



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE COUNTRY REPORT

PART 1: POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Since 1983, Malaysia has declared the drug problem as the number one enemy of the nation as it is not only regarded as a social problem but also a threat to our national security. Malaysia has conducted a review on the **National Drug Policy (NDP 2017)** which was approved by the Cabinet in March 2017. The revised national policy is an extensive policy that incorporates both demand and supply reduction approach and underlines the following five thrusts of action: preventive education; treatment and rehabilitation; law enforcement; harm reduction; and international cooperation. Along with the NDP 2017, Malaysia's continuous effort in combating drugs is also evidenced in its national legislations that tackle the drug problem in a multi-angle approach. The four national legislations (listed below) empowers the government to take strict measures against all kinds of drug trafficking activities in the country:

- i. **Dangerous Drugs Act 1952;**
- ii. **Poisons Act 1952;**
- iii. **Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985; and**
- iv. **Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988.**

Malaysia's approach in reducing the demand of drugs is to apply preventive education, community empowerment as well as treatment and rehabilitation strategies. To curb drug abuse in the country, the **Drug Dependents (Treatment**

and Rehabilitation) Act 1983 is central to the drug rehabilitation efforts in which it prescribes for the compulsory and voluntary treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependant

Prior to the amendment to sec. 39B DDA 1952 in 2017, drug trafficking is punishable by death at which a person found guilty of the offence will be punished with mandatory death penalty. The amendment was approved by the parliament in November 2017 and enforced since 15 March 2018. The new provisions of Section 39B DDA 1952 did not entirely remove the death penalty. The court is allowed to use its discretion to impose a sentence (life imprisonment and not less than 15 strokes), other than the death penalty. This is in tandem with the principle of sentencing. Although the court has discretionary power, it is subject to certain conditions before the court exercise its sentencing discretion. With this amendment, the accused has an option as to whether to cooperate with the enforcement agencies to get a lighter sentence or vice versa. In recent developments Malaysia is reviewing its stance on the abolishment of death penalty under the purview of the Prime Minister's Office and the Attorney-General Office

PART 2: DRUG SUPPLY AND RELATED MATTERS

In Malaysia, the Narcotics Crime Investigations Department (NCID) of the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) is the main agency for the enforcement of drug laws. The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) is also involved in enforcing the drug laws and the task is carried out by its Narcotics Division. Additionally, the Pharmacy Enforcement Division of the Ministry of Health enforces the Poisons Act 1952 and its regulations and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and its regulations which controls the sale, import and export of dangerous drugs (narcotics), poisons (including psychotropic substances), precursors and essential chemicals.

2022 marked a slight decrease in the number of people arrested for various offences under the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) 1952. In 2022, a total of 153,259 people was arrested under the DDA 1952, showing an increase about 24.9% compared to the previous period 2021 (122,734 people). There were 6,657 arrested cases under Section 39B for trafficking, 3,389 under Section 39A(2) for major possession and 17,267 under Section 39A(1) for minor possession, in 2022. The number of persons arrested under less stringent sections had an increased with a total of 69,122 people arrested.

Furthermore, Malaysia continues to **strengthen law enforcement** cooperation with regional and international partners as well as improve law enforcement's ability to detect, investigate, and prosecute drug trafficking cases. The number of **drug seizures** continues to increase with marijuana leading the charts by 8 tonnes seized in 2022 as compared to 3.7 tonnes in 2021.

Malaysia's law enforcement agencies also managed to **track down and dismantle 15 clandestine drug labs** with 50 people involved in running the labs arrested.

Moreover, properties that were successfully forfeited in the year 2022 showed an increase of about 43% which contributed RM125 million compare to RM72 million in 2021

CURRENT DRUG TRAFFICKING THREATS

Due to strict enforcement activities at international entry points, drug smuggling activities through sea routes has been increased. There have been signs of increased usage of maritime routes for drug trafficking. This includes smuggling of Methamphetamine and Cannabis using fishing boats from Southern Thailand to Langkawi and Penang using illegal jetties. Syndicates also use international shipping to smuggle drugs on merchant ship where the drugs were concealed or declared as legal goods.

Intensified enforcement efforts done by the enforcement agencies had resulted in numerous successes in tackling the supply dimension of the drug problem. However, the IDTS continues to adapt their manufacturing and smuggling strategies in order to avoid detection. This caused the syndicates to change their modus operandi. Rather than conducting their operations in a state-of-the-art drug producing facilities, these syndicates conducts their operations in smaller labs to avoid detection by the authorities. With drug processing methods at their fingertips, these syndicates resort to construct 'kitchen labs' in order to produce drugs to cater to their customers' demand. These labs, easily constructed and requires less manpower to be operated than an advanced clandestine, pose a threat for the local drug enforcement agencies as it is far more difficult to be located.

The inundation of methamphetamine from Myanmar has troubled the neighbouring countries and their surrounding region. Its close location to China is exploited to illegally procure chemicals needed for methamphetamine production. However, due to the massive production by IDTS superfluous supply flooded the market consequently decreasing the price and resulted the IDTS to market them into international markets where the price will become doubled or even higher. Therefore, despite heightened efforts by drug enforcement agencies methamphetamine continues to be smuggled. In response, NCID continues to monitor these illicit activities with active enforcement actions and joint operations with local authorities and cooperation with international drug enforcement agencies.

The country is now faced with the threat of new psychoactive substances (NPS) which give rise to new type of drugs that can produce more dangerous hallucinations as compared to traditional and synthetic drugs. Among the NPS materials used to produce drugs which were detected through tests by the Chemistry Department were mainly from Cathinone and Phenylethylamines groups. These new drugs are believed to be produced by chemists who abused their knowledge by creating substances which could transform the trend of using traditional and synthetic drugs towards NPS drug addiction. Currently, 80 NPS were detected in the country and have been gazetted under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and the Poisons Act 1952.

PART 3: DRUG DEMAND AND RELATED MATTERS

Evidence-based drug prevention and demand reduction intervention program have been implemented for the general population that focuses on family, educational institution, community, and workplace to raise awareness about the risks

and harms of drug use. To ensure a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced approach, **National Drug and Substance Abuse Data Collection Taskforce** was established to collect and monitor drug dependent database. In 2022, a total of 137,176 drug and substance abusers were identified as compared to 123,139 in 2021. Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts categorised by case status in Malaysia were increased about 11.4% from 2021 to 2022 from 123,139 to 137,176. Number of drug dependants categorised by case status from 2017 until 2022.

