



ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER JAN 2024

Dear Partners and fellow Advocates

We are pleased to announce the appointment of National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) Vice-Chairman Mr Tan Chong Huat as Chairman of NCADA with effect from 1 Jan 2024. Mr Tan takes over from Mr Hawazi Daipi who served as NCADA's Chairman from 2017 to 2023, and as Vice-Chairman in 2016. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Hawazi for his dedicated leadership and warmly welcome Mr Tan.

To kick off the new year, the Dadah Itu Haram team were invited to speak at Madrasah Al-Maarif on the harms of drugs and how their students could support the DrugFreeSG movement as advocates.

This month, members of NCADA also met with stakeholders in the anti-drug movement to explore potential partnerships.

In a continuation of our collaboration with Singapore Prison Service, we bring you a firsthand account from a sibling of a drug abuser.

Finally, learn about Thailand's recent proposed introduction of a bill to ban the recreational use of cannabis.

Happy reading!

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

Thank you for your unwavering support, and here's to a purposeful year ahead!

The Dadah Itu Haram (DIH) campaign kickstarted the year with an outreach event at Madrasah Al-Maarif on 3rd January 2024, graced by Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State for the Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of National Development. Attended by 200 students from the all-female madrasah, the event featured an exhibition of mock drugs and a talk by a CNB officer on drug prevention tips, along with a sharing session by a madrasah teacher on why drugs are forbidden in Islam. Members of the media were invited to the event. Teachers and students interviewed shared that they found the event educational and cemented their support for a drug-free Singapore.



During his tenure as Chairman, Mr. Hawazi Daipi's unwavering dedication and significant contributions have been instrumental in advancing the mission of the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA). His leadership has been pivotal in shaping our efforts towards a drug-free society. We express our heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable service and commitment.

Mr. Tan Chong Huat was appointed Vice-Chairman of NCADA on 12 September 2023. We are pleased to announce his appointment as the new Chairman, effective from 1 Jan 2024. As the Senior Partner and founding member of RHTLaw Asia LLP, and the Non-Executive Chairman of RHT Group of Companies, he displays strong leadership and an aptitude for making strategic decisions in the legal and corporate sectors. His involvement in diverse business sectors, coupled with his commitment to philanthropic causes as the former Chairman of ONERHT Foundation, positions him to provide valuable insights and strategic guidance to address drug-related issues and support the council's initiatives.

NCADA met with key partners such as Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, SGFamilies, Architects of Life, and Focus on the Family, to explore potential collaborations aimed at making a meaningful impact on parental activation and community engagement. Through these collaborative efforts, we aim to foster a supportive environment that equips parents and the community with the necessary tools and knowledge to engage in meaningful conversations on drugs, ultimately contributing to a drug-free society.



NCADA's meeting with SANA's President Ms Gillian Tan and Executive Director Mr Kok Weng Chew on 15 Jan 2024.



Ms Carol Loi from SGFamilies hosted NCADA Chairman Mr Tan Chong Huat and Vice-Chairman Dr Chew Tuan Chiong at their office on 24 Jan 2024.



NCADA Chairman Mr Tan Chong Huat and Vice-Chairman Dr Chew Tuan Chiong visited Architects of Life's Founder-Chairman Mr Glenn Lim and his team on 24 Jan 2024.



NCADA Chairman and Exco member Dr Jimmy Lee visited Focus on the Family on 25 Jan 2024.

"Waiting For You", an initiative by the Singapore Prison Service features a compilation of stories written from the perspectives of the drug abusers' families.

In this edition, we share with you an excerpt titled 'He Ain't Heavy: He's My Brother'. Despite being deemed incapable of change by his own children and relatives, the writer holds onto hope for his brother, who has struggled with drug abuse and is imprisoned for the ninth time.

He Ain't Heavy: He's My Brother

I cannot remember the last time we were all together as a family. Before Mother passed, you had someone to watch over you and help you make the right decisions. She loved you so much and only hoped to see the day you become a changed man. After her demise, I had to step up to care for you since I am the only family you have left. But I am married with my own family and you are turning 49. Don't you think it is time you started taking some responsibility for yourself as a mature adult?

I am plagued with worries for you. I worry about the people you hang out with. I wonder how you allowed yourself to be influenced by them time and again. Despite my constant reminders for you to surround yourself with the right crowd, I guess you found it hard as you considered your friends to be safe and familiar. You know that your nephews and I are always here for you; we have told you to come to us anytime. Unfortunately, it sometimes feels as if I am talking to a wall whenever I try to start conversations with you. Perhaps it is awkward for you but please understand that we want to accompany you on your recovery journey.

