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The 2025 International Conference on Drug Policy (ICDP) Yaba, Methamphetamine and Synthetic Drugs, 6-8 August 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



The 2025 International Conference on Drug Policy (ICDP) Yaba, Methamphetamine and Synthetic Drugs was held on 6-8 August 2025 at the Eastin Grand Hotel, Bangkok by Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) in cooperation with the Social Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University and the Administrative Committee of Substance Abuse Academic Network with the objective to address the urgent issue on Yaba, methamphetamine and synthetic drugs which stand out as a growing regional crisis, particularly Yaba and to foster the concerted multidisciplinary effort involving policy makers, researchers, law enforcement and community organizations across the region. The group of experts, academics, researchers from the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, ASEAN Member States, international organizations such as UNODC, WHO, INCB, diplomatic missions in Thailand and civil societies were invited to participate in the Conference.





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Pol.Lt.Col. Phanurat Lukboon, Secretary-General of the Narcotics Control Board (NCB) addressed the meeting that the ONCB committed to promoting collaboration and driving effective policies for prevention, treatment and response to drug problem in all dimensions that are firmly grounded in public health and social principles. Thailand brought the methamphetamine crisis to the forefront as a global priority at the 68th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The 2025 ICDP would serve as a vital platform for sharing knowledge and experiences and for developing sustainable solutions to drug-related challenges.

H.E. Pol.Col. Tawee Sodsong, Minister of Justice chaired the Opening Ceremony and delivered the Keynote on “Yaba problems in Thailand and policy response”. He emphasized that it was the global threat to the human and destroyed the national economic and social stability.



He further focused on the **Yaba and methamphetamine** situation in Thailand and in the Golden Triangle which is the main area of illicit methamphetamine production and Thailand was used as transit route for illicit methamphetamine trafficking to the third countries. Large amount of budget spent in solving the drug problem, it is the time for us to conduct the systematic review on the drug control policy and to promote evidence-based prevention, treatment approaches, harm reduction strategies and sustainable response frameworks with special emphasis on Yaba, methamphetamine and emerging synthetic drugs. He proposed the Southeast Asian region be the forum for international brainstorming of policy makers, academic institutes and experienced experts to design the long-term solution toward methamphetamine problem. The countries should not bear the crisis but should design their own future. Thailand was pleased to host and be a partner of driving force to share the lessons learned at the regional level that would lead to systematic change. We should dare to change, to review the policy, to adjust under evidence-based, to amend the enforcement of the law for the safe future of the young generations



The Conference was attended by 282 participants from 18 diplomatic missions in Thailand, academic institutions, health professionals, researchers, policy makers, concerned government agencies, international organizations, and civil society organizations with 63 speakers from 11 countries in Europe, Asia, Australia including from the United States and Thailand. Two keynotes were delivered by Minister of Justice and Prof. Michael Farrell from the University of New South Wales. The Conference was conducted in 2 plenary sessions and 18 breakout sessions with expert panels addressing evidence-based policy development, medication-assisted treatment protocol, community-based intervention and innovative prevention technology.

The Conference also discussed the shift of paradigm from punishment measure to harm reduction, community engagement and evidence-based decision making for sustainable solution of drug problem that respected to the human dignity. The participants shared their views, experiences and best practices derived from the research works and policy implementation.



71 research works and best practices were presented by recognized experts including Prof. Michael Farrell, Prof. Nadine Ezard from the University of New South Wales, Australia, Prof. John Marsden from the King's College, London, Prof. Sawitri Assanangkornchai, INCB Member, Assc. Prof. Manop Kanato, Chair of Thailand Substance Abuse Academic Network and Technical Advisor of ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN), Ms. Anja Busse from WHO Geneva, Ms. Giovanna Campello from UNODC Vienna. Two round tables discussions were held; the first one was on how to move forward the CND Resolution 68/2 while the second one was on potential Issues for technical cooperation in the region on Yaba, methamphetamines and synthetic drugs: monitoring, prevention, care and control in which the information on drug of abuse situation in ASEAN drawn from the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) was presented by Assc. Prof. Manop Kanato.



This 2025 International Conference marked the significant milestone in regional and global collaboration to address stimulant use disorders; the regional networks and global engagement need to be strengthened for sustainable solution toward drug problem.

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