In 2022, a total of 23,517 drug dependants were detected showing an increase about 29.2% compared to the same period in 2021 (18,205 drug dependants). They consisted of 15,601 new drug dependants for 2022, an increase of 26.0% compared to 12,378 for the same period in 2021. There were 7,916 relapse cases in year 2022, indicating an increasing of 35.9% compared to the previous year (5,827).

Prevention

In accordance with the UNODC's International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, National Anti-drugs Agency (NADA) continues to improve its strategies for drug use prevention through four settings; family, education, work place and community as well as Public Awareness initiatives. Recognizing the importance of community and civil society in the fight against drugs, Malaysia continues to underline the strategy of community empowerment by implementing a pilot project on "Integrated Initiative in Addressing Drug, Substance Abuse and Social Deviation".at 155 high-risk areas. This strategy aims to mobilize communities to address local drug problem effectively by increasing drug awareness among community members, strengthening community leaders and enhancing collaborative efforts as well as helping them acquire necessary knowledge and skills. Other than that, the appointment of anti-

drugs icons that consist of popular public figures in the latest preventive drug education awareness.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

Malaysia has continuously increased its effort in improving the quality and accessibility of treatment, rehabilitation, care and reintegration programs for drug dependents. In implementing holistic approach for treatment and rehabilitation, Malaysia using *i-Pulih* model that offers services at settings in the Institution-based; Community-based; and Aftercare programs.

Within the scope of treatment and rehabilitation, Malaysia implements various evidence-based programs and best practices. Some of those recently implemented programs are:

- i. Psychospiritual module - Islamic Spiritual Rehabilitation Approach (ISRA)
- ii. Psychoeducation group therapy for substance abuse treatment
- iii. Evidence-Based Assessment Tools – Addiction Severity Index [ASI-5-BM]
- iv. Adolescent Education Access Program
- v. Bio-Psycho-Spiritual program for HIV/AIDS drug dependants (Baitul Islah)
- vi. Vocational trainings
- vii. Job Placements

The targets of this treatment and rehabilitation approaches are:

- i. To decrease relapse rate;
- ii. To provide job opportunities for recovering drug dependants;
- iii. To reduce community stigma; and
- iv. To collaborate with the private sector in the implementation of programs.

Drug Law Enforcement

There are five (5) scopes of services under i-Prihatin enforcement measures, as listed below:

- i. Action based on report of drug addiction and drug abuse received through public complaints;
- ii. Operations for the detections and detentions of drug dependants;
- iii. Managing Individuals Under Supervision (IUS);
- iv. Investigation and Prosecution of cases under Drug dependant Act (Treatment and Rehabilitation) 1983; and
- v. Managing security within Drug Rehabilitation Institutions.

The objectives of the enforcement approaches are:

- i. Detection and detention of drug dependants for treatment and rehabilitation according to existing law;
- ii. Maintaining public security and safety;
- iii. To offer them opportunity to undergo treatment and rehabilitation;
- iv. Getting cooperation from communities, local leaders and relevant agencies in combating drugs issues;
- v. Detection and legal action against Individuals under Supervision for breach of provision of Drug Dependant Act.

Harm Reduction

Malaysia has implemented the harm reduction program since 2005 primarily to reduce HIV infection among people who inject drug. This program has been successful in reducing incidence rate of HIV infection in Malaysia. However, this program is only in the context of treatment aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse with a view to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use.

PART 4: INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Malaysia is a party to all of the three international drug control conventions which serve as the cornerstone of the world drug policy as follows:

- i. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (acceded 20 Apr 1978);
- ii. Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 (acceded 22 Jul 1986);
and
- iii. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 (signed 20 Dec 1988).

Malaysia utilises the internationally established reporting and information exchange systems provided by the UNODC and the INCB, such as National Drugs Control System (NDS), Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online), Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS) and the International Import/Export Authorisation System (I2ES).

In-line with the regional theme of “Securing ASEAN Communities against Illicit Drugs”, Malaysia reiterates its position to stand united with all ASEAN Member States to remain resilient and committed to protect our people and communities from the dangers of illicit drugs.

Rest assured that Malaysia will always give its full support to the ASEAN resolute stand against illicit drugs as will be addressed in the ASEAN statement at the high level segment of the 62nd Commission on Narcotic Drugs session in 2019.

Malaysia strongly believes in enhancing regional and international cooperation, especially in the area of information and intelligence exchange so as to assist us to counter the cross-border nature of illicit drug activities. In this regard, Malaysia supports the establishment of ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN NARCO) and the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network, both lead by Thailand. Malaysia's commitment at regional level is also evidenced among others by being part of the Asia Pacific Information Coordination Centre for Combatting Drug Crimes (APICC), which is a cooperation platform between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.

Malaysia also participated actively in a series of trainings on both Universal Treatment Curriculum and Universal Prevention Curriculum through the Colombo Plan International Centre for Credentialing and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE). Other than that, addiction professionals in Malaysia are actively participating events conducted by International Society of Substance Abuse Professionals globally.

CONCLUSION

As we are all aware that year of 2022 gave a significant threat on the emerging to the public health especially in dealing with post COVID-19 situation. These challenges are not limited to only in Malaysia but has impacted globally in exercising full discretion to detect and disrupt of drug supplies into and out from the country. The pandemic may have expanded the drug syndicates battle space, but these unprecedented times have also called for even more global cooperation to address these threats.



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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INTRODUCTION

1. Since 1983, Malaysia has declared the drug problem as the number one enemy of the nation as it is not only regarded as a social problem but also a threat to our national security. Therefore, Malaysia is strongly committed to address and combat the drug problem through a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach.

PART 1: POLICY AND LEGISLATION

THE 2017 NATIONAL DRUG POLICY (NDP 2017)

2. In an effort to deal with the developments of the drug situation and acknowledge the implementation of evidence-based approaches, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Anti-Drugs Agency conducted a review of the National Drug Policy (NDP 2017) which was approved by the Cabinet in March 2017.

3. NDP 2017 is an extensive policy that incorporates both demand and supply reduction approaches and underlines the following five thrusts of action:

- i. Preventive Education;
- ii. Treatment and Rehabilitation;
- iii. Law Enforcement;
- iv. Harm Reduction; and
- v. International Cooperation.

4. The NDP 2017 now serves as a guideline for all relevant governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and various community sectors involved in tackling drug-related issues. It provides a more holistic and comprehensive approach in reducing the supply and demand of drugs so as to significantly reduce the drug threats and protect our nation from the scourge of drug.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS ON DRUG MATTERS AND MALAYSIA'S APPROACH IN COMBATING DRUGS

5. Malaysia applies a comprehensive, balanced and holistic approach in combating drugs. Along with the NDP 2017, Malaysia's continuous effort in combating drugs is also evidenced in its national legislations that tackle the drug problem in a multi-angle approach. The four national legislations (listed below) empowers the government to take strict measures against all kinds of drug trafficking activities in the country:

- i. Dangerous Drugs Act 1952;
- ii. Poisons Act 1952;
- iii. Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985; and
- iv. Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988.

