GRENDIN CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

The Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN), celebrated its Tenth Anniversary, at its Annual Meeting, held 7 December 2012. Established on 11 December 2002, GRENDIN has managed Grenada’s collection, analysis and dissemination of drug-related data, through the use of thirteen Indicators.

The meeting, which was the ninth annual meeting of GRENDIN, was convened under the theme, ‘GRENDIN: Celebrating Ten Years of Data, 2002 to 2012’.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the feature address delivered by Honourable Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of Grenada. In his address, the Prime Minister congratulated GRENDIN, on its tenth anniversary, and its achievements. The Prime Minister noted that GRENDIN is not just an accomplishment for the Drug Control Secretariat but for Grenada.

Ambassador Terence Craig, Organization of American States Representative to Grenada, also addressed the meeting. Ambassador Craig applauded the excellent relationship between Grenada and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and the role that GRENDIN has played in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

Senator the Honourable Franka Alexis-Bernardine, Minister for Education and Human Resource Development, in her remarks congratulated GRENDIN on its accomplishments. The Senator stated, ‘GRENDIN has provided our teachers and students with a wealth of information, which has enabled them in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge about a subject that is so relevant in our society.’

Another significant highlight of the meeting was the launch of the document, ‘A Pictorial Analysis Of The Extent, Patterns And Trends Of The Drug Situation In Grenada, 2001 to 2010’ by Prime Minister Honourable Tillman Thomas. The Pictorial Analysis presents statistical information on various drug-related issues.

The Drug Control Secretariat would endeavour to create an atmosphere of non-tolerance towards drugs, through the implementation of appropriate programmes, which would promote the well-being of all persons in the State of Grenada.
On 11 December 2002, the workshop, ‘Network To Improve Recording, Exchange And Comparability Of Data Between Agencies’ was convened, and resulted in the establishment of GRENDIN. One of the issues raised by an Official who was present at the meeting was the sustainability of GRENDIN. This issue fostered some discussion, as this was the first time that such an initiative was being undertaken in Grenada. The Drug Control Secretariat expressed its commitment to ensure that GRENDIN survived, and become successful.

Ten years later, a positive response can be given to the question. GRENDIN. The Network has become a significant mechanism in the collection, analysis and dissemination of drug-related data in Grenada and the Caribbean. The challenges posed by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004, were not enough to halt the work of GRENDIN.

The commitment and diligent work by the Officers in the various Government Departments who furnish the data requested in the GRENDIN Indicators between March 2003 and November 2012, can be attributed to the success of GRENDIN. Data for each quarter of the years 2003 to 2012, were provided in reasonable time. This is a significant achievement and must be applauded. GRENDIN has survived and became sustainable.

GRENDIN is the mechanism through which Grenada collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on drugs, and related information, for the purpose of monitoring trends, developing policy, and implementing appropriate programmes and responses. Established at a national workshop, ‘Network To Improve Recording, Exchange And Comparability Of Data Between Agencies’, on 11 December 2002, GRENDIN seeks to:

- Provide accurate, relevant and timely statistical data on the nature and extent of the drug situation in Grenada;
- Increase coordination, dialogue, and cooperation among the institutions which work in the area of drug control, through the exchange of drug-related statistical information, and
- Inform policy makers and the general public on drug trends and related matters.

GRENDIN focuses on the issue of drugs in four categories:

1. **Drug Consumption**
   - Magnitude of Consumption

2. **Drug Production**
   - Type and Quantity of Drugs Produced
   - Type and Quantity of Drugs Seized

3. **Consequences of Drugs**
   - Arrests
   - Firearms
   - Treatment
   - Financial Crimes
   - Incarceration
   - Criminal Deportees
   - Court Cases

4. **Results of Policy and/or Program Responses**
   - Extradition requests
   - Tests Conducted for Presence of Drugs
   - Mechanism to Control Diversion of Pharmaceuticals and Precursor Chemicals

The Drug Control Secretariat is the National Observatory on Drugs in Grenada. It performs the administrative functions of GRENDIN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, is the Officer responsible for GRENDIN matters.

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GRENDIN AT WORK

The photos on pages 2 and 3 highlight some of the annual meetings of the Grenada Drug Information network (GRENDIN). Thanks to all the Officers who addressed these meetings, presented research papers, attended the meetings and assisted in various aspects of the Network.

