

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

1. The Fifth Meeting of ASEAN Drug Experts was held in Manila from 11th to 16th December, 1980.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.
3. The Meeting was officially opened by the Honorable Enrique Garcia, Minister of Health and Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board.
4. The Meeting reviewed the implementation of recommendations of the Fourth Meeting.
5. The Meeting recognized drug trafficking not only as a social problem but also as a threat to national and regional security, stability and resilience.
6. The Meeting recommended the bolstering of international/regional cooperation in curbing the illicit trafficking of drugs.
7. The Meeting identified common problems and recommended innovative strategies towards strengthening of collaboration in the areas of Law Enforcement and Legislation, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Prevention and Information and Training and Research.
8. The Meeting noted the formal establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Preventive Drug Education based at the College of Education, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.
9. The Meeting further recommended:
 - 9.1. that each member country conduct its own basic narcotics enforcement course making optimal use of indigenous trainers notwithstanding the establishment of the ASEAN Training Centre for Law Enforcement in Thailand which offers an advance course;
 - 9.2. that Preventive Education should include in the school curriculum at all levels as well as in the curriculum for the training of teachers;
 - 9.3. that each member country introduce appropriate legislation to strengthen treatment and rehabilitation programmes;
 - 9.4. that cross-posting of personnel in all areas be intensified.
10. The Meeting was conducted in the traditional ASEAN spirit of cordiality and mutual understanding.