

Unofficial translation

NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS IN COUNTER-NARCOTICS

(based on mass media reports)

01-31.05.2023

№ 6

Between 1 and 31 May 2023, 17 counter-narcotic measures were covered through media reports from CARICC Member States and other countries around the world (*Azerbaijan - 1, Kazakhstan - 7, Kyrgyzstan - 1, Russia - 4, Tajikistan - 2, Uzbekistan - 2*).

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



GENERAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF AZERBAIJAN HOSTED A MEETING WITH A DELEGATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



General Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan met a delegation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) headed by Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, on 24 May.

Mr. Elchin Mammadov, First Deputy Prosecutor General, noted during the meeting that systematic process of building a democratic, legal and secular state under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev has a positive impact on developing legal system as a whole. Combating crime and other offenses is a priority direction of the state policy, he added.

The meeting highlighted the importance that the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan attaches to its ties with UNODC and continued cooperation with the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and Southern Caucasus (CASC). It was mentioned that the draft 2022-2025 Roadmap for cooperation between Azerbaijan and UNODC laid the foundation for continued successful cooperation.

Thanking for hospitality, Ms. Ashita Mittal noted the high level of cooperation between UNODC and Azerbaijan and active engagement of the Prosecutor General's Office in international events. As she said, Azerbaijan's advanced experience in countering drug trafficking, human trafficking and anti-corruption is of great benefit to other member countries of the organization as well.

The meeting also featured an in-depth exchange of views on the fifth round of assessment by the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money

Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL) in addition to matters relating to recovery of ill-gotten assets, wide application of confiscation and methods of addressing modern criminal manifestations.

https://azertag.az/ru/xeber/V_Generalnoi_prokurature_Azerbaidzhana_sostoyalas_vstrecha_s_delegaciei_Upra_vleniya_OON_po_borbe_s_narkotikami_i_prestupnostyu-2630780

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



NUMBER OF PEOPLE ADDICTED TO SYNTHETIC DRUGS INCREASED 17-FOLD

Ms. Aida Balayeva, Deputy Head of Presidential Administration, spoke about synthetic drugs and addiction at the "Urpaqtar sabaktastygy" forum.

She pointed out that synthetic drugs, which have displaced their "natural" equivalents, are currently popular among young people due to accessibility, ease of acquisition, and low cost. "According to the Analytical Center of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, about 2 thousand drug crimes were recorded in the country during the first 3 months of 2023. And these violations are often committed by people between the ages of 21 and 29 (an average of 15.5 percent of all registered drug crimes), which means the situation may be even worse, since official data do not cover those under 20 years old," she highlighted.

Meanwhile, according to Ms. Balayeva, data from the Ministry of Health show that as of 1 March 2023, there were 18,216 people on dynamic observation diagnosed with mental behavioral disorders caused by the use of narcotic drugs..

"In six years, the number of people addicted to new, so-called 'synthetic drugs' has increased more than 17-fold among children and adults (from 40 patients in 2017 to 694 as of 1 April 2023)," the Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration cited statistics.

Ms. Balayeva believes that members of the media community are also concerned about this problem.

"For instance, blogger and PR specialist Nurken Halykbergen recently told of having met three schoolchildren in the city of Balkhash in Karaganda region in the afternoon on the street, who were under the influence of narcotic drugs. The magnitude of the catastrophe in other, more densely populated cities is unimagined.

<https://tengrinews.kz/news/kolichestvo-zavisimiyh-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov-vyiroslo-17-499092/>



ANNUAL DRUG TESTING OF SCHOOLCHILDREN IS PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan plans to introduce mandatory annual monitoring of schoolchildren for the presence of psychoactive substances in the body. Ministry of Internal Affairs' draft concept was published for public discussion on the "Open NPA" website.

The published action plan to implement the concept of public safety in partnership with community for the years 2024-2028 plans to introduce a procedure of regular monitoring to assess prevalence of substance use among schoolchildren aged 14-18 years, using the methodology of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) at least once a year.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/ejegodnuyu-proverku-shkolnikov-narkotiki-hotyat-vnedrit-499818/



REHABILITATION CENTERS FOR DRUG-ADDICTED CHILDREN MAY APPEAR IN KAZAKHSTAN

The Coordination Council, chaired by Prosecutor General Berik Asylov, reported that today synthetic analogues are replacing traditional drugs throughout the country. Amount of seized "synthetic drugs" increased threefold. The problem is the wide availability of "mephedrone", "salt" and other drugs via Internet and dealers.

