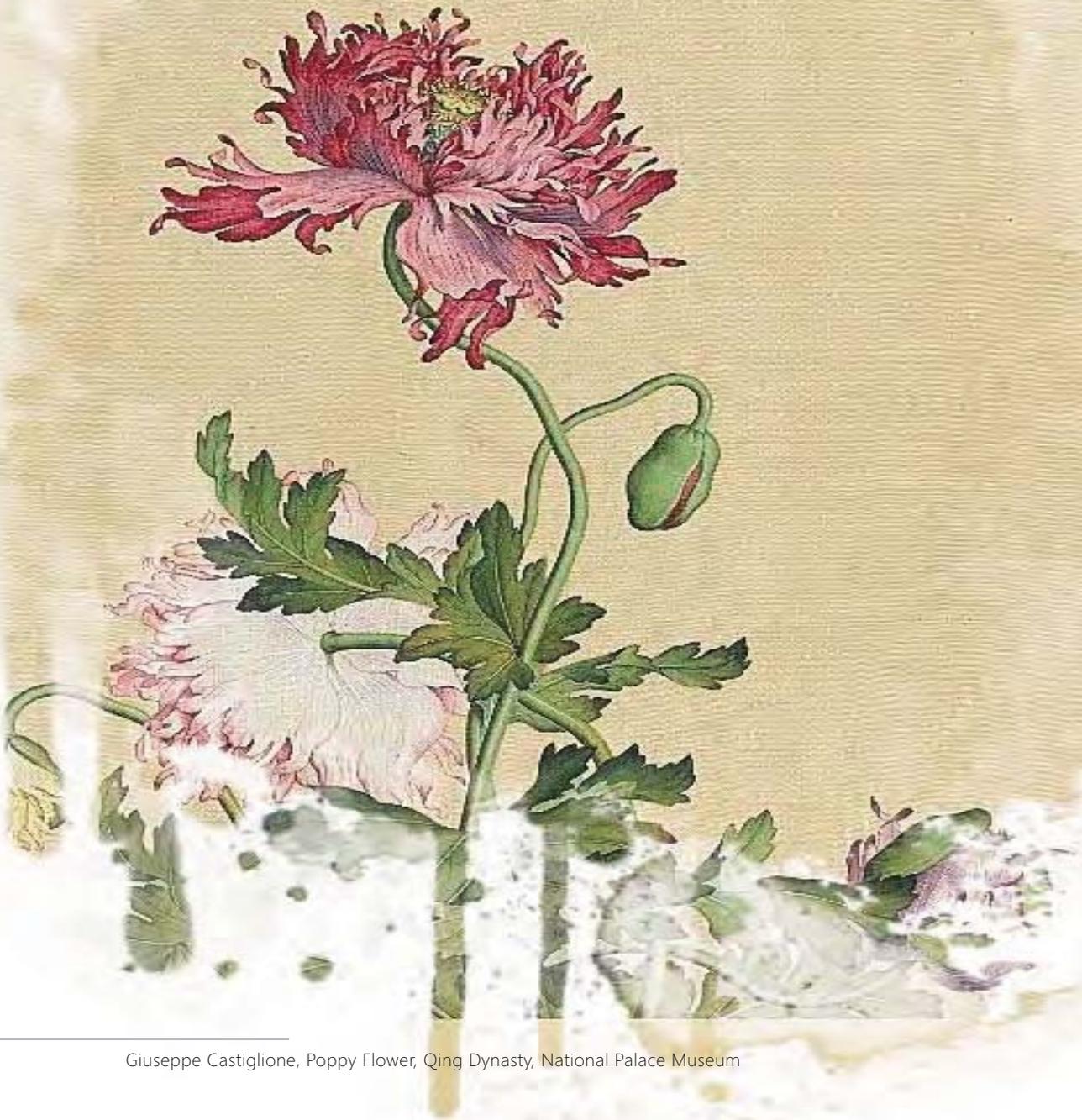


# Anti-Drug Investigation



Giuseppe Castiglione, Poppy Flower, Qing Dynasty, National Palace Museum

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- I History of the Drug Enforcement Task Force and Prospect for New-generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse
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# I. History of the Drug Enforcement Task Force and Prospect for New- Generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse<sup>1</sup>

1. Written by Head Prosecutor Huang Shi-Yuan.

## A. History

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The Office was known as the Taipei District Court Prosecutors' Bureau during the Japanese occupation, and following the restoration of Taiwan, the bureau was renamed as the Taiwan Taipei District Court Prosecutors' Department in November 1945. Later on December 24, 1989, in line with the amendment of the Court Organization Law, the department was renamed again as The Taiwan Taipei District Prosecutors' Office (the Office). The Office is located in the political and economic center of Taiwan, with affluent people, and hence is reputed as the First Office in the world. The population under its jurisdiction has been rising year by year. New and old residential communities are mixed, numerous nightclubs and hotels have been erected, and motels, KTVs and Internet cafés have mushroomed. Therefore, cases of drug use and trafficking have been on the rise year by year.

Since drug use is addictive, abusive and socially harmful, its influence is profound and extensive. Specifically,

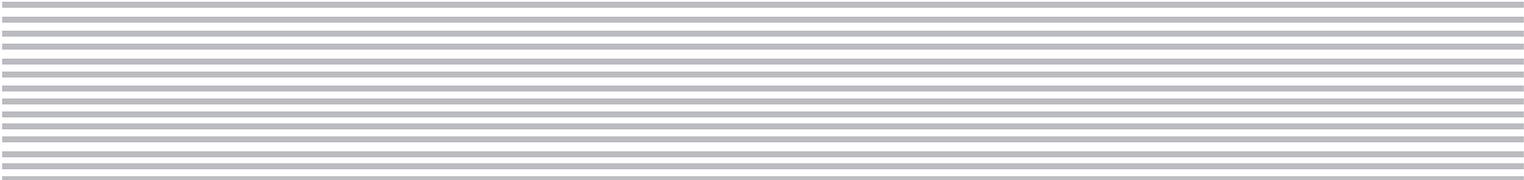


addictiveness and abuse force drug users to shape their own lives by centering on a cycle of obtaining drugs, taking drugs, satisfying drug addiction, exacerbating physical and mental problems, and then re-obtaining drugs. As a result, the physical and mental health of drug users is severely damaged. Their self-determination ability is restricted by drugs, and this undermines national economic productivity. In addition to squandering medical resources, drug users raise money to purchase of drugs to satisfy their drug addictions. They will commit property crimes (such as theft, looting or robbery), violent crimes (e.g. drug seizures resulting in mental weakness and losing temper, sexual offenses or murder), or drive while under the influence, resulting in casualties of other road users. Drug use has caused considerable harm to social order and national security.

The investigation and seizure of drugs have become global issues. In order to comprehensively collect information from all parties and effectively establish a monitoring mechanism for drug smuggling and trafficking networks both

at home and abroad, the Office set up the Drug Enforcement Task Force (Hsin Team) in accordance with the Key Issues on Implementation of Pilot Case Handling by the Task Force of Prosecutors of the Local Court Prosecutors' Office, which was amended and promulgated in December 2001 by the Ministry of Justice. The first chief prosecutor of the Task Force, Mr. Da-wei Chen, took this post at the invitation of chief prosecutor Mao-lin Shih. With his professional experienced drug enforcement skills and perseverance in handling cases, Mr. Chen applied the concepts of knowledge management, developed the case handling culture of the Task Force, and laid a solid foundation for improving drug enforcement results of the Office during his six-year leadership (For details, please refer to Appendix: Annual Results of Drug Enforcement Task Force of the Office). The succeeding chief prosecutors, Cheng-sheng Lai, Chia-ming Li, Ying-hsiang Chu, Tung-li Dai, Ming-chin Chen, Yi-Tsung Wu, Shih-yu Chou, Fang-chou Hsiao (the Justice Team was set up as a drug enforcement task force during the tenure of chief prosecutor Pi-yu Tsai), Hui-ling Huang, Shih-Yuan





Huang, and Li-wei Huang (Hsin Team) all serve as a link between past and future. In the face of ever-changing drug trade models, they have led young and energetic team members to fulfill their duties and reviewed the execution effectiveness from time to time, from the connection, control and tracking of drug enforcement cases with police officers, investigators, coast guards, customs officers and other colleagues, in order to pursue excellence. The defendants involved, including people using, transferring, trafficking or transporting drugs, are asked to identify the sources of their drugs, the channels for drug trafficking, and whether they have any accomplices, in order to stop smuggling through the International Criminal Police Organization, jointly crack down on drugs and stop drug sources. A good case example is that of an obscure model who died from drug abuse at a party that took place in a five-star hotel within the Office's jurisdiction at the end of December 2016. This example attracted public attention to the crisis of drug abuse by the young and the community to strongly request restaurants and the tourism and accommodation sector to bear

the responsibility of reporting suspected cases of drug abuse. Furthermore, it facilitated the amendment to Article 31-1 of the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act, in the hope of further curbing the unhealthy trend of drug abuse and preventing more young people from being poisoned by drugs (for details, please refer to Appendix 7 of this book: Documentary of Major Drug Enforcement Projects).

Confronted with a large drug dealer and retailer market, under the instructions of Chief Prosecutor Chih-yu Yang, the Prosecutor of the Drug Enforcement Task Force, Mr. Da Lin, expressed the practical needs for evidence collection, and a prosecutor with expertise in information designed a program. In 2011, the Drug Enforcement Database was created and a complete set of processes were designed. The information was integrated in a scientific manner, and data on the phone numbers and contact information of related drug-criminals were recorded in files to help analyze, track and develop new case sources (for details, please refer to Kun-yi Lu, Preparation, Development and Operation of the Drug Enforcement



Database of the Office). Furthermore, since 2015, the Office has obtained approval from the National Science Council Executive Yuan, R.O.C (now reorganized as the Ministry of Science and Technology) for Developing and Building a cloud drug intelligent analysis system (i.e. mobile communication device identification technology, hereinafter referred to as mobile forensics business). In the same year, an additional NTD 2.25 million was appropriated for use (for details, see Ping-piao Wu, Status and Development of Mobile Communication Device Identification Technology of the Office). Additionally, the Office works with the Taipei City Drug Abuse Prevention Center in the area to promote drug prevention, rejection, treatment and enforcement, and other anti-drug actions. By tapping social resources, it runs anti-drug campaigns for youth on campuses and also achieves effective control and management of medical treatment and crimes by comprehensively controlling drug addiction and AIDS cases in the medical field (for details, please refer to Hui-ling Huang, Documentary about Implementing New Ideas and Policies of Drugs).

