

10 December 2010

English only

## Report of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 30 November to 3 December 2010

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## **I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention**

### **Recommendations adopted by the Thirty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

1. The Thirty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific, made the recommendations set forth below, which were prepared by its working groups. The observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations are presented in section V below.

#### **Issue 1. Challenges to effective drug law enforcement**

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the issue entitled “Challenges to effective drug law enforcement”:

(a) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies have established and promulgated procedures to follow in response to threats received against officers performing their drug enforcement duties;

(b) Governments must take steps to support their drug law enforcement agencies in developing close operational ties, for example, through the exchange of information on the identification and movement of known traffickers, the undertaking of combined counter-narcotic operations on shared land and river borders, and joint training exercises that foster closer cooperation;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to introduce practices that support regular updates for prosecutors and judges on new anti-narcotics laws, changes to existing drug legislation and important court rulings on existing law that have an impact on law enforcement operations.

#### **Issue 2. Amphetamine-type stimulants: taking effective measures against synthetic drugs**

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the issue entitled “Amphetamine-type stimulants: taking effective measures against synthetic drugs”:

(a) In response to the increasing flow of methamphetamine being trafficked into the region by Iranian nationals, Governments of the region should encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to establish operational contacts with their counterparts in the Islamic Republic of Iran and work closely with them to exchange information about those involved in the trafficking of methamphetamine, the methods they have used and other relevant information that would lead to closer operational cooperation to target, arrest and dismantle the syndicates responsible;

(b) Governments should take steps to further strengthen mechanisms for the timely identification, collection and exchange of information on non-scheduled substances, including derivatives specifically designed to circumvent existing controls, especially by making use of the updated limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances;

(c) Regulatory authorities and law enforcement agencies responsible for the control of preparations containing precursor chemicals such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine should be supported by their Governments to engage the cooperation of the relevant manufacturing industries in a proactive strategy of cooperation to prevent their illegal diversion to illicit drug manufacture;

(d) Governments should provide information to other Member States on effective countermeasures taken by them to control substances under the international drug control conventions in order to ensure that measures better address emerging trends in synthetic drug abuse, control such substances and prevent their trafficking and diversion.

### **Issue 3. Developing effective regional responses to illicit drug trafficking**

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to the issue entitled “Developing effective regional responses to illicit drug trafficking”:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments should take steps to establish effective financial and regulatory controls over banks and non-bank financial institutions so as to discourage their use for money-laundering, and thus to preserve the integrity, stability and reliability of their financial trade systems;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to establish an inter-agency response for container control at national ports and container terminals through the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the review, selection and search of identified containers of interest;

(c) In order to better identify containers used for the carriage of illicit drugs and precursors, Governments of the region should take steps to ensure the exchange of information between authorities on risk indicators, smuggling modus operandi and emerging trends in illicit drug trafficking.

## **II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures**

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 30 November 2010, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures”. For the consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the paper prepared by the secretariat entitled “Statistics on drug trafficking trends in East, South-East and South Asia, Oceania and worldwide” (UNODC/HONLAP/34/2). In addition, country reports were submitted by Brunei Darussalam (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.10), Cambodia (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.3), China (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.8), Fiji (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.6), Hong Kong, China (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.11), India (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.14), Indonesia (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.19), Japan (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.16), Malaysia (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.18), Maldives (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.13), Philippines (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.4), Republic of Korea (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.12), Singapore (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.5), Sri Lanka (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.7), Thailand (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.17), Turkey (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.9) and Viet Nam (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.21).

6. A representative of the United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audio-visual presentation providing an overview of trends in illicit drug production and their trafficking in the region and worldwide. Another representative of UNODC made an audio-visual presentation on regional trends in amphetamine-type stimulants and other drugs based on the Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends Programme. UNODC also provided information about the 2010 Afghan Opium Survey and other UNODC activities in Afghanistan. The presentations were based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. The representatives of Afghanistan, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Turkey made statements and audio-visual presentations.