Brother, this is your ninth time in prison. You have said you would change at least nine times in your life. Your words have never translated into actions and your promises never materialized. I know it is hard and it hurts me to see you lead a life trapped in this vicious cycle. I feel hopeful when I see how others have turned their lives around after multiple incarcerations and I wish the same for you.

It is heart-breaking to know that your children and relatives have deemed you incapable of change. I cannot blame them for thinking this way, but I refuse to accept that you cannot change. I know you can live a life of hope without dope. Please tell me what else needs to happen to make you realise that it is high time to turn your life around? I stopped visiting you in prison not because I stopped caring. I have not given up on you. I just need you to understand that we lose our loved ones along the way when we make them feel unimportant, or when we do not reciprocate their care and concern. While I am doing my best to help you, it is important that you help yourself too. I will not stop loving and caring for you but this will not be enough until you give me your hand to hold.

I am trying to recall what you were like before you became addicted to drugs. Honestly, it has been so long and I do not know if I can experience you as your former self ever again. I will not wash my hands off you as we are connected by blood. I only ask that you try to rebuild your life. You are capable in so many ways and it is time for you to reflect on what is really preventing you from change.

Thailand is introducing a new bill to prohibit the recreational use of cannabis, limiting its use to medical and health-related purposes. Additionally, the proposed rules include a ban on advertising or marketing campaigns for cannabis products and devices used for smoking. Driving under the influence of cannabis will also result in fines or jail time. The government plans to enforce stricter licensing regulations for cannabis cultivation, sales, exports, and imports.

Here's a summary of the main points:

- Thailand proposes a ban on recreational cannabis use and hefty penalties for offenders.
- The draft Bill limits cannabis use to medical and health purposes.
- Offenders face fines of up to 60,000 baht (S\$2,284) for recreational use and up to one year in jail or 100,000 baht in fines for selling cannabis for recreational purposes.
- The proposed rules prohibit advertising and marketing campaigns for cannabis products and devices used for smoking.
- Driving under the influence of cannabis carries a fine of up to 20,000 baht or one year in jail.
- The government will tighten licensing rules for cannabis planting, sales, exports, and imports.

Sparking Anti-drug Conversations

1. How do you think the proposed ban on recreational cannabis use in Thailand will impact the drug landscape in the region?
2. What strategies do you think could be effective in promoting drug education and awareness in light of evolving cannabis regulations in various countries?
3. Do you think the proposed hefty penalties will work? Why?

Scan the QR code to read full article:



<https://go.gov.sg/thailandproposesbanonrecreationalcannabisuse>

#CNBUncovered Internship 2024

Summer internships: May – Aug 2024

First-hand insights into efforts to keep Singapore drug-free!

Application closes 23 Feb!



1. Understand the workings of a Law Enforcement Agency

- Exciting insights into CNB's work towards a Drug-Free Singapore
- Close mentorship by experienced supervisor
- Hands-on experience with a 3-day ground attachment! Get up-close to our Narcotics Officers

2. Enjoy CNB's brand of team spirit

We work hard and we play hard! Experience the team culture that CNB is known for, and witness how we support each other to fulfill our mission of "A Singapore without drugs, where everyone can live, work and play safely".



Chew Kai Xuan

"The exposure to real-life scenarios was a priceless privilege, especially when I had the opportunity to join the enforcement team in a one-day operation."

This immersive experience allowed me to witness the entire process of how CNB enforce, educate and engage for a drug-free Singapore."



Clara Aw

"The past 3 months spent in CNB was a fun and exciting journey."

From being able to see the work that I've done come to life to having an opportunity to be attached to Enforcement Division where I was able to see real operations, it has allowed me to better understand the different responsibilities each officers hold."



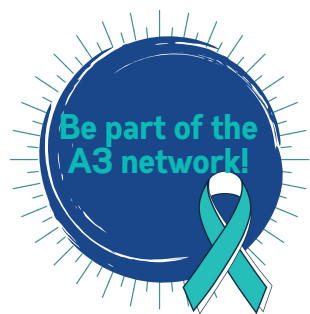
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HELP US SPREAD THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE



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 **Virtual Heritage Gallery** that you can access at your convenience. Access PDE resources from our **PDE Handbook online**:



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:

