



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for South Asia extends its heartiest greetings for the festive season and the New Year.

Regional Counter Terrorism Workshop



A South Asia workshop on “Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes” organized by UNODC in New Delhi on December 6 to 8, 2012 brought together criminal justice practitioners from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, as well as experts from different countries to exchange experiences on legislative and policy actions, regional and international cooperation in the area of countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes. While the internet has emerged as one of the most valuable means of communication, it is also being exploited for criminal activities. Participants learnt from case studies presented by experts from India and the UK on how the internet has been used to promote terrorism and recruit new terrorists in addition to using it for financial transactions, information exchange, procuring arms and producing explosives. Likewise, experts described how they investigated cases and the challenges they faced when gathering digital evidence across borders, underlining the urgent need to find mechanisms of cooperation with internet providers and to expedite international cooperation requests. Many terror acts are advertised in and prepared through the internet calling for “preventive cyber patrolling”. Participants agreed that more action is required with regard to (i) streamlining of respective legal frameworks, (ii) harmonization of concepts with regard to digital evidence, (iii) implementing the universal instruments on counter-terrorism, (iv) constant upgrading of technical knowledge and technologies, (v) international cooperation and (vi) capacity-building for practitioners in law enforcement, investigation and prosecution at national and state level. Participants also highlighted the usefulness of such regional workshops and proposed to address in a possible next workshop issues such as the use of improvised explosive devices in terrorism and the links between terrorism and organized crime.

The UNODC workshop was possible thanks to the support by the Government of Germany.

India: Workshops on Anti-Corruption



In the months of November and December, UNODC organized three workshops with the aim of enhancing the capabilities of the criminal justice system and strengthening investigative and prosecutorial capacities of select anti-corruption bodies. The workshops were conducted at Rajasthan Police Academy, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, Bhubaneswar, Odisha and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Senior officers belonging to CBI, State Anti-Corruption Bureaux/Vigilance departments, Enforcement Directorate, Customs & Central Excise and National Investigation Agency participated in the workshops. The workshops included panel discussions and interactive sessions, which resulted in upgradation of knowledge of the participants with regards to the investigation of corruption offenses in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The workshops were conducted thanks to the support by the Government of Australia.

India: Commemorating World AIDS Day



Commemorating World AIDS Day, observed on December 1 each year, UNODC and its partners participated in the following activities:

Manipur: A rally was organized by the Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) to mark World AIDS Day in Imphal, Manipur. The Project Director of MSACS flagged off the rally from Wangkhei Meihoubam Lampak to Manipur Film Development Cooperation where the main event was held. More than 1000 people from NGOs and civil society participated in the rally.

Meghalaya: Events were held for two consecutive days in Shillong, Meghalaya. Advocacy programmes on issues related to people living with HIV/AIDS were conducted with media houses, youth groups, police personnel and medical practitioners. A concert by local bands was also organized and winners of the Meghalaya youth icon were declared.

Mizoram: The main event was held at Vanapa hall, Aizawl, Mizoram and the Hon'ble Minister of Health, Government of Mizoram was invited as the chief guest. The function was attended by government officials, NGOs, school students and nursing students. The Joint Director (TI), Mizoram SACS made a presentation on targeted intervention initiatives in Mizoram. Two recovering drug users and two people living with HIV/AIDS shared their testimonies at the event.

Nagaland: The event organized by Dimapur Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS & the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit, supported by the Nagaland SACS was held at IMC hall, Dimapur. About 150 people attended the programme and the Deputy Commissioner of Dimapur was invited as the chief guest.

Nepal: Low Cost Community Based Care and Support Initiated



The first ever low cost community based care and support (LCCS) camp was held at Simara, near Birgunj, Nepal. The 15-day camp initiated on November 22 was attended by 13 opioid dependent injecting drug users. Youth Vision, a Nepal based NGO, in collaboration with BIJAM, a local partner organised the camp where UNODC provided technical support. With sublingual buprenorphine as the primary medication used in tapering doses for medical management of opioid withdrawal, this camp was a picture of freedom and hope with no walls restricting the clients to

the confines of the camp. This is the first of the six LCCS camps planned in Nepal which will culminate in a feasibility study of LCCS intervention in Nepal, development of a standard operating procedure and a training manual for service providers. *This initiative was supported by the Governments of Australia and Norway.*