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COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT OF MYANMAR

Activities on the fight against narcotic drugs in Myanmar

Policy and strategies on narcotic drugs

1. Since the narcotic drug is not the problem for a single nation and a single race, but being the menace for the entire mankind of the world to ruin all the people, Myanmar had endeavored designated as national cause and duty in successive eras.
2. The 15-Year Narcotics Elimination Plan has been laid down since 1999-2000 for the emergence of peaceful, tranquil, modernized and developed drug free nation and reduction of opium poppy cultivation. The plan was divided into the (3) five year phases and implemented year by year projects and the plan will be ended in the year 2013-2014. The following strategies, tactics and techniques were adopted and carried to obtain the achievement of the works on combating against narcotic drugs posed as the danger for the entire mankind.

Two Strategies

- a) The designation of narcotic drugs as a national duty and comprehensive implementation of that strategy
- b) The development and enhancement of the standard of living of the national races in the border areas and total eradication of opium cultivation

Three Tactics

- a) Supply Elimination
- b) Demand Elimination
- c) Law Enforcement

Three Techniques

- a) To uplift, improve and change the morale, perception and belief of drug users , poppy growers and drug producers
- b) To secure smooth and easy transportation and communications between the nationals residing in highland areas and those in mainland
- c) To uplift the economic and social life of the national races residing in the border areas.

The 15-Year Narcotics Elimination Plan

3. Not only the strategies and tactics but also the 15-Year Narcotics Elimination Plan was adopted to support anti narcotic campaign and the First 5-Year Plan was undertaken in (22) townships of the Shan State from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004, the Second 5-Year Plan in (20) townships in the Kachin State and Shan State from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009 and the Third 5-Year Plan has been implementing in (9) townships in total in the Kayah State, Chin State and Shan State from 2009-2010 to 2013-2014. At this moment, since it was entered into the third year period of the Third 5-Year Plan and it will be completed in 2014, Myanmar will accomplish one year ahead than the Drug Free ASEAN targeted by the ASEAN.

Opium cultivation and internal armed groups

4. Under the Illicit Crops Monitoring Programmes cooperated with UNODC in 2011, Myanmar has 43600 hectares of poppy cultivation, up-rised 14 percent in 2010. Likewise in 2010 the opium production is 580 metric tons compared to the opium production was increased to 610 metric tons with 5 percent in 2011.
5. Geographically, the poppy cultivation was taken place mostly in the Shan State and it was found that 23300 hectares of poppy cultivation in the Southern Shan State, 4300 hectares in the Northern Shan State, 12200 hectares in the Eastern Shan State and 3800 hectares in the Kachin State. It is observed that 91 % of opium cultivated areas is prevailing over the Shan State.
6. The main cause for the uprising of poppy cultivation is found that food-shortage, growing opium poppy to fulfill the needs to buy the foods and increasing trend of opium prices. Although the household income gotten from the opium is 70% of entire income in 2003, and declined to 30% in 2009, it was found that it is re-increasing in 2010 and increase to 54% in 2011. To cultivate the opium poppy-substituted crops was difficult for having more income rate from 9 times to 15 times than the cultivation of other farm-paddies and hill-side paddies.
7. After independence, there have been emerged Shan insurgents in 1959-60 and Kachin insurgents in 1960-61 as well as the other insurgent groups namely Lahoo, Wa, Palaung, Pao and Kokang and also they came involved in drug business their stance against to the government. Although the insurgents of the national races formed the safeguarding groups in the respective regions to prevent from the intrusion of Chinese Kuomintang troops, also these groups involved in the opium trade for the foods, cloths and shelters. In 1973 the safeguarding groups were abolished and asked them to render weapons and some continued to make opium trading as insurgents.
8. In 1986, the Burma Communist Party was able to activate in the Kokang region, Wa region, Eastern Shan State and South State and the party annexed and organized the local small insurgent groups to be servants /allies. The commanders under the BCP participated in the levying of opium-taxes and buying and sale. All the insurgent groups existed their foods, cloths, shelters, arms and ammunitions with exchange of benefits derived from the drug trade.

