



INFORMATION RELEASE

ABOUT PAST EVENTS
IN THE ANTI-DRUG SPHERE
(according to the media)

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INFORMATION RELEASE CARICC

Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination
Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs,
psychotropic substances and their precursors

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In the period from 1 to 13 August 2023, 17 counter-narcotics measures were covered on the basis of information from the mass media in CARICC Member States and other countries (*Azerbaijan - 1, Kazakhstan - 2, Russia - 3, Tajikistan - 1, Turkmenistan - 1. Other countries: Vietnam - 1*).

Published articles reflect information on reported drug crime statistics for 2023 (*Azerbaijan*), on the number of drug crimes committed by young people, on journalistic investigation into the availability of mephedrone (*Kazakhstan*), on meetings, campaigns and preventive measures in counternarcotics dedicated to the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (*Russia*), on press conference on results of the first half of the year in combating drugs (*Tajikistan*), on training on container transportation control (*Turkmenistan*), and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (*Vietnam*).

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC



30 PERCENT OF CRIMES COMMITTED IN AZERBAIJAN IN 2023 ARE RELATED TO DRUGS



Out of 19,533 crimes registered in Azerbaijan in January-June 2023, 5,884 (30.1%) are related to illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which is 2% higher than the figure of the corresponding period of 2022.

This is stated in information distributed by the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Trend reports on Monday.

It was noted that 61.6 percent of crimes were related to illegal acquisition, storage, manufacture, processing, transportation of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances,

34.7 percent to the sale of those substances, 2.8 percent to illegal cultivation of plants containing narcotic substances, 0.8 percent to illegal trafficking of potent or poisonous substances for the purpose of sale, and 0.1 percent to other crimes.

During the reporting period, 4,225 persons who had committed crimes related to illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were identified. Of those, 35.7 per cent were persons who had previously been held criminally liable, which is 13 per cent more than in the same period last year. 99.3 percent of persons who committed crimes were brought to criminal responsibility, and 0.7 percent were exempted from criminal responsibility in accordance with the legislation.

Among those who committed crimes, 71.3 percent were unemployed and uneducated, 2.5 were women, 0.2 were children aged 14 to 17, 5.9 percent were 18 to 24, 16.5 percent were 25 to 29, and 77.4 percent were 30 and older.

In addition, 754 persons were brought to administrative responsibility in the first half of 2023, which is 17.6 percent less than in the corresponding period of 2022.

In January-June 2023, 3,537.3 kilograms of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (2,133.9 kilograms of marijuana, 1,005.4 kilograms of heroin, 171.7 kilograms of opium, 49.8 kilograms of hashish, hash oil and resin, 0.5 kilograms of cocaine, 176 kilograms of other drugs and potent substances) were seized, an increase of 39.2 percent over the same period in 2022.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3781504.html>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



MORE THAN HALF OF DRUG CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 34 YEARS OLD - PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE



Since the beginning of the year in Kazakhstan law enforcement agencies have launched almost 4 thousand pre-trial investigations into crimes related to drug addiction and drug trafficking. Of the total number of pre-trial investigations, 135 are on drug smuggling, Kazinform correspondent reports.

«Since the beginning of the year, 2,144 persons have been brought to criminal responsibility. More than 52% of drug offenses (1103 facts) were committed by young people under the age of 34. Of these, 166 persons through the use of electronic information resources», - said the head of the department of formation of legal information in the criminal sphere of the Committee on

Legal Statistics and Special Records of the General Prosecutor's Office of the RK Zhanserik Beisenov.

According to his data, in 6 months of the current year 35 laboratories for production of synthetic drugs were detected and 605 kg of «synthetics» were seized. 11.5 tons of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances were confiscated.

The representative of the Prosecutor General's Office reminded that since 2020, inducement to use and sale of drugs via the Internet have been categorized as grave and especially grave crimes. A new crime was introduced - advertising and propaganda of drugs, under which the distributors of «graffiti drawings» and other information about drug trafficking fall. In October 2021, «synthetics» were equated to heavy drugs. Criminal liability for possession starts from 1 gram.