Measures taken over three years have resulted in dismantling 122 drug laboratories, shutting down 17 organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, and seizing 37.5 tons of drugs.

"Ministries of education, science and higher education are recommended to review approaches to creating a safe environment in educational institutions. It is important to focus on early identification of risk groups and psychological work, especially with people who are at risk for drug use.

Ministry of Health was invited to develop rehabilitation centers for drug-dependent children," the Prosecutor General's Office said..

In addition to prevention of drug crimes and especially early addiction of children, during the meeting the Ministry of Internal Affairs also proposed to identify "blind" zones in localities and install cameras in crowded places, near places of entertainment and night sales of alcohol. In addition, to ensure accounting of risky families and troublemakers and constantly carry out preventive work.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/tsentryi-reabilitatsii-narkozavisimiyh-detey-mogut-500568/

zakon.kz "TERRITORY WITHOUT DRUGS" PROJECT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN KYZYLORDA REGION

With a view to ensuring implementation of the President's Address, an expanded Coordinating Council on Drug Trafficking chaired by Prosecutor General Berik Asylov gave specific instructions to strengthen measures to combat drug trafficking.

In this regard, the Prosecutor's Office of Kyzylorda region initiated the "Territory without Drugs" project in cooperation with authorized bodies.

Project goal is to improve effectiveness of drug control mechanisms by applying modern advanced skills and approaches.

A working group was created under the coordination of the regional prosecutor's office to implement the "Territory Without Drugs" project, which involves officers of the prosecutor's office, police, local executive body, forestry, emergency situations and telecommunications; the tasks of each body were defined and the core of the event is aimed at prevention.

Comprehensive work led by the prosecutor's office resulted in the discovery of several drug fields on pasture land.

<https://www.zakon.kz/6395349-kak-v-kyzylordinskoy-oblasti-realizuyut-proekt-territoriya-bez-narkotikov.html>



MORE THAN 30 NARCOGRAFFITI WERE PAINTED OVER IN TARAZ

Officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crimes of the DP of Zhambyl region organized an action "We Against Drugs" aimed at identifying and cleaning up graffiti signs with information on distribution of synthetic drugs. Employees of "Zhasyl El-Taraz" LLP,

volunteers, and students of M.H. Dulati TARRU participated. A total of 70 people were involved. - As part of the action, more than 30 graffiti advertising websites promoting and facilitating drug distribution were painted over on the walls of residential buildings," said Alim Bazhikbayev, head of the regional Drug Control Department. Also, the regional police department's daily monitoring of social networks revealed 36 Telegram channels," he added. Currently, these channels are blocked and investigative measures are underway to detain persons connected with the posting of these websites and graffiti. Zhambyl drug law enforcement officers remind that graffiti and dissemination of this information on the Internet is punishable under Article 299-1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Criminals face imprisonment from three to six years, depending on the severity of the offense. In addition, persons who place drugs in dead drops are responsible as for the sale of narcotic drugs, and will be prosecuted under Article 297 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This article stipulates criminal liability from five to twenty years' imprisonment, and the sale of narcotic drugs in general educational establishments - up to life imprisonment.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/svyshe-30-narkograffiti-zakrasili-v-taraze/>



CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT DRUG ADDICTION STARTED IN ZHAMBYL REGION

One month devoted to the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking, which is celebrated annually on 26 June, has started in the Republic. This was discussed at a meeting of the interagency center for coordination of state agencies against drug addiction and drug trafficking, chaired by Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Yerzhan Sadenov. First Deputy Mayor of Zhambyl region Nurzhan Kalenderov, Deputy Head of Zhambyl regional police Nurzhan Rakhmetullaev, Head of Department on combating drug crime of DP of region Alim Bazhikbaev, heads of several departments of regional akimat participated in the event. Its main goal is to unite the society and implement a set of counter-narcotic measures aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, improving drug addiction literacy and raising awareness of the importance of participation in preventive work to maintain the health of children, adolescents and young people. Yerzhan Sadenov noted that successful solution of the issues of combating drug addiction and drug trafficking is a condition for the stability and well-being of society. - Only through our joint efforts can we have a positive impact on the younger generation and ensure a healthy future for our country," he said. Alim Bazhikbaev noted that an action plan was approved jointly with stakeholders. He also elaborated on measures taken to combat drug crime and shared results of the work done. - During the four months of this year 193 drug offenses were detected, including 76 crimes and 117 criminal offenses. More than 528 kg of narcotic substances were seized. All in all, 250 preventive measures were carried out in educational institutions, colleges and universities with the coverage of more than 3 thousand students, - said the head of the Regional Department of Internal Affairs.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/mesyachnik-po-bor-be-s-narkomaniej-startoval-v-zhambylskoj-oblasti/>



