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## The 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) Hosted by Thailand on 12 December 2024



On Thursday, December 12, 2024, Pol. Lt. Gen. Phanurat Lakboon, Secretary-General of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), assigned Mr. Apikit Ch.rojprasert, Deputy Secretary-General of NCB, to preside over the opening ceremony of the 14th ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) meeting hosted by the ONCB, Thailand. The Thai delegation includes the representatives from the ONCB which are officers the from the Narcotics Suppression Bureau, the Technology and Information Center, and the Foreign Affairs Bureau, along with representatives from the Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB), and the Customs Department, participating in the meeting. The meeting consisted of delegations from anti-drug agencies from ASEAN Member States and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat.

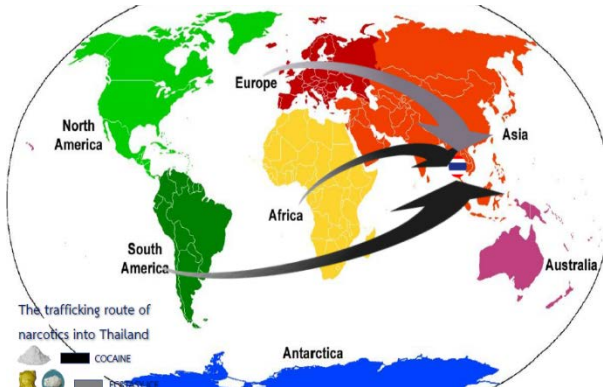


During the opening ceremony, Mr. Apikit mentioned that the drug situation in Southeast Asia remains complex and challenging, especially in the Golden Triangle, which remains a major source of drug production such as methamphetamine, heroin, MDMA and ketamine.

Thailand and other ASEAN member states are also facing challenges in being drug transit points, such as methamphetamine and heroin, to Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, and South Korea, and there have been increasing cases of cocaine from Africa and South America entering the region.

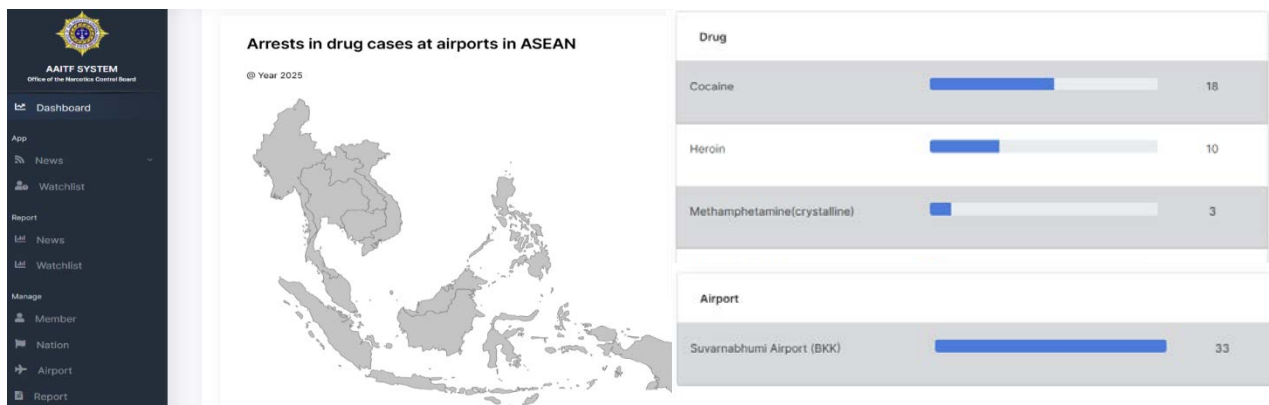


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During the meeting, the ASEAN Member States presented the drug situation within the country and exchanged drug seizure information, as well as presenting patterns of drug smuggling detected at airports on their countries. From the information presented by ASEAN member states at this AAITF, it was found that the most prevalent and detected drugs at international airports in the ASEAN region are methamphetamine, heroin, ecstasy, and cocaine, respectively.





On this occasion, Thailand presented the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force Information System, or AAITF Information System, which Thailand initiated and developed to serve as a mechanism for ASEAN member countries to exchange intelligence on international drug smuggling in the region, which may lead to the arrest of drug trafficking networks. Thailand also emphasized the importance of member countries using the system, which all ASEAN member countries have now registered to use.

The meeting emphasized international cooperation in exchanging information in a timely manner, both bilaterally and multilaterally, and emphasized the importance of capacity building for officials. As the host of the meeting, Thailand acted as a coordinator of information from ASEAN member countries on initiatives for joint training on drug interdiction at international airports, and invited ASEAN member countries to submit proposals on these initiatives through Thailand by January 2025, so that Thailand can collect and proceed with the relevant mechanisms.