

Myanmar-Thailand Cooperation since 1988: Drug Issues

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Abstract

Myanmar has bilateral agreements relating to drug issues with Thailand. Myanmar and Thailand have been taking cooperation in drug control in demand, supply and law enforcement sectors. In the early 2005, there were demand and supply cooperation in drug control between Myanmar and Thailand. After 2005, the two countries have not been cooperated in three sectors. From 2005 to 2011, there were six meetings between the two countries. Since 1997, drug control cooperation projects on rural development, demand and supply elimination have become rarely implemented. This research aims to analyze how Myanmar and Thailand attempted to control drug problems. It examines the cooperation which includes three categories: (1) demand and supply reduction sector, (2) law enforcement sector and (3) multilateral cooperation.

Keywords: drug, cooperation, Myanmar, Thailand, multilateral

Introduction

Drug problem makes the threat not only national but also to regional as well as global when it becomes a transnational problem. It cannot be solved by individual effort, but by bilateral, regional and international cooperation. Therefore, the effective cooperation with neighboring countries has been necessary. To control the opium cultivation and production between Myanmar and Thailand, the cooperation is necessary between the countries concerned. Myanmar and Thailand is a signatory to the following relevant international conventions and mechanisms: (1) UN Single Convention, 1961, (2) UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971, (3) UN Drug Convention, 1988 and (4) Member of the six Nations UNODC Sub-Regional Action Plan which aims to control pressures chemical trafficking and narcotics production in the region (with Cambodia, China, Laos and Vietnam). They have also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for greater cooperation in drug interdiction. Hill tribe people along the Myanmar and Thailand border have grown opium for purchasing food, clothes, medicine as well as agricultural inputs and repay loans. In order to avoid these situations, Myanmar and Thailand decided to cooperate to control the opium cultivation and production. The two countries have been taking cooperation and urgent measures with her neighboring countries for the drug control as well as countries in the region have been necessary to successfully fight against drug. Therefore, how the cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand has taken place tackling drug problems.

Drug Control Cooperation in Demand and Supply Reduction Sector

To cooperate in drug abuse control, Myanmar and Thailand implemented the agreement on Drug Abuse Control in Myanmar and Thailand border areas on 12 June 1992. The project was signed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB). It was started from 1993 to 1996. Myanmar provided staff, salary disbursement while the UNDCP contributed USD 4,540,000 worth technical assistance, project equipment and training. The objectives of the project were to reduce the flow of illicit narcotic drugs and controlled

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precursor chemicals, to eradicate poppy cultivation in border areas through phase by phase socio-economic development programme, and to carry out demand reduction measures in the border areas. In order to achieve the objectives of the project, regional development, demand reduction and law enforcement sub-project were implemented.

Under the agreement on Drug Abuse Control between Myanmar and Thailand, seven Joint Executive Committee Meetings were held in Myanmar and Thailand alternatively from since 1996. Through these meetings, Myanmar and Thailand jointly implemented the projects. These projects were (i) Pilot Programme for integrated Rural Development Sub Project, (ii) Integrated Rural Development Sub Project, (iii) Law Enforcement Projects and (iv) Demand Reduction Sub Project.

Moreover, Myanmar and Thailand implemented Pilot Programme for Integrated Rural Development Sub-project. The project began from August to December 1992 for five months. The project contributed by the UNDCP was USD 199,843 while Myanmar provided staff, salary disbursement. The project area was seventeen villages of San Lu/ Adee village tract in Tachileik Township, eastern Shan State. Six villages scattered along the Thailand border are directly linked to the town of Mae Sai by an all-weather border road built by the Thailand Government. By contract farmers living in the eleven villages of San Lu area have no direct access to the towns of Tachileik or Mae Sai which they can only reach by a two or four hours walk. However, Myanmar farmers in the project area were earned their main income by cultivating poppy in areas occupied by the insurgents, outside the project zone. Furthermore, villages in the project site are mostly dependent on poppy cultivation for obtaining cash to purchase rice and other commodities.

