

# The Major changes in the 1990S substance abuse scenario In asean countries

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## ABSTRACT

Information and data from Meetings of Asean Senior Officials on Drug Matters and the macro statistics of the drug dependence treatment population database of the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand in the 1990s were used to illustrate the major changes of opiate and stimulant abuse scenarios. Statistics of confiscated opium and heroin from the Golden Triangle indicated that the supply most likely remained stable. While statistics of new heroin user treatment cases in Thailand declined, the proportion of students and the unemployed persisted. A gradual increased density of new heroin user treatment cases in industrialized and tourism development zones was observed. The pattern provided a warning of the negative impact from socio-economic strategies. The critical change which will most likely generate the greatest deleterious impact to the region is the rapid growth of clandestine stimulant production observed mainly in the Philippines and Thailand. The illicit supply not only fostered dramatic expansion of the user population in the country of production but also contributed substantially to the rapid increase in global supply. Consumption of illicit methamphetamine and the Ecstasy group of stimulant increased in practically all countries in the Asean region. Illicit diversion of cough mixture seemed substantial with corresponding evidence of an increased abuser population in some countries. Even though the abuse of medicinal psychotropic drugs do not yet warrant any alarm, they seem to be another persistent scenario which requires attention and appropriate intervention.

Key words : Heroin, Amphetamine, Asean, countries, demand, supply.

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