## **B. New-Generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse by the Executive Yuan**

The real-time news released by e-media Mirror Media on November 8, 2017 reported as follows: According to the Ministry of Justice, the number of people who received detoxification of Category 2 narcotics (cannabis and amphetamines) in detention centers in Taiwan soared by 30% in a decade. Presently, 70% of inmates are people who are imprisoned because of becoming addicted to drugs again within five years. With regard to data about drug offenses, the number of drug addicts has not decreased with the crackdown of large-scale drug cases. Instead, this number has increased by 2.8 times in five years. Apart from traditional drugs, emerging drugs have rapidly increased and the drug addicts have become younger, turning Taiwan into a "beautiful drug island", as labeled by drug smugglers.



Faced with this critical social and national security issue, the Executive Yuan has been carefully and prudently working towards. Eventually, it adopted the New-generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse on May 11, 2017 and approved the strategy on July 21, 2017. The goals of the strategy are to: (1) reduce the demand for illegal drugs, and (2) to curb the drug supply. The former starts with drug rejection, prevention and treatment, while the latter deals with drug monitoring and cooperation in drug enforcement. A cycle of four years, from 2017 to 2020, was determined. In contrast to past efforts that focused only on the quantity of drugs seized, the new-generation strategy centers on tracking drug offenders and apprehending the source of drugs, as well as quantitative targets to eliminate drugs from Taiwan society. It strengthens integrating cross-ministerial functions and meanwhile increases budget resources (NT\$10 billion over four years have been allocated to anti-drug work of different ministries), and also amends laws.

In order to implement the strategy, the leading Ministry of Justice convened a conference titled New Generation Anti-drug Strategy on May 12, 2017 and established the goal of having no place for drug dealers to hide (zero tolerance for drugs). The strategies include: (1) setting up a drug database in light of the concepts of census of drug addicts; (2) embarking on a comprehensive crackdown on the drug enforcement network of community-based drug dealers and retailers to help track drug sources and cut off supply; (3) establishing comprehensive reporting networks for easily overlooked blind spots of drug addicts such as campuses, military, and rural areas; and (4) amending the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act by introducing a wider scope of confiscation (including no need to identify the specific offenses committed by the target objects, and a loose connection between the illegal acts and the detected objects actually controlled) and other laws and regulations in order to completely undermine the basis for the profits of drug dealers and avoid possible gaps caused by depriving dealers of the proceeds of crime.



Subsequently, the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office convened a meeting on drug enforcement on June 14, 2017, during which it developed the following implementation measures and notified the local prosecutors' offices:

1. Composite drug enforcement strategies: inspecting the quantity of drugs seized and tracking drug offenders.
2. Cracking down on community-based drug dealer and retailer networks.
3. Drug sweeps in a scheduled (or unscheduled) manner.
4. Tracking drug sources and cutting off supplies.
5. Regional joint prevention, with the goal of sweeping up community-based drug dealers and retailers and their drug trafficking networks. The functions are to increase the frequency of drug investigation and enforcement and meet the status of regions with better rigorousness.
6. Supervision mechanisms, in which regional joint prevention offices are set up in the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office and local prosecutors' offices and a database on joint prevention is established. Local prosecutors' offices supervise the creation of the drug database to facilitate the checking of drug manufacturing, transportation and trafficking, and tracking cases.
7. Establish comprehensive reporting networks by setting up reporting networks for drug issues in remote areas and stepping up investigation and seizure actions targeting drug smugglers, implementing a youth protection project (tracking down and apprehending on-campus drug dealers targeting the youth), and conducting investigations and seizures of drugs within the military, and tracking the sources of diffusion (with the help of the investigators' reporting, grasping drug-related persons and tracking the sources of drugs).



## C. Actions Taken by the Office

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Since the implementation of the New-generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse, the Office, instructed by Chief Prosecutor Tai-chao Hsing, actively facilitated the National Regional Joint Prevention and Anti-Drug Investigation and Seizure Campaign planned by the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office during the Universiade in Taipei City (July 2017). Additionally, in light of the conclusions reached by the Office, the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education under the Ministry of Education and the Department of Education of the Taipei City Government, the Office increased the number of investigations into blind spots in hotels and nightclubs, as well as drug dealers and retailers in communities where drugs may be concealed, hoping to implement the strategy by tracking drug sources and cutting off supply. At present, the initial effectiveness of blocking drugs has been achieved (for details, please refer to Fang-chou Hsiao, Recent Drug Enforcement Practices and Results of the Office).

The core value of the New-generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse is, for drug enforcement results, to fulfill the goal of cutting off supply by means of tracking drug sources. Currently, the specific practices of the Office are based on systematic information collected and integrated by our drug enforcement database. Tracking drug users is based on the following three respects:

1. For all cases of drug users transferred to the Office, the inspector (or investigator) on duty will first ask them about the upstream sources, focusing on the birth date and contact information (mainly phone numbers) about the drug dealers transferring (trafficking or transferring) drugs to the drug users and the online contact details between the phones submitted by the defendants on site and the upstream sources. These contents are compared and kept as evidence, or are immediately submitted for identification and forensics after the phone is retained on site. In case of any evidence, individual cases are filed and investigated.



2. The Ministry of Education and the Department of Education of the Taipei City Government has submitted information about drug cases involving students in secondary and tertiary schools that have been identified by judicial police authorities across the country for investigation since December 2016. The Office files different cases as required and assigns the cases to special persons in charge of implementing the plan of tracking sources.
3. For persons liable to penalty while being rehabilitated during deferred prosecution by the prosecutors of the Office, if the Probation Office carries out a urine test and finds a positive drug reaction, then the following measures will be taken:
  - a. The Probation Office applies to the procurator of the Enforcement Section for individual drug investigation cases according to the law;
  - b. Meanwhile, the Probation Office requests the procurator of the Enforcement to countersign and nullify the deferred prosecution by the original investigation procurator (another lawsuit is filed after the original investigation procurator decides to nullify the deferred prosecution or concludes the case involving the deferred prosecution. In accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act, the defendant is offered another deferred prosecution);
  - c. After the Probation Office requests the procurator of the Enforcement Section to verify the case in line with provisions, it submits other cases, and the procurator of the Drug Enforcement Task Force implements the plan of tracking sources.

#### D. Prospect

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The Office's prosecutor, Mr. Hsing, instructed the prosecutors of the Drug Enforcement Task Force to broaden their horizons, have closer business ties and supervision with the judicial police, and enhance the quality and quantity of handling such cases so as to achieve the goal of tracking drug sources and cutting off supply, and to introduce the characteristic practices of drug investigation and seizure of Taipei prosecutors' offices.

In order to attain the goal of tracking drug sources and cutting off supply, in accordance with the instructions given by the seminar on drug enforcement organized by the Taipei High Prosecutors Office on June 14, 2017, the implementation methods of the Office, as the front-line law enforcement authority, are based on regional joint prevention and a focus on inspecting the quantity of drugs seized and tracking drug offenders. These are two drug enforcement practices with totally different natures, and equal emphasis must be placed on these two practices in order to reach the goal of curbing supply.

Since inspecting the quantity of drugs seized is the expertise and strength of the central judicial police authorities (such as divisions and offices of the Investigation Bureau, organizations under the Coast Guard Administration and the Criminal Investigation Bureau) and the Criminal Investigation Division of the Taipei City Police Department, due to their intelligence and case sources of drug distributors, these authorities may request the prosecutors to give instructions and make investigations

after identifying cases. Apart from a closer connection with these authorities, the Office also exercises supervision during an investigation in order to improve the prosecution quality of cases. Remarkable achievements have been made in this regard over the years.

However, the targets of drug trafficking networks are consumers taking drugs, so in practice, the majority of the cases solved concern drug dealers and retailers. As a result, in terms of tracking drug offenders and sources, it is hoped to develop the specific practice of community-based drug trafficking networks of drug dealers and retailers. The close cooperation between prosecutors, police and military police can work towards this direction in the design of new polices. The prosecutors assume integrated responsibilities, and the police offer family care and run the comprehensive reporting networks, while the Office has information from the drug database and works with upstream and downstream police to submit individual cases to the prosecutors for instruction and investigation. All these are important improvements.



On December 19, 2017, the Office passed the 2018 Implementation Measures for Special Duties of Regional Joint Prevention for the Drug Enforcement Task Force of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office, and the specific details are presented as follows:

1. With reference to the policy on special duties of prosecutors in corresponding jurisdictions implemented by the Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office and the Qiaotou District Prosecutors Office from 2015, and based on the intelligence of tracking drug sources collected by the Office, 12 prosecutors of the Drug Enforcement Task Force are in charge of 12 judicial police authorities, including different divisions, and the Juvenile Affairs Division under the Taipei City Police Department and the Taipei Military Police. Specifically, one prosecutor assumes the major duties, with assistance from another prosecutor (agency or coordination). The chief prosecutors of this task force obey the orders of the Chief Prosecutor, supervise their subordinate prosecutors and judicial police authorities to perform their duties, coordinate in addressing the
- problems or needs reported, and jointly handle cases if necessary.
2. Each division (investigation team) may be staffed with four to six police officers who are solely responsible for or assist with drug enforcement. The investigation team leader or the member designated by the leader serves as a connection between the prosecutors handling cases, and the police stations should be staffed with at least one police officer with specific duties to handle this business.
3. The methods can make use of the intelligence collected by judicial police authorities through the comprehensive reporting networks and family care programs, as well as information gathered by the Office's drug database. The prosecutor assuming specific duties keeps close contact with the judicial police he works for, and reports the sufficiency of evidence of individual cases, while other prosecutors instruct methods for increasing evidence and actively track the sources of drugs following the principle of requesting procurators for instruction and investigation after the cases are

# 檢察機關如何帶動提昇 戒癮治療的成效

## 持續追求創新科研的北檢



臺灣臺北地方法院檢察署

2017/12/11



非鴉 全國首創心理酬賞創新計畫



預防酒駕再犯行動科技APP創新計畫



創新導入 WHO Brief Intervention



邁向更完善的戒癮治療



新北市中途之家機構介紹



戒癮治療的定位與價值

2017/12/11



Head prosecutor Huang represented office to attend a national seminar of chief prosecutors aimed at promoting the efficiency of detox cure, held in Kaoshing on December 11, 2017.



filed. However, the methods should be developed based on the drug trafficking characteristics within the jurisdiction to achieve the effects of acting according to circumstances.

4. With respect to the Juvenile Affairs Division within the jurisdiction, the prosecutors should instruct this Division to submit reports after young people from different divisions within the jurisdiction are accused of drug use and transferred to juvenile court in a scheduled (or unscheduled) manner. They should read the reports and immediately file and investigate worthy cases, and should submit the Office's existing campus intelligence for investigation.
5. With regard to the Military Police within the jurisdiction, if soldiers are accused of drug use, the prosecutors should take the initiative to file a case and submit the case to the Military Police for investigation in case of clear accusations, apart from reporting to the Military Police within the jurisdiction in line with provisions.
6. If the cases presently handled by the prosecutors are not within the jurisdiction of the Office after tracking drug sources,

the provisions are not applicable to the cases.

