

Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Transnational organized crime in Southeast Asia and its Evolution: Growth and Impact

Jakarta, 13 August 2019



The TOCTA concept

- UNODC has been mandated by Member States to conduct threat and risk analysis on emerging trends in drug and crime issues (E/CN.7/2007/14).
- Tasked to provide “support for the development and implementation of regional programmes” through its field office network (E/RES/2009/23).
- TOCTAs look at illegal flows affecting a region primarily using a mix of official data and intelligence
- Provide an understanding of the mechanics of illicit flows, their size, and the implications of this information for law enforcement and development policy.





UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Illicit drugs: heroin and methamphetamine

Displacement of organized crime has led to a massive expansion of methamphetamine production and trafficking

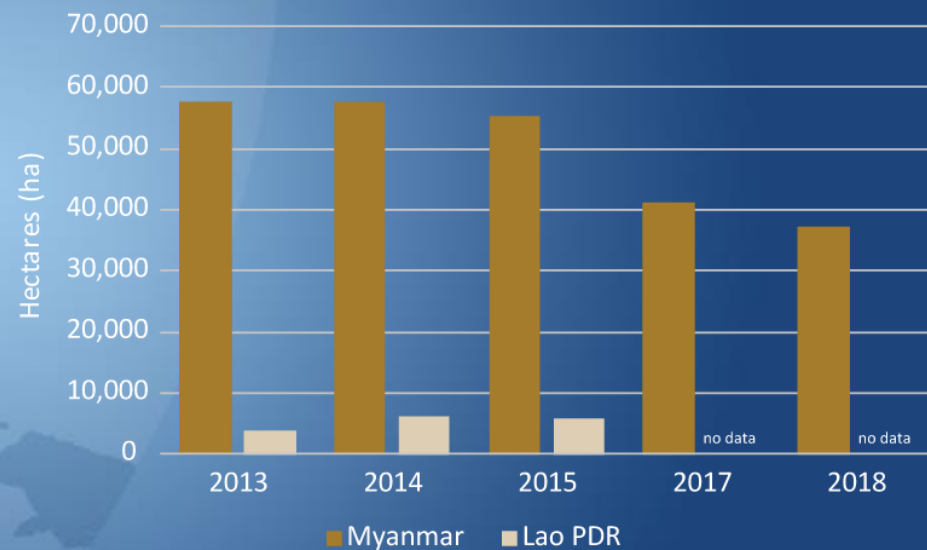
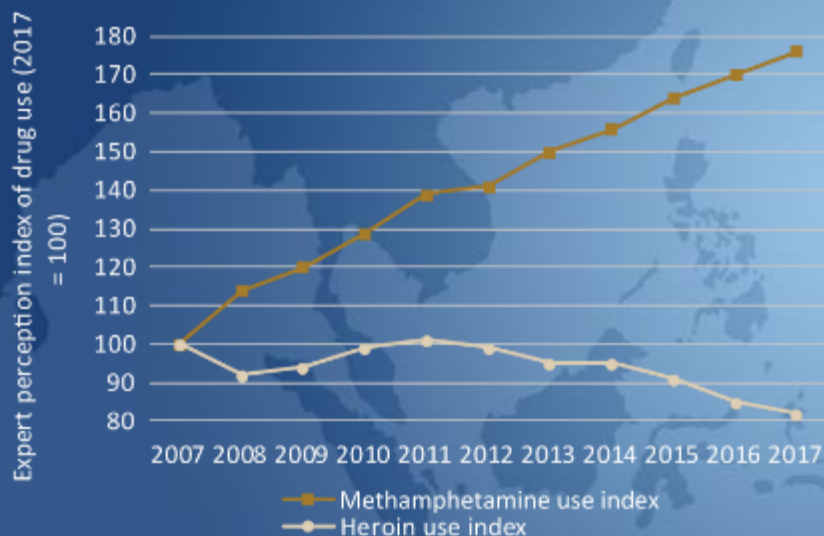
Heroin: US\$ 8.7- 10.3 billion

Methamphetamine: US\$ 30.3 – 61.4 billion



Heroin

Decreases in heroin demand



Expert perception indices* of heroin and methamphetamine use in East and Southeast Asia, 2007–2017

Opium poppy cultivation in Lao PDR and Myanmar, 2013-2018

Note: *Based on information from 16 countries and territories reporting on trends in East and South-East Asia over the 2007-2017 period; 2007 was used a base line (=100); Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire (ARQ).