TARAZ STUDENTS TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN COUNTER-NARCOTICS MEETINGS

As part of the month marking the International Day against Drug Abuse, a number of events involving schoolchildren and students are planned in Zhambyl region. One of the active



participants is the students of M.H. Dulati Taraz Regional University. The next meeting, held under the slogan "We are against drugs - we are for life!", was attended by students of the Faculty of Technology. Officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crimes of the Regional Police Department pointed out that such events are aimed at creating a sustainable anti-drug consciousness among adolescents and young people. The event was organized jointly with the Taraz City Youth Resource Center and the "Nygmet nuri" public association. An open and engaging dialogue took place during the meeting. Police and students discussed measures to combat drug addiction, penalties for the sale and distribution of drugs, data and statistics on drug addiction problems. - In the region there is active work on promoting a healthy lifestyle, as well as the prevention of drug abuse, alcoholism and tobacco use. Unfortunately, young people are more likely to be exposed to addictions in the first place. Police officers do everything they can to keep teens and young adults from using illegal substances. We try to emphasize positive prevention and encourage parents to encourage development of alternative habits such as sports and recreational activities, which can be a barrier to health-damaging behavior. There must be no indifferent people in countering drug use, as it is a problem of the entire society, and we must tackle it together," said Alim Bazhikbaev, head of the Regional Department of Drug Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/studenty-taraza-prinimayut-aktivnoe-uchastie-v-antinarkoticheskikh-vstrechah/>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

VESTI.KG CASH FLOWS UNDETECTED, NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IT, BUT IT MUST BE COUNTERED

Drug cash flows untraced, no one knows about it, but it is essential to counter it. This is how Police Colonel Alexander Zelichenko, Director of the Central Asian Center for Drug Policy Public Foundation, commented to Vesti.kg on the operation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Service for Combating Illegal Drug Trafficking, which resulted in the detention of exchange bureau employees in Bishkek on suspicion of money laundering.

- We have had a long history of drug money laundering, ever since the first heroin came here and large amounts of cash came in that had to be somehow 'cleaned up,' invested somewhere, transferred," he said. - This is a whole criminal system, which actively uses international experience of other drug syndicates. Of course, our scale is not comparable to that of Colombia. But the money obtained by this criminal way goes undetected and no one is aware of it. We need to counter this, which is what our colleagues from law enforcement agencies are doing.

In addition to exchangers, the expert listed other ways used by criminals to "launder" money.

- One of the most well-known ways to launder drug money is to invest it in real estate: big, large, allowing large sums of money to be absorbed," he said. - In addition to construction, there are very tempting opportunities for criminals in the gaming industry: casinos, slot machines, card games and similar. However, so far I haven't heard of bookmakers getting hooked on this, they have their own laws and methods of fraud. In general, any area where large amounts of cash pass through that is difficult to keep track of.

According to Zelichenko, although combating the phenomenon is difficult, law enforcement agencies are constantly working to improve effectiveness by improving methods of solving criminal schemes, developing the use of modern information technology to counter drug trafficking, and exchanging experiences with their counterparts from other countries.

- Some of the methods of combating drug money laundering are not as developed as, for example, tracking bank transactions, but our officers are getting better at it," he explained. - We also have a certain peculiarity - free circulation of large amounts of cash. In the West it is difficult, there are mostly non-cash transactions. One has to conduct their funds through the bank, tax returns, and so on. We need to actively work on introducing such controls. We are talking about large sums of money. Because there are many loopholes that criminals take advantage of. They can open a network of exchange offices or stores and turn there the money received from selling illicit substances. That's why I welcome the introduction of cash registers, which are now used in stores. Cash flow must be monitored. Of course, criminals also use non-cash funds, but it is much more difficult to wire them freely there. I think our banks are also working on security in this direction.

To clarify, officers of the Service for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs uncovered a channel of supply of illicit substances, in which a prisoner and one of the exchange bureaus in the city were involved. A search in the house of a drug courier contributed to the discovery of a criminal ring.

As a result of investigative actions in Osh and Bishkek over 4 kilograms of hashish of Afghan origin were found, money in the amount of 1 million 285 thousand soms and 2 thousand dollars were seized.

Criminals used the following scheme: they left payment for drugs at an exchange bureau and in return customers received addresses of dead drops where large amounts of illicit substances were stored.

<https://vesti.kg/politika/item/112497-aleksandr-zelichenko-nalichnye-ot-prodazhi-narkotikov-idut-chernym-potokom-pro-nikh-nikto-ne-znaet-no-protivostoyat-etomu-nuzhno.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



POLICE OFFICERS IN SAMARA REGION CARRY OUT ANTI-NARCOTIC PREVENTION MEASURES AS PART OF OPERATIONAL AND PREVENTIVE CAMPAIGN "CONSCRIPT".

Measures continue in the Samara region as part of the operational and preventive campaign "Conscript". Police officers hold meetings, talks and lectures for young people of conscription age, explaining the dangers and legal consequences of drug use and distribution.

Earlier on the day officers of Directorate of Drug Control of Internal Affairs of Russia for Samara region held an anti-drug class with high school students of State Budgetary Institution "Boarding School № 1 of Samara city" and the Federal State Educational Institution "Samara Cadet Corps of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia", where under the prevention event they delivered information about consequences of the use of narcotic drugs.

Police officers informed boys and girls about how they counter illicit drug trafficking in the region. They mentioned that drug control officers successfully prevent such crimes, even if distributors' actions are as covert as possible, conducted online and in a non-contact manner. Police officers urged students to categorically refuse any offers to become a courier. They noted that the anonymity and impunity promised by organizers of distribution schemes are a myth, and dealers end up sentenced to actual imprisonment, even if drug amounts to hundredths of a gram.

Young people were informed about 24-hour hotline numbers, which they can use to report illegal practices and handed out anti-drug brochures.

Such events are aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles among young people of pre-conscription and conscription age.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/38173666>



POLICE IN SARATOV CONDUCTED A RAID TO PAINT OVER ILLEGAL STREET SIGNS IN COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Employees of the Saratov Department of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs together with volunteers of the All-Russian People's Front and members of the Public Council under the department held an event to remove illegal advertising inscriptions.

The raid took place on the central streets of Kirovsky district, in the choice of addresses participants of the preventive measure were guided by their own observations and tips of local residents. Boris Korolev, member of the Public Council under the Saratov City Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, stated that it is important to combat

drug advertisements on facades of city facilities in cooperation with authorities and active citizens.

Campaigns to eliminate dangerous content in the regional center take place on a permanent basis. We remind that penalties for such offenses are stipulated by the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/38148371>



OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENT FOR DRUG CONTROL OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ORGANIZED A PREVENTIVE CAMPAIGN "VACATIONS WITHOUT DANGER" FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN IN SMOLENSK

I stage of interdepartmental complex prevention operation "Poppy - 2023" started on 22 May 2023 in Smolensk region. Among the goals of the complex operation is to conduct information and awareness-raising work with the population, including the younger generation.

Accordingly, in the MBOU Secondary School № 8 with intensive study of foreign languages in the city of Smolensk employees of the Regional Department of Drugs Control organized a preventive event "Vacation without danger" for 22 schoolchildren..

At the beginning of the meeting, employees of the Department of Internal Affairs introduced the children to different situations in which they may find themselves at home or on the street. Children actively participated in the discussion on how to behave in this case. Police officers reminded the students to always stay in touch with their parents, to warn them if they are late.

Police officers also told the students about types of punishment provided by legislation of the Russian Federation, responsibility for actions related to illicit trafficking of illegal substances, for smoking tobacco products and electronic cigarettes. They also gave instructive examples from the life of children who have violated the legal norms.

Police officers reminded students that summer vacation is a great opportunity to spend the summer usefully, to find an interesting hobby, to discover new sports.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/38453513>



ANDREY KHRAPOV SUMMARIZED PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE CSTO COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATION "KANAL-ARAX"

In Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, Police Colonel General Andrei Khrapov, Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Heads of Competent Bodies on Combating Drug Trafficking of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Member States, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Vahe Ghazaryan, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, summarized preliminary results of the CSTO sub-regional anti-drug operation "Kanal-Arax".

The operation was conducted from 22 to 26 May 2023 on the territory of CSTO member states. Its goals were to shut down channels for drugs, new psychoactive and potent substances into the CSTO region, neutralize international transnational drug groups, dismantle clandestine drug production facilities, and disrupt economic foundations of drug trafficking and prevent drug money laundering.