Judge Monica Joseph, Chairperson, National Council On Drug Control & Dr. Mary Kreek, Scientist, Rockefeller University, At GRENDIN Meeting, 21 February 2006

Arthur Pierre, GRENDIN Officer, Makes Presentation At GRENDIN Meeting, 18 May 2007

Fitzroy Bedeau, National Security Advisor, Attends GRENDIN Meeting, 18 May 2007

Senator Franka Alexis-Bernadine, Addresses GRENDIN Meeting, 11 December 2008
Darshan Ramdhani, Senior Crown Counsel, Delivers Feature Address At GRENDIN Meeting, 11 December 2008

Reverend Dr. Thomas Welch Delivers Invocation At GRENDIN Meeting, 10 December 2010

Elizabeth Japal, GRENDIN Officer, Chairs GRENDIN Meeting, 4 December 2009

Carvell Lambert-Bartholomew, Secretary, Drug Control Secretariat, Makes Presentation To Pernell Clarke, Specialist, CICAD, At GRENDIN Meeting, 9 December 2011
ACHIEVEMENTS OF GRENDIN, 2002 TO 2012

GRENDIN has significantly strengthened Grenada’s ability to participate in local, regional and international drug control projects and programmes. It has also played a major role in the implementation of the national drug control programme. Some of the specific accomplishments of GRENDIN include:

- Data on drug-related issues is now available for the period 1 January 1988 to 30 September 2012.

- Improved Grenada’s ability to provide data for local, regional and international projects, and Institutions, such as the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ), Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), United Nations (UN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

- GRENDIN provided technical assistance to several countries, through CICAD, to establish their drug information networks.

- Partnership with St. George's University (SGU) and the Windward Islands Research Foundation (WINDREF) on research projects.

- Nine annual meetings and five review meetings held.

GRENDIN REPLACED BY GRENDEN

The name, ‘Grenada Drug Information Network’, was replaced by a new name, ‘Grenada Drug Epidemiology Network (GRENDEN)’. This change in name was announced by Prime Minister Tillman Thomas as he addressed the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Grenada Drug Information Network and the National Drugs Observatory on Drugs (GRENDIN/NOD), on 7 December 2012.

The Prime Minister commended the establishment of GRENDIN, now renamed the Grenada Drug Epidemiology Network (GRENDEN). GRENDIN became the one of the earliest mechanism in the region for collecting and collating drug-related statistics in an organized, timely and reliable manner.

The Prime minister said, “This tool is an invaluable part of our fight to reduce and ultimately eradicate the use and abuse of illegal drugs in Grenada and our region. It’s an accomplishment, not just for GRENDIN, but for the people of Grenada.”

GRENDEN would expand its role in data collection, analysis and monitoring trends, and focus on the linkages between drugs and public health.

The decision to change the name was taken by Cabinet, in response to the expanding role of GRENDIN, greater linkages with public health institutions.

PHOTOS: GRENDIN ANNUAL MEETING, 7 DECEMBER 2012

Senator Franka Alexis-Bernardine

Ambassador Terence Craig

Superintendent of Police Rodriguez James
**FEATURE PRESENTATIONS AT GRENDAIN ANNUAL MEETINGS, 2003 TO 2010**

GRENDAIN has had an excellent array of presentations and speakers at its annual meetings. These meetings provide excellent scientific qualitative and quantitative data on the nature and extent of the drug situation in Grenada. Feature presentations and Guest Speakers at GRENDAIN annual meetings, 2003 to 2010 were:

- **Statistical Reports, Representatives from all Departments which provide data to GRENDAIN.** (First Annual Meeting, 2003)

- **Structure and Function of the National Observatory on Drugs, Trinidad and Tobago:** Ms. Esther Best, Senior Administrative Officer, National Drug Council, Trinidad and Tobago (Second Annual Meeting, 2005)

- **Drug Abuse and Addictions: Some Scientific Approaches to a Global Health Problem, with reference to, Genetic Correlates of the Addictive Diseases: Cocaine, Alcohol, Marijuana Addiction;** Professor Mary-Jeanne Kreek, (Third Annual Meeting, 2006)


- **Legal Implications For The Prevention And Control Of Illicit Traffic Of Pharmaceutical Products And Other Drugs Via The Internet in Grenada;** Mr. Darshan Ramdhani, Senior Crown Counsel, Ministry of Legal Affairs Grenada (Fifth Annual Meeting, 2008)

- **Examination of Drug-related Data: Economic Factors and Potential Causes In These Changes;** Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Younger, Associate Professor of Biostatistics, Department of Public Health, St. George’s University. (Sixth Annual Meeting, 2009)

- **Results of Study on Linkage Between Drugs and Crime Among Inmates at Her Majesty’s Prisons, Grenada, 2010;** Dr. Wendy Crawford-Daniel, Associate Professor at the School of Arts and Sciences, St. George’s University. (Seventh Annual Meeting, 2010)

Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, announce that Grenada will not legalize nor decriminalize marijuana, as he addressed the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Grenada Drug Information Network and National Observatory on Drugs (GRENDAIN/ NOD). He said the Government of Grenada rejected calls to decriminalize marijuana, made ten years ago and will stick to its position, given the potential impact on “national well-being and law and order.”

The Prime Minister said, “Today, amid renewed attempts at the regional and international levels, I wish to place on record that my Government will not yield to such pressures or persuasions. We will not decriminalize or legalize marijuana,” the Prime Minister said, while reaffirming the Government’s commitment to the national anti-drug campaign.” He pledged to continue working with the regional and international community to stem the flow of drugs through the region.

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