6. **Whilst stringent measures are undertaken to address drug supply related-matters, Malaysia's approach in reducing the demand of drugs is to apply preventive education, community empowerment as well as treatment and rehabilitation strategies.** To curb drug abuse in the country, the **Drug Dependants (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983** is central to the drug rehabilitation efforts in which it prescribes for the compulsory and voluntary treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependants.

Amendment of Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (DDA 1952) - Drug Trafficking

7. Prior to the amendment to sec. 39B DDA 1952 in 2017, drug trafficking is punishable by death at which a person found guilty of the offence will be punished with mandatory death penalty. The amendment was approved by the parliament in November 2017 and enforced since 15 March 2018. The new provisions of Section 39B DDA 1952 did not entirely remove the death penalty. The court is allowed to use its discretion to impose a sentence (life imprisonment and not less than 15 strokes), other than the death penalty. This is in tandem with the principle of sentencing. Although the court has discretionary power, it is subject to certain conditions before the court exercise its sentencing discretion.

8. The most important condition is to satisfy the court beyond reasonable doubt that the accused had assisted the enforcement agencies in disrupting drug trafficking in Malaysia or outside of Malaysia. The amendment should be viewed as a proactive measure for the government to ensure justice for those who should not be subjected to the mandatory death sentence. With this amendment, the accused has an option as to whether to cooperate with the enforcement agencies to get a lighter sentence or vice versa.

9. In recent developments Malaysia is reviewing its stance on the abolishment of death penalty under the purview of the Prime Minister's Office and the Attorney-General Office.

PART 2: DRUG SUPPLY AND RELATED MATTERS

10. Drug trafficking is a problem that continues to plague the world including Malaysia. A threat to the social and economic structures, international drug trafficking syndicates act without restrictions in their criminal activities. The effects of illicit drugs activities and the associated problems have affected numerous countries of the world and it is found to be more prominent in the South East Asia due to its close proximity to the Golden Triangle.

11. In Malaysia, the Narcotics Crime Investigations Department (NCID) of the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) is the main agency for the enforcement of drug laws. The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) is also involved in enforcing the drug laws and the task is carried out by its Narcotics Division. Additionally, the Pharmacy Enforcement Division (PED) of the Ministry of Health enforces the Poisons Act 1952 and its regulations and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and its regulations which controls the sale, import and export of dangerous drugs (narcotics), poisons (including psychotropic substances), precursors and essential chemicals.

12. The latest development of Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) drugs such as methamphetamine, which is the current drug of choice, resulted in the big demand and higher prices in the market. In addition, the country's geographical location has made it particularly attractive for the operation of international drug trafficking syndicates.

ARRESTS AND SEIZURES

13. 2022 marked a slight decrease in the number of people arrested for various offences under the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) 1952. In 2022, a total of 153,259 people was arrested under the DDA 1952, showing an increase about 24.9% compared to the previous period 2021 (122,734 people).

14. Table 1 shows the number of arrests under DDA 1952. It includes 6,657 arrested cases under Section 39B for trafficking, 3,389 under Section 39A(2) for major possession and 17,267 under Section 39A(1) for minor possession, in 2022.

The number of persons arrested under less stringent sections had an increased with a total of 69,122 people arrested (refer Table 1).

Table 1: The Number of People Arrested for Various Offences Under the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) 1952 in 2017 – 2022

YEAR / SECTION	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% 2021 & 2022
Sec. 39B – Trafficking	6,759	6,884	6,829	6,709	7,250	6,657	-8.2%
Sec. 39A(2) – Major Possession	4,140	3,997	3,986	3,427	3,336	3,389	1.6%
Sec. 39A(1) - Minor Possession	13,583	14,691	16,044	13,441	14,664	17,267	17.8%
Other sec. (under DDA 1952) [Sec.6 /Sec. 6B/ Sec.9/Sec.12(2)]	52,979	56,640	58,623	48,309	44,853	56,824	26.7%
Sec.15(1)(a) – self-administration	80,925	75,465	80,386	65,724	52,631	69,122	31.3%
TOTAL	158,386	157,677	165,868	137,610	122,734	153,259	24.9%

Notes:

Source of information: Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) & Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)

P(Q3) refer to preliminary data as of September 2022

15. Malaysia's enforcement agencies seized a larger number of drugs in 2019 as enforcement actions were intensified against International Drug Trafficking Syndicates (IDTS). This includes improving security checks at Malaysian International Airports and the entry points around the country's border.

16. From the statistics of the drugs seized between 2018 and 2019, there was a hike in drug activities which was mainly contributed to the IDTS. The IDTS are known to use Malaysia as a temporary hub to transport these substances to other countries especially Indonesia, Singapore, China, Japan, Korea and Australia. Enforcement agencies continue to monitor these illicit activities with active enforcement actions and joint operations with local authorities and cooperation from international drug enforcement agencies. This resulted in the numerous successes in operation which contributes to the increased figure of seized drugs in 2019.

Table 2: Drug Seizures In 2017 – 2022

DRUGS/ SUBSTANCE	UNIT	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% 2021 & 2022
CANNABIS								
Marijuana (Herb)	kg	2,696.27	1,894.76	649.58	5,728.26	3,728.28	8,128.81	118.03%
Plant	plant	75	11	87	57	64	185	189.06%
ILLICIT OPIOIDS								
Heroin	kg	603.07	731.49	708.26	930.21	2,166.49	717.78	-66.87%
Opium (Raw And Prepared)	kg	0.11	0.2	0.39	0	0.08	0	-100.00%
Codeine	litres	10,216.33	37,263.85	8,723.07	4,187.78	6,451.86	3,255.60	-49.54%
COCAINE								
Salt (Cocaine HCl, Powder Cocaine)	kg	23	12.05	15,247.12	10.40	5.84	466.07	7880.65%
Crack	kg	-	-	-	-	-		
AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS								
Methamphetamine (crystalline)	kg	1,553.25	6,851.79	5,302.38	7,644.47	9,682.07	8,329.92	-13.97%
“Ecstasy” – Type Substances	Tablet	329,594	-	-	-			
	kg	430.56	381.33	706.91	1,966.52	1,033.65	335.77	-67.52%
Methamphetamine (Tablet)	Tablet	908,015	-	-	-			
	kg	-	226.12	198.75	207.44	357.45	383.48	7.28%
Methamphetamine (Liquid)	kg	460.07	269.89	308.4	5,959.95	188.52	15.78	-91.63%
Amphetamine (Captagon Pill)	kg					16,650.00		-100.00%
SEDATIVES AND TRANQUILIZERS								
Diverted / Counterfeit Prescription Drugs Containing Benzodiazepines	Tablet	-	-	-	-	-		
Erimine 5	Tablet	4,430	-	-	-	-		
	kg	-	912.38	683.18	925.40	2,030.65	158.72	-92.18%
Benzodiazepines	Tablet	2,752,122	-	-	-	-		
Psychotropic Pill	Tablet	13,944	-	-	-	-		
	kg	-	0.82	2.61	1.98	3.31	10.48	216.68%