## **E. Drug Prevention Monitoring Practice of the Office**

For prosecutorial organs, the roles played by the New-generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse are threefold, including drug enforcement, treatment, and prevention. Drug enforcement is detailed in the above. For drug prevention, since 2015, the Office has established the goal of subsidizing holistic detoxification with deferred prosecution fines. The Holistic Detox Association runs the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program. Due to its impressive results, many persons liable to penalty are no longer restricted by physical and mental drug addiction. Anti-drug volunteers recommended by the Association have advocated the program in schools and intensive-concern institutions numerous times, which has proven it to be most effective, because the life experience of drug use is always an ineffective solution.



The chairman of Holistic Detox Association visited our office and the chief Prosecutor appreciated him for the prominent achievement of detox cure.

## F. Drug Treatment Practice of the Office

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At present, detoxification in detention centers and compulsory treatment methods are treatments provided in prisons and detention centers in different places.

Although these methods produce treatment effects, the treatment in such institutions is limited in terms of developing the independent ability to give up drugs and attaining the goal of holistic detoxification with rehabilitation treatment during deferred prosecution due to limits of human resources, expertise and environmental factors. They also pale in comparison with the results of security measures in special crime prevention in different ways.



Therefore, the problem of how the prosecutorial organs can enhance the effectiveness of detoxification should be resolved by both public and private sectors with the support of the following three pillars:

The first pillar is led by the Probation Office of the local prosecutors' office, because the prosecutors' office has the discretionary right to nullify deferred prosecution, has the support of public power, and is a distinctive law enforcement organ.

The second pillar is centers for the prevention and treatment of public hospitals within the jurisdiction of local governments, which are the front line for patients receiving detoxification. There are physicians, pharmacists, nurses, clinical psychologists, counselors, social workers, occupational therapists and case managers in these centers. These centers provide specialized detoxification and can offer treatment and assessment based on the different physical and mental conditions of patients.

The third pillar is professional charity groups, such as detoxification associations in the private sector. The service methods of these groups can be diversified, but they are dominated by community-based non-institutional treatments with the help of institutional detoxification treatments. Most of the defendants who choose detoxification intend to continue living in social families and aim to earn a living and gain support from families, medical care and associations. The latter treatment has the benefit of isolation from an unfavorable environment and support from the beliefs of religious organizations. Furthermore, skills programs are run to help patients to adapt to society. However, it is also true that there are fewer beneficiaries and more government subsidies.

These three pillars must work closely. Specifically, a case-centered cooperative relationship should be established so that the process of detoxification can be reported to the judicial organs at any time and then dynamically fed back to the implementing authorities to make real-time adjustments to the treatment plan



based on the case's status. Therefore, the local prosecutors' office should examine the application plans of the said professional charity groups and assist them with deferred prosecution fines or drug prevention funds after passing the plans. In addition, the Probation Office should offer recommendations and supervision of the implementation results. In this way, it can be learned whether the treatment method meets the customized needs of cases and repeated validation. The aim is to achieve the process and results of holistic detoxification. Furthermore, patients will be grateful for social care, share their life experiences, and allow more patients to build the confidence to not take drugs any longer, thus attaining the detoxification goal of the New-generation Strategy to Combat Drug Abuse.

In addition, in spite of a lack of dogma, to win the trust of the public and government, the specialized charity groups must devise a set of verifiable detoxification methods and practices and gradually become specialized practical groups. Since the groups consist of experts in detoxification, the effectiveness of dialogs, communication, and learning can be easily enhanced, naturally giving rise to scientific research methods. The benefits of the third pillar can increase. Consequently, the duty of the government is to guide a benign and competitive environment that creates multiple treatment models from its policies, so that more and better detoxification treatment programs can be produced, thereby helping drug offenders to make a living and lead a normal life again.



# I. How to Apply the Concept of Knowledge Management to Improve the Performance of the Narcotics Squad of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office<sup>2</sup>

2. Written by former Head Prosecutor, also the former vice director of Department of Legal System, Chen Da-Wei.

## A. Introduction

With the evolution of history, the 21st century ushers in a new era of knowledge economy. In other words, the competitiveness of individuals, enterprises, and institutions depends on their amount of knowledge and effectiveness of knowledge management. Those with sufficient knowledge and good knowledge management ability can definitely develop inimitable and irreplaceable competitiveness. On the contrary, those who fail to enhance and properly manage their knowledge will inevitably be weeded out. During my term as the Director Prosecutor of the Narcotics Squad, Taipei District Prosecutors Office (from November 2001 to September 2007), I supervised the business planning and implementation of the Narcotics Squad. This paper is designated to establish the culture of the Narcotics Squad, and enhance its work performance, as based on the concept of knowledge management, and under the guidance of Mao-lin Shi, the Chief Prosecutor, and Hong-da Chen, Deputy Chief Prosecutor.



## B. Background Introduction

Before the establishment of the Narcotics Squad, Taipei District Prosecutors Office, anti-drug information could not be effectively integrated, resulting in missed opportunities to solve a criminal case or lessen repetitive works done by different groups. Moreover, as prosecutors could not effectively exchange their case experiences, the overall strength of the Office was weakened. Mao-lin Shi, the Chief Prosecutor of that time, proposed setting up the Narcotics Squad to improve the situation and conform to the criminal policies of the Ministry of Justice to set up specific groups targeting corresponding cases. The establishment of the Narcotics Squad aims to fully integrate information from various sources, and enhance case experience exchanges among prosecutors. Moreover, it introduces the concept of knowledge management, as adopted by modern and successful enterprises, to the investigation system of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office, to effectively set up a mechanism for monitoring drug trafficking and dealing networks, and achieve the goal of cracking down on drug trafficking

and trafficking. The characteristics of the members of the Narcotics Squad lie in that: The Director Prosecutor has years of anti-drug experience, cooperative relationships with most police-related institutions, and strong interest in and sense of mission for anti-drug criminal investigations. Most of the prosecutors are young and ambitious, yet inexperienced. In terms of such an organization, first, it is imperative to effectively enhance the strength of the organization, and develop a common vision and appropriate values among the members. Second, the exchanges between the organization and other teams shall be enhanced. Finally, the Squad shall collect, summarize, and judge relevant information, propose strategic guidelines and tactics for specific cases, and effectively implement investigation plans.

## C. Proposal of Specific Actions

1. Develop a common vision and appropriate values among members

The Taipei District Prosecutors Office is heavily staffed, has frequent





contact with judicial and police units, and is abundant in case information, labor, and material resources. Therefore, it is the Office's undeniable responsibility to monitor drug trafficking and trafficking networks in northern Taiwan. First, after a prosecutor is admitted, the Office will make the prosecutor aware of the significance of his/her role, stimulate his/her ambition and sense of honor, and develop a common vision for the Narcotics Squad.

Second, generally speaking, anti-drug tasks are tedious, dangerous, and lonely. Every anti-drug officer must face and analyze the influx of information, which is tremendously time-consuming. Moreover, with ever-changing science and technology, drug traffickers with abundant financial resources adopt hard-to-find channels to avoid investigation, and contact each other with varying code words. Even if they engage in brainstorming sessions, anti-drug officers may not achieve their goals. When a case is solved, and the detection process is more intriguing than a novel, anti-drug officers must remain silent in the face of the media to protect information sources and investigation techniques, in order to not affect future case investigations. Anti-drug officers risk their lives to investigate crimes, and may suffer from psychological stress caused by the threats of drug dealers to them or their family members. Thus, a competent anti-drug officer is by no means someone like a star or celebrity. Prosecutors are aware of this, and endure the loneliness of being an unknown hero. It is likely that a surveillance network created for years may be exposed by casual statements, meaning everything must be started over again, and may even lead to death. As a result, when a prosecutor is admitted, he/she will immediately receive training regarding the above concepts, and form appropriate values to avoid future troubles.

2. In terms of case experience sharing and learning, as mentioned above, most prosecutors in the Squad are young and inexperienced; hence, at the initial establishment of the Squad, I served as their coach. I utilized specific anti-drug cases over the years as teaching materials to offer intensive training, which covered



basic investigation techniques, potential difficulties, and solutions. Additionally, I collected both the successful and failed cases of other offices to explain to my subordinates, thus, we drew lessons from others' failure to avoid similar mistakes. Each time a case was closed, I would organize the entire Squad to review the case, where we accurately identified the pros and cons and shared each case among the team, in order to fully learn each other's experience. Furthermore, after each project was completed, prosecutors collected and compared relevant phone calls with other cases to identify associations with other drug-manufacturing groups and unsolved cases. In this way, we expanded our investigation network and found new projects.

### 3. Establishment and update of intelligence information networks

In terms of each case reported by relevant police and investigation authorities, I classified it first, and then, escalated it to the Deputy Chief Prosecutor, who then escalated it to the Chief Prosecutor. The Chief Prosecutor

determined which prosecutor should take charge of the case and facilitate the collection of information to a specific prosecutor. After a case was accepted, the prosecutor would request the applicant to offer the information of the organization network of the drug trafficking group, and describe the roles and status of each subject suspected. Moreover, the prosecutor asked the undertaker to provide data on various details, such as criminal records, backgrounds, occupations, nicknames, social contacts, phone numbers, vehicles, and lethal weapons. In this way, the prosecutor could thoroughly understand the case and register it. When the undertaker applied for continuous communication monitoring, the undertaker was asked to describe the status of the criminal group in detail, and update various information to facilitate an understanding of the case in a real-time and accurate manner. Each prosecutor would regularly update the latest information of their cases. If I found that there were overlapping cases among my subordinates or with other departments or authorities, I could



immediately investigate and communicate to identify the best execution timing. If I found that a prosecutor's investigation direction deviated from the essence of a case, I could give suggestions to help the prosecutor grasp the key points. To sum up, as information was fully integrated, overlapping and repetitive works were minimized, investigation directions were reviewed and promptly adjusted, and labor and material resources were fully utilized.

#### 4. Establishment and implementation of standard execution mode

When a prosecutor believed that his/her investigation was almost completed, he/she would report to me. At the initial establishment of the Narcotics Squad, I gathered prosecutors and persons-in-charge of projects to have project meetings. First, a police investigation unit would explain the specific reasons why it believed that the timing was mature, and then, my subordinate prosecutors and I would judge the information. In case of any mistakes made by a police investigation unit, the prosecutor in charge of the relevant project would explain and

command the police investigation unit to further verify their facts, and thus, avoid any rash actions. If evidences were clear, and timing was mature, I could ask the undertaker of the police investigation unit to propose an action plan, which would be reviewed by my subordinate prosecutors and I to determine if the subject was a key figure, such as an importer or wholesaler, if the subject was just a underling, if the execution results would have major value, or if the domino effect after the execution would facilitate follow-up detection. After creating the strategic guideline, we would determine or revise the subjects, and consider the legalities and security of the action plan, as we must ensure legality and maximum security. After the strategic guideline and action plan were determined, I would immediately report to the Deputy Chief Prosecutor and the Chief Prosecutor, and listen to their instruction. With the approval of the Chief Prosecutor, deployment and execution would soon be carried out. When the case was closed, I would prepare a press release and issue it together with the Deputy Chief Prosecutor.

