



ASEAN-NARCO

## ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Operational Meeting was held online on 24 September 2020



The ONCB Thailand normally organizes the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) Operational Meeting twice a year. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the 9th ADMN Operational Meeting was postponed from March 2020 to be held online for the first time, hosted by ONCB Thailand and ASEAN-NARCO on 24 September 2020. The opening of the meeting was presided over by Mr. Paisith Sungkahapong, Deputy Secretary-General of NCB. In his opening address, Mr. Paisith Sungkahapong emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic did not break out in each ASEAN Member



State (AMS) at the same time nor with the same seriousness. However, the pandemic had effected every country and every government had to put the COVID-19 pandemic in a higher priority than other problems. Despite the crisis, ADMN had



kept on functioning though not in full capacity due to several factors and limitations. He was proud of the ADMN members since the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report (ADM Report) was mentioned in the Chairman's Statement of the 36th ASEAN Summit on 26 June 2020 and ASEAN-NARCO was referred as a key trademark of ASEAN cooperation in combatting drugs. He further reaffirmed that the ONCB would do every possible way to strengthen the cooperation in "Securing ASEAN Communities against Illicit Drugs". The meeting was attended by ADMN Team from AMS, representative of ASEAN Secretariat as well as ONCB Minister Counsellors posted in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, including Thailand Substance Abuse Academic Network as the information analyst team of ADM Report.



The meeting was chaired by Ms. Rachanikorn Sarasiri, Director of ASEAN-NARCO and moderated by Ms. Chuanpit Choomwattana, ADMN Project Coordinator. The meeting focussed on the content of the draft ADM Report 2019, particularly, the

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of the ADM Report 2019 which were presented by Assc. Prof. Manop Kanato, Technical Advisor while Chapter 3 to Chapter 5 were presented by Ms. Chuanpit Choomwattana.

The meeting was informed that the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the ADMN was adopted ad referendum by AMS. Also, the meeting had reviewed and agreed to the proposed ADMN Work Plan 2020- 2021 for regular cycle of data submission in the ADM Report System and data analysis for the formulation of ADM Report 2019 and 2020. Since the pandemic of the COVID-19 caused the delay in the data key-in, hopefully that the ADM Report 2019 could be released by the end of 2020.





The meeting concluded with the spirit of ASEAN cooperation and friendship among members of the ADMN Team and concerned stake holders.

