



【29th Edition】

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Chief editor :Shu-Lung Yang

Executive editor :Hua-Fu Hsu

Vice executive editor : Yueh-Chung Ma

Document editor : Yuan-Hao Cheng

Executive department :Crime Research Center,
National Chung Cheng University

Phone number :+886-5-2720411#26305

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Conference

International Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment in Asia & 2018 AASAR Annual Conference

Substance abuse is a common problem faced by most countries in the world including Asia. Recognition and understanding of past trends and future directions of substance abuse serve as a basis for effective policies and practices to reduce drug problems. Through years of effort, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and scholars in Asia and across the world have developed many successful programs to combat substance abuse.

These knowledge and experiences contributed significantly to our understanding of substance abuse as a social problem and the strategies to deal with it. The main purpose of this conference is to bring together government officials and policymakers, leading scholars, and substance abuse treatment providers of diverse backgrounds from Asian countries to discuss opportunities, strategies, and challenges in substance abuse research, prevention and treatment.

While it focuses on Asia, the conference also aims at facilitating collaboration between Asian and non-Asian countries. We can learn much from the insights and experiences of scholars and professionals who are involved in substance abuse research and practices elsewhere in the world and from scientific evidence accumulated through research and program evaluations. Therefore, we will also welcome participants from other parts of the world who will bring international or comparative perspectives on substance abuse prevention and treatment or who will share information and ideas about developing effective policy responses to the problem of substance abuse.

The meeting will host at the Golden Bauhinia International Hotel, Nanning, Guangxi on November 7 to 12 2018. For matters concerning registration, please refer to our website at <http://www.aasar.asia/index.php/news/view/58> °



UNODC Reports

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorated in Sasolburg

➤ Editorial Office

Sasolburg - June 26 is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Every year, since it was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987, this day serves as a reminder of the goals agreed to by Member States of creating an international society free of drug abuse.

In his message on this occasion, the Secretary General of the UN, Ban ki-Moon highlighted this year's Theme:

Global Action for Healthy Communities without Drugs

He emphasized that: *"governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs."*

Communities affected by drug abuse and illicit trafficking were also at the centre of this year's commemoration of this International Day in South Africa in the township of Zamdela by Sasolburg in the Free State Province. Zamdela was chosen because of its high prevalence rate of substance abuse and the suffering brought on this community through this abuse, for example high levels of crime and health problems.

UNODC Southern Africa partnered with the National Department of Social Development, the provincial



Department of Social Development of the Free State, as well as other National and Provincial Departments in organising the event.

On Sunday morning, the event was started off by an awareness-raising march to the Zamdela stadium. The march was lead by the South African Police Service, members of the clergy, the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms. Bongi Ntuli, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Ms. Hlengiwe Mkhize,



Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms. Thabethe, the MEC of Social Development from the Free State, Ms. Ntombela, the MEC of Social Development from the Eastern Cape Province, Ms. Majodina, other provincial and local politicians, and UNODC's Regional Representative, Mr. Niang.

Following the march, which led past several shebeens and taverns next to schools and churches, where patrons were already drinking on early Sunday morning, the officials and approximately 2100 guests gathered at the Zamdela stadium."

This paper is from: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<http://www.unodc.org/southernafrika/en/stories/international-day-against-drug-abuse-and-illicit-trafficking-commemorated-in-sasolburg.html>



NIDA Reports

The Hard-to-Trace Ingredient Behind Skyrocketing Cocaine Deaths

➤ Editorial Office

In the United States, more people are dying because of synthetic drugs like fentanyl than because of heroin or prescribed painkillers. While, to many, the opioid crisis has been synonymous with heroin and prescription pills, a report published Tuesday in *JAMA Psychiatry* builds the case that the class of synthetic drug is increasingly making its way into other drugs like cocaine and leading to overdoses. From 2010 to 2016, more and more overdose deaths have been found to be caused, at least in part, by drugs like fentanyl.

In a way, this isn't exactly news. The same data the study used was reported on late last year with the shocking headlines that synthetic opioids like fentanyl have overtaken heroin as the source of opioid deaths. But, according to Wilson Compton, one of the new report's authors, his study zeroes in on a particularly insidious aspect of the drug: the increased risk it poses to people who seek out drugs like cocaine and Xanax and end up with fentanyl-laced products that could kill them in as fast as a few minutes. For example, in 2016, nearly a third of the people in the United States who were declared dead from overdosing on benzodiazepines—drugs like Xanax and valium—had also ingested fentanyl or something like it.



“Of the 42,000 overdose deaths reported in our country in 2016, about 19,000”—almost half—“were related to fentanyl,” Compton said in a video statement. By examining records from coroners’ offices around the country—agencies whose job it is to pronounce and document deaths—the study shows that 15,469 overdose deaths were due to heroin and 17,087 were due to prescription opioids like oxycontin. But the most, by far, were due to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

The severity and speed of the problem raises the question: How did fentanyl come to take so many lives?

As a synthetic opioid, fentanyl and its variants fall into the same chemical class as heroin and prescription opioids like oxycontin. Originally intended to manage severe pain before and after surgery, fentanyl is much stronger than heroin. As Compton tells me, “a teaspoon of fentanyl is about equivalent to a cup of a heroin.” More precisely, 3 milligrams of fentanyl is as potent as 30 milligrams of heroin.

Deaths due to fentanyl have not been as well documented as deaths due to heroin. And, given that fentanyl is often mixed with other drugs like cocaine and benzodiazepines, it’s been even harder to keep record. Compton says the first significant outbreak of fentanyl use that researchers were aware of happened in 2006. Both Compton and Sarah Wakeman, the head of the Substance Use Disorders Initiative at Massachusetts General Hospital, locate the true uptick of overdoses that involve fentanyl-like drugs around 2011.