By the end of the project, Myanmar and Thailand expected that the combined benefits of improve health care and education, access to improve agriculture and livestock technology, development of new income generating activities and on all-weather road, linking most of the selected villages to the town of Tachileik should have resulted in a general increase of the living standard of the population. A main issue in the project area was the security in most of the selected villages, especially along the Myanmar-Thailand border during the Pilot Project.

For the improvement of health sector in the project area, medicines were provided and, 1,500 mosquito nets and 300 blankets were distributed to all villages. A midwife at Adee was appointed by the Department of Health. The project provided galvanized iron water tanks to HweKar, GyawPha and Upper Pha Hi. For the education sector, a new school was built in Phalauk and the school of San Lu was renovated. To improve land cropping systems, vegetables seeds of cabbage, chili, pumpkin, potato and mustard were distributed to the families of the project area. For the alternative income, 700 of lychee nurseries were distributed to farmers in Upper Pha Hi, San Lu, HweKar and Nakye villages.

Furthermore, in order to develop rural area, Myanmar and Thailand authorities also implemented the project of Integrated Rural Development Sub-project in Tachileik Township, eastern Shan State. The project was implemented from 1994 to 1996. The cooperation agency was the UNDCP. It provided USD 2,292,483 and the Government contributed about Kyat 5,800,000. The project area comprises the townships of Tachileik, Mong Sat, MongPhyat, MongYawng and Mong Tong along the Thai border and is characterized by a hilly topography. The project aimed at developing a sustainable model for income substitute and improved socio-economic conditions in common border areas where the population depends on opium cultivation for their existence. The project beneficiaries were 450 Akha families grouped in seventeen villages near Tachileik Township, eastern Shan State.

In order to improve general living conditions for the project area, education, health,

livestock breeding activities were carried out. For the development of education, schools were constructed in upper Pha Hi village, nursery farms were set up at Ma-O village and instruction classes for education staff were appointed in Kengtung. In the health sector, 300 blankets and 1500 mosquito nets for malaria prevention were distributed in ten villages of San Lu village tract. Animal vaccination and treatment programme for the development of livestock breeding were carried out. Hence, Myanmar and Thailand cooperated with the development of the socio-economic lives of people along the border.

Myanmar and Thailand also implemented the Project on Reduction in the Demand for and Consumption of Narcotic and Prevention of HIV Infection in Border Areas of Myanmar and Thailand to reduce demand and prevention of HIV infection. The project area was Kengtung and Tachileik townships in Myanmar side as well as Mae Sai and Chiang Rai in Thai side. The project was implemented from 1995 to 1997. The UNDCP provided USD 390,924. The project aimed to reduce the demand for the consumption of narcotics and prevention of HIV infection in specific border areas of Myanmar and Thailand through the development and implementation of social and community based intervention strategies and public information. The beneficiaries of the project were students and their parents, teachers and trainers, drug abuse migrant workers and media experts. Demand reduction training courses for school teachers in Kengtung and Tachileik were conducted. Furthermore, the experts from the Economic and Social Committee for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) gave training knowledge to the Department of Health, Department of Information, and Department of Social Welfare. The problem of the project had timely delivery of the output depend on the engaged interaction between the executing agencies (ESCAP) and, the CCDAC and ONCB in the project area. Therefore, the project period was extended to March 1998.

The MoU between Myanmar and Thailand in Cooperation on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control was signed in Yangon on 20 June 2001. It was covered the areas of cooperation in particular: (i) drug abuse prevention and law enforcement measures in fighting against illicit narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and diversion of precursor and essential chemicals, (ii) narcotic crops and alternative development measures, (iii) narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, precursor and essential chemicals control measures, (iv) treatment and rehabilitation measures, (v) implementation of joint technical assistance programmes, and (vi) exchange of information on existing law and regulations relating to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor and essential chemicals control.

