

From: CNB Community Partnership (CNB)
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Subject: [For Attention] DrugFreeSG Advocacy Newsletter - Apr 2023

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ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2023

Dear Partners and fellow Advocates

In this edition, we have exciting news. Singapore has been elected to the United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) , which is the primary policy-making body on drug control issues within the UN. Also, in this issue, read about what CNB and our advocates were up to.

Email us at cnb_community_partnership@cnb.gov.sg if you have any feedback or questions on our programmes and activities!

FOR INFO/SINGAPORE ELECTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS



On Apr 5, Singapore was elected to the UN CND for the term 2024-2027. This is the first time Singapore sought membership for the primary drug policy-making body of the UN. CND meets annually to review the global drug situation, develop strategies on international drug control and recommend measures to strengthen international co-operation to counter the growing threat of drugs.

The membership provides Singapore with the opportunity for us to share our approach to drug control and contribute to the work of CND in addressing the drug issue globally. As a CND member, we will also contribute by organising more joint training initiatives and capacity building projects on drug identification and scheduling.



"Date Your Loved Ones Today" is a flagship initiative under the Dadah Itu Haram Campaign – a community-nuanced outreach effort to educate the community on the importance of drug prevention. Packets of dates were handed out to the public with reminders that Ramadan is a time for families to spend time with their loved ones, strengthen relationships and lead drug-free lifestyles. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who joined us in the distribution events earlier this month to spread the message.

Watch this space for other upcoming volunteering opportunities with us.

PDE/ANTI-DRUG AMBASSADOR ACTIVITY 2023



The Anti-drug Ambassador Activity (AAA) 2023 is under way! Available as both a physical activity booklet and online lesson package on MOE's Student Learning Space (SLS), the AAA aims to educate and engage students on the harmful effects of drugs. Distribution of the AAA booklets to MOE primary schools is ongoing, so do keep a lookout if you have yet to receive them. Organisations interested in having their young charges take part in AAA can write in to us at Tan_Yan_Zheng@cnb.gov.sg.

The Top 10 Schools with the Best Anti-drug Montage and Highest Participation Rate will each receive a \$500 cash prize! Kindly note that the deadline for all submissions is 17 November 2023. Thank you for your support of our anti-drug initiatives, and we look forward to your participation this year!

PDE/[SIGN UP NOW!] DRUGFREESG VIDEO COMPETITION 2023

Thank you all for joining us at our Videography Workshop on 15 April 2023. We were happy to have Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development with us! Guest speakers, Mr Jaze Phua and Mr Derrick Lui shared insights into Singapore's media industry as well as some tips and tricks on creating engaging videos, while CNB officers Sgt Muhammad Afifi and SSS Idrus spoke on the harmful effects of drug abuse in Singapore.

We hope all participants got valuable tips on filmmaking and your burning questions answered!



For those who missed the workshop, it's still not too late to gather your team of up to 5 members to take part in the competition and stand a chance to win attractive cash prizes! Here's your chance to showcase your craft and create awareness of the harms of drug abuse through the power of storytelling!



Deadline closes on 31 Aug 2023! Find out more at drugfree.sg or email contact@drugfree.sg if you have any enquiries.

We seek schools' and organisations' support to promote and encourage youths who are interested in video production to join the competition.

WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH COUNTRIES THAT HAVE LEGALISED CANNABIS?

Several countries in the world have moved towards legalising medical and non-medical cannabis in their nations, for various reasons such as but not limited to harm-reduction policies, economic incentive, or purported health benefits. Singapore has remained steadfast in our stance that illicit drugs such as Cannabis are harmful and have a plethora of negative effects on a person’s physical, psychological, and social well-being.

In April 2023, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) released their 2022 Annual Report, which highlights key trends and challenges that have arisen from this. These include:

- 1. Between 2000 and 2018, there is an eight-fold increase in clinical admissions related to cannabinoid dependence, and a four-times increase in cannabis-related psychotic disorders. As of 2020, it is estimated that 209 million people in the world (4% of global population) are using cannabis.
- 2. The increase in demand for cannabis benefits criminal organisations linked with large-scale illicit production and trafficking.
- 3. Countries that have approved the use and cultivation of medical cannabis face regulation issues, leading to the production, trade, and consumption of cannabis products that are not monitored or regulated for their purported medical or scientific purposes.
- 4. With the legalisation and increased demand emerges the problem of household cultivation and synthetic cannabinoids, which can be more potent and dangerous with higher health risks.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ANTI-DRUG ADVOCACY?

Supporters of the legalisation of cannabis (medical or otherwise) may argue that consuming such substances and facing the consequences that result from it should be a matter of personal choice. However, the legalisation of cannabis has wide-reaching implications that extend far beyond an individual, it affects families, communities, nations, and promotes the cycle of illicit trade and trafficking which benefit global criminal syndicates.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

On top of starting conversations on the harms of drugs like cannabis (e.g. structural and functional changes in the adult brain which impair memory and decision-making or the increased likelihood of developing major psychiatric disorders, cancers, or respiratory diseases), it is also useful to prompt reflection on the deeper implications of supporting the legalisation of illicit substances and the underground systems that inadvertently benefit from the “individual” choice. Singaporeans and Permanent Residents are to be careful when consuming food products overseas as it is an offence under MDA to consume drugs, even when they are overseas.

RESOURCES:



**Report of the International
Narcotics Control Board for 2022**



Harms of Cannabis Use

HELP US SPREAD THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE



The **Anti-Drug Abuse Advocacy Network (A3 Network)** is a volunteer scheme jointly administered by the NCADA and CNB. The A3 Network, which is under the umbrella of the Home Team Volunteer Network comprises various groups of people who identify with, support and promote the anti-drug cause.

Help us grow the A3 Network by telling your friends about us and the volunteering opportunities with CNB. Scan the QR codes for more information about the different schemes, or drop us an email at cnb_community_partnership@cnb.gov.sg



Scan here to find out about the A3 Network and different advocates schemes



Anti-Drug Advocate Programme for youths aged 17 - 25 years old

Scan below to find out about the **Augmented Reality exhibition** and the **Virtual Heritage Gallery** that you can access at your convenience. Access PDE resources from our **PDE Handbook online**:



Scan here for the AR exhibition



Scan here for the virtual heritage gallery



Scan here for the PDE Handbook

Drop us an email at CNB_Community_Partnership@cnb.gov.sg if you would like to unsubscribe or add your colleagues into our mailing list!

If you come across drugs, or what you suspect to be drugs, you should call CNB hotline at **1800-325-6666**

For more information, please visit the CNB website at www.cnb.gov.sg

Connect with us:



@cnb.drugfreesg

APRIL 2023




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Central Narcotics Bureau


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