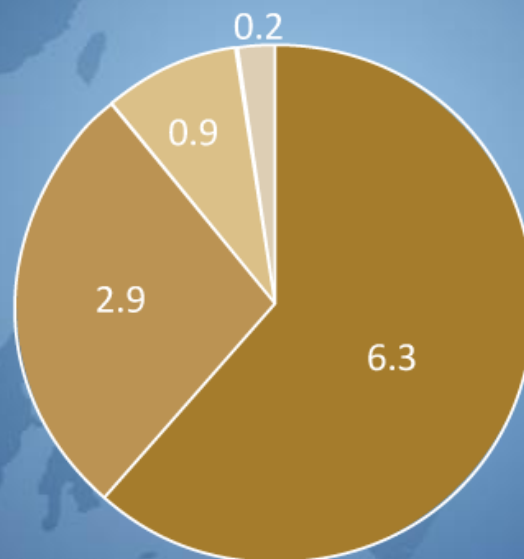
Note: *Data for 2016 are not available for Lao PDR and Myanmar, and 2017 and 2018 are not available for Lao PDR.

Source: UNODC, "Myanmar Opium Survey 2018: Cultivation, Production and Implications", January 2019.



Heroin

Retail heroin market estimate (high-end)



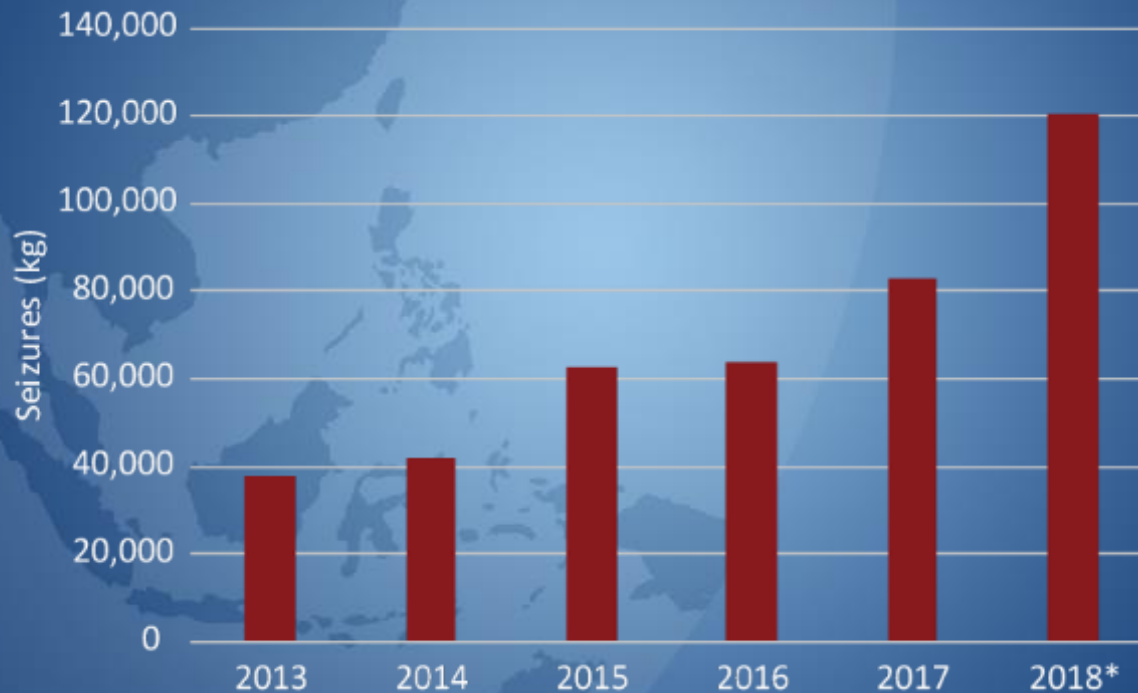
- China*
- Southeast Asia
- Australia & New Zealand
- East Asia, excluding China*

Note: * China includes Hong Kong, China, Macau, China and Taiwan Province of China.
Source: UNODC elaboration based on government data.



Methamphetamine

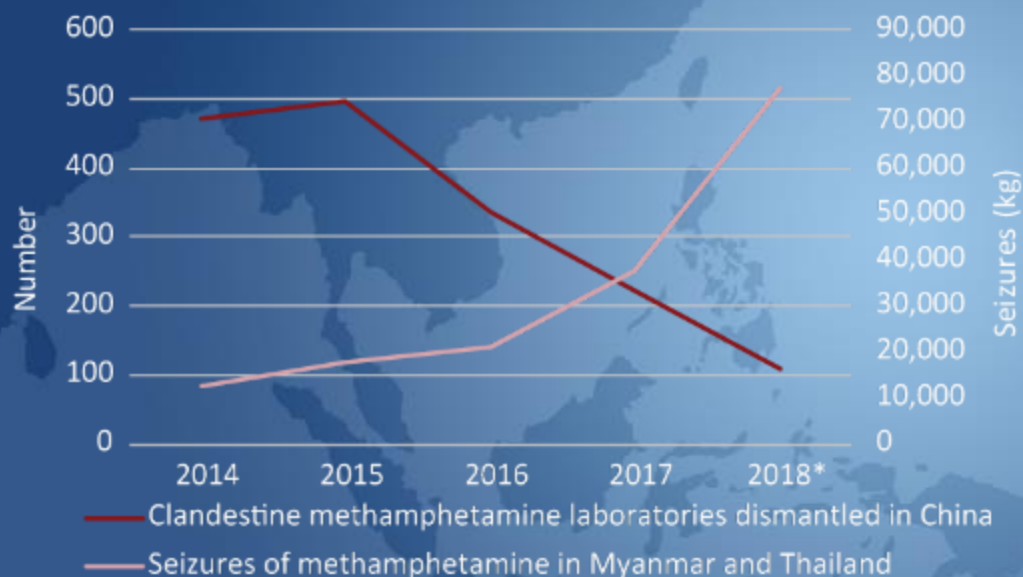
Profound change undergoing in the regional illicit drug market



Seizures of all forms of meth in East and Southeast Asia, 2013-2018*

Methamphetamine

Primary driving factor for the meth market expansion in SEA



Trends in the number of clandestine meth laboratories dismantled in China and seizures of meth in Myanmar and Thailand, 2014-2018*

- Displacement of organized crime groups to northern and eastern Myanmar, known as the Golden Triangle since 2015
- Uninterrupted flows of meth from Myanmar
- Thailand alone seized more than 50 % of the total confirmed seizures of meth in ESEA in 2018

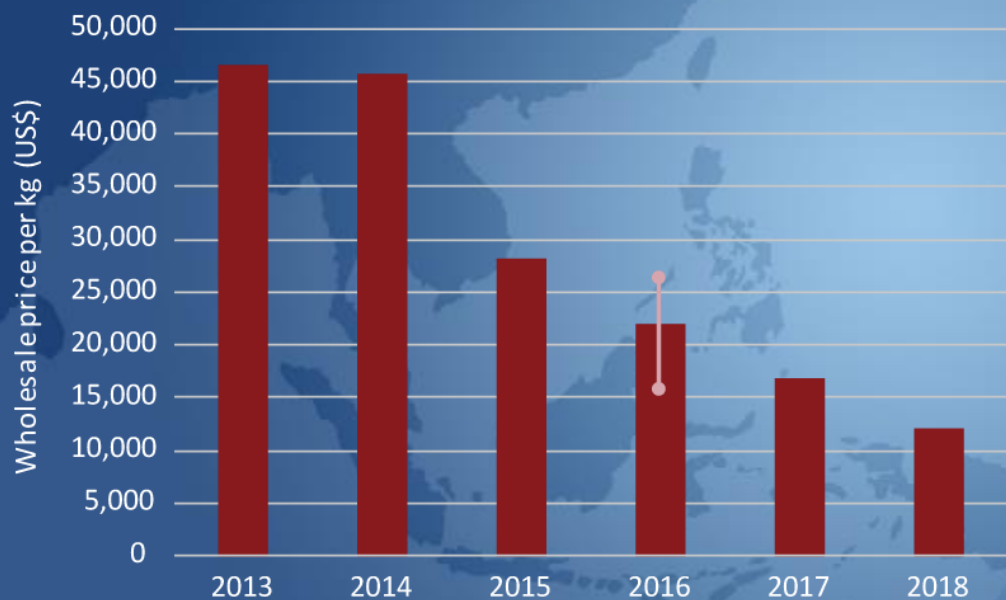
Methamphetamine trafficking flows

- Key route: Myanmar – Thailand – Malaysia – other destinations, including Indonesia, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea
- Increasing flows of meth to Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam to evade law enforcement detection in Thailand, starting from 2019



Thailand-Malaysia border

Malaysia, a key embarkation point for crystal meth seized in neighbouring countries, including New Zealand



- Price for 2018 the lowest on record
- A number of significant seizures meth trafficked through the Andaman Sea

Changes in the wholesale price of crystal meth in Malaysia, 2013-2018



Indonesia meth seizures

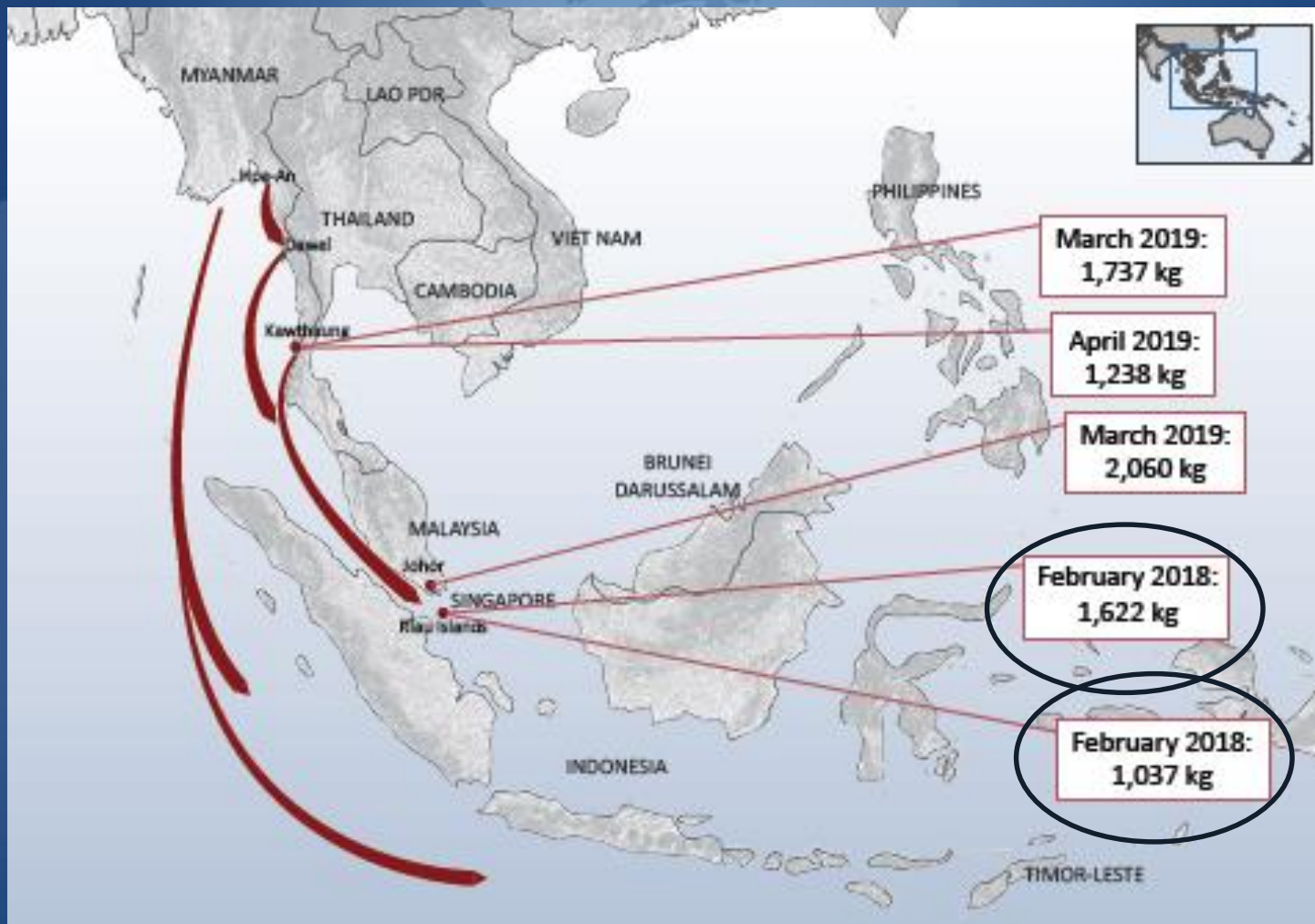
Significantly increased meth flows



- Major destination and transit points for meth trafficked from Myanmar via Malaysia
- Seizures of meth in 2018 15 times larger than 2013



Selected crystal meth maritime and seaport trafficking cases in and through the Andaman Sea, 2018-2019