The operation involved law enforcement agencies, border and customs authorities, state security services, financial intelligence units of CSTO member states, along with observers from China, Syria, CARICC, UNODC, EAG, the Council of Heads of Financial Intelligence

Units of the Committee of Heads of Law Enforcement Units of the Council of Heads of Customs Services of the Commonwealth of Independent States Member States.

International coordination room for managing the operation was deployed at the Police Education Complex of the Republic of Armenia in Yerevan..

About 10,000 officers of relevant authorities were involved in the operation. According to preliminary data, thanks to coordinated action on the territory of the CSTO member states, over 816 kg of drugs were seized, including over 143 kg of marijuana, over 311 kg of narcotic plants, about 30 kg of hashish, over 20 kg of mephedrone, 2.6 kg of MDMA, 2.4 kg of heroin and 10.2 kg of psychotropic substances.

548 drug crimes were detected and 88 drug gangs were uncovered. 347 people were brought to administrative liability for illegal drug operations. 88 persons wanted for committing drug trafficking crimes were detained. 430 internet websites were discovered providing dissemination of prohibited information related to drugs. Twenty firearms and 410 rounds of ammunition were seized.

Also, competent authorities of the CSTO member states have conducted a number of international controlled deliveries. Several disguised smuggling channels were uncovered and dismantled, and three highly productive and well-equipped drug laboratories were shut down.

A major transnational organized crime ring was uncovered through joint efforts.

In his speech, Andrei Khrapov stated that one of the problems in the CSTO area of responsibility remains drug production on the territory of Afghanistan. Still 80 percent of the opium drugs on the world market are of Afghan origin.

"In addition to large-scale production of opiates and cannabis (hashish), there has been a recent increase in production of methamphetamine in Afghanistan. Seizures of these types of drugs have been recorded in almost all states near Afghanistan," stressed the deputy minister. - In addition, we have documented change of cocaine supply routes into the CSTO area of responsibility. Recent seizure of a large shipment of over 700 kilograms of this drug in the Republic of Armenia is a vivid confirmation of that.

All of this necessitates a concerted effort by the international community.

Authorized representatives of CSTO member states in the Operational Directorate of the Operation Room visited the Meghri checkpoint on the Armenian-Iranian border, where they learned about the practices of anti-drug activities of the Russian Federal Security Service Border Guard Service Department in the Republic of Armenia and Armenian customs authorities. They exchanged operationally significant information and best practices in uncovering drug smuggling channels.

Soldiers of the special unit of the Armenian Interior Ministry's Main Police Department, which is part of the Collective Security Treaty Organization's (CSTO) KSOR FSSN, demonstrated effective methods of detaining (neutralizing) armed organizers of drug trafficking.

Search equipment, UAVs, and search dogs were widely used during the operation.

Operational cooperation between drug control and financial monitoring services was organized in the course of the event. As a result, suspicious financial transactions involving the transit of money and the use of "drop" bank cards and cryptocurrency transactions worth more than 750 million roubles by more than 300 individuals were identified. This demonstrated the focus of CSTO member states on destroying the economic component of drug trafficking and search for criminal assets.

A round table on the subject of countering drug traffickers using modern information and communication technologies and the smuggling of controlled drugs was held on the

sidelines of the event. A representative of the UNODC made a report on drug situation in Afghanistan. Observers from the People's Republic of China briefed on drug situation in their country.

Accurate and coordinated work by national interagency operation rooms of CSTO member states and observers has significantly improved the overall criminal situation in the regions involved in the operation.

The operation contributed to resolving practical tasks to further improve mechanisms of anti-drug cooperation and stabilize the situation in the CSTO area of responsibility. New large-scale joint steps to ensure anti-drug security were also outlined.

<https://mvdmedia.ru/news/official/andrey-khrapov-podvel-predvaritelnye-itogi-antinarkoticheskoy-operatsiy-odkb-kanal-araks/>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN



OPERATION "MAK-2023" BEGINS

On 20 May this year in accordance with the order of the Head of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan dated 10 May 2023 and according to paragraph 5 of the Action Plan for the implementation of the "National Strategy for Drug Control in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030" the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan hosted an organizational meeting of the Republican Headquarters of Operation "Mak-2023", attended by representatives of competent ministries and agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan.

During the meeting at the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republican Headquarters of Operation "Mak-2023" was established consisting of representatives of ministries and departments for the management, control and coordination of activities, plan of main activities for the organization and implementation of the Republican operation "Mak-2023" was approved.

The action plan provides for the organization, under the leadership of the deputy heads of regions, cities and districts of the working staff of operation "Mak-2023" in the local executive authorities of GBAO, regions, Dushanbe, cities and districts of republican subordination.

Operation "Mak" in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan is conducted annually from 1 June to 30 November in order to detect and eradicate wild and illicitly cultivated narcotic plants and prevent illicit movement of drugs.

It is planned to conduct outreach work in the field on issues of legal responsibility for drug trafficking and illicit cultivation of plants containing drugs, on harmful effects of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and implementation of comprehensive preventive measures among various segments of the population.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2023/05/20/%d1%82%d0%be%d2%b7%d0%b8%d0%ba%d3%a3-%d0%be%d2%93%d0%be%d0%b7%d0%b8-%d0%b0%d0%bc%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%b8%d1%91%d1%82%d0%b8-%d0%ba%d3%af%d0%ba%d0%bd%d0%be%d1%80-2023/>



MS. ASHITA MITTAL VISITS AGENCY

Major General of Justice Habibullo Vohidzoda, Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, met with Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional

Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Central Asia, on 15 May 2023 at the premises of the Agency.

The meeting discussed implementation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Central Asia Regional Programme for Central Asia for 2022-2025, and specified prospects for cooperation under this Programme to implement scheduled events. Director of the Agency, informing about drug situation in the republic, drew guests' attention to the cooperation in the regions bordering Afghanistan, briefed on intensification of smuggling of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances along the Northern route. Proposals were also made to create new departments within the Agency and interdepartmental mobile teams.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, referring to the importance of the Agency's cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, stated that she would explore and elaborate on these proposals and would negotiate with sponsors on implementation. She added that by taking additional steps to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with the Agency, she will put in place the necessary measures to support the Agency.

In conclusion of the meeting, the parties stated that in the future they will continue to pursue necessary measures for development of reliable and mutually beneficial cooperation in drug control and prevention of drug addiction.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2023/05/15/visit-of-mrs-ashita-mittal-to-the-agency/>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



MEETING OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CCP

On 11 May this year, a regular meeting of the National Steering Committee of the Global Container Control Programme (CCP) of the UNODC and the World Customs Organization was held in Tashkent at the Regional Office for Central Asia.

The meeting was attended by representatives of NCDC, the Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan Airports JSC, along with CCP programme coordinators from UNODC.

During the event they discussed general implementation of the CCP in Uzbekistan and defined priority areas for further cooperation.

<https://ncdc.uz/news/jaxon-bojxona-tashkiloti-va-bmtning-narkotiklar-va-jinoyatchilik-boyicha-boshqarmasining-konteyner-tashuvlarini-nazorat-qilish-global-dasturining-milliy-boshqaruv-qomitasi-yigilishi-yuzasidan>



NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON DRUG POLICY WITHIN CADAP-7

On 11 May this year, Tashkent hosted a national dialogue on drug policy issues within the framework of the Central Asia Drug Action Programme - Phase 7 (CADAP) with participation of NCDC, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Makhalla Public Charitable Foundation.

Purpose: to discuss priorities for cooperation in the CADAP-7 programme with regard to national drug policy.

The meeting discussed current trends in drug situation in the region, and made suggestions for further enhancement of counter-narcotics collaboration.



OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BORDER LIAISON OFFICE AT ALAT CHECKPOINT

On 11 May this year, opening ceremony of the Border Liaison Office at the Alat checkpoint took place as part of the component on strengthening regional cross-border cooperation by enhancing capacity of Border Liaison Offices of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia for 2022-2025.

The event was attended by NCDC representatives led by Director O. Narzullayev, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia Ms. A. Mittal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Uzbekistan H.E. H. Takashi, and representatives of competent authorities of Uzbekistan.

In his address Mr. O. Narzullayev marked that strengthening of border checkpoints potential through their equipment with modern technical means and equipment will allow to carry out effective customs and border control and also contributes to improvement of investigative measures in combating drug trafficking.

Technical equipment transfer documents were signed during the ceremony between officials of competent authorities and the UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia.

<https://ncdc.uz/news/olot-nazorat-punktida-chegara-hamkorlik-ofisining-ochilish-marosimi-haqida>