7. Emerging trends of concern that were identified included wider demand for amphetamine-type stimulants and evidence of increasing manufacturing of such stimulants in the region. Ketamine abuse and trafficking also continued to be a source of concern. The networks formed by trafficking groups needed to be countered by a network of cooperation among law enforcement authorities in the region. The treatment and rehabilitation of drug users was an area requiring priority attention, especially in relation to amphetamine-type stimulants, and could be supported by greater information exchange between countries about effective approaches. Drug injection continued to be a significant cause of the spread of HIV in the region. One representative noted that transnational organized criminal groups and terrorist activities were financed by the profits from drug trafficking in the region.

8. Representatives reported that illicit drugs were being smuggled by sea, air and postal services, as well as along land routes. In particular, smuggling by air had increased dramatically. The benefits of sharing intelligence through drug liaison officers and close cooperation between law enforcement authorities in undertaking joint operations and investigations were emphasized. Several speakers shared information on trafficking cases that had led to large seizures and on methods used to counter trafficking networks. It was also noted that, while coordinated law enforcement in the region had brought good results in combating drug trafficking, more cooperation was needed in areas such as information-sharing and capacity-building.

9. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, measures to dismantle methamphetamine trafficking networks included controlling exit points and airports by installing body scanners and using drug-sniffer dogs. Intelligence-based operations were being initiated against international smugglers of amphetamine-type stimulants and to target and dismantle the producing kitchen labs. Intelligence exchanges were being undertaken with law enforcement agencies in other countries, and diplomatic measures were being taken to start such cooperation where it was not already in place. The representatives noted that the large profit margin involved in arbitrage between the per kilo value of "Ice" in the Islamic Republic of Iran (approximately \$50,000) and Malaysia (approximately \$80,000) was a significant contributing factor to the trafficking of the product between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South-East Asia. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also noted that that country was being used to trans-ship amphetamine-type stimulants from Western Europe to South-East Asia.

10. The representative of Japan reported on several recent cases that had led to significant seizures and on the third Japanese Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy. A drug abuse prevention strategy acceleration plan had been launched in July 2010. The representative noted that there had been changes in the source countries of smuggled methamphetamine; they now included the United States of America and countries in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, in addition to the Asia-Pacific region. Japan had undertaken a regional cooperation project on capacity-building in drug analysis for improving drug enforcement capabilities with partner countries in the region.

11. The representative of Afghanistan reported on opium poppy cultivation in his country. While, overall, poppy cultivation was the same as in 2009, actual production had been halved as a result of blight. Although 4 provinces had almost no cultivation and 20 provinces remained effectively poppy free, 98 per cent of cultivation was in the 9 southern provinces, where a strong link remained between opium poppy cultivation and insecurity. Regional and international cooperation was of vital importance in countering the drug threat in Afghanistan, especially the Triangular Initiative between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, the Dubai Process for ports and border support between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre. The Tactical Operational Centre of the recently created Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan functioned as a joint international and operations centre. High levels of precursor importation and a high global demand for opium poppy, combined with insecurity in some provinces, continued to exacerbate the drug problem in Afghanistan. Afghanistan sought support from countries in the region to increase joint border protection on the main trafficking routes in addition to better information-sharing and greater use of controlled deliveries and other forms of law enforcement cooperation.

12. The representative of the Russian Federation reported that his country was advancing a seven-point plan known as Rainbow 2 to combat the drug threat emanating from Afghanistan. Rainbow 2 was based on the premise that the United Nations and its specialized drug control agencies should be fully utilized, as should global and regional organizations such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, both of which played a leading role in the plan. The Strategy for the Implementation of the National Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation up to 2020 was presented to the Meeting.

### **III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, and relevant recommendations of the Thirty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 November 2010, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia

and the Pacific, and relevant recommendations of the Thirty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific". The Meeting had before it a report prepared by the secretariat on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/34/3). The report reflected the replies received from Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Myanmar, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Shortly before or during the course of the Meeting, completed questionnaires were received from India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. The Meeting also had before it three notes by the secretariat: the outcome of the expert group meeting on safe and environmentally responsible disposal of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.1), follow-up to recommendations adopted by the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, on the operations of West African drug smuggling syndicates (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.15) and an example of standard operating procedures to support controlled delivery (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.20).