DRUGS UNDER NATIONAL BUT NOT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL								
Ketamine	kg	506.36	704.2	84,068.66	3,018.28	474.61	3,000.27	532.15%
Kratom (Leaf)	kg	81,028.57	87,564.84	161,233.60	296,023.70	368,040.39	127,869.43	-65.26%
Kratom (Liquids)	Litres	89,060.08	233,525.90	64,860.97	139,162.62	76,212.79	72,917.69	-4.32%
Khat Leaf	kg	0.41	33.77	266.29	2.45	-		

Notes:

Source of information: Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) & Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). Starting 2018, as required by the UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire, data for Ecstasy, Methamphetamine (Tablet), Erimin-5, Benzodiazepines and Psychotropic pill reported in 'kg' unit measurement. Therefore, the data is converted accordingly:- (i) YABA Pil [1 tablet = 0.1gram]; (ii) Ecstasy [1 tablet = 0.3 gram]; (iii) Erimin-5/ Benzodiazepine [1 tablet=0.2gram] and (iv) Methamphetamine liquid [1kg = 1litre].

P(Q3) refer to preliminary data as of Sept 2022

17. The total value of properties seized under the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988 has shown a decrease about 24.5% from RM162.980 million in 2021 to RM122.981 million in 2022. However, properties that successfully forfeited in year 2022^{p(Q3)} shown an increase about 28.5% which contributed RM24.616 million compare to 2021 RM19.152 million.

Table 3: Value of Property Seized Under the Forfeiture Of Property Law In 2014-2022

Year	Number of Cases Investigated	Value of Properties Seized (RM)	Value of Properties Forfeited (RM)
2016	4,388	99,388,103.78	15,132,020.24
2017	5,059	113,723,063.66	7,026,984.21
2018	4,961	90,055,516.16	20,649,209.82
2019	5,570	99,450,227.50	5,112,069.20
2020	4,884	501,032,797.54	11,402,756.30
2021	4,949	162,979,893.58	19,152,234.06
2022	5,882	122,981,431.26	24,615,556.36
% 2021 & 2022	18.9%	-24.5%	28.5%

Notes:

^P Preliminary of data

Source of information: Royal Malaysian Police (RMP)

18. Intensified enforcement efforts done by the enforcement agencies had resulted in numerous successes in tackling the supply dimension of the drug problem. However, the IDTS continues to adapt their manufacturing and smuggling strategies in order to avoid detection. This caused the syndicates to change their modus operandi. Rather than conducting their operations in a state-of-the-art drug producing facilities, these syndicates conducts their operations in smaller labs to avoid detection by authorities. With drug processing methods at their fingertips, these syndicates resort to construct 'kitchen labs' in order to produce the drugs to cater to their customers. These labs, easily constructed and requires less manpower to be operated than an advanced clandestine, pose a threat for the local drug enforcement agencies as it is far more difficult to be located.

Table 4: Clandestine Laboratories Dismantled from 2017-2022

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% 2021 & 2022
Cases	18	35	23	20	19	15	-21.1%
Arrests	73	118	81	71	85	50	-41.2%

Notes:

Source of information: Royal Malaysian Police (RMP)

Table 5: Number of illicit drug manufacturing facilities dismantled in Malaysia by drug type from 2017-2022

Drug type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% 2021 & 2022
Methamphetamine	9	10	7	4	3	3	0.0%
Heroin	4	12	12	10	7	5	-28.6%
Ecstasy	4	11	1	3	4	3	-25.0%
Benzodiazepines	2	1	1	0	1	0	-
Ketamine	0	0	1	3	4	4	0.0%
Other drugs*	0	1	0	0	0	1	-

*Other drugs : Oil Cannabis

CURRENT DRUG TRAFFICKING THREATS

19. In recent years, Malaysia faces worsening drug situation especially on the greater supply of methamphetamine and heroin. There is a serious concern over the increased level of drug trafficking through Malaysia by IDTS. This can be seen by the increase of foreigners arrested in Malaysia for drug trafficking offences which includes Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam nationals.

Local Syndicates

20. NCID's intelligence reveals that the local syndicates are now on the rise in these few years with the absence of many other major syndicates, namely the Nigerian, Iranian and the Pakistani syndicates; due to the intense efforts of NCID in dismantling clandestine laboratories.

21. The local syndicates are now involving with the importation of drugs from Thailand and Myanmar. The pact made by the local syndicates also comprise of hiring 'roving chemists', especially from the Iranian syndicates. NCID has detected that the local syndicates are now capable of processing methamphetamine by utilizing mainly red phosphorus and ephedrine.

Taiwanese Syndicates

22. Due to the large volume of precursor chemicals destined to Taiwan, Taiwan appears to be emerging as the methamphetamine producer for the Far East region. The increased methamphetamine production in Taiwan has resulted in a significant decrease in price. Thus, Malaysia is seen as the next suitable market. NCID detected that drugs are smuggled from Taiwan into Malaysia using air and sea cargos. Moreover in recent years, Taiwanese syndicates' chemists are cooperating with the local syndicates to manufacture Erimin-5 as well as methamphetamine in Malaysia.

Indian Syndicates

23. NCID has recently detected the Indian syndicates are moving actively in drug activities in the country. Intelligence revealed that the Indian syndicates are in cahoots with the local syndicates to process methamphetamine in Malaysia, as well as to smuggle ketamine and ephedrine into the country. NCID is working closely with the Royal Malaysia Custom by sharing intelligence to monitor the syndicates and intercept drugs from India into Malaysia.

Pakistani Syndicates

24. Another IDTS which is currently emerging in Malaysian scenario is the Pakistani groups. The number of Pakistanis arrested on drug trafficking offence in Malaysia is relatively small compared to the Nigerians and Iranians. Intelligence revealed that the Pakistani syndicates in Malaysia operate at miniscule level. However, they are involved in large scales of heroin smuggling into the country.