<https://www.inform.kz/ru/bol-she-poloviny-narkoprestupleniy-sovershaet-molodezh-do-34-let-genprokuratura-a4096422>



EXPERIMENT: HOW ACCESSIBLE MEPHEDRONE IS IN KAZAKHSTAN



This year alone, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has dismantled 28 drug laboratories.

The image of the addict has also changed over time, as have the types of drugs themselves. Today, it is not a «injected» slumped man with a scruffy appearance. Close people may not immediately suspect that a young and surprisingly energetic relative is subject to a serious addiction that is gradually destroying their life. It can be students, office workers,

housewives, businessmen - any of our environment. More often drug addicts are people from wealthy families. We based our material on the spread of mephedrone in Kazakhstan, the issue of availability, its consequences and interdiction of drug trafficking by law enforcement agencies, reports inbusiness.kz.

What mephedrone leads to

Askar Habidulin (name and surname changed at request) is a successful young man of 32. He is building a career in commercial business in a major company in the country, he gives all his efforts to his work, he is not married. At one of his meetings with acquaintances in a club, he tried the synthetic drug mephedrone for the sake of interest and could not stop afterwards.

«I thought it was safe. So, for fun, I tried a colored pill. I immediately felt a surge of strength, energy and vigor. I had not felt such emotions for a long time, then I tried it a couple more times and got hooked - I wanted more,» the man said.

He is currently undergoing a rehabilitation course, and after prolonged use of mephedrone, he began to experience serious health problems. Instead of the initial burst of energy, he began to experience the opposite emotions - disillusionment with life and a desire to leave it, plus his body was damaged. In particular, drug use affected kidneys, heart and blood vessels. It also affected the immune system, sexual dysfunction and nervous exhaustion of the body. But the man managed to get out of the vicious circle in time. Unfortunately, there are those who did not manage to do so.

Askar said that many people use this drug and can not do without it in everyday life. Young girls often get hooked, looking for a fun and carefree life. In the end, they end up with promiscuous sex life (this is how the drug works), and they go downhill with associated diseases.

Drugs are distributed via the Internet, mainly through Telegram channels. Askar does not know from whom exactly he received mephedrone. Guys found it in a specified place and at a specified time. The cost of one gram - from 15 thousand to 20 thousand tenge. Mephedrone can look different from the outside - powdered, in a bag or in tablet form. Therefore, price also depends on the outer shell - the more convenient and pleasant it looks, the more expensive it is. Askar spent more than 100,000 tenge monthly from his salary on this type of drug. Some people spend significantly more than this amount.

Rehabilitation course is six months. In total, about five courses are needed to finally get rid of drug addiction. On average, a month of rehabilitation in specialized clinics costs more than 400 thousand tenge. Therefore, the «foolishness» of a drug addict costs a lot of money for relatives.

Consequences of mephedrone are deplorable and irreversible. You will have to be treated for the rest of your life. As health experts say, after 2-3 months, the harm of mephedrone becomes obvious. The drug affects not only the body, but also mental state of a person. Leads to serious social problems, provokes a gradual degradation of personality. Often leads to schizophrenia.

Maximum load during mephedrone use falls on kidneys. More than 90% of the drug is excreted within a few days in unchanged form. This provokes kidney cell death and, as a consequence, development of renal failure. Regular use of mephedrone causes tachycardia (rapid heartbeat) and blood pressure fluctuations. These are frequent causes of myocardial infarction and hypertensive crisis.

When addicted to mephedrone, there is a depletion of the entire body. All internal organs, including liver, kidneys and lungs, are worn out. Resistance to various diseases decreases. The risk of HIV and viral hepatitis increases. Also, if in the first 1-2 months of use mephedrone promotes sexual desire and sexual liberation (looseness), then later it reduces potency and disrupts the process of ejaculation.

The first fatality associated with mephedrone use has been reported in Sweden. A young man died due to acute hyponatremia and cerebral edema. By 2020, more than 790 deaths from mephedrone addiction have been recorded in neighboring Russia.

Psychiatric consequences include: the mentioned schizophrenia, panic attacks, increased anxiety, nervous exhaustion of the body, visual hallucinations, and acute psychosis. As reported in the Ministry of Health as of 1 July 2023, there are 18,248 citizens of Kazakhstan on the narcological register. 87 persons died as a result of drug overdose in 2022.