In order to improve the infrastructure development in YaungKha village, the YaungKha village development project was started in February 2001. The Thailand Government has pledged to give twenty million baht for drug control in border areas of Myanmar under the MoU on Myanmar-Thailand drug control programme. The development project started with a model farm/village at YawngKha near Mong Tung, covered an estimate of 1000 households, and implemented alternative development programme. One primary school and one sixteen bed-hospital were built and alternative development activities were done. Furthermore, altogether fifty model plots were established to cultivate soybean and green gram (*Phaseolus radiates*) as poppy substitute crops. It can be seen that Myanmar and Thailand had made joint efforts to generate income in border areas and to reduce dependence on opium cultivating by opium substitution. The project of the model alternative village plans for integrated rural development programmes like constructing schools, hydro-power, roads irrigation canals for agriculture, preparing virgin land for paddy cultivation, etc. After the YaungKha village development project finished, there were no projects between the two countries because of internal situation in Myanmar. Therefore, the projects concerning demand, supply and law enforcement of the projects were suspended since 2001.

However, Myanmar and Thailand have been cooperating in drug control since 2012. Under the agreements of the 15th Myanmar-Thailand Drug Control Cooperation Meeting held in Pattaya, Thailand in 2011, Myanmar-Thailand Alternative Development Meeting was held in Tachileik on 3 March 2012. The meeting was to discuss and settle a re-embarkation of the alternative development programme in southern Shan State of Myanmar. Myanmar-Thailand field trip groups had made study-trips on the alternative development works in Gyaw Pa village of Tachileik Township and Lwel Par Yin village of Mong Hsat Township from 21 March 2012 to 25 March 2012 and selected 12 villages from Tachileik Township and six villages from Mong Hsat Township. Since 2012, Myanmar and Thailand have been working together in the Districts of Tachileik and Mong Hsat on a six-year plan worth Thai baht 350 million. The plan provides cooperation in drug control and opium-substitute cultivation programmes. In addition, another agreement on bilateral cooperation in drug control was signed by the two countries on 5 February 2015. According to the agreement, Thailand will provide Myanmar with a US\$596,698 aid to be used in curbing narcotic drugs. The two countries will conduct a one-year programme designed to gear up for joint drug control and transitional crackdown as well as honing laboratory analysis skills.

Drug Control Cooperation in Law Enforcement Sector

Myanmar and Thailand have cooperated not only demand and supply reduction sectors but also in law enforcement sector. They have long border which is 2,096 kilometers. Taking into consideration the condition of the ground being mountainous with thick forests along the borderline, transportation is limited. However, special emphasis is placed on the fight against narcotic drugs problems along the borderline through the close cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand.

To take the measures of law enforcement more effectively, the Myanmar Government, Thailand and the UNDCP implemented the project of Drug Control Law Enforcement in Border Areas of Myanmar and Thailand. The duration date of the project was from 1993 to 1996. The project aimed to provide an effective operational plan for the exchange of information between the enforcement agencies and to reduce the flow of illicit narcotic drugs and controlled precursors across the Myanmar-Thailand border within the project area. The beneficiaries were the two Anti Narcotic Task Forces (ANTFs) that operated out of Kengtung and Tachileik and the three Regions of the Border Patrol Police that operated within the project area. The UNDCP funded USD 607,625 and provided transportation facilities, type-writers, photocopiers and communication equipments at Tachileik and Kengtung ANTFs. Myanmar Government contributed Kyats 1,500,000 for ANTF staffs, premises and maintenance.

To cooperate law enforcement efforts, Myanmar and Thailand regularly and alternatively held cross-border meetings on drug control. The first cross-border meeting focusing on law enforcement cooperation between the two countries was held in Chiang Mai from 9 to 10 April 1997. The eleventh Bilateral Meeting on Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation was held in Samui Island, Sarathani Province from 5 to 7 July 2006. At the meeting, the two countries discussed and exchanged information on target drug traffickers to seek mutual cooperation in drug control across the borders, particularly methamphetamine and Ice trafficking. The twelfth Bilateral Meeting on Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 17 to 18 December 2007. Both sides discussed the drug situation in both countries, particularly along Thai-Myanmar borders, and the success of Thai-Myanmar joint operation resulting in the seizure of 50,000 methamphetamine tablets and the arrest of two offenders. The meeting also covered intelligence sharing on target drug traffickers, the progress of ongoing drug cases. The Thailand government reaffirmed the cooperation in

alternative development in Myanmar. The meetings strengthened the relationship between Myanmar and Thailand Officers on drug matters.

The thirteenth Bilateral Meeting on Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation was held in Hilton HuaHin Resort and Spa, PrachuapKhiri Khan Province from 22 to 25 September 2009. The fourteenth Bilateral Meeting on Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 15 to 16 July 2010. The fifteenth meeting between the two countries was held at Pattaya City, Chonburi Province and Bangkok from 22 to 25 August 2011. Both sides discussed and exchanged information on target drug traffickers as well as enhanced mutual cooperation on drug law enforcement across the borders. The meetings agreed to gear up drug suppression activities at border area, to enhance cooperation between operational officers from border area and to exchange the drug related information in timely manner. Myanmar and Thailand held annually law enforcement meetings because of long border, insurgency issue and relations between Myanmar and Thailand. Myanmar and Thailand held fifteen cross-border law enforcement cooperation meetings from 1997 to 2011.

As a result of the cross-border drug law enforcement cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand, the Myanmar Government handed over to Thailand Government five Thai national drug criminals who involved in drug cases. Then, the Thailand Government captured two Myanmar national drug traffickers and handed over them to the Myanmar Government. Table (1) shows list of handover of drug traffickers between Myanmar and Thailand.

Table (1) List of Handover of Drug Traffickers between Myanmar and Thailand

No.	Name	Date	Place	Remark
1	Li Yan Ching (a)	17.5.1997	Yangon	Handover to Thailand
2	Pangsak Rojanarakul	3.9.2004	Tachileik	Handover to Thailand
3	Mr. Preeche Leamsri	4.9.2004	Myawaddy	Handover to Thailand
4	Wit Phayongma	16.6.2005	Myawaddy	Handover to Thailand
5	Sommolut	29.1.2005	Bangkok	Handover to CCDAC
6	Ne Lin	25.7.2008	Bangkok	Handover to CCDAC
7	Shee Man	29.9.2010	NA	Handover to Thailand
	Mr. Pradit			

Source: *Myanmar's Report on Suppression of Narcotic Drugs*

The success of Myanmar-Thailand cooperation was the seizure of 126 kilos of heroin and 7.798 million stimulant pills on board of a Thai trawler near Phuket Island of Thailand in Andaman Sea on 7 January 2001. Six Thai citizens were arrested. According to the information given by the ONCB, Myanmar authorities captured Nyein Kyaw offender of drug trafficking, together with 1,403 ATS pills in Yangon on 8 October 2001. According to his confession, Myanmar authorities traced and seized the financier of this drug case, Kyaw Hlaing (a) Yaw Pha Li, in Kalaw, Shan State on 13 October 2002. Myanmar and Thai authorities also captured culprits from Thailand for conducting money transactions between Mandalay in Myanmar and Chiang Mai in Thailand.

Furthermore, Myanmar and Thailand law enforcement officers have jointly conducted in suppressing narcotic drugs. Myanmar law enforcement officers seized heroin blocks weighing 592.5 kgs in Ye township at Soe San Zone Operation. Joint follow up action with NCB resulted in the arrest of international rings who involved the case in July 2004 and 14.9 million methamphetamine tablets, fifty kgs of heroin, 1000kgs of morphine, twenty-eight kgs of opium, chemicals and 196 assorted arms in Tachileik Township from December 2005 to April 2006. In a seizure of stimulant tablets in Wan Kyauk Lon Village, Tachileik Township, a

combined team comprising policemen from Tachileik Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) and officials from ONCB of Thailand raided and searched the compound of AikMyint on 11 October 2006. The team seized 50,000 red-brown stimulant tablets, eighteen tablets of pressing moulds with “WY” logo, 1.3 kgs of orange powder and 0.1 kg of red-brown stimulant broken tablets.