14. Representatives of the secretariat introduced the item. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Indonesia and Thailand.

15. In compliance with recommendations for follow-up to the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, the meetings described below had been held:

- (a) (i) The recommendations made by the Thirty-third Meeting with regard to the issue entitled "Illicit drug trafficking: emerging trends across the region" included the following: to support the appropriate action needed to tackle the threat posed by West African syndicates, Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities, in close cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) liaison office in Bangkok, to create a technical working group to act as a repository of expert knowledge on the operations of West African syndicates. Accordingly, a regional seminar on cooperation against West African syndicate operations was held in Bangkok from 9 to 11 November 2010, organized by UNODC and supported by the Australian Federal Police and INTERPOL. The seminar recommended that a technical working group be formed in relation to West African organized crime and proposed that UNODC coordinate it. The proposed working group would focus on coordination and cooperation among Member States in the areas of investigation training, including language courses, public awareness and media campaigns, and timely information- and intelligence-sharing. The seminar also recommended that such a working group should help to enhance, inter alia, coordination among Member States by reviewing the existing databases in the region with a view to avoiding duplication and that capacity-building in the areas of forensics, hardware, software and joint operational activities should be considered. The seminar recommended that senior law enforcement agency officials should be key members of the working group. It also recommended that UNODC should facilitate the exploration of funding sources to support the activities of the working group;

(ii) The representatives of Indonesia and Thailand suggested that the proposed technical working group should consider the activities of other transnational organized criminal groups, in addition to those from West Africa. It was also suggested that efforts should be made to enhance cooperation with law enforcement agencies in West Africa in order to take more effective action against the threat from such criminal groups. The secretariat provided information about the possibility of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, involving relevant authorities from HONLEA, Africa, in one of its meetings, should appropriate funding for the travel of participants from Africa and a hosted venue become available;

(b) (i) The recommendations made by the Thirty-third Meeting with regard to the issue entitled “Illicit drug trafficking: emerging trends across the region” included the following: a group of experts should be established to agree upon a standard operating procedure template to support controlled delivery operations for the Asia-Pacific countries, which could be presented at the next meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific;

(ii) Australia reported on consultations that had taken place since the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, in connection with the possibility of developing standard operating procedures to support controlled delivery operations in the region. It was noted that any regionally acceptable set of standard operating procedures for such operations would need to be accompanied by information on national points of contact and legal requirements for controlled deliveries. The Australian Federal Police were seeking advice through their international network on the extent to which countries in the region would be able to provide such information in support of a consolidated regional handbook on controlled deliveries. It was observed that national legislation, policies and procedures would need to be more fully assessed before final recommendations could be made to HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, as to whether a group of experts should be formed to prepare a standard operating procedure template for controlled deliveries. However, the representative from Australia noted that countries in the region had expressed support for providing contact details for relevant competent authorities for inclusion in a regional handbook. Furthermore, a number of countries in the region had prepared standard operating procedures and legislation in this area that could be shared with others. For example, the standard operating procedures introduced by Indonesia were welcomed as a useful template for controlled deliveries between countries, with appropriate amendments. The Australian Federal Police would seek to identify the national points of contact, legislative requirements and any other special requirements of jurisdictions in the region for inclusion in a regional handbook. Further consideration would need to be given to how such a regional handbook could be maintained;

(c) (i) The recommendations made by the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, with regard to the issue entitled “Measures to counter the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants in the region” included the recommendation that Governments of the region should form a small working group to review the matter and make recommendations on responses to the anticipated increase in clandestine laboratory seizures and on how to deal with the drugs and precursors seized in such situations. The



assessment should (a) determine the extent of the problem and (b) explore the most cost-effective options available to countries to address it. The working group could make recommendations based on the United Nations guidelines;