Endeavors of the State for the eradication of poppy cultivation

9. Opium Operations: Moe Hein Operation (Phase 1 to 12) were launched from 1984 to 1988, Nga Ye Pan Operations (Phase 1 to 8) from 1981 to 1987 and Taung Yan Shin Operation (Phase 1 to 4) from 1985 to 1988.
10. The Armed Groups' Return to the Legal Fold: The government invited the armed ethnic groups to return into the legal fold and altogether (17) armed ethnic groups returned into the legal fold. In their regions, works on eradication of opium poppy cultivation were carried out in higher accelerations and Wa Special Region, Kokang Special Region and Mong Lar region were able to be declared as Opium-Cultivation Free Zones.
11. Establishment of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races: With the aim to promote the living standard of the people in the border areas and to abandon the poppy cultivation, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races was established in 1992. 467605.80 millions of State budget were spent for the rural areas and development of infrastructure of border areas. Moreover, also the other ministries provided the appointment of employees and operational materials within their budget and so on.
12. Seizures of narcotic drugs: Seizures of opium, stimulant tablets and cannabis made from 1988 to the month of March, 2012 are shown as follow:-

(a)	Opium	45981.7135	Kgs
(b)	Heroin	8883.7836	Kgs
(c)	Stimulant tablets	206322301.95	tablets
(d)	Cannabis	9463.1338	Kgs
(e)	Brown Opium	4068.5172	Kgs
(f)	Solidified Opium Oil	1110.0415	Kgs
(g)	Inferior Opium	22659.6209	Kgs
13. Decline of poppy cultivation: Due to these all-round activities and efforts of the State, Myanmar has only 21500 hectares of poppy cultivation in 2006 from the amounts which were 163000 hectares of poppy cultivation in 1996 and it was a swift declination during a decade. Poppy cultivation returned upwards starting from 2007 and in 2011 poppy cultivation increased to 43600 hectares. Because of the increase of poppy cultivation, the destruction of poppy fields were made increasingly to reduce the opium production, 23584.85 hectares could be destroyed during the 2011-2012 poppy cultivation season. The production of opium could be reduced for the three times destruction than the previous year.
14. Peace negotiations in the Shan State and the Kachin State in the era of new government: In the year 2011, during the period of new government, peace negotiations were made with the ethnic armed groups in consistence with our three main national causes for the national reconsolidation and altogether (22) armed groups negotiated in Union and state levels and only KIA remained. Peace negotiations in the inner Shan State were conducted with the groups of SSA (Mang Hai) and SSA (Ywat Sit) and the agreements had been already inked. In these agreements, to cooperate and carry out for the prevention of narcotic drugs were agreed.
15. Cooperation with UNODC: Myanmar-China-UNDCP Tripartite Agreement from 1991 to 1992 and Myanmar- Thai-UNDCP Agreement were made and alternative development projects could be carried out in Wa region, His Lu region and Tachileik region in the Shan State.

