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## The 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Meeting (ADMN) On 15 April 2025 , Bangkok, Thailand



Police Lieutenant General Phanurat Lukboon, Secretary - General of Narcotics Control Board (NCB) presided over the opening ceremony of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) Meeting on Tuesday, 15 July 2025 at the Century Park Hotel, Bangkok. In his opening address, he welcomed all delegates and congratulated both ASEAN - NARCO and the ADMN on their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, commending their vital roles over the past decade. He emphasized that the drug problem is a borderless and escalating crisis, particularly concerning synthetic drugs from the Golden Triangle, with seizures continuing to rise across ASEAN. He noted that YABA is distinct from Crystal Methamphetamine due to its high caffeine content (up to 80%) and remains Thailand's primary challenge, as it causes severe mental health issues.

In response, the Royal Thai Government has declared the drug problem a national priority, launching the "Seal-Stop-Safe" operation to block trafficking routes, dismantle criminal networks, and rehabilitate drug users.

Thailand has also successfully brought the YABA issue to the stage at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), resulting in a widely supported resolution on researching treatment approaches for stimulant users. To advance this effort, the ONCB is funding research led by Chiang Mai University and will host an international symposium on the topic in early August 2025, aiming to produce outcomes that will benefit both the region and the global community.



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The 19th ADMN was chaired by Mr. Apikit Ch. Rojprasert, Deputy Secretary-General NCB, and was attended by representatives from all ten ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the ADMN technical experts team from Thailand's Administration Committee on Substance Abuse Academic Network (ACSAN). The ADMN platform serves as a platform for ASEAN Member States to exchange information, monitor drug trends, and issue early warning alerts concerning the illicit drug situation across the region.

The meeting featured an exchanged of updates on the drug situation in each country for the first half of 2025 (January - June), presented by each ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Member States jointly looked into Chapter 1 - 2 of the draft ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2024, presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manop Kanato, Technical Advisor to ADMN.

The report highlighted several key trends, including that although drug-related arrests have declined since 2019, drug seizures have surged fivefold to 239 tons. At the same time, the treatment burden had risen, with Amphetamine – type stimulants (ATS), including YABA and Ice, accounting for 59% of treatment admissions and continuing to pose the most significant regional threat. This is followed by the emerging challenge of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), such as Kratom, whose trafficking is further complicated by legal inconsistencies among countries. The meeting also note the progress made for Chapter 3 to 5, the Annex and follow up actions from the previous meeting.







ASEAN-NARCO

Thailand offered to host an online training session for Member States on data entry into the updated ADMN Report System. Thailand also proposed an adjustment to the data submission timeline for the Chapter 3 to 5 of the annual ADM Report to ensure its timely completion ahead of the ASOD Meeting. Member States praised Thailand's leadership in enhancing regional capacity and expressed full support for both the proposed online training



and the revised schedule. The meeting also commended Singapore for its kind offer to host the 20th ADMN Meeting in 2026.

In the closing session, Mr. Apikit Ch. Rojprasert expressed his gratitude to all country delegates for their active participation. He emphasized that the success of the meeting represents another significant step toward strengthening and ensuring the sustainability of ASEAN's drug information cooperation mechanism.

The meeting concluded with ASEAN spirit of cooperation and partnership.





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On Wednesday, 16 July 2025, on behalf of Pol. Lt. Gen. Phanurat Lukboon, Secretary-General of the ONCB, Ms. Rachanikorn Sarasiri, Director of ASEAN-NARCO, led the delegates on a study visit.

The first destination was the Police Canine Sub-Division, under the Patrol and Special Operations Division, where the delegation received a briefing on the unit's roles and witnessed a demonstration of the Police K9 Unit's capabilities in various missions, including explosives detection, narcotics search, and suspects apprehending. Afterward, the delegation visited the Narcotic Analysis and Technical Service Institute (NATSI) at the ONCB. There, they learned about the institute's mission, the use of narcotic field test kits, the handling process for seized narcotics, and the history and ongoing challenges of the drug problem in Thailand.

