



Member States, on 4 June 2020, PDEA and Marilao Municipal Police Station of the Philippines seized 827 kilogrammes of shabu or ICE worth Php.5.62 billion which was contained in 63 cardboard boxes. On 20 July 2020, Cambodia seized 198 kilogrammes of ICE that was trafficked along Cambodia-Thailand border and could extend the investigation to seize more of chemical precursors in the amount of 3,146.19 kilogrammes and 2 rotary punching machines. Later on 27 July 2020, Cambodia seized another 200 kilogrammes of ICE along Cambodia-Laos border. On 18-19 July 2020, Viet Nam seized 119 kilogramme of ICE and ketamine which were trafficked along Cambodia-Viet Nam border while on 23 July 2020, Viet Nam authority seized another 200 kilogramme of ICE. During 31 July- 15 August 2020, Myanmar authorities-CCDAC seized 2,728 kilogrammes of ICE and later on 16 August 2020, Myanmar seized another 1,380 kilogrammes of ICE.

The phenomenon of such sharp increase of crystalline methamphetamine seizures affected drug situation in ASEAN in terms of illicit drug supply and drug demand in the region. However, most of the seized drugs were tended to traffic to the drug market in the third countries outside the ASEAN region due to the high price of drugs. The ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle which has been extended the implementation period from 2019 to 2022 is the instrument for ASEAN cooperation in suppressing illicit drug production and interdicting illicit drug flow from the Golden Triangle



The Influx of Crystalline Methamphetamine in Southeast Asian Region.

It seemed that the pandemic of COVID-19 had slight impact or no impact on the drug situation in Southeast Asia or ASEAN region, particularly the production and trafficking of crystalline methamphetamine (ICE) and methamphetamine pills (Yaba) in the Golden Triangle. The capacity of the synthetic drugs manufactured in the Golden Triangle area remains the same and seemed to be in larger volume of production and trafficking than previous years. However, the exact illicit drug production volume in the Golden Triangle is unknown; it might be the same or higher production volume when looking at the seizures of crystalline methamphetamine (ICE) and methamphetamine pills (Yaba) in Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia. The availability of precursor chemicals caused the illicit drug production keep on going and the finished illicit drugs kept on being smuggled along the border via natural trails in the region.

The seizures of crystalline methamphetamine (ICE) in ASEAN region was quite alarming during the past three months in 2020. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam are transit routes of ICE trafficking to the third countries. During June-August 2020, the seizures of crystalline methamphetamine (ICE) and methamphetamine pills (Yaba) in Thailand were in large volume of more than thousands kilogrammes of ICE and more than one million of Yaba pills. In July only, the seizures of ICE in Thailand were 4,707.40 kilogrammes in 38 drug cases which was the highest amount during the first 7 months of 2020. Looking at the seizures in other ASEAN



to ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Cooperation Plan corresponds to the Safe Mekong Operation which 5 ASEAN Member States (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) together with China participate in the Operation. Many seizures were made by the Safe Mekong Operation to intercept the illicit drug flow from the Golden Triangle into the ASEAN region.



Seized shabu or ICE by PDEA and Marilao Municipal Police Station, Philippines on 4 June 2020



ASEAN-NARCO



ICE package seized in Thailand.



ICE package seized by CCDAC, Myanmar