After the prosecutors in the Squad accumulated case experience, project meetings were presided over by prosecutors in turn, and I served as their adviser, thus, prosecutors only needed to report their action plans to me in advance. When there were no mistakes, the plan was feasible, and an internal consensus was concluded, the prosecutor would independently command and instruct. In this way, prosecutors enhanced their confidence and practical skills, in order that they could become mature to take action independently.

5. Enhanced cooperation with other district prosecutor offices

The Taipei District Prosecutors Office has subtle interactions with the Taipei District Court. A few judges adhere to the concept of narrow jurisdiction, and occasionally, rejected major anti-drug cases seized by the Taipei District Prosecutors Office with the excuse of no jurisdiction. The Taipei District Prosecutors Office had to ask other district prosecutors offices to accept such cases, and continue the follow-up investigation and prosecution.

Therefore, cooperation between the Office and other district prosecutor offices is extremely important. In order to make other district prosecutors offices willing to cooperate with the Office and provide assistance, in terms of the cases that might be transferred to another prosecutor office, I would report the situation to the Deputy Chief Prosecutor, who would then ask the Chief Prosecutor to notify the other prosecutor' s office in advance, and assign one project prosecutor to cooperate with the Office. Due to such advance notice, the prosecutors of other prosecutor offices had the opportunity to fully communicate with the Office on the case. If both parties were investigating the same drug trafficking group, we could have common planning. If the other party did not investigate the same drug trafficking group, as the other party participated in the case in advance, it could share the joy and honor of closing the case and provide follow-up assistance. In this way, the case would not be rejected due to no jurisdiction. When I transferred from this post, I had pleasantly and smoothly cooperated with the district prosecutor offices of Yilan, Keelung,



Taichung, Nantou, Kaohsiung, Kinmen, Taoyuan, Yunlin, Taitung, Pingtung, Chiayi, and Banqiao. While we have built a good image of close cooperation among district prosecutor offices, some false reports of prosecutors taking credit for someone else's achievements has had adverse effect on our good image.

Moreover, during cooperation between the Office and other district prosecutor offices, in terms of specific drug trafficking networks, we have gradually established cross-checking channels, which are greatly conducive to the integration of anti-drug information, and overlapping investigations gradually decreased. As we have more rigorous understanding of the overall drug trafficking situation in Taiwan, we can make better achievements.





## D. Conclusion

From the establishment of the Narcotics Squad, Taipei District Prosecutors Office to my transfer from the Squad, nearly six years has passed. As the two Chief Prosecutors have successfully applied strategies, the members of the Squad follow the aforementioned methods and work hand in hand. Moreover, Chief Prosecutors and Deputy Chief Prosecutors provide support and patient guidance for individual cases, thus, the Squad has made remarkable achievements. In summary, the Squad seized 29 drug-manufacturing factories, 8.2 tons of various drugs and drug-manufacturing raw materials, 23 guns, and 451 bullets for guns with 9 mm parabellum. We had rewarding results, and extensively cracked down on criminals from Yilan, Taitung, Kaohsiung, Kinmen, and even mainland China, as well as the U.S., Canada, and Japan. As prosecutors can obtain a wealth of experience within a short time, their investigation styles become increasingly mature and effective, and they can better control the progress of cases. Therefore, the prosecutors have acquired the respect and praise from various police investigation agencies. (For instance, Wen-liang Tai, Yi-cheng Tseng, and Cheng Feng won the title of Annual Excellent Anti-Drug Officer. Cheng Feng and Chi-meng Hsieh received the Youth Medal. Hsin-chien Wang won the World Love of Life Award of the Chou, Ta kuan Foundation.) Thus, prosecutors are named to investigate more cases, works continues to flourish, and the Office seems to have become a national anti-drug intelligence and action center.





## II. Preparation, Development, and Operation of Drug Tracking Database in Taipei District Prosecutors Office<sup>3</sup>

### A. Introduction

The gradual increase of illicit drug users in Taiwan has become a serious social problem for the government to address, and the war on drug crimes has been at the top of the government's agenda (e.g. the Executive Yuan's anti-drug meetings; complaint handling projects by prosecutors offices). The Ministry of Justice has declared war on drugs, as they have eroded different levels of society and schools. In the opium war of the new century, it is necessary to attack wholesalers and small-time drug dealers at full force, in order to reduce the population of illicit drug users. Understandably, prosecutors and investigators on the front line should develop plans to effectively suppress the circulation of drugs by wholesalers and small-time drug runners. In addition to the normal works of the command system comprised of prosecutors, investigators, police officers, coast guard, and military police officers, it is time to meet the challenge brought by the booming development of Cloud technology. Taipei District Prosecutors Office has developed an intelligence analytics program able to sift through the daily communications of the devices used by drug dealers, in order to probe into and map out the contact networks of suspects. Information regarding the paths of small-time drug dealers serve as the groundwork for optimization of the investigation process, which enhances the effectiveness of the integration of communication records, and reduces the waste of time, effort, and money. When standard procedures

3. Written by Prosecutors Investigator Lu Kun-Yi.

have been established, it will benefit the formulation of appropriate investigation behaviors for drug tracking.

On February 28, 2011, Head Prosecutor Chih-yu Yang called Chief Prosecutors Ling-shih Meng, Shao-pin Chang and Ying-hsiang Chu; Director of Information Technology Department Jui-ming Li; Chief Secretar Hsiu-yu Chiu; Prosecutor Investigators Kuan-yi Lu and Hsiao-chen Chang to convene a preparatory meeting for a drug tracking database. The team was tasked with the development and deployment of the database, starting on March 1, 2011, by drawing lessons from the drug tracking databases run by Taichung District Prosecutors Office and Tainan District Prosecutors Office. The prosecutor investigators, as selected by Chief Prosecutor Ling-shih Meng, would be responsible for programming and deployment; while Chief Prosecutors Shao-pin Chang and the Information Technology Department would provide IT equipment and maintenance services, and Chief Prosecutor Ying-hsiang Chu

would supervise the operations of the database. Later, Prosecutor Ta Lin was appointed the Executive Secretary for the project. Shortly after the kickoff meeting, Prosecutor Investigator Offices began to develop this database, as based on the concepts of Chief Prosecutor Ying-hsiang Chu and Prosecutor Ta Lin. After the review of our preliminary results, the Ministry of Justice instructed that all prosecutor offices in Taiwan should use our program for their drug tracking databases. In order to revamp the hardware and software for the database, Head Prosecutors Chih-yu Yang and Pi-yu Tsai, appointed Chief Prosecutors since 2013, appointed Chief Prosecutors Tung-li Tai, Ming-chin Chen, Yi-tsung Wu, and Shih-yu Chou in the Anti-Drug Division to chair the Anti-Drug Tracking Database and Cloud-based Analytics System (the advanced version of the database). The technology project team filed an application to the Ministry of Finance for support and obtained a budget of NT\$2.25 million in 2015 from the Ministry of Science and Technology. The funds were used to improve the hardware, software, and bring functionality up to date.



## **B. Assistance to Prosecutors in Generating Leads**

The main program, as developed by Taipei District Prosecutors Office for the drug tracking database, consists of the following components:

### 1. Intelligence input platform

Communication data and recent contacts for the mobile numbers owned by drug users in order to extract information (such as drug abuse history, locations and times for drug buying and selling, characteristics of suppliers, transportation methods, and other details sufficient to identify the profile of substance suppliers), and to convert the data into effective information for the value added processing of the database

### 2. Communication monitoring and management platform

### 3. Communication data importing and conversion platform

Communication data and contact details for the mobile numbers and owners, as retrieved online, are converted to this platform, and then, stored in the database for subsequent analytics;

### 4. Input platform for category 3 and 4 drugs

Data provided by the Taipei City Police Department regarding the punitive measures in relation to category 3 and 4 drugs are stored in the database.

### 5. Graphic analytics platform

Generation of graphic data is based on the above information, in order to analyze whether the contact network of the drug dealers concerned meets the criteria for prosecutors to apply for communication monitoring.

## C. Analytic Workflows

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After the transposition of the abovementioned data, the analytic program will divide the data into five intelligence sources, i.e. communication of contact networks, personal data of the defendants, statements from the defendants, category 3 and 4 drugs, and applications for communication monitoring. The output consists of an analytic graph with a clear hierarchy and different levels of information. The purpose is convince the courts, via the enhancement of mental impressions, into approving the application from prosecutors and police departments for search or communication monitoring in order to gather crime evidence by enhancing the mental impression of courts.

## D. Operational Procedures and Outcomes

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The system will automatically analyze and generate an analytic graph for a specific mobile number after the user inputs the number (e.g. 0937XXX986) in the text column of the program, and presses the button. If this does not work, the user should double-click on the number to be analyzed, in order that the program will automatically input the number into the abovementioned text column. Once the user clicks on the button by following the arrow sign, the system will analyze the number. Alternatively, the user may use the function chart to expand the data into the five modules: communication of contact networks; personal data of the defendants; statement from the defendants; category 3 and 4 drugs; applications for communication monitoring, in order to conduct in-depth analysis of the contact network of the defendants. The analytical findings can be laid out and stored in image files for sharing.