Is it easy to get mephedrone

Inbusiness.kz tried to find mephedrone through a Telegram channel... and it was easy. A certain sales manager did not suspect anything and immediately opened up, revealing all the background. But there are a lot of such channels, and how many souls have been ruined behind them, one can not count. This channel does not

publish anything, but has more than 2.5K subscribers and refers to sales manager. This is what seemed strange to the correspondent.

The inbusiness.kz correspondent tried to get in touch, although she did not know exactly what goods would be offered. After a mutual greeting, the manager offered (it is not known whether it was a man or a woman) a range of products. The author cautiously asked about mephedrone. After some pause, the other side replied that «meph» was in stock. The sales manager was persistent. They agreed to buy 1 gram of mephedrone at a cost of 19.6 thousand tenge, as evidenced by communication.

As it was discovered, drug distributors do not care about age - whether a person is an adult or not. After all, even teenagers have banking applications today. As we have seen from our own experience, it is not difficult to buy drugs. The age of drug addicts is «getting younger», they are teenagers from 13 to 18 years old. According to open sources, about 100 thousand people in Kazakhstan are registered with the diagnosis of «mental behavior disorders due to the use of psychoactive substances».

Among Telegram channels, the author found a diary of a drug addict, in which he tells about his anxieties and bitter experience of drug use. Here are just a few lines.

«It all started back in 2019, when at a party I was offered to try mephedrone. Before that I had only indulged in weed, and, in fact, my drug experience was over at that point. Just 1 dose made my life what I have now and what I can tell you about. My friends equaled the experience as a pleasant one. For me it was agony, pain and tears from which I dream to protect people, I do not believe in sensible consumption, in the diary I will try to convince you of this. Talking about «light» drugs always fails to adequately assess its harm. It's like nicotine, which slowly destroys your nervous system and organs. That alone kills your imagination and willpower, of course, very slowly but surely.... First pipe, first bump, first misunderstanding of the effect. How could I have thought then that I could love this incomprehensible fun so much? Drugs took on a role in my life, not a dominant one, but an important one for the next six years...» - he writes.

What work is being done by law enforcement agencies

As the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan reported to inbusiness.kz, synthetic drugs, including mephedrone, are becoming widespread these days. This is due to the simplicity of production and availability of raw materials. Synthetic drugs are produced from legal chemicals that are used in industry.

During the past period of 2023, police dismantled 28 drug laboratories in the country. More than 180 kg of «synthetics», including mephedrone, were seized. The average price for one gram of mephedrone is about twenty thousand tenge. A single dose of mephedrone is approximately 0.2 grams.

«A lot of legislative work has been carried out to successfully counter drug crime. A number of amendments to counternarcotics legislation have been adopted, increasing liability for participation in drug sales, for advertising or propaganda of drugs. Since 2019, lists of controlled substances have been supplemented 4 times, and 118 new types of drugs, as well as precursors used for production of synthetic drugs, have been introduced under the control of the state,» - said the press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Criminal Code has been supplemented with new offenses related to the use of information and communication systems. Inducement to use and sale of drugs via the Internet are categorized as grave and especially grave crimes, respectively.

Drug distributors are finding more and more sophisticated ways of doing this. For example, a new crime of advertising and propaganda of drugs has been introduced today, under which distributors of «graffiti drawings» and other information about drug trafficking fall. For example, last year in Almaty, artists were detained for spraying graffiti drawings in public places with names of websites where drugs could be purchased.

In 2021, «synthetics» is equated to heavy types of substances, criminal liability for possession of which without the purpose of sale starts from 1 gram (previously from 50 g). Liability for illegal manufacturing, processing, acquisition, storage, transportation for the purpose of sale, forwarding or sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues (Article 297 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan) provides for five to twenty years or life imprisonment, with confiscation of property.

This year, tramadol, an opium analgesic that has become the cause of drug addiction for millions of people around

the world, has been incorporated into the list of drugs. Criminal liability for its possession, transportation, sale or purchase begins with 2 tablets, which is 0.1 grams of the active substance. The especially large size is 10 grams of the substance, said the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Every year up to 3,000 drug crimes are detected, 60% of which are drug sales. 15-20 tons of drugs are seized. Of these, more than 95% are cannabis group drugs, about 5% are synthetic drugs, and less than 1% are opium, heroin and other types of substances.

