countries of production, transit and destination through the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system;

- encouraging development of a national frameworks for the control of chemicals and equipment across the supply chain through building partnership with health, agricultural and industrial sectors as well as through legislative and regulatory control measures;

- sharing of national strategies to reduce the production, trafficking and consumption of precursors and synthetic drugs, including public awareness campaigns;

- identifying new opportunities for joint operations.

- promote sharing of training modalities and techniques as well as exploring joint training programmes of practitioners in order to enhance synergies in operations amongst relevant agencies;

- encouraging the ARF to continue the dialogue on the challenges posed by precursor chemicals and synthetic drugs within the priority area of drugs under the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ARF ISM on CTTC) as well as explore

possible simulations and exercises in dealing with precursor chemicals, synthetic drugs and other relevant issues, at experts' level, in the future.

10. The Co-Chairs will submit the report of the Workshop to the ARF-ISM on CTTC which will be convened in Nanning, China, in May 2015 for further consideration.