Iranian / Nigerian Syndicates

25. The Iranian and Nigerian syndicates are now the not main players in the region's methamphetamine trade, due to the intense efforts done by NCID to

suppress their drug activities. Both syndicates were established in drug source, transit as well as consumer countries.

26. The Iranian syndicates have now changed their modus operandi from drug trafficking to producing drugs in illegal clandestine labs inside the country. NCID also noticed a new trend in 2017 known as the 'roving chemist' where experienced Iranian chemist is willing to work for drug syndicates in Malaysia to produce methamphetamine. Contrary to their prior practice of only working for Iranian syndicate, these chemists will work for any drug syndicate who is willing to pay lucrative fees for their expertise.

27. The Nigerian syndicates are involved in trafficking heroin, methamphetamine, cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine by recruiting drug mules from various nationals to transport the drugs into Malaysia or using Malaysia as transit point. However, the numbers of Nigeria nationals arrested in Malaysia under drug related offences are declining with every coming year.

CURRENT DRUG TRAFFICKING TRENDS

Illicit Drug Manufacturing

28. Apart from smuggling in drugs from other countries, syndicates are also resorting to "cook" them locally in makeshift laboratories to avoid detection by authorities and they are willing to take risks due to the lucrative returns. These illicit labs are easily constructed and require less manpower to be operated than an advanced clandestine, and pose a threat for the local drug enforcement agencies as it is far more difficult to locate. The novice chemist initially learns how to produce drugs from social apps. One chemist communicates with another on how to refine the manufacturing process. Some chemicals used for the lab process were sourced legally from the suppliers or imported from India and China but were then diverted into illicit drug labs. In 2018, a total of 35 manufacturing facilities and pill processing operations, primarily crystalline methamphetamine and ecstasy facilities were dismantled. Meanwhile, a total of 118 syndicate members were arrested in connection with the manufacturing facilities.

The Influx of Synthetic Drugs from the Source Countries

29. Having porous borders, Malaysia remains vulnerable to the drug threat due to its close proximity to the drug-producing region of the Golden Triangle. As a result, the IDTS have taken this opportunity to exploit Malaysia as a temporary hub to transport drugs to other countries especially Indonesia and Singapore for methamphetamine and ecstasy. In response, NCID continues to monitor these illicit activities with active enforcement actions and joint operations with local authorities and cooperation with international drug enforcement agencies. Five most popular synthetic drugs that considered to be highly in - demand to be smuggled into the country namely methamphetamine which are packaged inside “Guan Yin Wang Refined Chinese” tea bags from Myanmar, cannabis from Laos, meth pills from Myanmar, Erimin-5 from Taiwan and China and ketamine from India.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

30. The country is now faced with the threat of new psychoactive substances (NPS) which give rise to new types of drugs that can produce more dangerous hallucinations as compared to traditional and synthetic drugs. Among the NPS materials used to produce drugs which were detected through tests by the Chemistry Department were mainly from cathinones and phenylethylamines groups. These new drugs were believed to be produced by chemists who abused their knowledge by creating substances which could transform the trend of using traditional and synthetic drugs towards NPS drug addiction. Currently, out of the 739 NPS used abroad, 27 were detected in the country, and 44 have been gazetted under the Poisons Act 1952 and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

Promoting and Selling Drugs through Social Media

31. Facebook pages calling for the legalisation of cannabis are mushrooming. Cannabis is being sold either as a drug or disguised as various edible products namely oil, cake, honey, chocolate and milk to avoid the authorities and public. After using social media to cut deals, the syndicates will deliver the drugs once the details are finalised on messaging services like WeChat and WhatsApp. Intelligence revealed that more than 20 Facebook pages have been identified to be linked in promoting and selling cannabis – based products to the public in the country.

Malaysian Drug Mules

32. Although much awareness campaign has been organized to raise the awareness of the citizens on the dangers of being involved in drug trafficking activities. However, it is not uncommon to hear of Malaysians being arrested abroad for trying to smuggle drugs.

33. In the pursuit of the easy life, Malaysians voluntarily become drug mules for international syndicates, and most of them are aware of what they carry. Social media has also been exploited by IDTS to recruit drug mules, some from various nations. For women drug mules, besides easy money, they are easily tempted with the promise of marriage or opportunity to travel, which has been reported by arrested Malaysian drug couriers. IDTS known for this modus operandi throughout the region are the Nigerian group.

34. From 2014 until 2018, a total of 790 Malaysian citizens were detained in foreign countries for their involvement in the drug trades. In 2017 alone, a total of 110 Malaysians were arrested overseas for drug related offences. However, the number increased to 147 arrests in 2018.

Concealing Methods at Entry Points.

35. To avoid detection, drug traffickers use various concealment methods when transporting drugs at the country's entry points, mainly airports. The common tactics used by drug traffickers when going through Customs includes luggage with secret compartment, glass / photo frames, inside food packing, inside canned food, inside boiling pot, carpet, shoes, swallowing condoms filled with drugs and cosmetic bottles.

PART 3: DRUG DEMAND AND RELATED MATTERS

PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE

Malaysia is strongly committed to address the drug menace through a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach. Among the latest approach in dealing with drug problem was to set up a national taskforce to collect and monitor drug addiction database. It is called National Drug and Substance Abuse Data Collection Taskforce. The members of this taskforce are personnel from various agencies including the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Private Drug Rehabilitation Centres (PDRC).

36. Table 5 showed that the number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts categorised by case status in Malaysia were increased about 11.4% from 2021 to 2022 from 123,139 to 137,176. Refer Table 6 showed that the number of drug dependants categorised by case status from 2017 until 2022. In 2022, a total of 23,517 drug dependants were detected showing an increase about 29.2% compared to the same period in 2021 (18,205 drug dependants). They consisted of 15,601 new drug dependants for 2022, an increase of 26.0% compared to 12,378 for the same period in 2021. There were 7,916 relapse cases in year 2022, indicating an increasing of 35.9% compared to the previous year (5,827).

Table 5: Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts, Malaysia, 2018–2022

Year	Total
2018	130,788
2019	142,199
2020	128,325
2021	123,139
2022	137,176
% 2021 & 2022	11.4%

Notes:

Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency, Royal Malaysia Police, Ministry of Health Malaysia and Private Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

Table 6: Number of drug dependants categorised by case status, Malaysia, 2017–2022

Year	No. of Drug Dependants		Total
	New	Relapse	
2017	18,440	7,482	25,922
2018	17,474	7,793	25,267
2019	17,506	8,574	26,080
2020	13,879	6,764	20,643
2021	12,378	5,827	18,205
2022	15,601	7,916	23,517
% 2021 & 2022	26.0%	35.9%	29.2%

Notes:

Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), Malaysia

37. Table 7 showed that the number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts categorised by age category in Malaysia. In 2022, a total of group youth aged (19-39 year) have dominated the number of drug & substance abusers and addicts in the country with a percentage of 63.1% (86,567 people). Meanwhile, the numbers of drug dependants detected among youth aged (19-39 year) showed also dominated about 67.5% or 15,868 drug dependants (Table 8).