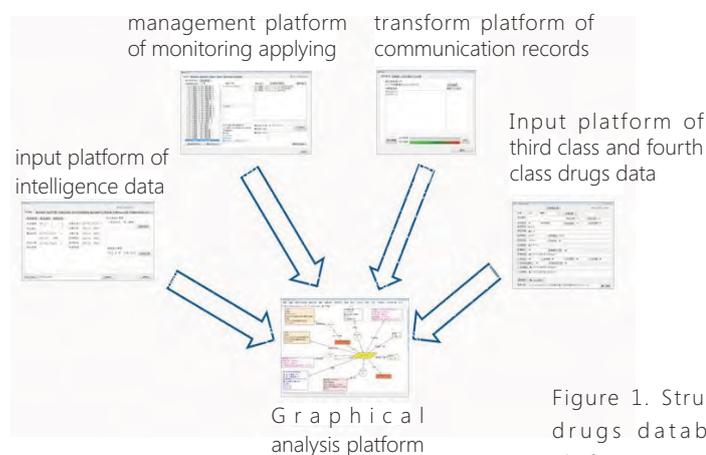


Figure 1. Structure of anti-drugs database and its platforms



Figure 2. analysis software of anti-drug database

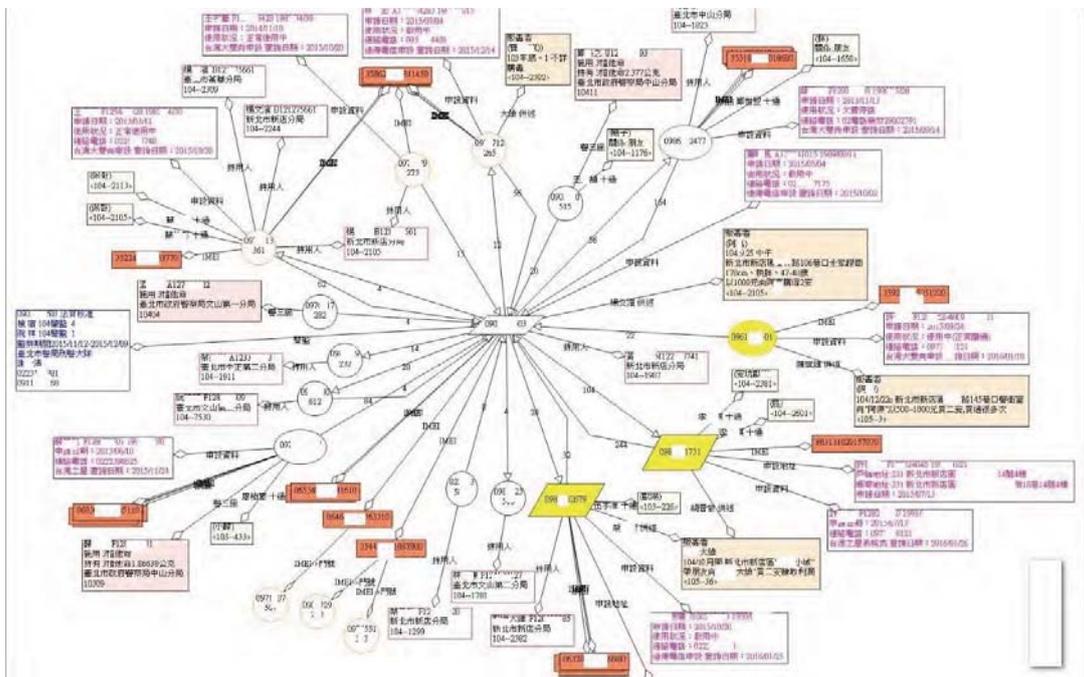
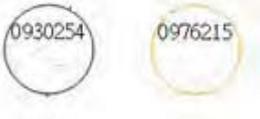
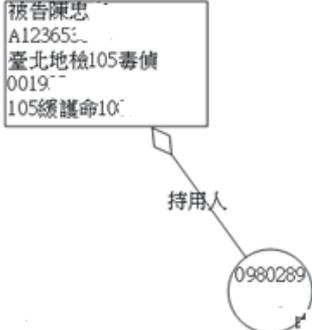


Figure 3. analysis result of anti-drug database

graph	Description
	<p>The cellphone number of the target was 0981045XX.</p>
	<p>In our system, there are two kinds of cellphone numbers. If an interception warrant has been applied for collecting communications records before, it would be shown as the orange one (e.g.0976215). Otherwise, it would be the black one (e.g.0930254).</p>
	<p>The cellphone 0934179 called the target no.0981041XX 15 times.And the target no.0981041XX called the cellphone 0934179 2 times.</p>
	<p>The IMEI of the target no.0981041XX is 35190506717XX.</p>
	<p>The user of the cellphone 0980289XX was defendant Chen Zhong. ID no. was A12365XX. The case no. of Taipei District Prosecutors Officer was 105-19 and 105-10.</p>



graph	Description
	<p>Communications records of Yang Yi included "FaGe" (0981045XX).</p>
	<p>According to the statement of Huang Zhong, "A Fa" was the user of the cellphone 0981199XX and sold drugs to him. Huang Zhong also told the details of drug transaction, including the time, place, price and categories.</p>
	<p>The applicant of the cellphone 0934XX was Chen Chong. ID no. was S122947XX. The operator provided date of application, usage status ,etc.</p>
	<p>The user of the cellphone 0930254 was Chen Ji. He got administrative penalty for using Category three narcotics, ketamine.</p>
	<p>The interception warrant of the cellphone 098104 was issued by the court from Nov.7, 2015 to Dec.6, 2015. The case officer was Zhu Zhi, Criminal Investigation Division, TCPD.</p>

## E. Achievements and Challenges

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1. Drug trafficking is condemned by all countries in the world, and combating drug dealing is always the top priority for law enforcement bodies. Cross-border judicial cooperation is called for to enhance the effectiveness of the war on drugs. Our drug tracking database has been incorporated as part of our standard procedures, as we are a pioneer in harnessing the power of technology in crime investigations. This database sets an example among prosecutors that drug tracking should aim for the origin. Going forward, the system can be extended in scope and depth. For example, crime intelligence can be placed on the cloud for sharing. Data can be integrated with GPS information to keep on top of the suspect' s whereabouts. It is hoped that prosecutor offices and other law enforcement bodies work together to fight crime.
2. Challenges
  - a. Online communication (e.g. LINE, WeChat) technology continues to advance. Offenders seek the safe havens of online communication to circumvent traditional phone tapping by law enforcers. There are multiple online messaging programs on the marketplace, and vendors often encrypt the data. Moreover, it will be a race against time to collate data from software companies in different countries. As the traditional approach of gathering communication evidence is on the decline, it is necessary to increase resources and labor for monitoring and evidence collection.
  - b. Although it is possible to track IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) codes in phone number tracking and communication monitoring, wrongdoers usually use other people' s names (e.g. foreign labors and international tourists) to apply for mobile phone numbers, and frequently change their numbers, which makes it difficult for law enforcers to immediately identify the user of specific numbers. Meanwhile, this type of number is usually operated on mobile devices with an IMEI code of "0", which is used by tens of thousands of people. The problem remains that it is impossible to track back the subsequent number with IMEI once the user switches to a different number.



- c. Drug-related crimes are often linked with gangster activities, human trafficking, and illegal possession of guns and other weapons, which are threats to society. The drug tracking database can serve as a powerful tool to map out the web of contact networks in case of emergency; however, the current architecture of the drug tracking database and the data available are not sufficient. Information will be better integrated if the database can be incorporated into our existing Case Management System to stay on top of crime intelligence and better monitor profile criminal behaviors.
  
- d. Drug dealing hides in the dark corners of specific industries (e.g. night clubs and bars with ladies in uniform), and hence, is difficult to track. Some drugs even find their way to schools. Transactions are usually done face to face, without electronic communication trails. Additional efforts are in order to combine artificial intelligence (such as, image recognition of faces, gait, and body figures, such as tattoos and scars, of drug dealers) to effectively crackdown on drug crimes.

## **F. Future Projects**

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After the deployment of the drug tracking database, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office leveraged on this experience, and developed the election database and indecent exposure database, under the guidance of Chief Prosecutor Tai-chao Hsing. We share our knowhow with the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court in the development of the forest conservation law database, and with the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan Keelung District Court in the development of a waste cleanup database. Going forward, we will be collaborating with the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan Shilin District Court in the development of a financial crime database. We hope to share our experience and competences with all prosecutor offices in Taiwan in order to gather information and combat crime.

Law enforcement authorities should continue to develop tools and technological competences in order to avoid the abuse of new communication software, financial instruments (e.g. Bitcoin), and vehicles (e.g. drones and driverless cars to transport substances) to circumvent the tracking and investigation of the flows of information, goods, and capital for drug trafficking. It is necessary to deploy artificial intelligence and powerful software capabilities to enhance the functionality of the drug tracking database in order to uncover the elusive intelligence of drug dealing.

### III. Commitment and Innovation of **Taipei District Prosecutors Office** in the Crackdown of Wholesale Trading and Small-Time Sales of Illicit Drugs<sup>4</sup>

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4. Written by Prosecutor Lin Da.



Over the past ten years, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has invested a large amount of manpower and resources in the investigation of the wholesale and small-time trading of illicit drugs. Our efforts have paid off. During my tenure in the Anti-Drug Division, I stood as a witness to this journey.

### **A. The feature of drug wholesalers and service wholesalers in Taipei urban area**

Taipei is a highly developed metropolitan area with a high concentration of population, shops, and entertainment venues. New and old communities are blended together, and there are many bars and night clubs. As result, the underground drug market is vibrant, with traditional and new types of substances flowing around. Wholesalers and small-time drug dealers are active.

As Taipei is the capital city of Taiwan, the police frequently raid pubs and night clubs. As our offices are adjacent to the customs administration, the international

post inspection offices, the Taipei City Field Office and the New Taipei Field Offices for the Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, as well as the Drug Investigation Center of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, the Anti-Drug Division of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office is exposed to a wide variety of cases and has constructed a closely-knit network with relevant government agencies in cracking down on drugs.

### **B. The grounds and effects to set up drug transaction databank**

In the face of the massive market for illicit drug wholesalers and small-time dealers, in 2011 the Taipei District Prosecutors Office began to deploy a drug tracking database. It is worth noting that the development of this database was entirely based on the practical requirements for evidence gathering by the prosecutors responsible for drug seizures. The program was written by investigator officers specialized in information technology. The database starts from the acceptance of case files by the Court Police Office to

the interrogation forms and administrative workflows for the prosecutors on duty. It contains the complete records of all the individuals associated with the drug trade, in order to serve as the basis for effective data mining, archiving, analytics, investigation, and operation instructions.

In January 2011, I was assigned to take part in the deployment of the drug tracking database in the Taipei District Prosecutors Office. In March, the preliminary development was completed and a trial run was conducted. By June, with the collective efforts from our colleagues, the database had collated tens of thousands of data entries. We cross checked the first upstream transaction with data mining and issued the first warrant of execution to the police. This marked the beginning of using Big Data and data analytics in the examination of illicit drug wholesalers and small-time drug runners, in order to uncover the suspects in the upper stream. By releasing about one hundred cases to the police each month, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has built its reputation for R&D and taking control in investigations.

### **C. The Complexity and Effort to Investigate Drug Wholesalers**

The tracking down of wholesale and small-time activities of traffic trafficking is a tedious and time-consuming job. Of course, it is a taxing process for both prosecutors and police officers. Sometimes it is a challenge to our physical stamina. What keeps us going is willpower and enthusiasm. The network for wholesale and small-time trading consists of the drug users at the bottom of the pyramid, the chronic drug takers who have become part-time dealers, and the wholesalers who supply the small dealers. The quantity changing hands each time is from a few grams to a few dozen grams. Each transaction is small in volume, but the transactions are brisk and frequent. The buyers and sellers get in touch through temporary communication setups and quickly meet up for the trades. The vast network of miniature transactions is like a capillary network



running through KTV, pub, and night clubs, and it is masked with jargon and slang.