16. (37) projects were able to be undertaken from 1976 to the present time and the projects have been currently implementing as follow:-
- a) The Project on the Reduction of Intravenous Drug Using and Cooperative Prevention on Danger of HIV/AIDS
 - b) HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program, HAAARP, MMRJ69
 - c) Treating Drug Dependence and its Health Consequences, TREATNET II (GLOJ 71)
 - d) Illicit Crops Monitoring Program, ICMP, AD/MYA/02/G 43
 - e) Support of Uprooted in Loilen Township(9 Village Tracts) MMRK 03
 - f) Food Security Programme for Myanmar(6 Village Tracts) MMRJ 94, 2007
 - g) Food Security Programme for Myanmar(4 Village Tracts) MMRJ 95, 2007
 - h) Increasing Food Security and Promoting Licit Crop Production and Small Farmer Enterprise Development and Lao PDR and Myanmar, XSP K 26
17. Cooperation with Thailand: Works on the alternative development were carried out in cooperation with Thailand with (20) millions Thai Bahts at Yaung Kha village in Mong Hsat Township of the Shan State (East). Under the agreements of the 15th Myanmar-Thailand Drug Control Cooperation Meeting held in Pattaya, Thailand in 2011, Myanmar-Thailand Alternative Development Meeting was held in Tachileik on (3-3-2012). Myanmar-Thailand field trip groups had made study-trips on the alternative development works in Gyaw Pa village of Tachileik Township and Lwel Par Yin village of Mong Hsat Township from (21-3-2012) to (25-3-2012) and selected (12) villages from Tachileik Township and (6) villages from Mong Hsat Township.
18. Cooperation with China: Myanmar- China Alternative Development Meeting was held in the Town of Musae on 1st November, 2011 and the proposal of Myanmar was agreed to conduct alternative development works in the (12) Township where the poppy cultivations are density in the Shan State. They are Lauk Kai, Theinni, Kut Kai, Lashio, Mang Tong, Nam San and Nam Kham in the Shan State (North), Keng Tun, Mong Khat, Mong Pyin and Mong Hsat in Shan State(South) and His Sai Township in Shan State (South).
19. Cooperation in the Region: During the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly held on 25th May, 1993, Myanmar, China, Laos, Thailand and UNODC signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Cooperation on Drug Control through the coordination of UNODC. Then, Cambodia and Vietnam became the member-states in 1995.
20. Under the Plan of MoU (6) Nations Drug Eradication Cooperation, The following (6) Chapters were divided and the member-states and UNODC have been making the reviews to appear an action plan in line with the current situation in each chapter one time in two years.
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| (a) Chapter on the spreads of drug and HIV | Cambodia |
| (b) Chapter on the works of demand reduction | China |
| (c) Chapter on the works of alternative development | Laos |
| (d) Chapter on the works of law enforcement | Myanmar |
| (e) Chapter on the works of justice | Vietnam |
| (f) Invitation new member-states and organizing donors | UNODC and Thailand |
21. As the corporation activities in the region of ASEAN, the Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters is an important meeting because it is a portion of the ASEAN. Myanmar attended the ASOD Meetings as observer before Myanmar was a member-state of ASEAN.

After Myanmar became a member-state of ASEAN in 1997 and Myanmar attended the ASEAN Meetings.

22. The ASOD Meeting is held every year and it is attended by (10) nations of ASEAN, delegates of ASEAN Secretariat Office, and delegates from UNDOC and IFNGO(International Federation of Non- Governmental Organization). Besides, the meetings are held also back to back with India, South Korea and Japan. Myanmar, in accordance with the ASEAN vision for Drug Free ASEAN in 2015 targeted by ASEAN, has been cooperating and participating in the process on the drug control in the region.
23. Bilateral Cooperation: Myanmar had signed and carried out the drug control cooperation not only with the neighboring countries but also with the countries in the region as follow:-
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| (a) Myanmar-India | 30-3-1994 |
| (b) Myanmar-Bangladesh | 1-12-1994 |
| (c) Myanmar-Vietnam | 12-3-1995 |
| (d) Myanmar-Laos | 29-3-1997 |
| (e) Myanmar-Russia | 22-1-1997, 3-4-2006 |
| (f) Myanmar-Philippines | 15-10-1997 |
| (g) Myanmar-China | 21-1-2011 (Memorandum) |
| (h) Myanmar-Thailand | 20-6-2001 |
| (i) Myanmar-China | 27-5-2006 (Agreement) |

Situation on the production of stimulant tablets

24. The problem of stimulant tablets comes into Myanmar in the late 1996. Thailand waged the War on Drug and it was found that the productions of stimulant tablets were moved to the Myanmar-Thailand border areas for the production. As soon as Myanmar government conducted in upgrading momentum for the eradication of poppy cultivation, narcotic drug traffickers and producers started the production of stimulant tablets along the border areas by taking good advantages which are easy to get precursor chemicals, simple techniques to produce and favorability of geographical situation.
25. Myanmar has been planning and undertaking to resolve the stimulant tablet production although Myanmar is not a country which produces has less the precursor chemicals and has less resource, technique and opportunity. The border areas which are easy to cross over, is a place which bears criminal acts for the drug trafficking rings.
26. It was found that Under the Paragraph (12) of the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the cooperation with international controls for the chemicals not to flow into the incorrect channels is the a main and important chapter, and also as for the countries are responsible to control in cooperation the chemicals not to be led the wrong ways ,and this problem of stimulant tablets will be terminated if the precursor chemicals do not come into Myanmar.