Table 7: Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts categorised by Age Category, Malaysia, 2018–2022

Age Category	Age range	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% 2021 & 2022
Child	≤ 12	10	5	0	2	2	0.0%
Adolescent	13-15	664	341	240	135	92	-31.9%
	16-17	2,159	1,404	1,115	776	609	-21.5%
	18	2,095	1,544	1,201	1,050	970	-7.6%
Youth	19	2,775	2,249	1,983	1,880	1,692	-10.0%
	20-24	20,254	20,301	16,443	16,062	15,592	-2.9%
	25-29	22,250	24,628	20,620	20,759	22,149	6.7%
	30-34	24,356	25,454	21,277	20,868	22,943	9.9%
	35-39	21,025	24,140	23,078	21,543	24,191	12.3%
Adult	40-44	15,223	17,548	17,386	16,277	19,675	20.9%
	45-49	9,380	11,548	11,660	11,004	13,440	22.1%
	≥ 50	10,384	12,843	13,165	12,678	15,821	24.8%
No Information	-	213	194	157	105	-	-100.0%
Total		130,788	142,199	128,325	123,139	137,176	11.4%

Notes:

Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency, Royal Malaysia Police, Ministry of Health Malaysia and Private Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

**Table 8: Number of drug dependants categorised by age, Malaysia,
2017–2022**

Age category	Age range	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% 2021 & 2022
Children	≤ 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adolescent	13-15	72	42	26	7	17	15	-11.8%
	16-17	248	211	125	113	92	71	-22.8%
	18	374	297	286	205	162	140	-13.6%
Youth	19	678	585	564	469	286	315	10.1%
	20-24	4,706	4,435	4,449	3,418	2,920	2,970	1.7%
	25-29	4,735	4,621	4,895	3,926	3,594	4,230	17.7%
	30-34	4,820	4,871	4,710	3,728	3,274	4,074	24.4%
	35-39	3,884	3,905	4,368	3,546	3,177	4,279	34.7%
Adult	40-44	2,790	2,813	2,921	2,366	2,174	3,277	50.7%
	45-49	1,680	1,659	1,889	1,515	1,330	2,056	54.6%
	≥ 50	1,935	1,828	1,847	1,350	1,179	2,090	77.3%
Total		25,922	25,267	26,080	20,643	18,205	23,517	29.2%

Notes:

Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), Malaysia

38. In 2022 for Table 10, the main trend of drug use in Malaysia has changed from opiate-based (heroin and morphine) to the Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) category. The use of ATS especially Methamphetamine and ATS tablets has substantially increased in recent years. In 2022, a total of 14,539 drug dependants were detected using methamphetamine (in crystalline), indicating an increasing of 30.1% compared to 11,171 in 2021. In the same period, 4,544 drug dependants were detected using heroin and morphine compared to 2,756 drug dependants in previous year, indicating an increase of 64.9%. However, the use of ATS tablets (which includes ecstasy and amphetamine) have shown a decrease about -44.7% (1,686 drug dependants) in 2022 compared to 3,047 drug dependants in 2021. Marijuana use indicates an increase about 15.9% for 2022 compared to the previous year (626 drug dependants in recent year compared to 540 in 2021). In a meanwhile, less use of drugs was in Psychotropic and others (refers to Table 10).

**Table 9: Number of drug dependants categorised by drug/substance group,
Malaysia, 2018–2022**

Year	Opiate¹	Opium	Marijuana	Methamphetamine (crystalline)	Methamphetamine (tablets)	Amphetamine- type stimulants (ATS)²	Psychotropic Group³	Others⁴	Total
2018	41,323	14	4,327	66,202	5,555	12,682	75	610	130,788
2019	43,545	33	4,497	64,866	7,580	19,238	614	1,826	142,199
2020	39,549	52	3,396	62,652	10,951	10,107	557	1,061	128,325
2021	39,048	52	3,179	61,767	9,708	8,341	347	697	123,139
2022	37,686	56	3,858	70,570	15,649	7,391	813	1,153	137,176
% 2021 & 2022	-3.5%	7.7%	21.4%	14.3%	61.2%	-11.4%	134.3%	65.4%	11.4%

Notes:

¹ Refers to Heroin & Morphine

² Refers to Ecstasy & Amphetamine. Excludes also Methamphetamine type

³ Includes Benzodiazepine, Psychotropic pills & Eramine5

⁴ Includes Kratom, Depression, Dissociative, Hallucinogens, Inhalant etc.

Data on the number of drugs used are not necessarily equal to the number of drug addicts. This is because drug addicts are poly drug users.

Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency, Royal Malaysia Police, Ministry of Health Malaysia and Private Drug Rehabilitation Centre

**Table 10: Number of drug dependants categorised by drug/substance group,
Malaysia, 2017–2022**

Year	Opiate¹	Marijuana	Methamphetamine (crystalline)	Methamphetamine (tablets)	Amphetamine- type stimulants (ATS)²	Psychotropic Group³	Others⁴	Total
2017	10,154	1,066	10,419	4,366	764	9	13	26,791
2018	7,746	1,122	11,531	4,853	1,152	26	19	26,449
2019	7,938	755	13,768	2,386	2,872	14	78	27,811
2020	4,457	474	13,317	1,831	2,384	14	48	22,525
2021	2,756	540	11,171	2,197	3,047	15	95	19,821
2022	4,544	626	14,539	4,779	1,686	18	56	26,248
% 2021 & 2022	64.9%	15.9%	30.1%	117.5%	-44.7%	20.0%	-41.1%	32.4%

Notes:

¹ Refers to Heroin & Morphine

² Refers to Ecstasy & Amphetamine. Excludes also Methamphetamine type

³ Includes Benzodiazepine, Psychotropic pills & Eramine⁵

⁴ Includes Kratom, Depression, Dissociative, Hallucinogens, Inhalant etc.

Data on the number of drugs used are not necessarily equal to the number of drug addicts. This is because drug addicts are poly drug users.

Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), Malaysia

DEMAND REDUCTION APPROACHES IN MALAYSIA

39. Malaysia implements demand reduction approaches through treatment and rehabilitation, prevention, enforcement and harm reduction.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

40. There are three (3) scopes of services in treatment and rehabilitation, namely:

- i. Institution-based;
- ii. Community-based; and
- iii. Aftercare programs.

41. Within the scope of treatment and rehabilitation, Malaysia implements various evidence based programs and best practices. Some of those recently implemented programs are:

- i. Psychospiritual module - Islamic Spiritual Rehabilitation Approach (ISRA)
- ii. Psychoeducation group therapy for substance abuse treatment
- iii. Evidence-Based Assessment Tools – Addiction Severity Index [ASI-5-BM]
- iv. Adolescent Education Access Program
- v. Bio-Psycho-Spiritual program for HIV/AIDS drug dependants (Baitullslah)

42. The targets of this treatment and rehabilitation approaches are:

- i. To decrease relapse rate;
- ii. To provide job opportunities for recovering drug dependants;
- iii. To reduce community stigma; and
- iv. To collaborate with the private sector in the implementation of programs.

Prevention

43. There are four (4) scopes of services in prevention, namely:

- i. Drug-Free Family Programs;
- ii. Drug-Free Education Institution Programs;
- iii. Drug-Free Community Programs; and
- iv. Drug-Free Workplace Program

44. Within the scope of prevention, Malaysia implements various evidence based program and best practices. Some of those recently implemented programs:

- i. All Out Campaign Against Drugs in all the 178 high risk areas;
- ii. SKUAD AADK for Youth (volunteers);
- iii. Public Awareness Program; and
- iv. Focused Prevention Program based on the Developmental Approach.

45. The targets of this prevention approaches are:

- i. Provide information and knowledge about drugs to the community;
- ii. Giving awareness to the community; and
- iii. Cooperation between AADK employees, parents, neighbour and communities

Enforcement

46. There are five (5) scopes of services under enforcement activities, namely:

- i. Action based on report of drug addiction and drug abuse received through public complaints;
- ii. Operations for the detections and detentions of drug dependants;
- iii. Managing Individuals Under Supervision (IUS);
- iv. Investigation and Prosecution of cases under Drug dependant Act (Treatment and Rehabilitation) 1983; and
- v. Managing security within Drug Rehabilitation Institutions.

47. The objectives of the enforcement approaches are:

- i. Detection and detention of drug dependants for treatment and rehabilitation according to existing law;
- ii. Maintaining public security and safety;
- iii. To offer them opportunity to undergo treatment and rehabilitation;
- iv. Getting cooperation from communities, local leaders and relevant agencies in combating drugs issues;

- v. Detection and legal action against Individuals Under Supervision for breach of provision.

Harm Reduction

48. Malaysia has implemented the harm reduction approach since 2005 primarily to reduce HIV infection among people who inject drug. People who inject drug are one of main key population for HIV infection in Malaysia. There are two (2) main components of harm reduction programs, namely:

- i. Medication-assisted therapy (methadone, piloted in October 2005)
- ii. Needle-syringe exchange program (NSEP, piloted in February 2006).

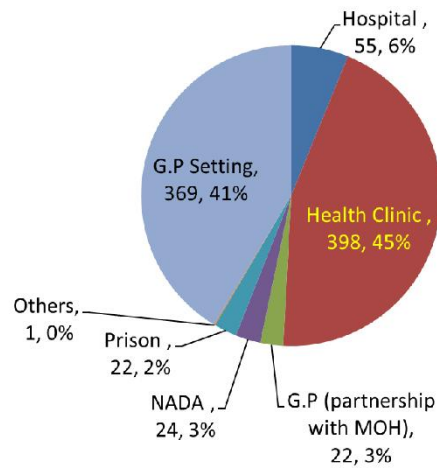
49. These approaches had been successful in reducing incidence rate of HIV infection in Malaysia. Due to overlapping implication of these approaches on drug addiction field, the programs were up-scaled and enhanced to complement other demand reduction approach.

50. Malaysia has its sight set on the beginning of the end of AIDS in the country through the new National Strategic Plan on Ending AIDS for 2016 – 2030 including fast-track-treatment target of 90–90–90; with 90% of those living with HIV know their status, 90% living with HIV will receive antiretroviral treatment and 90% receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. However, this program is in the context of drug treatment aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, and with a view to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use.

51. The programs are implemented by government agencies as well as private clinics and non-government agencies. Breakdown of facilities that provide harm reduction services in 2017 are as the following:

i. Medication-assisted therapy (methadone) (2017)

DST FACILITIES, MALAYSIA 2017



Total: 891 facilities

(Government: 522& Private GP: 369)

*DST-Drug Substitution Therapy

ii. Needle-syringe exchange program (NSEP, 2017).

- 477 sites (325 NGO and 152 health clinics)

PART 4: INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

52. Malaysia is a party to all of the three international drug control conventions which serve as the cornerstone of the world drug policy as follows:

- i. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (acceded 20 Apr 1978);
- ii. Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 (acceded 22 Jul 1986);
and
- iii. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 (signed 20 Dec 1988).

53. Pharmacy Enforcement Division of the Ministry of Health as the Competent National Authority had obliged with full commitment to fulfil the need to ensure adequate availability and rational use of internationally controlled narcotic, psychotropic substances and precursors for medical treatment, research and education, legal industrial activities and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, in line with the Conventions.

54. In meeting our obligations under the international drug control conventions, we firmly believe that it is the sovereign rights of every government and its citizens to decide the best approach that could be tailored according to their national policies, taking into account the unique circumstances and norms of its society. As a State party to the international drug control conventions, Malaysia is against the legalisation of drugs for non-medical and non-scientific purposes.

55. Malaysia utilises the internationally established reporting and information exchange systems provided by the UNODC and the INCB, such as National Drugs Control System (NDS), Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online), Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING

56. Malaysia fully supports actions and measures to combat illicit drug trafficking at the national, regional and international level and strongly believes in enhancing international cooperation, especially in sharing of information and intelligence, as well as accurately analysing the effects and danger of drugs on society. To curb the illicit drug trafficking activities, concerted and integrated international cooperation are required between countries of origins, transit as well as destination countries in the form of information sharing, cooperative measures as well as capacity building.

57. In order to strengthen its ability to coordinate investigations and procuring intelligence to combat drug trafficking, NCID works closely with its regional counterparts such as:

- i. Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) Singapore,
- ii. Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Thailand,
- iii. Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB) Royal Thai Police,
- iv. TP IV Narkoba, Bareskrim Polis Republic Indonesia (POLRI),
- v. Badan Narkotika Nasional (BNN) Indonesia and
- vi. Badan Kawalan Narkotik (BKN) Brunei Darussalam

58. Bilateral meetings, working group meetings and operational meetings are conducted in a timely manner in order to exchange vital information and intelligence on the activities of any international drug trafficking syndicate members. Information exchange were done on a case by case basis to ensure the activities of international and regional drug trafficking syndicates can be monitored and disrupted.