In brief, the monitoring, surveillance and tracking of wholesale and small-time drug dealings is a daunting task for prosecutors and police officers. The stringent reinforcement of the Communication Protection and Monitoring Law renders the difficult process of evidence gathering almost impossible. Extensive evidence is required to obtain search warrants from the court. After the search and arresting operation, it is necessary to quickly interrogate numerous suspects within the 24 hours specified by the Code of Criminal Procedure. This has to cover the identification between multiple drug traffickers from upstream to downstream. As a result, working from the afternoon into the late-night hours is commonplace for the prosecutors in charge because they have to complete the detention and bail procedures in the early morning. Many prosecutors in the Taipei District Prosecutors Office have been dedicated to the war on drugs for years with enthusiasm and commitment.

I was involved in a case where four individuals in their twenties were running a sports betting site and peddling Ketamine. They sold drugs when they collected wagers and distributed winnings on a daily basis. Their customers ranged from senior high school students who were 17 years old to office workers at the age of 30. Detectives in the Neihu Police Office taped their communications for six months and identified at least 100 gamblers. The search and raid operation mobilized over one hundred police officers. About 30 people were arrested, including four main suspects, three accessories, and over 20 small-time drug dealers. However, the seized drug amounted only to approximately 15 grams of Ketamine. The interrogations, the cross references to the tape transcriptions, and the witnesses among the arrested 30 individuals were all required great mental and physical stamina.

I recalled that I was one of the three prosecutors responsible for the interrogations. It was taxing to our minds and bodies that we had to do everything within 24 hours. Yet this was one of the

drills and routines for the cracking down of wholesale and small-time drug trafficking. Police operations for large drug dealings may arrest one to three suspects and seize 500 grams, a few kilograms, or even up to one hundred kilograms of substances. The attention from the media and the recognition for such work performance (measured by quantities) is much more glamorous. However, the tracking of wholesale and small-time drug trading is the groundwork that requires mental and physical endurance.

## **D. Prosecutors, the Unknown Heros**

How can we arrest drug lords and trace the origins without identifying the small players? It is fair to say that the prosecutors focusing on the crackdown of wholesale and small-time dealers are nameless heroes who lay down the foundation for anti-drug efforts. By aggressively combating wholesale and small-time drug trades, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has been effective in undermining the demand for illicit drugs from the bottom of the pyramid. Since

June 2011, our database has uncovered information about 100-105 wholesalers and small dealers each month. After the investigation by the police, approximately 1/3 of these cases lead to the confirmation of suspect identities in order to start taping or gathering evidence. Then, about 1/3 of such cases can lead to the effective disruption of drug trafficking operations. The efficiency of our database has revealed a large number of wholesalers and small-time dealers, but it has also increased the workload of the prosecutors in the Anti-Drug Division.

Despite the long hours, the Anti-Drug Division of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has attracted many keen prosecutors. Our offices are one of the busiest spots throughout our organization. Police officers and investigators flow in to request warrants and provide updates. The high mobility of anti-drug projects and raid operations make our offices feel more like a war room, and many young prosecutors have accumulated real-life experience in this environment.



## **E. Collaboration with the Police to Crack Drug Transaction in Night Clubs**

Since 2013, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has allocated some work days each year to cross referencing the drug tracking database in order to screen out the night clubs where the largest quantity of illicit drugs change hands. Police operations are then organized for an extensive sweep at these venues. As each of these night clubs (colloquially known as the 'pharmacists. ') contains numerous VIP rooms, the raiding of one night club may require over 200 police officers. For a simultaneous search of four clubs at one sitting led by the prosecutors, over 800 police officers must be mobilized. The dedicated team of prosecutors are then confronted with long hours of interrogations and case closings. Whilst we have to sacrifice our personal lives, it is the sense of purpose to combat crimes and the passion to make a difference that keep us going.

## **F. The Bottom-up Drug Enforcement**

As we know, the illicit drug market consists of forces from supply and demand. The anti-drug strategy in the international community also emphasizes that supply clampdown and demand suppression are equally important. The attacking of drug lords is an important means of deterring supply, whilst the tracking of wholesale and small dealers is an effective way of reducing demand. The small and medium sized trades sitting at the bottom of the pyramid are hinged on the trust between the source and the drug takers. The war on drugs will have a limited impact if we only focus on the investigation of large dealings and smuggling, without tidying up the market for wholesalers and small-time drug runners.

Also, the occasional busting of heavyweight drug dealers does not always significantly boost prices in the wholesale and retail market. The depth of the illicit drug market (given the large variety of substances and the high substitution effects) can always stabilize any short-term

fluctuations. As demand is always there, drug traffickers can always find sufficient sources to meet market requirements. The occasional loss from police raids has been factored into the transaction costs and risks in the books of drug dealers at the source.

When it comes to the ivory trade, we would say that there will be no killing if there is no buying. It is easy to understand. If the government wishes to place a ban on the selling of shark fins, there is no point in just cracking down on the smuggling by fishermen, without changing the consumption of shark fins at restaurants and on banquet tables. What good does it do if we just lay out the seized shark fins on the dock so that journalists can take pictures? As long as it remains a profitable business, there will be hundreds and thousands of fishermen chasing this market. The right approach is to reduce the demand whilst disrupting the supply.

## **G. Elaborated Enforcement in Drug**

The deployment of the drug tracking database by the Taipei District Prosecutors Office and the investment of manpower and resources in innovations all aim to suppress the demand for drugs by cracking down on wholesalers and small-time drug dealers. I served in the Anti-Drug Division of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office for two terms and was involved in drug enforcement for more than three years. I have seen how difficult and rewarding it is. Now that we have two teams dedicated to anti-drug efforts, more prosecutors are working around the clock. Up to one hundred prosecutors throughout Taiwan have been dedicated to the war on illicit drugs. They are the warriors and heroes at the front line of this battlefield, and I am proud to be part of this endeavor.





## IV. The Journey Travelled - Recent Anti-Drug Efforts of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office<sup>5</sup>

The jurisdiction we cover is densely populated, with no coast lines or large international airports, which makes it inherently difficult to investigate illicit drug manufacturing sites and large-scale drug smuggling and trafficking. Since Chief Prosecutor Hsing took the helm, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has been seeking to innovate its anti-drug strategy and methodology. It is hoped that we focus both on drug investigation and prevention by devising a variety of measures, as follows:

### **A. Strengthening of Drug Tracking Database Functionality and Keeping up with Technology Advancements in Investigation Operations**

Since the deployment of our drug tracking database on March 1, 2011, Chief Prosecutors have extended generous support in funding and human resources. As of April 25, 2017, we have retrieved and uploaded a total of 22,512,599 communication data entries, 25,539 application data entries, 12,264 communication monitoring cases, 12,069 entries on the users of category 3 and 4 drugs, and 15,884 entries on the users of category 1 and 2 drugs. Criminal activities change with the advancements of technology, and we know that we can only effectively combat drug crimes by keeping up with the times and revamping our procedures accordingly. Our recent initiatives are described, as follows:

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5. Written by Head Prosecutor Xiao Fang-Zhou.

### 1. Regional zone defense

Our jurisdiction is next to those covered by New Taipei District Prosecutors Office and Shilin District Prosecutors Office, and understandably, the profile of illegal drug users and vendors between these areas are highly connected. We have proposed that the acquisition of data from New Taipei District Prosecutors Office and Shilin District Prosecutors Office should be able to assist our anti-drug efforts. Hence, Taipei District Prosecutors Office, New Taipei District Prosecutors Office, and Shilin District Prosecutors Office have jointly submitted a request to the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court that all updated information by any of the three offices shall be simultaneously sent to the databases of all three. The Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court has approved the proposal and is currently attending to this matter.

### 2. Automatic uploading

To establish a nationwide anti-drug database, the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court must access a staggering amount of communication data, and upload hundreds of records per month. If done manually, it takes three to five minutes to upload a file, thus, this process is monotonous and there may be human errors or repeated uploads. Taipei District Prosecutors Office has developed a bot for automatic uploading with Python, which eliminates the need for human intervention, as the bot automatically uploads one communication record every 15 seconds (without repeating the files already uploaded).

### 3. Emergence of communication software

Telecommunications have shifted from city calls to mobile phone calls to digital communication. Thus, traditional phone calls are seldom used, and communication software is currently the mainstream method. Even if a conversation starts with voice phone calls, it switches to communication software for sensitive contents, which block crime investigations.

Most people in Taiwan communicate on Facebook, LINE, and WeChat, which



are social media sites run by foreign companies, without being registered in Taiwan. Facebook accepts requests to access data, but only declines such requests with various excuses, and there is no formal mechanism available for the retrieval of data on LINE or WeChat. It is a tedious process to try to access their communication records and monitor traffic, and all such issues render investigations more difficult.

Chief prosecutors have always been supportive of the annual maintenance expenses of NT\$ 80,000, and with funding for science and technology projects, Taipei District Prosecutors Office purchased an instrument to gather evidence from mobile phones. Our personnel is rather experienced in using this tool to retrieve information, such as contacts and communication contents over messaging apps (please refer to the appendix), and we use such information for drug investigations and other cases. If necessary, we can also gather evidence on a real-time basis for prosecutors, which has been a great benefit, as it saves two to three months waiting time for the long queue with the judicial police in evidence collection.

Given the limitations in traditional methods and the long processing time (approximately two hours per mobile number), it is necessary to purchase additional instruments to assist drug investigations in evidence gathering from mobile phones (where personal data and communication logs are stored). This proposal has been approved and the procurement process is currently ongoing.

## **B. Enhanced Communication and Cooperation with Judicial Police in order to Integrate Intelligence and Prevent Drugs Smuggling**

There are two recent important instances where our prosecutors instructed the judicial police to crackdown on cross-border drug trafficking by screening and integrating intelligence.

1. Our prosecutor, Yi-chun Lin, instructed the Mobility Units for Northern Taiwan, Investigation Bureau under the Ministry of Justice on December 1 and December

2, 2016 to bust the drug trafficking group organized by suspects Yang and Yeh. The operation seized approximately 51.343 kilograms of Amphetamine, as well as the record-breaking volume of 218.45 kilograms of cocaine, which was valued at approximately NT\$12.6 billion when calculated according to the market price in the countries of origin.

2. Our prosecutor, Chiu-ping Lai, instructed the Criminal Investigation Bureau, National Police Agency on January 24, 2017 to bust 134 kilograms of khat, which was originally from Ethiopia, in the Taipei Mail Processing Center, Chunghwa Post. The khat entered Taiwan via Beijing, China, and was repackaged into tea bags by unknowing tea companies. The final destination was Australia. Khat is an illicit drug that contains cathinone.

