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9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters

Philippines leads stronger, people-centered ASEAN cooperation against illicit drugs at 9th AMMD



MANILA, Philippines – The Philippines leads regional discussions on strengthening ASEAN cooperation against illicit drugs as Chair of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD).

In a virtual meeting hosted and chaired by the Philippines on 15 October 2026, ministers and senior officials responsible for drug policy across the ASEAN region were convened.

The meeting comes amid increasingly complex and transnational drug challenges confronting Southeast Asia, requiring closer coordination among ASEAN Member States across law enforcement, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social reintegration.

"The drug problem today is no longer confined by borders, nor can it be addressed by enforcement alone. Through the Enhanced Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy, we are strengthening a framework that brings together prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, social development, community participation, and law enforcement as part of a coordinated national response," said Dangerous Drugs Board Chairperson Secretary Oscar F. Valenzuela.

"As Chair of the 9th AMMD, the Philippines looks forward to sharing our experience while learning from our ASEAN partners as we strengthen our collective response to emerging drug challenges and work toward safer and more resilient communities across the region," he added.

The Philippines brought to the regional platform its continuing efforts to strengthen the Enhanced Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (Enhanced PADS), which advances a more integrated national response by balancing drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction with strengthened health, social, and developmental interventions. As chair, the Philippines placed greater emphasis on sustained interventions that address the conditions surrounding drug use and highlighted the need to support individuals throughout prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration.

For the Philippines, its chairship of the 9th AMMD provides an opportunity to contribute to the direction of ASEAN drug policy and strengthen cooperation among Member States in responding to emerging and cross-border drug threats.

The 9th AMMD covered discussions on regional coordination against illicit drug trafficking as well as approaches to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and other interventions addressing the broader health and social dimensions of the drug problem.

The Philippines also advanced key institutional initiatives to strengthen ASEAN's drug governance mechanisms, including the formal adoption of the updated nomenclature of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) under the ASEAN Charter and the Guidelines of Practices and Protocols for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and Its Subsidiary Mechanisms. These initiatives seek to strengthen institutional continuity, coordination, and effectiveness across ASEAN mechanisms dealing with illicit drugs.

The AMMD serves as ASEAN's ministerial-level mechanism on drug matters and provides strategic direction for regional cooperation against illicit drugs. Its work is supported by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters and its subsidiary mechanisms.

The Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to an evidence-informed, balanced, and people-centered approach to drug prevention and control, while

strengthening cooperation with ASEAN Member States in addressing drug challenges that increasingly transcend national borders.