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## The 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Meeting (ADMN) On 8 – 10 April 2025 , Manila, Philippines



The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) of the Republic of the Philippines successfully hosted the 18th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) Meeting on 8-10 April 2025 at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Manila. Held under the framework of the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO), the ADMN platform serves as a platform for ASEAN Member States to exchange information, monitor drug trends, and issue alerts as early warning regarding the illicit drug situation across the ASEAN region.

At the opening ceremony, Secretary Oscar F. Valenzuela, Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board, emphasized the vital role of data in identifying drug trends, mapping regional challenges, and shaping context-specific policies. He also underscored the urgent need for a united, human rights-based, and public health-centered approach to address the evolving drug threat in ASEAN, highlighting the Philippines' progress in drug demand reduction and the critical role of ADMN in tackling emerging challenges, particularly the rise of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The two-day meeting was co-chaired by Undersecretary Armando E. Ramolete, Permanent Board Member of the Dangerous Drugs Board, and Ms. Rachanikorn Sarasiri, Director of ASEAN-NARCO. The meeting was attended by delegates from all ten ASEAN Member States, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, and team of ADMN technical experts from Thailand's Administration Committee on Substance Abuse Academic Network (ACSAN).



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The agenda featured the plenary discussions and country presentations on the 2024 national drug situation reports, providing valuable insights into prevailing trends, emerging challenges, and national priorities across the region. Participants raised concerns over several critical issues, including the increasing use of methamphetamine among the youth, the emergence of liquid narcotics and mixed substances in e-cigarettes, and the continued cross-border trafficking of illicit drugs, particularly within the Mekong Subregion. To improve the utility of the ADMN Report System, participants engaged in three breakout working group sessions focusing on supply reduction, demand reduction, and data management. These sessions allowed Member States to review and refine technical problems, propose improvements, and adjust the data input into the ADM Report System to ensure stability, consistency, and usability across the region.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the ADMN Work Plan for 2025 - 2026 and the agreement to label the ADMN annual report according to the year of its publication instead of the year of data collection for clarity starting from the 2026 edition, regardless of whether the data covers the year 2025. As part of the closing session, Thailand announced its readiness to host the 19th ADMN Meeting, which will take place in Bangkok in July 2025. In closing, Undersecretary Armando E. Ramolete, Chair of the Meeting, expressed his sincere appreciation to all ASEAN Member States for their active participation, emphasizing that close cooperation among ASEAN Member States is the key to addressing the regional drug problem. He highlighted the ADMN Meeting as a vital forum for joint collaboration and action toward a Drug-Free ASEAN and reaffirmed the shared responsibility to protect the health, safety, and well-being of ASEAN communities and the global population.

The 18th ADMN Meeting ended with ASEAN's spirit, friendship and partnership.