

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report**  
**ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Enhancing Regional Cooperation to Address**  
**Challenges Posed by Illicit Drugs – Implementing the ARF Counter-Terrorism**  
**Transnational Crime Work Plan**  
**Bangkok, Thailand, 11- 12 February 2015**

1. The ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Cooperation to Address Challenges Posed by Illicit Drugs – Implementing the ARF Counter-Terrorism Transnational Crime Work Plan was convened on 11 – 12 February 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Jakkrit Srivali, Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Mr. Heath Fisher, Unit Manager International Security, International Security and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand.
2. The Workshop was attended by participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam attended the Workshop. Representatives from of Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the ASEAN Secretariat 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: Canada, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, the United States as well as from the UNODC and ASEAN Secretariat.
4. In their opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Jakkrit Srivali and Mr. Heath Fisher underlined the immense challenges posed by illicit drugs, which may undermine economic and social development in the Asia Pacific region. With the enhanced integration in ASEAN, the threat of illicit drugs in the region would be even more immense. They also shared the view that the transnational nature of illicit drugs means that regional cooperation and information sharing is essential to effectively address this challenge.
5. The Workshop provided a brief overview of the current illicit drugs situation in the Asia Pacific region, as well as regional and global efforts to combat the production, distribution and trafficking of illicit drugs. Initiatives included the UNODC's Global SMART programme and the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use (2009-2015).
6. The Workshop expressed concern at the emerging threats of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), trafficking of precursor chemicals, African Drug Syndicates (ADS), and distribution and trafficking of drugs through mail and online purchases.
7. Speakers and participants discussed a range of methods of regional cooperation to counter illicit drugs. This includes border security measures such as airport/seaport interdiction and maritime operations, financial investigation, legislative approaches including asset forfeiture, bilateral/regional agreements, and the utilization of data and information sharing.
8. Based on the range of discussions at the Workshop, the Co Chair's recommend that future regional cooperation on illicit drugs focus on:
  - Empowering communities through awareness building and other activities/programmes to serve as the ARF's first line of defense against illicit drug trafficking.

- Enhancing border security to be supplemented by close intelligence exchange/ information sharing, financial investigation and other cooperative activities e.g. four countries cooperation in Safe Mekong Project.
- Enhancing legal cooperation to support law enforcement and judicial processes in cases involving cross-border activities e.g. through MOUs, agreements and legal cooperation at the bilateral and regional levels.
- Building on good regional databases of information developed by UNODC and other relevant organisations, and further expand on such databases and link up with the work of regional organisations such as ASEAN.
- Enhancing synergies amongst regional processes that deal with illicit drug trafficking, including the ASOD, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drugs, the MoU on Drug Control in the Greater Mekong Sub-region framework, the new 8 countries initiative (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, China, India, and the Republic of Korea), ARF (ARF ISM on CTTC) and UNODC. The ASEAN Secretariat and UNODC could compile a list of activities/ projects of these organisations/ fora as a first step to develop synergies amongst them.
- Developing better awareness of extra-regional challenges/ sources of illicit drug trafficking and share best practices on how to enhance practical cooperation with such extra-regional sources. Explore dialogue with regional organisations of other regions to raise awareness of such challenges and enhance information flows to increase better understanding of the problem from the perspective of other regions. Role of regional organisations and partnerships between regional organisations/ fora could be given greater prominence at the UNGA Special Session on Drugs in 2016.

9. Building on the discussions at the Workshop, the Co-Chairs also recommended some areas to further develop cooperation on countering illicit drugs under the ARF framework as follows:

- Focusing on value-added activities that can complement rather than duplicate specific projects/ activities/ priorities already being undertaken by other organizations.
- Focusing on identifying gaps in capacities and facilitating capacity-building programmes to address these gaps.
- Developing a closer interaction between the ARF ISM on CTTC track focusing on illicit drugs on the corresponding ASEAN processes (ASOD, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drugs Matter) to see how future joint activities can be developed that can draw on the advantages/strengths of both tracks.
- Compiling a list of best practices/ lessons learned of cooperation/ joint action by ARF participants that can be shared in other fora (regional, multilateral).
- Developing, as appropriate, model MoUs regarding activities that will facilitate cooperation to combat illicit drug trafficking (e.g. financial investigation, legal cooperation, etc.).

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.