



THE NEWSLETTER



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ALEXANDER ATTENDS HEMISPHERIC MEETING

During the period 6 to 15 October 2008, Mr. Dave Alexander, Grenada's representative on the Governmental Expert's Group (GEG), of the MEM, participated in the First Drafting Session of the GEG on the Implementation of Recommendations from the Fourth Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), of the Organization of American States/Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD). The session was held in Peru.

Thirty-five Principal and Alternate Experts from twenty-eight (28) member states of the OAS/CICAD attended the drafting session. Each Expert was responsible for preparation of a report on progress made by another country on the implementation of Recommendations from the Fourth Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, 2005 to 2006, and to present the report at the plenary session. Grenada's Expert was responsible for the preparation and presentation of the report on Suriname.

During the next few weeks, Mr. Alexander would prepare necessary amendments to the report on Suriname, and submit the revised version to CICAD.

Meanwhile, the Drug Control Secretariat, which is the National Coordinating Entity (NCE), with responsibility for the implementation of MEM in Grenada, would be required to report on progress in the implementation of the six recommendations which were assigned to it by OAS/CICAD, during the fourth round of the MEM. They include:

- ◆ Accede to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, 2003.
- ◆ Carry out research and training activities related to the prevention and control of illicit traffic of pharmaceutical products and other drugs via the internet, which will enable the country to identify its regulatory and operative needs.
- ◆ Develop a system to facilitate the secure and efficient handling of information on the control of the diversion of chemical substances.

Final reports on the status of the implementation of recommendations for all member states of OAS/CICAD, would be released in June 2009.



*Dave Alexander at MEM Meeting,
Peru,
October 2008*

GANJA is illegal in Grenada,
Carriacou & Petite Martinique

OUR MISSION

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.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer

As we reflect on 2008, many issues, challenges and events cross our minds. There were times that we could not withhold our emotions of joy and sorrow. But amidst all the mixture of emotions, we can pause and enjoy the positive and powerful moments that made a difference in our lives.

The Drug Control Secretariat continued its efforts to educate the population about the dangers of illicit drugs. With limited resources, the task was challenging but not impossible.

Data collection is of utmost importance since data is used to inform the policy and program formulation. The Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN) is the Secretariat's data gathering mechanism and has been operational since 2002.

The Drug Control Secretariat wishes to thank all those who contributed to the drug control program. Special thank to the Government of Grenada, Royal Grenada Police Force, teachers, parents, OAS and others who have contributed during the past year. **THANK YOU!!!**

As we forge ahead into 2009, we look forward to your support in the implementation of the national drug control program.

WALTERS ATTENDS DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION EXPERTS MEETING IN CHILE

The Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD) convened the tenth meeting of the Group of Experts in demand Reduction in Santiago, Chile, from September 30th to October 2nd, 2008.

Participants at the meetings focused on the review and completion of the document 'CICAD Hemispheric Guidelines on Workplace Prevention'. They also considered the demand reduction indicators of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and made recommendations for changes. Member states of the OAS will use the CICAD model to enhance and strengthen their workplace prevention programmes in 2009.

Mr. Terence Walters, Assistant Drug Control Officer, represented Grenada at the meeting.



Mr. Terence Walters, Assistant Drug Control Officer, Experts Meeting, Chile, 2008

POLICE MAKES DRUG BUSTS

In a major drug bust on 20 November 2008, Officers of the Drug Squad of the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) confiscated fifty-three kilos of cocaine, with a street value of XCD 4.5 million. This significant drug bust occurred when Officers spotted a vehicle traveling at high speed. The Officers became suspicious and pursued the vehicle, which led to a high speed chase and the subsequent recovery of fifty-three kilos of cocaine. One man was arrested and charged for the offences of possession of a controlled drug, and trafficking a controlled drug.

Meanwhile, in another drug bust, which occurred on 18 November 2008, Officers attached to the Drug Squad of the RGPF, confiscated eleven (11) kilograms of cannabis. Four nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines were arrested in the operation and charged for offences of possession of a controlled drug, and trafficking a controlled drug.



Cocaine Seized 20 November 2008

**NATIONAL
DRUG REGULATORY
AUTHORITY TO BE
ESTABLISHED**

Senator the Honourable Ann Peters, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, has called for the establishment of a National Drug Regulatory Authority that can influence policies on drugs and other health related policy issues.

Minister Peters made the call while addressing pharmacists, nurses, doctors and other



stakeholders at the beginning of a national workshop on **“Combating of Counterfeit Medicines and Pharmacovigilance”**, on 31 October 2008.

According to Senator Peters, the pharmaceutical industry has primary responsibility for the safety of medicines and the protection of the public. She said, *“The widespread manufacturing and sale of counterfeit and sub-standard medicines can potentially have adverse reactions.”*

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Health and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Pharmaceutical Procurement Services which is responsible for the procurement of all government’s medicines.

**GRENDIN USED AS A
MODEL IN THE REGION**

Mr. Arthur Pierre, Officer in charge of Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN) represented Grenada as a co – facilitator to a workshop on the establishment of drug information networks, held 6 to the 8 October 2008, in St. Vincent. The workshop was organized by the OAS/CICAD to assist countries to establish drug information networks. It also examined challenges and successes in data collection, and experiences of other countries in establishing similar systems.

Representatives from Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines made presentations on the status of drug-related data collection in their countries.

GRENDIN was recognized as a model which could be used by the region for drug-related data collection. Grenada was congratulated for its ability to gather that information in a timely and consistent manner.



**Arthur Pierre
Makes Presentation at Workshop,
6 to 8 October 2008**

**GRENDIN FACT SHEET ON
ADMISSIONS**

Number Of Patients Admitted To Rathdune Psychiatric Unit For Drug Related Problems: **262 patients (Males: 249; Females: 13)**

Number Of Patients Admitted To Carlton House Treatment Centre For Drug Related Problems: **17 patients (Males: 14; Females: 3)**

Number Of Patients Admitted To The General Hospital For Drug Related Problems: **80 patients (Males: 63; Females: 17)**

Number Of Patients Admitted To The General Hospital For Alcohol-Related Liver Disease: **20 patients (Males: 13; Females: 7)**

Age-Range Of Patients Admitted To The General Hospital For Alcohol-Related Liver Disease: **34 to 78 years**

Details on the above statistics and other drug-related statistics can be obtained from the Drug Control Secretariat, Grenada.

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IN THE NEWS

Directors of National Drug Councils in CARICOM Member States, and Associate Member States attended the Second Meeting of Directors of National Drug on 28 to 29 October 2008 in Jamaica. Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- ◆ Update on the activities of the Technical Advisory Body (TAB) for the Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy.
- ◆ Activities for Drug Demand Reduction for Year 2.
- ◆ Regional issues relating to illicit drugs in general, but particularly to demand reduction.
- ◆ Reports from Member States on activities implemented during 2005 to 2008 and challenges encountered.

Grenada will be the beneficiary of technical assistance in the implementation of its national drug control programme, through the Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy.

The Strategy is being funded by the European Union, and is being implemented by CARICOM. Details about the Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy can be obtained from the Drug Control Secretariat or at www.caricom.org

The Fifth General Meeting of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN) was convened on 11 December 2008. The objectives of the meeting included: To review the activities of GRENDIN; To present statistical data on the GRENDIN Statistical report of Indicators, for the period 1988 to 2007, and to present an update on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Mr. Darshan Ramdhani, Senior Crown Counsel, Ministry of Legal Affairs Grenada on the topic, "Legal Implications For The Prevention And Control Of Illicit Traffic Of Pharmaceutical Products And Other Drugs Via The Internet in Grenada".

GRENDIN is the National Observatory on Drugs in Grenada. It is the system through which Grenada coordinates the collection and dissemination of data from all institutions involved in the area of drug control, and other relevant data. Eleven (11) Indicators are used to collect drug-related data from these institutions.

GRENDIN was established by the Government of Grenada in December 2002.



Crime Stopper!

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PHOTOS OF GRENDIN'S FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2008



Senator Franka Bernadine, Minister for Education Addresses GRENDIN Meeting



Mr. Darshan Randhani, Senior Crown Counsel Makes Presentation at GRENDIN Meeting

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