At present, the following main types of drugs consumed can be distinguished:

opiates, including those transiting from Afghanistan through the territory of the country along the so-called Northern route through Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries;

synthetic drugs, production of which has become widespread in the territory of the country;

growing (Shu) and cultivated cannabis (in Kyzylorda, partly Turkestan, Aktobe and Ulytau regions) and its derivatives;

medicines containing psychoactive drugs, so-called pharmacy drugs.

Today, Parliament is reviewing a draft law that would also stiffen liability for trafficking in potent substances. This is, first and foremost, the so-called laughing gas, which is now actively sold in nightclubs.

In pursuance of pre-election platform of the Head of State «Fair Kazakhstan - for all and for everyone. Now and Forever», the Comprehensive Plan to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking for 2023-2025 was approved.

The plan envisions measures aimed at improving regulatory legal framework for combating drug crime; system for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts; technical equipment for forensic examination bodies; procurement of modern hardware and software equipment for detecting crimes in cyberspace; equipping special units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with drones; and reinforcing state border with inspection equipment.

A large block of measures is planned in the field of drug prevention and international cooperation in counternarcotics. Internal affairs bodies annually carry out about 7 thousand different preventive measures in order to form public drug immunity, half of them in cooperation with health care and education, summarized in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

<https://inbusiness.kz/ru/news/eksperiment-naskolko-dostupen-mefedron-v-kazahstane>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



OFFICERS OF THE DRUG CONTROL DEPARTMENT OF THE ORENBURG REGION HELD A COUNTER-NARCOTIC PREVENTIVE EVENT THIS WEEK



Together with the Orenburg regional polyethnic library, drug control officers visited the Harmony social rehabilitation center for minors. The center provides temporary shelter for orphans and children without parental care, neglected minors in difficult life situations, and also conducts social work with them and provides consultative assistance (including by phone, e-mail, webcam and other means).

Employees of the poly-ethnic library organized a «visiting library» for children, where they introduced children to books about the harm of drugs, alcohol, tobacco smoking and other psychoactive substances. The librarians urged young people to rely on an active life position, live communication with peers, choose life, take care of their health, lead a healthy lifestyle and learn to resist difficulties in difficult life situations.

Drug control officers held a quiz, with the help of which they modeled situations where teenagers may encounter drugs in everyday life and explored options together with the kids how not to get into them, and what to do if one can't avoid it. They also showed a short movie about consequences of involvement in drug trafficking.

Umyonushkin Igor Aleksandrovich - senior operative of the 6th section of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Orenburg region - talked about types of responsibility, penalties for involvement in drug trafficking, introduced «hotlines» and told interesting situations from his experience. Children listened with great interest, asked many questions and at the end of the meeting they hugged employees and thanked them for information they had received.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/40433057>



POLICE OFFICERS HELD COUNTERNARCOTIC EVENTS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN SAMARA REGION



In the Samara region police officers regularly conduct counternarcotic talks with young people.

For example, officers of the regional Drug Control Department together with a specialist from the Samara Regional Center for Public Health and Medical Prevention met with adolescents vacationing in the children's recreation centers «Zarya» and «Argo». During the event, children were told about the harm of using narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, discussed the consequences of drug addiction, and were informed about criminal and administrative responsibility for offenses and crimes in the sphere of illicit drug trafficking.

At the end of the event teenagers were shown a documentary film «Drug Addict», prepared by the office of the Anti-Drug Commission of the Samara region together with the Department of Information Policy of the Samara region Governor's Administration with participation of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Samara region, concerned departments and organizations..

Organizers of the event underlined that consequences of taking alcohol and drugs at a young age may require medical intervention and may even be fatal. The children's attention was drawn to the fact that addictions do not make teenagers more mature. They have a negative impact on communication with friends, family and relatives, on how their lives will turn out in the future.