In May 2006, a joint Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) (Yangon), ONCB and CCDAC, Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) operation resulted in the arrest of sixteen Thais in eastern Shan State, and the seizure of approximately 340 kgs of heroin, 65.2 kgs of opium, 1.08 kgs of opium gum and 140 gallons of opium in solution. This operation also resulted in the seizure of two active heroin refineries. In May 2006, a coordinated effort by Myanmar and Thai law enforcement agencies led to the arrest of two notorious drug traffickers. They were arrested at Chiang Rai with 20,000 ATS tablets and 1,000 Ecstasy tablets. Further joint investigations led to the recovery of a vehicle containing 80,000 amphetamine tablets. These were the successful results from the BLOs cooperation. In February 2008, the ONCB of Thailand organized a study visit on sustainable alternative development for Myanmar with the cooperation of Mae FuhLaung Foundation. And then, the ONCB made a study visit on Narcotic Law Enforcement for Myanmar Officers in September 2008 aimed to strengthen views and experiences between Myanmar and Thailand.

Myanmar and Thailand jointly blockaded and searched an area where the gang of MrNor Kham, Myanmar drug trafficker with Thai and Myanmar warrants of arrest, was hiding in 2009. In February 2009, Myanmar army searched the area and found 414,098 tablets of methamphetamine, 4.5 kgs of methamphetamine powder, one kg of heroin, one kg of Ephedrine, 12.5 kgs of Caffeine and 162,000 tablets of Pseudo Ephedrine, as well as 22,125,000 Thai Baht, 500,000 USD (approximately Thai Baht 17 million), a safe containing 1,000,000 Thai Baht and lots of weapons.

On 28 July 2010, Thai police, the Special Unit of the second Calvary Regiment and the Phamuang Force jointly arrested Mr. Ping Sae-Li, a Chinese who worked for wages in Tachileik, Myanmar, with five kgs of Ice in Chiang Rai Province. The ONCB liaised with the CCDAC of Myanmar in order to make a further investigation. On 29 July 2010, the CCDAC arrested Mr. Wei, the owner of the Ice, and Mr. Nai who smuggled Ice to Chiang Rai Province. The ONCB gathered evidences and sent to the CCDAC for prosecution. Cooperation between law enforcement agencies from both sides has become significant. So, drug control cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand is successful to some extent. Myanmar and Thailand took effectively cooperation in drug control activities. Although Myanmar-Thai drug control measures have had many significant results, some Thai media still brands Myanmar as the drug producer country whenever drugs were seized in Thailand.

To enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries and with international law enforcement agencies, Myanmar and Thailand have established border liaison offices (BLOs) with the coordination of the UNODC under the six nations (including- Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) Cross Border Drug Control Programme. Kaw Thaung-Ranong, Myawaddy-Mae Sot and Tachileik-Mae Sai BLOs were opened along the Myanmar-Thailand border area.

Multilateral Cooperation

To eliminate the narcotic drugs, Myanmar and Thailand have cooperated with neighbouring countries multilaterally. They have also cooperated with China, Laos, Vietnam and UNDCP to eliminate narcotic drugs. Attempts to establish cooperative mechanisms for

overall drug control in Southeast Asia are actually dated back on 26 November 1993 when China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and UNDCP signed a MoU for Drug Control. The objectives of the MoU were to expand the area of cooperation on drug control activities among the countries in the sub-region, and to raise the level of consultation between the countries and UNDCP on regional issues regarding illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse and the HIV/AIDS epidemic related to drug abuse. Because of the serious epidemic of the narcotic drug in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and China have been affected by the problem. Accordingly, the cooperation among these four countries was initiated.

Even though ASEAN is already over forty years old, the non-intervention will still be the source of a long debate in the ASEAN. ASEAN faces non-traditional security issues and ASEAN's response towards drug trafficking issue. Since then all the ASEAN Summits have expressed concerns on narcotics abuse and illegal drugs trafficking in the region. At the Fifth ASEAN summit in December 1995 in Bangkok, the Leaders of ASEAN decided that "ASEAN shall further enhance cooperative efforts against drug abuse and illicit trafficking with special emphasis being given to demand reduction programs and information exchange and dissemination, with the aim of creating a drug-free ASEAN". It can be said that the prospects for achieving the goals of this cooperation and argues that without a greater sense of determination and more forceful joint or international action. It will be difficult to win the battle against illicit drug traffic from Golden Triangle Region.