Presence of a large-scale drug trafficking groups



Cambodia / Lao PDR



Thailand



Viet Nam



Indonesia



Malaysia

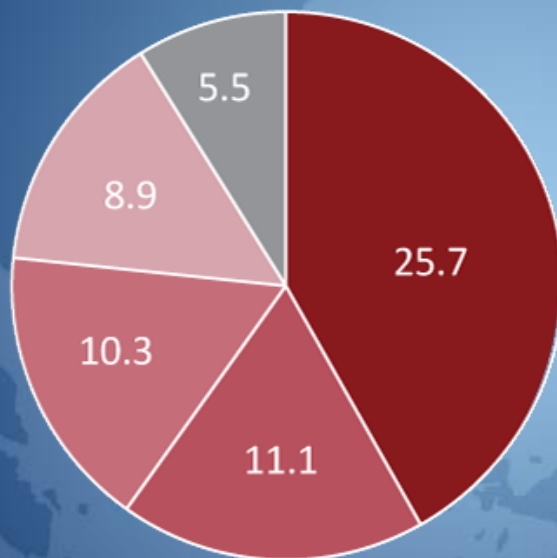


Australia



Methamphetamine

Retail methamphetamine market estimate (high-end)

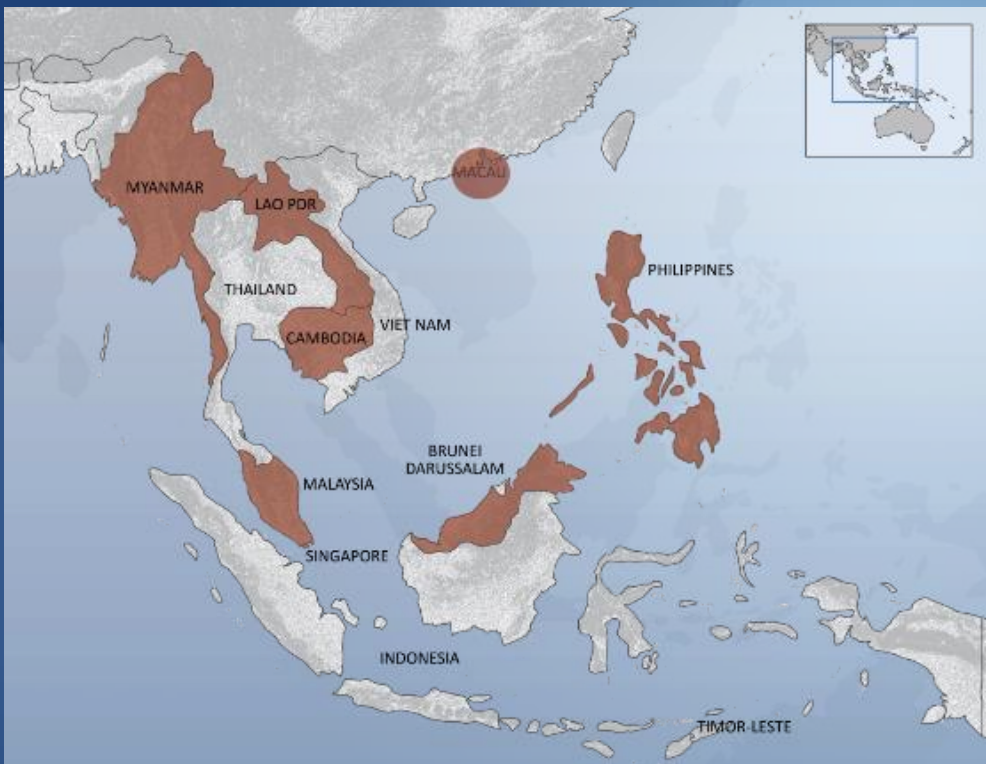


- Indonesia accounts for nearly one-third of the total illicit revenues made in Southeast Asia

Note: * China includes Hong Kong, China, Macau, China and Taiwan Province of China.
Source: UNODC elaboration based on government data.

Casinos and money laundering

Special focus needed



- 230 licensed casinos in SEA as of Jan 2019
- Many emerged after a crackdown on money laundering activities in Macau, China

Countries with casinos in Southeast Asia



Responding (overall)

- Asia-Pacific leadership dialogue is crucial
- Development of a comprehensive and functional strategy to address transnational crime
 - From the recognition of the problem to build strategies through existing cooperation mechanism
 - Incorporating measures to address ‘demand’ for illicit commodities and services
- Strengthening national and regional data collection capacity and reporting
- Minimise disparities in capacity gaps and improve cross-border cooperation (intelligence sharing, law enforcement operations, and criminal justice cooperation)
- Specific recommendations made for each transnational crime (i.e. precursors)



UNODC

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Thank you

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