At the end of the conversations police reminded about the rules of safe rest and behavior in public places, about curfew for minors, and also urged schoolchildren to lead a healthy lifestyle, confidently pursue their goals, self-improvement and actively express their anti-drug position.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/40452915>



POLICE OFFICERS AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS HELD A PREVENTIVE EVENT ON THE HARM OF DRUGS WITH JUVENILE INMATES IN NOVOSIBIRSK



As part of the sports contest among juvenile inmates, employees of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Novosibirsk Region, in cooperation with Andrei Funtikov, a member of the Public Council of the Main Department and head of the department of the Juventus Reproductive Health Center, visited the Novosibirsk Educational Colony of the Main Department of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for the Novosibirsk Region. During the visit, a talk was given to the inmates of the colony about the harm of psychoactive substances, harmful effects on the body, and stages

of drug addiction. They also talked about criminal and administrative responsibility of minors for use and distribution of narcotic drugs.

During the meeting Andrey Funtikov drew attention to the causes of drug addiction, provided information about forming mental and physical drug addiction from the medical point of view. He noted risk factors and the impact of psychoactive substances on internal organs, emphasized that there is no such thing as «light» drugs, and also spoke about lethal harm, gave examples of external behavioral signs of an addicted person.

Andrey Funtikov also drew attention to the fact that consumption of electronic cigarettes, nicotine-containing products and beer-based drinks is now widespread among teenagers. The doctor emphasized the substances included in nicotine-containing mixtures, cartridges for vape, energy and beer drinks, spoke about their negative impact on all human organs and systems, gave examples from medical practice, proving the harmful effect of such substances on the body.

Employees of Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Novosibirsk region informed the minors about legal responsibility for participation in illegal possession, consumption, sale and promotion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in accordance with administrative and criminal legislation of the Russian Federation. They drew the listeners' attention to the fact that nowadays the Internet is used as one of the ways of involving teenagers in drug trafficking and their initiation into it, and explained the algorithm of actions in case of receiving such offers.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/40775025>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN



PRESS CONFERENCE ON RESULTS OF PERFORMANCE OF THE DRUG CONTROL AGENCY UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2023



On 2 August 2023, a press conference was held in the premises of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Starting the press conference, the Director of the Agency, Major General of Justice Habibullo Vokhidzoda, presented information on ensuring timely implementation of orders and instructions of the Founder of Peace and National Unity - Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Honorable Emomali Rahmon, on implementation of state policy in drug control and prevention of drug abuse, as

well as on implementation of a number of works in the first half of 2023.

In his speech, the Director of the Agency noted that in the first half of 2023 the Agency seized 366 kg 785 g (2022 - 251 kg 829 g) of drugs, an increase of 114 kg 956 g or 45.6 percent compared to the same period in 2022. It should be noted that drug seizures increased, with opium seized 50.3 percent more, hashish 15 percent more, cannabis 51 times more, powdered psychotropic substances 4.4 times more, and tablets of synthetic psychotropic substances 2.8 times more.

During this period, the Agency detected 69 drug crimes (82 in 2022), a decrease of 15.9 percent (13 crimes) from the same period in 2022.

Agency investigators took 122 (2022 - 155) criminal cases and opened 81 criminal cases (2022 - 111).

Of these, 42 criminal cases (60 cases in 2022) against 66 persons (87 cases in 2022) were submitted to courts, in this regard, property of criminals was seized in the amount of 309.3 thousand TJS..

In the first half of the current year officers of the Agency detected 143 (in 2022 - 161) cases of administrative offenses, on which 151 persons were brought to administrative responsibility.

At the same time, activities of 24 criminal groups (26 in 2022) with a total number of 47 persons (2022 - 47), as well as 1 organized criminal group were detected and stopped.

During this period, 7 wanted persons were apprehended, which is 2 more than in the same period last year.

Analysis shows that in the first half of 2023, 2 tons 476 kg 967 g of drugs were seized in the country, which compared to the same period of 2022 (2 tons 578 kg 145 g) is less by 4 percent or 101 kg 178 g. Of this amount, the Ministry of Internal Affairs seized 1 tons 322 kg 25 g (2022. - 1 t 8 kg 515 g), the GKNB (together with the Border Service) 782 kg 686 g (2022 - 1 t 289 kg 588 g), the State Financial Control and Anti-Corruption Agency 5 kg 434 g (2022 - 4 kg 447 g), and the Customs Service 37 g (2022 - 23 kg 766 g).

