

Joint Press Release

1. The Seventh Meeting of ASEAN Drug Experts was held in Pattaya, Thailand from 28 November to 3 December 1982.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. Police Lieutenant General Pow Sarasin, the leader of the Thai Delegation and Police Brigadier General Darmawan Soedarsono, the leader of the Indonesian Delegation, were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Meeting respectively. Mr. Abdul Aziz bin Haji Awang of the Malaysian Delegation was elected the Rapporteur.
3. The Meeting was officially opened by Mr. Xujati Pramoolpol, the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office. In his Opening Address, he expressed concern over the present narcotics situation in ASEAN countries and the emergence of abuse of psychotropic substances. He called on ASEAN member countries to collectively exert great efforts in the prevention and suppression of these substances. He also reaffirmed that the Thai Government would continue to collaborate with other ASEAN member countries in their fight against the drug menace.
4. The Meeting discussed the drug problems in each ASEAN member country and reviewed the implementation of the recommendations made at the Sixth ASEAN Drug Experts Meeting in the fields of Law Enforcement and Legislation; Treatment and Rehabilitation, Preventive Education and Information; and Research.

5. The Meeting reiterated that illicit drug trafficking and abuse was a threat to national security, stability and resilience and recommended that ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) should consider the possibility of passing legislations providing for preventive detention of illicit drug traffickers, manufacturers and financiers similar to those in existence in Malaysia and Singapore.
6. The Meeting called on ASEAN member countries to strictly monitor the movement of psychotropic substances and encouraged members to take effective measures to control these substances.
7. The use of narcotic detector dogs was found to be effective and the Meeting recommended that ASEAN member countries should learn from the Indonesian experience in training and utilizing native bred dogs for such purposes.
8. On Treatment and Rehabilitation, the Meeting recognized that no single treatment programme could produce entirely satisfactory result and proposed that the ASEAN Narcotics Desk Officer should collate and disseminate information on treatment and rehabilitation modalities existing in each member country.
9. The Meeting was of the view that use of the indigenous practices and existing social organizations as well as religious institutions in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents among the ASEAN member countries should be encouraged.
10. The Meeting stressed that greater emphasis should be given to drug preventive education and information and suggested that ASEAN member countries should approach the ASEAN Institute of Broadcasting Development or other institutions for assistance in regional training programme for media practitioners 39% t. area of drug preventive education and information.

11. In the field of Research, the Meeting recommended that there should be research and development on the treatment and rehabilitation modalities appropriate to the socio-cultural patterns of respective ASEAN member countries.
12. The ASEAN Drug Experts at the Meeting finalized the roles and responsibilities of the ASEAN Narcotics Desk Officer.
13. The Indonesian delegation offered to host the **Eighth** Meeting of ASEAN Drug Experts in Indonesia at a date to be announced later.
14. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand for the hospitality accorded to the delegates and the efficient arrangements made for the Meeting.
15. The Meeting was held in the ASEAN traditional spirit of cordiality and solidarity.