ASEAN has reiterated the urgent need to act against the ever-increasing menace of drug abuse and illegal drugs trafficking. The ASEAN leaders pronounced document of ASEAN Vision 2020 at their second informal summit in 1997. It signified that the idea of "a Southeast Asia free of illicit drugs, free of their production, processing, trafficking and use" for the first time. ASEAN Foreign Ministers, at their thirty-first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in July 1998, signed the Joint Declaration for a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2020 to eradicate the production, processing, trafficking and use of illicit drugs in Southeast Asia by the year 2020. In July 2000, they also agreed to advance the previously agreed target year for realizing a drug-free ASEAN from 2020 to 2015.

To achieve drug-free ASEAN by 2015, this ASEAN goal is similar to what ASEAN Senior Official on Drug Matters (ASOD) had set to achieve and thus put out the "ASEAN Work Plan on combating illicit drug production, trafficking and use (2009-2015)," so-called the ASOD Work Plan. At the thirty ASOD meeting from 29 September to 2 October 2009, the work plan was adopted by the leaders. The Work Plan was set to successfully and effectively control illicit drugs activities and mitigate its negative consequences to society. This includes significant and sustainable reduction in three main areas: (i) illicit manufacturing and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crime, (ii) the prevalence of illicit drug use and (iii) illicit crop cultivation which are working hard to comprehensively achieve. From 13 to 15 October 2010, the thirty-first Meeting of ASOD was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The objective of the meeting was to fortify the cooperation and coordination pertaining drug control measures among the member countries so that the ASEAN will become drug-free region by 2015. Four forums of Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Law Enforcement Drug Research, and Alternative Development, were discussed.

The threat of illicit drug trafficking is imminent in ASEAN and no country is immune from this prevailing threat. Thus, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand have formulated and adopted strategies, plans, policies and institutional mechanisms through various declarations and resolutions. To address drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, these countries also cooperated in the region with special programmes and information exchange and dissemination. So, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries including Myanmar, Laos and Thailand agreed to adopt the ASEAN Vision 2020 at the second ASEAN Informal Summit. It was held

in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Furthermore, at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, they also signed a Joint Declaration for Drug-free ASEAN in July 1998. Under the situations mentioned above, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand have cooperated with regional, International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs). Although these countries have committed to achieve a Drug Free region in 2015, they have needed international aid and assistance such as fund and technology in tackling drug problem.

Conclusion

Many areas along the Myanmar-Thailand border are difficult to access due to the control of heavily armed insurgent and trafficking groups. Moreover, major transportation routes to the cultivation areas are remote and illicit laboratories also exist crossing the Myanmar-Thailand border to Bangkok. Thailand still also struggles with changing patterns of drug-related issues. Thailand's long and porous borders are vulnerable to transitional crime, especially narcotics trafficking and migrant workers issues. Myanmar and Thailand have cooperated not only in demand and supply sectors but also law enforcement sector. Since 1997, drug control cooperation projects on rural development, demand and supply elimination have become rarely implemented. The two countries have had more than fifteen cross-border law enforcement meetings. As a result of the law enforcement cooperation, seven handover of drug traffickers were repatriated to host countries up to 2010. Although Myanmar and Thailand cooperated in the projects concerning demand, supply and law enforcement during 1992-2005, the two countries did not cooperate to implement the projects after 2005. During 2001-2005, Thailand had supported Myanmar on Young Kha village project, a pilot alternative development programme in Shan State. But, they held bilateral meetings alternatively. They have jointly cooperated through Border Liaison Offices (BLOs). Existing MOUs, declarations, and plans of actions provide an initial basis for cooperation, but are simply inadequate between Myanmar and Thailand. In addition, short, medium, and long-term plans for action in demand and supply reduction, and law enforcement sectors should be formulated. These plans lead to real progress, specialized professional teams should be established in both Myanmar and Thailand to implement these plans. Similarly, operation plans should also be developed to cover alternative development, the interception of illicit drugs, drug chemicals and production equipment, personnel and drug police training, and rehabilitation and social reintegration. Joint police operations, including sharing of information, joint investigations, and joint police operations to arrest drug criminals and destroy their drug plants are very important.

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