### **C. Sweeping Anti-drug Campaigns to Ensure Social Security During Major National Events**

To execute the Executive Yuan's anti-drug strategy for new generations and prepare for the Summer Universiade held in Taipei City, the Chief Prosecutor instructed the director of the Anti-Drug Division to work with the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court for National Zone Defense and Anti-Drug Investigation Operations. In July 2017, before the opening and during the Summer Universiade event, National Zone Defense and Anti-Drug Investigation Operations were put in place, as per the instructions from the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court. The focus was on different crime patterns, such as drug vending and consumption in night clubs and crime organizations engaged in drug trafficking. The purpose was to stop illicit drugs at the source and seize the tools of drug trading. During this period, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office arrested 85 drug suppliers, 496 small-time drug dealers, and the applications to detain nine suspects were all approved. We seized a total of 258.045 grams of category 1 substances, 18,822.01 grams of category 2 substances, and 2619,611 grams of category 3 substances, as well as one mini-van and 174 mobile phones. These measures have effectively curbed drug dealing and relevant crimes.



## **D. Seizure of Crime Tools and Proceeds**

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Taipei District Prosecutors Office believes that only by seizing crime tools and proceeds, as prescribed by laws, can the activity of drug trafficking be suppressed. We aim to adhere to the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act and Criminal Law by properly utilizing the resources and information at our disposal before any actions. While we encourage the voluntary hand-in of crime tools and proceeds, we also apply for detentions and rulings to ensure efficiency. The procedures are, as follows: (1) the instruction from prosecutors regarding drug dealing cases; (2) gradual gathering of evidence, and profiling of crime tools and proceeds flows, as soon as communication monitoring starts; (3) continued monitoring; (4) discussion with directors before operations to determine whether it is necessary to apply for detentions and rulings; (5) seizure of evidence, tools, and proceeds during operations; (6) if seizure is not possible during operations, encouragement of voluntary hand-in and application for detentions and rulings; (7) applications for confiscations or forced collections during the indictment process.

With the long-term collaborations and efforts of our prosecutors in the Anti-Drug Division and police officers, our participation in the Drug-Free Defense Net, as administered by the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court in the second half of November 2016, achieved good results. We seized five mini-vans and one motorcycle used for crime activities. The seized proceeds from those involved in the abovementioned cocaine case totaled NT\$18.61 million and a limousine.

## **E. Planning of Anti-drug Mechanism for Schools and Activation of the Intelligence Reporting System**

### 1. Construction of an anti-drug platform on campus

Along with representatives from the Department of Education, Taipei City Government and the Department of Education, New Taipei City Government, the director

of our Anti-Drug Division attended a meeting on September 21, 2016, which was convened by the Department of Planning and the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education. The meeting reached the following consensus: (1) any intelligence regarding junior and senior high schools shall be simultaneously provided by education authorities to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Brigade; (2) the Ministry of Education shall forward the notifications of the deviated behavior of college students to the universities concerned and Taipei District Prosecutors Office, which will help us to get a good head start in investigations.

## 2. Formulation of intelligence reporting mechanisms and contents

The director of our Anti-Drug Division met with the delegates from the Department of Education, Taipei City Government on October 26, 2016 for the confirmation of the reporting mechanism. A form "Reporting for Illicit Drug Sources" has been put in place for reporting by all the schools in Taipei City. On March 23, 2017 and April 26, 2017, the director of our

Anti-Drug Division visited the Department of Planning, Ministry of Education, to confirm the reporting procedures.

## 3. Intelligence acquisition for crime evidence gathering

On September 30, 2016, the director of our Anti-Drug Division met with the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Brigade in our jurisdiction to ensure regular reports from the latter regarding the teenagers referred to juvenile courts for drug abuse. This allows us to screen information and immediately start investigations, if required.

## 4. Solicitation for support in more anti-drug resources

Chief Prosecutor Hsing visited Taipei City Mayor Ko and obtained his unlimited support for drug investigations. On January 5, 2017, Mayor Ko visited Taipei District Prosecutors Office and signed a memorandum for cooperation with Chief prosecutor Hsing. This demonstrates our commitment to combat drugs.

## 5. Increase in the intensity and reach of anti-drug campaigns on campus



The campaigns use texts and pictures highlighting the damages of illicit drugs to the body and the mind, which makes students afraid and aware. Campaign frequency should be increased in remote areas.

## **F. Strengthening of Ties with Military Institutions in order to Curb Drug Abuse by Military Personnel**

Drug use by military personnel is both a social problem and a national security issue. Our Chief prosecutor takes this matter seriously. Our director in the Anti-Drug Division has been instructed to contact military agencies in our jurisdiction, in order to track the origins of drugs and broadcast anti-drug messages.

1. Starting in May 2017, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has been screening newly reported cases, and we inform the military police and kick off the investigation process immediately for any drug abuse by military personnel. The military police have been busting drug suppliers in Banqiao District, New Taipei City and Linkou District, Taoyuan City, according to our intelligence and instructions.
2. Under the directive of the Chief Prosecutor, prosecutors from Taipei District Prosecutors Office have been visiting military agencies in our jurisdiction since November 2017 to give training and education regarding drug investigations.

## **G. Frequent Visits to Drug Offenders in Custody to Encourage Them to Quit Drugs and Develop New Avenues for Drug Investigations**

As per the instruction from the Chief Prosecutor, our probation officers have been working with the Taipei Chapter of the Taiwan After-Care Association, Taipei Honorary Probation Officers Association, and Drug Abuse Prevention Centers in Taipei City and New Taipei City, in order to increase the frequency of visits and support to high-risk cases. The purpose is two-fold: to encourage abstinence and to obtain information on

wholesalers and small-time drug dealers in our jurisdiction. Visits were also arranged when we worked with the Prosecutors Office for Taiwan High Court on the regional zone defense project. To date, we have visited hundreds of drug offenders in custody.

The Taipei District Prosecutors Office believes that we are only at the beginning of the war on drugs, and under the leadership of Chief Prosecutors, all of our colleges are ready for the fight. We will continue to step up our drug investigations and advocate governmental policies to keep drugs away from our homes, our people, and our society.

V. A      N e w

A p p r o a c h   t o

A n t i - D r u g

C r a c k d o w n s

a n d   C a m p a i g n s

( 2 0 1 6 - 2 0 1 7 ) <sup>6</sup>

## A. Introduction

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Substance abuse is an important issue and chronic headache for all countries in the world. On May 30, 2016 when Premier Lin of the Executive Yuan chaired the crime report for the first time (the government's fifth crime report during the year), he emphasized that the drug problem is one of the top priorities for the new administration. On August 26, 2016 when he convened the 21st anti-drug meeting, he instructed the Ministry of Justice to coordinate with its subordinates and law enforcement agencies to combat drugs and encourage abstinence. This cross-department initiative aims to reduce new addicts aged 18-24 with effective anti-drug crackdown and campaigns.

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6. Written by Head Prosecutor Huang Hui-Ling.



To meet the goals set by Premier Lin, the Prosecutors Office has been formulating plans to fight drugs on school campuses, from the origin and at hotspots, and targeting different substances to promote the effectiveness of abstinence. The two directors of our Drug Enforcement Administration have been taking on respective responsibilities and participating in the preparation and operation of the drug database under the leadership of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office. A masterplan has been mapped out to boost the effectiveness of anti-drugs operations by collaborating with other governments in cross-border drug investigations, blocking drugs on campus, and promoting anti-drug campaigns and addiction treatment.

## **B. Campus Drug Prevention and Drug Enforcement**

In September 2016, Hui-lin Huang (Chief Prosecutor in Hsin Division) and Fang-chou Hsiao (Chief Prosecutor in Yi Division) of the Anti-Drug Division from our offices visited the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education of the Ministry of Education, in order

to understand the progress up to date and the difficulties associated with anti-drug campaigns in schools and universities orchestrated by the Ministry of Education, the Taipei City Government Department of Education, and the New Taipei City Department of Education. Multiple meetings were organized by the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education of the Ministry of Education to learn about the high risk profile of students and to hear from highly concerned students about the process of referring individuals to the Department of Health for addiction treatments, as well as issues confronted by the Taipei City Government Department of Education and the New Taipei City Department of Education. We assisted the Taipei City Government Department of Education in May 2017 to arrange six events targeted at ten high-risk schools in Taipei City. The prosecutors dedicated to anti-drug wars visited these schools and spoke to the teachers and specific students, hoping to identify the key issues.

To strengthen the reporting mechanism on campus, Chief Prosecutor

Huang of the Anti-Drug Team supported training for military instructors organized by the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education and the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education in July and August (the summer vacation period) of 2017. Chief Prosecutor Huang assisted in the six workshops for the training of military instructors and campus security officers in Lukang Township, Changhua County, and Fooyin University in Daliao District, Kaohsiung City. The focus was on the reporting mechanism for students with high risk profiles and elaboration on the government's anti-drug policy. The key message was the emphasis on the privacy of the students concerned and the confidentiality of the relevant information. There is a joint effort from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education in combating drugs and searching for drug sources on campus. Efforts are being made to protect high risk students and drug-taking students, without disruption to other students, parents and the schools. It is hoped that the Big Data and the drug database can serve as a boost to the collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Taipei City

Government Department of Education in tracking the origin of illicit drugs.

In March 2017, Prosecutor Chiu-ping Lai led an operation by the Drug Enforcement Center of the Taipei City Police Department in the investigation of an undergraduate student at a national university and a postgraduate student in a private university who were selling marijuana and LSD, which are category 2 drugs. To protect the image of higher educational institutions, the reputation of these two well-known universities, and the privacy of these two students, we did not disclose the names of the universities or the students to third parties.

### **C. Clampdowns on Drug Enforcement Hotspots**

Summer vacation is the high season for drug dealings. In addition to regular crackdowns, we make extra efforts to monitor night clubs and pubs in our jurisdiction. On July 15, 2017, Prosecutor Chen-yuan Wang of the Anti-Drug Division instructed the Drug Enforcement Center of the Taipei City Police Department to search 13 spots, including several infamous

bars and adjacent offices on Linsen North Road. This operation identified five suspects (including one surnamed Fan, a salesperson working in the night club The Little Bee) and a number of drug dealers. The purpose of this exercise was to probe into the drug trafficking behavior in night clubs. Prosecutor Chen-yuan Wang worked with the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Subsection of the Taipei City Police Department on the evening of August 8, 2016, and arrested Mr. Lo in Neihu District, Taipei City. Mr. Lo is the head of a hip-hop club, and he not only takes marijuana but also sells marijuana to six dealers who supply it to students and young adults. The operation confiscated 6.8 grams of marijuana and two grinders, electronic weights, rolling paper, and smoking devices. The jurisdiction of our offices covers highly populated metropolitan areas with a large number of pubs and night clubs (some of them hidden in business districts or communities). These are the hotspots for drug trafficking, and we are making every effort to suppress and combat the network of drug traders, in order to keep substances at bay and safeguard our society.