According to statistical data, in the first half of 2023 a total of 11,612 (2022 - 12,482) criminal offenses were registered by the country's law enforcement agencies and law enforcement structures. Of this number, 391 (2022 - 384) crimes are drug-related, which is 7 crimes or 1.8% more than in the same period last year.

Thus, in the total number of crimes registered in the republic, the share of drug offenses is 3.4 percent.

In order to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent drug abuse and reduce its level, the Agency in cooperation with

the country's relevant ministries and departments and executive government bodies, organizes and conducts meetings and conferences, training seminars, round tables, cultural events and sports competitions among various segments of the country's population.

Through the country's mass media - TV channels, radio, articles and reports in the periodical press, events were organized and information about their results was posted on the Agency's website, and subsequently also used by other news websites.

According to official statistics, in the first half of 2023 4183 drug addicts were registered in the republic, which is 254 people or 5.7% less compared to the same period of 2022 (4437 people).

Of the total number of drug addicts, 103 (2022 - 100) are women, an increase of 3 compared to the same period last year.

Currently, there are 41.8 drug addicts per 100,000 population in Tajikistan.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2023/08/02/press-conference-on-the-results-of-the-activities-of-the-drug-control-agency-under-the-president-of-the-republic-of-tajikistan-in-the-first-half-of-2023/>



TURKMENISTAN

**CUSTOMS OFFICERS OF TURKMENISTAN AND AZERBAIJAN PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING ON CONTAINER CONTROL**

Members of the Port Control Units of Turkmenbashi International Seaport (Turkmenistan) and Alyat International Seaport (Azerbaijan) participated in a joint practical training on container control.

According to the website of the Customs Service of Turkmenistan, the training was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Central Asia as part of the Global Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization.

The 5-day event was aimed at enhancing knowledge and expertise of Port Control Unit

members to minimize risk of maritime shipping being used for trafficking in various illicit goods and other organized criminal activities.

Experts of the World Customs Organization served as mentors. The first two days of the training were held on the Turkmen side, and then - in the seaport of Alyat in Baku.

During practical training, participants exchanged experience, jointly analyzed shipping documents and cargo inspection, and profiled passenger lists on the Turkmenbashi-Alyat routes and back, the source said.

<https://turkmenportal.com/blog/65401/tamozhenniki-turkmenistana-i-azerbaidzhana-prinyali-uchastie-v-treninge-po-kontrolyu-konteynernyh-perevozok>

VIETNAM

Nhân DânCƠ QUAN TRUNG ƯƠNG CỦA ĐẢNG CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM
TIẾNG NÓI CỦA ĐẢNG, NHÀ NƯỚC VÀ NHÂN DÂN VIỆT NAM

8TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DRUG MATTERS



The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD 8) was held in Vientiane on 11 August. The meeting was attended by a Vietnamese delegation led by Lieutenant General Nguyen Zuy Ngoc, Deputy Minister of Public Security.

At the meeting participants reaffirmed the AMMD's strong commitment to strengthen close, comprehensive and effective strategic coordination role of ASEAN to build a drug-free ASEAN based on respect for law and human

rights, and to maintain full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of ASEAN member countries.

Participants also reiterated the ASEAN position on combating legalization and illicit production of drugs for purposes other than medical or scientific purposes.

Addressing the meeting, Lieutenant General Nguyen Zuy Ngoc said the Vietnamese Government is committed to continuing close coordination and sharing common responsibility with ASEAN member countries in drug prevention and control, and expressed his desire that countries and international organizations continue to support Vietnam in successfully carrying out this work, contributing to building a prosperous region, striving for a drug-free ASEAN.

The meeting was concluded with a press conference on results of the event.

<https://ru.nhandan.vn/sostojalos-e-soveschanie-ministrov-asean-po-voprosam-bor-bi-s-narkotikami-post41023.html>



**CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL INFORMATION AND COORDINATION
CENTRE FOR COMBATING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS,
PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR PRECURSORS**

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