(ii) The secretariat reported on the outcome of the expert group meeting on safe and environmentally responsible disposal of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs organized by the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section and Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 20 to 22 September 2010. The outcome of that meeting, including recommendations, was contained in UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.1. The expert group made recommendations to aid Member States in the management of issues created by disposal of chemicals. Recognizing the widespread problems encountered by Member States arising from the increase in clandestine laboratory seizures and suspicious bulk chemical transactions and the subsequent need for safe disposal of seized drugs and chemicals, the group recommended that a regional resource centre be established for building capacity in the dismantling of clandestine laboratories and in the handling of hazardous materials. That centre should have basic but essential equipment and the capacity for the operation and maintenance of such equipment. In addition, the Group recommended that a technical expert support group be established to provide technical services, advice and other support to Member States. The group also made revisions to the UNODC Guidelines for the Safe Handling and Disposal of Chemicals used in the Illicit Manufacture of Drugs. When completed, the Guidelines should serve as a manual suitable for use by countries and provide guidance on all issues associated with chemical disposal.

#### **IV. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

16. At its 7th meeting, on 3 December 2010, the 34th Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A). The Secretary of the Meeting introduced the item.

#### **V. Consideration of topics by working groups**

17. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 December 2010, the Meeting established working groups to examine the three issues under agenda item 6, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups". The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached after consideration of the issues are presented below. The recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Meeting are presented in section I above.

**Issue 1. Challenges to effective drug law enforcement**

18. The working group on the above topic met during the 3rd and 4th meetings, held on 1 December 2010. In its consideration of the issue, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) Officers must be properly trained and suitably equipped to work in dangerous and volatile environments where traffickers are heavily armed and prepared to attack government forces charged with law enforcement;

(b) Insurgency and insecurity are closely linked to illicit drug manufacture and trafficking in a number of countries across the region, seriously challenging the ability of law enforcement agencies to combat their activities;

(c) Staff who are professionally trained and are supported in the performance of their duties are a law enforcement agency's best asset;

(d) Law enforcement agencies should have policies and procedures in place to support staff who come under threat in the performance of their official duties;

(e) It is important that the judiciary be familiar with the legislation and practical application of special investigative techniques used by drug law enforcement agencies, such as the undertaking of controlled deliveries, the professional use of informants and the gathering of electronic evidence;

(f) Cannabis continues to be a popular illicit drug among young people across the region.

19. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Law enforcement agencies should take rigorous steps to ensure the safety and professional well-being of their officers;

(b) Any threat against a drug law enforcement officer performing his or her official duties should be treated as a high priority for investigation by the officer's employer;

(c) Agency guidelines offering officers appropriate and practical guidance on how to respond to threats they may receive in the performance of their duties are essential to minimizing the professional risks that staff face;

(d) In a region that encompasses so many countries sharing common borders, law enforcement agencies must work together to combat the cross-border activities of traffickers;

(e) The developing trend towards indoor commercial cultivation of high-THC cannabis, with its associated health and addiction problems, is of increasing concern.

**Issue 2. Amphetamine-type stimulants: taking effective measures against synthetic drugs**

20. The working group on the above topic met during the 5th and 6th meetings, held on 2 December 2010. In its consideration of the issue, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) Pharmaceutical medicines, particularly those containing pseudoephedrine, commonly used to treat cold and flu symptoms, are being seized in increasing quantities as a result of attempts to illegally divert them to methamphetamine production;

(b) Pseudoephedrine is often diverted to illicit drug manufacture straight from the manufacturer or after being declared for export or trans-shipment;

(c) The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system has proved to be a very effective mechanism for verifying the legitimacy of the parties involved in international transactions of precursor chemicals;

(d) Using shell companies to disguise their true identities, new centres for the diversion of precursor chemicals legitimately sourced from China, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and other primary chemical manufacturing countries are being established in Albania, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Authorities approving clearances for controlled chemicals destined for that region are encouraged to use PEN Online to verify the identity of the parties involved;

(e) Well-organized syndicates trafficking ketamine appear to be operating across the region;

(f) Over the past 12 months a number of airports across the region have reported a notable increase in the number of Iranian nationals intercepted attempting to smuggle methamphetamine that they have concealed within their luggage, strapped to their bodies or ingested;

(g) Comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction policies and programmes offering prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration should be encouraged and supported.

21. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The effectiveness of the PEN Online verification procedure can fail when requests for information are not responded to quickly;

(b) Traffickers are unpacking pseudoephedrine tablets from their original wrapping so as to conceal their nature and make it more difficult for authorities to source the manufacturing origins of the seized consignments;

(c) Having ready access to the INCB surveillance list of commonly diverted chemicals not subject to international control would greatly assist national authorities in identifying substances that should be subject to periodic review and monitoring;

(d) The sustained abuse of ketamine across the region may be in part because of a mistaken belief that the substance is not harmful;

(e) Closer cooperation between authorities in the speedy exchange of information arising from the interception of methamphetamine couriers at the region's airports, such as names, passport details, modus operandi and information gained from interviews, would support better targeting of suspected couriers at their point of embarkation and before their departure;

(f) Law enforcement agencies have an important role to play in national demand reduction strategies, contributing their professional skills and experience to a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenge of reducing illicit drug use.

### **Issue 3. Developing effective regional responses to illicit drug trafficking**

22. The working group on the above topic met during the 4th meeting, held on 1 December 2010. In its consideration of the topic, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) The laundering of money derived from drug trafficking is a serious problem that undermines the stability of financial institutions and weakens governance;

(b) Financial intelligence authorities need the widest range of mutual legal assistance in undertaking investigations into money-laundering and related offences;

(c) The volume of international trade using sea containers continues to grow, challenging the ability of individual law enforcement authorities to effectively manage the flow of goods through their principal border entry and exit points;

(d) Criminal groups and trafficking networks are becoming more sophisticated and more internationally connected and are increasingly using the vehicles of international trade, such as sea freight containers, to carry out their illegal activities;

(e) There is a growing trend of trafficking groups manufacturing their own duplicate container seal numbers and contaminating legitimate sea container cargoes with illicit drugs that are extracted in a "rip-off" operation at the port of destination;

(f) Multi-agency law enforcement units operating at container ports and terminals are an effective use of Government resources;

(g) The UNODC Container Control Programme offers participating ports access to training and software to support modern techniques of risk assessment, targeting and profiling; training in search techniques and equipment to support searches; assistance in establishing partnerships with commercial operators; and access to secure communications that enable participating authorities to exchange information about containers, companies and vessels of interest.

23. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) It is important that non-bank financial institutions operating across the region be properly regulated and subject to strict and accurate financial record keeping;

(b) While a single agency response to border management and customs operations has been effective in the past for enforcing the border regulations of other agencies and collecting revenues from inbound and outbound trade flows, changing world trade patterns, increasing freight volumes and the growing

sophistication of transnational criminal groups now call for a collective agency response to border control;

(c) Supporting the establishment of an inter-agency approach to managing the import, export and trans-shipment of containerized freight encourages closer cooperation between law enforcement authorities at key national border points, focuses more professional resources on border management and enhances the reach and effectiveness of national legislation to combat illicit drug trafficking and transnational crime;

(d) There is a need for law enforcement authorities tasked with selecting containers for official examination to build up their information resources through the establishment of databases on illicit trafficking trends and information from seizure reports, the records of import and export companies, individuals of interest and current smuggling modus operandi so as to be better placed to quantify risk and better select containers to search.

## **VI. Organization of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

24. At its 7th meeting, on 3 December 2010, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the note by the Secretariat “Organization of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of Heads of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific” (UNODC/HONLAP/34/4) and the conference room paper on the standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.2). During the consideration of the item, statements were made by the representatives of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia and Malaysia. A statement was made by the observer for Germany.