Traci Green, an epidemiologist at Brown University in Rhode Island—one of the first states in the U.S. where fentanyl hit hard—recalls what seemed like a disturbing, isolated incident in 2013: Fourteen people in the state died within several months of each other after overdosing on a batch of heroin laced



with synthetic opioids. Then, things got worse. “Rhode Island was, if you will, a canary in the coal mine,” Green says. “We had a sense something bad was happening, and it wasn’t going away.”

“Even between 2014 and 2016, there’s just been a dramatic change,” Wakeman says, noting that overdoses, both lethal and nonlethal, increasingly seem to be due to fentanyl.

Both Wakeman and Green say there was nothing that surprised them about these findings, since they’ve been aware of the problem as it’s emerged over the past decade. “I do think it hammers home the fact that what’s killing people right now is not prescription opioids,” Wakeman says. “It really is an issue of the illicit-drug supply being tainted.”

This week, *Buzzfeed* told the story of a woman who almost died from unknowingly taking cocaine laced with fentanyl. She started using cocaine in the first place in an effort to wean herself off of heroin.

As *Mother Jones* has reported, the number of overdoses in which people are unknowingly using



tainted cocaine has risen over recent years—and seems to be disproportionately affecting black people who were not intending to use opioids.

Wakeman suggests a few ways to help people who are inadvertently taking drugs tainted with fentanyl: freely providing kits for people to test their drugs for fentanyl; opening safe-consumption centers; making medication-assisted treatment, or MAT, a proven treatment for those with an opioid addiction, available as soon as possible. These are the same solutions, she says, that could help all drug



users.

Compton emphasizes the importance of making naloxone (a.k.a. Narcan)—a drug that is capable of preventing death by opioid overdose—as widely available as possible.

Whatever steps might ease the problem, the cause is still unclear. As the *Buzzfeed* investigation points out, there's no clear reason why fentanyl has made its way into the illicit supply of cocaine. That the CDC data doesn't distinguish between overdoses in which people intentionally or accidentally mixed cocaine and fentanyl makes it harder to figure out.

"We have been in the dark with overdose surveillance, both fatal and nonfatal, and that's one of the reasons we're in this pickle," Green says.

As Compton and his coauthors point out, the figure they came up with is likely an underestimate: In 15 to 25 percent of death certificates examined, the kind of drug involved in the overdose was not specified. So fentanyl and fentanyl-like drugs (as well as other opioids) may have been involved in even more deaths. But, to really tease this out, "the public needs better data, more transparent data, and more consistent data," Green says.

This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2018/05/americas-opioid-crisis-is-now-a-fentanyl-crisis/559445/>



Taiwan Research News

I. Difficulties and Challenges in Confiscating the Drug Crime Proceeds Deposited in Financial Accounts-Focused on Taiwanese Laws and Japanese Laws

Jye-ching Lee

Graduate Institute Of Intellectual Property, National Taipei University of Technology

In view of the fact that drug trafficking involves mostly not only accomplice in making, transportation, and selling of drugs, but also motivation dealt with individual benefits, and that as to how to effectively deprive the proceeds of crimes would be the essential factor for the success of criminal policy in the prevention of drug crimes, this paper therefore attempts to discuss, with case analytic method, the confiscation system put into force within recent two years to have a glimpse of the current situation whether or not the drug crime proceeds deposited in financial accounts can be deprived effectively.

Secondly, analyses will be given to relevant Japanese legal systems and to those cases as to how the drug crime proceeds deposited in financial accounts can be deprived successfully; such that whether Taiwan can learn therefrom.

Thirdly, a discussion will be made about the difficulties and challenges for Taiwan in depriving the drug crime proceeds deposited in financial accounts. And finally, suggestions will be proposed, based on the results obtained from the above comparisons and analyses, in the hope that more valued opinions can be followed through these humble remarks, so as to promote for Taiwan the effect in depriving the drug crime proceeds deposited in financial accounts

Keywords: drug crime proceeds, financial accounts, confiscation, disgorgement, burden of proof.



II. On Criminal Confiscation of Property received from

Co-Principles for Commission of a Crime

—Focusing on Recent Judicial Practice of Taiwanese Supreme Court

concerning Traffic of Narcotics

Shih-Hsuan Huang

Department Of Law, National Chung Cheng University

This Article aims to explore the interpretational problem concerning criminal confiscation of Property received from co-principles in advance for commission of a crime. In this situation, flight tickets and cash received are the center of the interpretational problem. This article surveys in order of the relative provisions, the majority of the theories and the recent judicial practice of Taiwanese Supreme Court, and endeavors to clarify the core of the interpretational problem under the criminal confiscation law.



Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

| Conference | Host Organization | Date | Location |
|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| CPDDC Annual Meeting | College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) | June 09-14 2018 | San Diego, California, USA Contact: http://cpdd.org/meetings/future-meeting-sites/ |
| The International Narcotics Research Conference 2018 | International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC) | June 13-15 2018 | San Diego, California, USA Contact: http://www.inrcworld.org/2018/2018mtg.htm |
| Asian Criminological Society 10 th Annual Conference | Asian Criminological Society | June 24-28 2018 | Penang, Malaysia Contact: https://events.mcpfpg.org/acsc2018/sign-up/ |
| The 28th Annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium on the Cannabinoids | International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS) | June 30-July 05 2018 | New York, New York, USA Contact: http://www.icrs.co/ |
| 18th Annual Conference | European Society of Criminology | August 29-September 01 2018 | Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina Contact: https://www.eurocrim2018.com/ |