59. Besides regional drug law enforcement agencies, NCID also cooperates actively with other foreign law enforcement agencies such as:

- i. Australian Federal Police (AFP),
- ii. US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- iii. Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau (MJIB) and Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB), Taiwan
- iv. National Police Agency (NPA) and Japan Coast Guard (JCG) of Japan

- v. National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) China
- vi. New Zealand Police (NZP)
- vii. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- viii. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada
- ix. United Nation Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)

60. To date, much of the successes achieved were the result of a better integration and sharing of information between NCID and its regional as well as international counterparts. The cooperation particularly encompasses the following:-

- i. Exchange of intelligence/information pertaining to drug trafficking syndicates for investigations and operational purposes.
- ii. Regular bilateral and working group meetings are held to discuss legal, operational and other important matters so that effective and quick action can be taken to curb and fight drug smuggling activities at the border.
- iii. Conducted joint operations on the drug trafficking syndicates resulted in numerous successes with well-planned and coordinated strategies.
- iv. Maintain close and regular contact especially in exchanging operational intelligence on activities of cross border smuggling on drugs, precursor chemicals and information of new modus operandi of drug couriers transiting to Malaysia.

61. Schedule training programmes and courses conducted/ organized by both agencies were held with the aim of enhancing a better understanding of drugs law of the two countries. Below are the examples of few trainings and workshops done by NCID officers at international level:

- i. **Tripartite Meeting** were held on yearly basis involving (3) agencies which comprise of the Central Narcotics Bureau (**CNB**), Singapore, Narcotics Crime Investigations Department (**NCID**), RMP and Office Narcotics Control Board (**ONCB**), Thailand. This meeting will be hosted on rotational basis between the three agencies and the last meeting was held in Phuket, Thailand on 11 – 15 September 2017.
- ii. International Symposium on Regional Security and Transnational Crime at Taipei, Taiwan on 30 October till 3 November 2017 and Global Cooperation

Training Framework – International Training Workshop on Combating Transnational Crime and Forensic Science at **Taiwan**.

- iii. International Drug Enforcement Conference (**IDEC**) were held on yearly basis involving selected countries in the worldwide. The latest conference was held in Rotterdam, Netherlands on 9 – 13 April 2018.
- iv. There is also another yearly held training course in Bangkok, Thailand hosted by US, DEA which is **International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)**. This training course involved the South East Region countries and Malaysia is one of the active participants every year.

COUNTERING MONEY-LAUNDERING AND PROMOTING JUDICIAL COOPERATION TO ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

62. Malaysia is exposed to a range of significant money laundering (ML) threats and vulnerabilities. Malaysia's open economy, strategic geographic position and porous land and sea borders increase its exposure to ML risks. Malaysia's geographic location within South East Asia positions it as a transit country for drugs originating from the Golden Triangle and Europe. Malaysia's National Risk Assessments (NRA) identified drugs trafficking as one of high risk crimes contributing to ML.

63. With the high level of commitment by the Royal Malaysia Police, including allocation of appropriate resource allocation, policy shift and enhanced inter-agency coordination, this has produce a positive result. There are also exchange of information between The Central Bank of Malaysia and RMP on suspicious bank transaction with regards to drug traffickers involved in money-laundering.

64. NCID enforces the **Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988** (DDFOP) Act 1988 to combat the illegal proceeds derived from illegal drugs activities. Since 2017 actions have been taken to criminalize drug traffickers where vehicles/properties used for drugs trafficking activities could be charged under section 3 or section 4 of DDFOP Act 1988. Specific information on both section are listed below:-

- i. Section 3 – Use of property for activity constituting certain offences.

- ii. Section 4 – Dealing with, or using, holding, receiving or concealing illegal property.
- iii. Section 5 – Forfeiture of property upon conviction for an offence under Section 3 or 4.
- iv. Section 6 – Forfeiture on proof of offence under Section 3 or 4.

(Sec. 3 & 4 DDA (FOP) Act 1988 are criminal charges which carry an imprisonment for a term of not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years upon conviction).

SUCCESSFUL JOINT COOPERATION BETWEEN NCID WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

65. In 2018, NCID in cooperation with international drug enforcement agencies have successfully stopped several drug trafficking activities by international drug trafficking syndicates.

Enforcement Agency	No. of Successful Joint Investigations
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), USA	1
Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), Singapore	4
Office of The Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thailand	1
Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau (PNSB), Thailand	3
National Narcotics Control Commission of China (NNCC)	2

REGIONAL COOPERATION – ASEAN

66. In-line with the regional theme of “**Securing ASEAN Communities against Illicit Drugs**”, Malaysia continues to stand in solidarity with all its ASEAN Member States to remain resilient and committed to protect our people and communities from the dangers of illicit drugs.

67. Malaysia participates actively in various ASEAN platforms on drug related issues namely, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). Malaysia also supports the regional cooperative mechanisms under ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF), ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF), ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO) and ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN). Most recently, Malaysia has become a member of the Asia Pacific Information Coordination Centre for Combatting Drug Crimes (APICC), which is a cooperation platform between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.

68. Malaysia is also pleased to provide capacity building in demand reduction as well as supply reduction in the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle the Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle. As the current Chair of ASEAN Working Group on Treatment and Rehabilitation, Malaysia looks forward to enhance exchange of best practices among ASEAN Member States through organization of trainings on treatment for drug dependence. Recently, Malaysia conducted a Drug Treatment Training for ASEAN Member States in Sungai Petani, Kedah on the 29th July – 4th August 2018, to enhance sharing of best practices amongst ASEAN Member States in the area of drug treatment.

69. Malaysia also participated actively in a series of trainings on both Universal Treatment Curriculum and Universal Prevention Curriculum through the Colombo Plan International Centre for Credentialing and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE).

CONCLUSION

70. Despite countless measures, drug abuse remains prevalent and its challenges are insurmountable, especially with the increased abuse of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances. Therefore, it is timely for all community to work collectively in finding a just and comprehensive approach to tackle and address drugs related issues effectively. We believe, with the effective implementation of demand reduction and supply reduction approaches in Malaysia as guided by the National Drug Policy 2017 and our national legislations, we will be able to secure our communities against illicit drugs.

***National Anti-drugs Agency
Ministry of Home Affairs
Malaysia***