## **D. Cross-Border Drug Busting and at the Source**

The tracking down of cross-border drug enforcement and at the origins has been spearheaded by a task force led by Prosecutors Yi-chun Lin and Shu-ting Yang of the Anti-Drug Division since November 2016. On one mission, Prosecutor Yi-chun Lin stayed in the offices to coordinate the operation and Prosecutor Shu-ting Yang went out with the police to the container checkpoints in Kaohsiung managed by the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance. The Mobility Units for the Southern Taiwan Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, confiscated 200 packages of cocaine (a category 1 substance) with a gross weight of 218 kilograms hidden in vehicle batteries from Brazil to Australia via Taiwan. This was the largest quantity of cocaine ever raided by the police in Taiwan. (Please see the article titled Largest Quantity of Cocaine Busted in Taiwan by Prosecutor Yi-chun Lin). Premier Lin of the Executive Yuan on December 28, 2016 issued an "Anti-Drug War Heroes" medal to the prosecutors in our offices. Prosecutor





Yi-chun Lin, upon the recommendation from the Ministry of Justice, was given an award in November 2017 by the Ministry of Examination for his outstanding contributor as a public servant. Our offices were very proud of him.

The prevention of cross-border drug smuggling has been on the top of government agendas and collaborations around the world. Mr. Jeff Gough, an officer from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission officer based in Hong Kong, visited Taiwan on January 20, 2017. As Mr. Gough's specialty is transnational crime analysis to identify threats and support law enforcement, his job responsibility is highly relevant to our crackdown on drugs. Chief Prosecutor Huang and Prosecutor Yu-ming Li in the Anti-Drug Division met with Mr. Gough at the Criminal Investigation Bureau or the Police Administration under the Ministry of Interior, to gain an in-depth understanding of the information required for joint efforts in the clampdown of cross-border drug trafficking. Their conversations were covered by CTI Television on a talk show in August 2017.



The geographic and climate factors of Taiwan make it difficult to grow high-quality marijuana buds. To establish a presence in the Greater Taipei, drug dealers must smuggle marijuana harvested from Canada or Europe. Prosecutor Chiu-ping Lai of the Anti-Drug Division is fully aware of this. In June 2017, Lai managed an operation by the Drug Enforcement Center of the Taipei City Police Department, which consisted of months of tracking and infiltration on the smuggling of marijuana buds from Canada. The offenders were domiciled in China and Canada, and trades were done with the people and goods separated. Captain Da-shan Lan of the Drug Enforcement Center followed the suspects and arrested a buyer surnamed Ting in Da-an District, Taipei on June 28th. The police seized a batch of marijuana buds (with a gross weight of five kilograms) on the spot and sent the suspects to the police station on June 29th. After interrogations, the prosecutors realized that this was a job by a large and sophisticated cross-border drug dealing group. It was necessary to immediately track down the source and confiscate the drugs in their inventory, in order to avoid a large volume of drugs flowing into



the market and damaging the health of Taiwanese citizens. Our prosecutors asked the police to apply for a search warrant and detained Mr. Ting. On June 29th, the task force continued to trace the origin and arrested Ms. Chien in Yonghe District, New Taipei City, who was responsible for pick-ups. The police raided six boxes in a warehouse rented by Ms. Chien, and inside these boxes were 91 packages of marijuana with a gross weight of approximately 38.5 kilograms, worth NT\$ 30 million in the market. Both Ms. Chien and Mr. Ting were detained whilst the investigators identified the warehouse location and found over 40 kilograms of high-quality marijuana buds.

The success in tracking down this multi-layered smuggling network was attributable to the sense of purpose and the determination of the prosecutors responsible. They have guided the Drug Enforcement Center of the Taipei City Government Criminal Investigation Division in solving a number of large cases. The forensic operation of tracking down over two layers of trafficking to the origin as described above is the new anti-drug strategy formulated by Prosecutors Office

for Taiwan High Court as part of the regional concerted actions. Our offices devise tactics in the busting of drug sources by focusing on the consumption behavior in our jurisdiction. The efforts by our prosecutors in the instruction of police officers to set up a defense mechanism by sifting through layers of drug trafficking to the origin have paid off. Prosecutor Chiu-ping Lai received an award on July 25, 2017 for his contribution in the drug war. Up to date only two prosecutors in Taiwan have been granted this medal of honor. In addition to the above awarded cases, Prosecutor Chiu-ping Lai also worked with the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance and the Criminal Investigation Bureau in January 2017 to detect cross-border trafficking of 132kg *Catha edulis* that contains cathinone. In this case, the Perpetrator, Miss Cheng, lived in Australia. The naturally produced weeds originated from Africa. The drugs were trafficked to Taiwan via other countries and then illegally re-exported to Australia. The difficulty in identifying drugs in such a case is rare and difficult. The Prosecutor, together with the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance and the Criminal Investigation

Bureau, jointly seized and detained hundreds of kilograms of drugs. Moreover, Prosecutor Shu-ting Yang received news about the trafficking of drugs through the use of medical equipment in May 2017 and initiated an investigation with the Criminal Investigation Bureau and immediately captured the suspect Lin. Within less than one week, the medical equipment that had been sent was found, and another oxygen machine in the warehouse containing drugs was also found according to the clues. A Canadian man, named Gordon, and a Taiwanese man, surnamed Lin, used the medical equipment oxygen machine to hold 8kg of methamphetamines and assumed criminal responsibility. The prosecutors of the Bureau who actively cracked down on this cross-border drug trafficking have been granted a medal of honor.



Prosecutor Shu-Ting Yang cracked down the defendants who utilized an oxygen machine to smuggle 8 kilogram amphetamine in May, 2017.



Gas Chromatography

Second class drug cathinone

萃取

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance



Prosecutor Qiu-Ping Lai cracked the defendants who smuggled 132 Kilograms materials that contained ingredients of second class drigs on January, 2017.

## **E. Response to Changes in Funding for Illicit Drug Purchases and Money Laundering of Drug Trafficking Proceeds**

The production and consumption of illicit drugs is no longer bounded by geographic factors, as a result of rapid development of the Internet and the transportation system. The payment methods for cross-border drug trafficking have also changed. We have received multiple reports on the use of payment with digital currencies for substances smuggled from overseas. The majority of such cases were the use of Bitcoin to purchase marijuana seeds from other countries for planation in Taiwan. As this has become a frequent occurrence, the Anti-Drug Division has prioritized the tracking of drug purchase funding in order to effectively cut off the supply of illicit drug seeds for growth in Taiwan.

Traditional payment methods using cash and gold have been replaced by other methods. The wide acceptance of online transactions has made digital currencies an important payment and money laundry mechanism for drug dealing. The difficulty in tracking and the large trading volume of Bitcoin (based on blockchain technology) has made it the currency of choice for the trading of marijuana seeds. The development of relevant professional knowledge and investigation skillsets among prosecutors is urgent in order to put an end to the sourcing of illicit drugs. The Anti-Drug Division is hence moving out of its comfort zone in law. On April 14, 2017, we invited specialists and scholars in electronic payments (recently opened by the Taiwanese government) and fintech (soon to be governed by new legislation in Taiwan) to give lectures on Blockchain technology, electronic payments, and regulatory sandboxes (e.g. the completion of the preliminary review by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Yuan, on November 8, 2017 of the draft titled the Financial Technology Innovation and Experiment Act). These speakers included adjunct research fellows from Academia Sinica, officers from the Banking Bureau of the Financial Supervisory Commission, the General Manager of the Financial Information Service, the Chief Strategy Officer of



TAIWAN-CA Inc., and professors from National Taiwan University and National Quemoy University. The purpose was to establish multi-disciplinary thinking by combining the brainpower in academics, government agencies, and corporates. It is hoped that this will help prosecutors on the front line develop a keen awareness in the evolution of crime. The judges and prosecutors from the Taiwan Taipei District Court were also encouraged to join these workshops. The sharing of the educational resources aims to promote concepts and enhance the effectiveness of regional joint efforts as a new defense against illicit drugs. On May 26, 2017, Director Huang of the Anti-Drug Division participated, on our behalf, in an anti-drug and anti-fraud strategic forum organized by the National Police Agency of the Ministry of Interior. On this occasion, experts and scholars with years of experience in combating substances examined pertinent issues such as investigations, campus drug problems, and assistance with abstinence.

## **F. Implementation of New Anti-Drug Policy**

The Executive Yuan articulated its new anti-drug policy in a press conference convened by the Executive Yuan on May 11, 2017. On June 1, 2017, Chief Prosecutor from the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, Tien-cheng Wang, was joined by Chief Prosecutor Ming-chen Ho, Chief Prosecutor Chang of the Taiwan Shilin District Prosecutors Office, Chief Prosecutor Tai-chao Hsing, and two directors from the Anti-Drug Division of our offices to meet with Mayor Wen-je Ko of the Taipei City Government regarding the implementation of the new anti-drug policy. As drug takers are essentially patients, the Anti-Drug Division in our offices and Chief Probation Officer Tseng proposed a step-up to Mayor Ko in the subsidy program for abstinence. This proposal was developed by Chief Probation Officer Tseng based on the number of participants, success rates, and percentage of completion in the programs during the past five years. It is hoped that the subsidy can provide sufficient funding for the medical expenses and the effectiveness of the addiction treatment for low-income earners, low-to-medium income households, patients with major injuries or diseases, mentally or physically challenged individuals who have trouble finding a job, and

jobseekers (i.e. involuntary unemployed). Mayor Ko expressed his support at the meeting. According to the agreed proposal, the city government shall hand out subsidies for the recovery of drug addicts, as part of the deferred prosecution by our offices.

Taipei City Hospital issued a letter on September 30, 2016 to our offices, the Shilin District Prosecutors Office, Taiwan Taipei District Court, and Taiwan Shilin District Court, which stated that the Kunming Prevention and Control Center (a part of the Taipei City Hospital) is responsible for the distribution of the 2017 subsidies from the Taipei City Government for the Middle Home Program and Treatment of Drug Abuse and Addiction. This financial aid program will end on December 31, 2017. The maximum amount for each patient is NT\$ 15,000. The subsidies are available for those referred by any of the above district

courts via phone calls to the Kunming Prevention and Control Center after these courts determine their eligibility as defendants under deferred prosecution, including individuals from low-to-medium income households, and those who are mental/physically challenged, involuntarily unemployed, or from other disadvantaged backgrounds. The treatment rendered by the hospital shall be placed under the monitoring of probation officers. The Drug Abuse Prevention Center under the Taipei City Government distributes subsidies to the patients and their families and provides support in job seeking. It is hoped that these efforts can form a tight and effective triangle in combating drugs, and can assist the defendants to meet the expected goal of addiction treatment. The vision for the Executive Yuan's new anti-drug policy calls for concerted efforts from different departments to ensure zero-tolerance for drugs in our homes.