25. It was proposed that the Meeting should consider the following topics for discussion by future working groups:

(a) Precursor chemicals: best practices in precursor control, including developing chemical industry partnerships; identifying essential chemicals used in clandestine laboratory operations and related procedures and safety measures associated with their dismantling; and keeping informed about new chemicals that are not subject to international control but are being diverted for illicit drug manufacture;

(b) West African trafficking groups: reducing the impact of West African drug trafficking syndicates operating across the region and establishing operational contacts with West African law enforcement agencies to dismantle trafficking groups;

(c) Cocaine: how to meet the challenge of the increasing cocaine smuggling into the region by sea, land and air transport;

(d) Mutual legal assistance and evidence-gathering: ways to support closer information exchange between jurisdictions; how to facilitate requests for assistance

through cross-jurisdictional enquiries; securing evidence from foreign jurisdictions; and electronic evidence-gathering (good practices, procedures and court presentations);

(e) Money-laundering: successfully investigating the means, mechanisms and practices of institutions and individuals engaged in laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking.

26. The secretariat suggested that at the Thirty-fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, the working group format could include smaller working groups that could report back to plenary, as that could foster more interactive discussion among participants.

27. No offer to host the Thirty-fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was made at the Thirty-fourth Meeting. The secretariat would be in contact with the Bureau and interested member States with a view to identifying hosts for the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Meetings.

28. The Meeting approved the following provisional agenda for the Thirty-fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups.
7. Organization of the Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

## **VII. Other business**

29. At its 7th meeting, on 3 December 2010, the Meeting considered item 8 of its agenda, entitled "Other business". The Secretariat made an introductory statement on the survey on the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. In 2009 and early 2010, the Secretariat had conducted a review of responses by members of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to a questionnaire on the functioning of those bodies. The analysis of those responses was presented to the Commission at its fifty-third session, held from 8 to 12 March 2010, in a conference room paper that was now brought to the attention of the

Thirty-fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, as document UNODC/HONLAP/34/5.

## VIII. Adoption of the report

30. At its 7th meeting, on 3 December 2010, the Meeting considered item 9 of its agenda and adopted the report of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/34/L.1 and Add.1-5), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein. Statements were made by the representatives of India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan and Turkey. The observer for INTERPOL also made a statement.

## IX. Organization of the Meeting

### A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

31. The Thirty-fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was held in Bangkok from 30 November to 3 December 2010. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, and the representative of the Executive Director of UNODC addressed the participants at the opening meeting.

### B. Attendance

32. The following States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) were represented: Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam.

33. Hong Kong, China, as an associate member of ESCAP, was also represented.

34. Canada, Germany and Italy were represented by observers.

35. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, INTERPOL and ESCAP were also represented by observers.

36. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

### C. Election of officers

37. At its 1st meeting, on 30 November 2010, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chair:</i>	Dionisio R. Santiago (Philippines)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Iwao Koyama (Japan)
<i>Second Vice-Chair:</i>	Karunadasa Gamage (Sri Lanka)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Chong Siew Nogh (Malaysia)

## **D. Adoption of the agenda**

38. At its 1st meeting, the Thirty-fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, and relevant recommendations of the Thirty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Challenges to effective drug law enforcement;
  - (b) Amphetamine-type stimulants — taking effective measures against synthetic drugs;
  - (c) Developing effective regional responses to illicit drug trafficking.
7. Organization of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

## **E. Documentation**

39. The documents before the Meeting are listed in the annex.

## **F. Closure of the Meeting**

40. A closing statement was made by the Chair. A closing statement was also made by the representative of the Executive Director of UNODC.



## Annex

## List of documents before the Thirty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAP/34/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
UNODC/HONLAP/34/2	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in East, South-East and South Asia, Oceania and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAP/34/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/34/4	7	Organization of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/34/5	8	Review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
UNODC/HONLAP/34/L.1 and Add.1-5	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.1	4	Outcome of the expert group meeting on safe and environmentally responsible disposal of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs
UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.2	7	Standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.3-14	3	Country reports
UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.15	4	Follow-up to recommendations adopted by the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, on the operations of West African drug smuggling groups
UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.16-19	3	Country reports
UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.20	3	Follow-up to recommendations adopted by the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, on illicit drug trafficking: emerging trends across the region — standard operating procedures to support controlled delivery
UNODC/HONLAP/34/CRP.21	3	Country report