Grenada Participates In Regional Workshop on Firearms

Gun related crimes connected to the trafficking of illegal drugs and firearms are on the increase in the Caribbean. This was revealed at ‘Regional Workshop To Promote The Implementation Of The United Nations Protocol Against The Illicit Manufacturing Of And Trafficking In Firearms, Their Parts And Components And Ammunition And Other Related Instruments’, held 3 to 5 June 2009, in Barbados.

The workshop, which was hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), examined the status of implementation of the United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition and Other Related Instruments. Experts in the area of firearms control from several regional and international institutions including Caribbean Community (CARICOM), United Nations (UN), Organization of American States (OAS) the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco (ATF), made presentations on various aspects of the Protocol and firearms control.

Grenada ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components in May 2004. Grenada’s delegation to the workshop comprised of Superintendent Jessmon Prince, Royal Grenada Police Force; Ms. Crisann Greenidge, Crown Counsel, Director of Public Prosecutions' Office, and Mr. Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat.
The Fifth Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) has commenced. During this process, an evaluation of the progress of national drug control programs in the member states of the Organization of American States/Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD), will be evaluated through the use of fifty Indicators, which cover various aspects of drug control. Acting on a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas, the MEM was created in 1999 with the objective of increasing coordination, dialogue, and cooperation within the member states in order to confront the drug problem more efficiently.

Grenada has participated in all previous rounds of the MEM. Through this process, the national drug control program has been evaluated and several recommendations were made to improve the program. These recommendations were used by the Government of Grenada to strengthen the program, and, establish policies and mechanisms to guide the national program.

Through the MEM, Grenada has received financial and technical assistance. Grenada has benefitted significantly from the MEM.

Grenada recognizes the role of MEM and the work of CICAD in this regard. Grenada stands ready to participate in the Fifth Round of the MEM.

JAPAL ATTENDS REGIONAL MEETING ON DRUGS

Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, Assistant Drug Control Officer, represented Grenada at the 3rd Biennial Meeting of Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs, held August 4th to 6th, 2009 in Dominica. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss policy recommendations for the region in light of results of new surveys and recent activities conducted.

The meeting examined the state of drug observatories in the region and the usefulness of drug information networks. It also discussed the main findings and conclusions of Caribbean Comparative Report on Drug Use. Participants also reviewed the regional HFLE syllabus. Another issue discussed was strategies in drug prevention.

The meeting was organized on this occasion by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

WALTERS IN NCE TRAINING FOR MEM

Representatives of the National Coordinating Entities (NCE) for the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), in the English-speaking member states of the OAS, the United States and Canada, participated in a training exercise, held 22 to 23 July 2009 in Belize, as part of preparation for implementation of the Fifth Round of the MEM. The objectives of the training session included: To provide the Representatives with practice sessions for the completion of the MEM questionnaire online; and, to review and analyze the strengths and weaknesses identified in the fourth evaluation round of the MEM.

Other areas covered were: Role of the National Coordinating Entity (NCE); Review of the questionnaire of indicators for the Fifth Evaluation Round, 2007 to 2009; Introduction of the software for the submission of indicators.
ALEXANDER ATTENDS DARE CONVENTION

Mr. Dave Alexander, Regional Educator for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program in the Caribbean, attended the 22nd Annual DARE Training Convention, held 21 to 23 July 2009 in Orlando, Florida. Over one thousand DARE Officers, and other Officials from twenty (20) countries attended the Conference. Inclusive of these were four (4) Officers from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia whose participation was funded by the Embassy of the United States of America, Barbados.

One of the highlights of the Ceremony was the address by Chief (Retired) Daryl F. Gates of the Los Angeles Police Department, who founded the DARE program in 1983. Issues covered at the Convention included: Identifying Methamphetamine and Clandestine Labs; Terrorists, Weapons and Tactics; Internet Safety; Violent and Sexual Juvenile Behaviours.

CICAD REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

During the Fourth Evaluation Round, six recommendations were assigned to Grenada by the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). According to the final report from CICAD on the status of implementation of these recommendations, CICAD noted that Grenada had taken steps to implement four of them.

CICAD noted that the Proceeds of Crime Act, 2003 includes any indictable offences or offences triable both summarily or on indictment in Grenada from which a person had benefited. CICAD also noted that the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was in progress.

Regarding the control of sales of drugs via the Internet, Grenada had carried out training sessions for officials involved in the control of pharmaceutical products.

Meanwhile, the Draft Chemical Precursors Bill that will permit the secure and efficient handling of information on the control of the diversion of chemical substances was submitted to Government for appropriate action. No action was taken on the recommendation regarding legislation on investigative techniques.

NCODC WEBPAGE

As part of its efforts to intensify and expand the national drug control programme, the Government of Grenada has established a webpage which would provide the general public with relevant information on this subject. Materials which can be found on the webpage include: research studies, newsletters, public Service announcements on drug prevention, and the television programme ‘Living Drug Free’. A photo gallery would soon be established on the webpage. The webpage would be linked to the websites of the National Drug Councils of Barbados and Jamaica.

The online address for the webpage is: www.gov.gd/ncodc.html

‘Living Drug Free’ a half hour television program on GIS Television Channel 12

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IN THE NEWS

Grenada’s Drug Control Officer Mr. Dave Alexander, conducted workshops in The Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago on the theme, ‘Teaching Drug Prevention Education’, 24 to 26 June, and 18 and 19 August 2009 respectively. The primary objective of the workshops was to develop a cadre of Pre-school Teachers, Education Officers and other Officials involved in the area of drug control, to teach drug prevention education at the Pre-school levels. Over thirty lesson plans were developed which would be used to teach drug prevention in The Bahamas. Lesson plans would be developed for Trinidad and Tobago in subsequent workshops.

Mr. Kester Cyrus, Pharmacy Inspector, Grenada, attended the Seventh National Drug Control System (NDS) User Group Meeting, held 1 to 3 September 2009, in Mexico. The meeting focused on the use of the Computer and Telecommunication System for International and the NDS. This system, which was designed by the United Nations, facilitates management and control over licit movements of psychoactive drugs and precursor chemicals. It also enhances timeliness of information exchange at the national and international levels. NDS can be utilized to fulfill varying national drug control management needs, such as the preparation of reports to be submitted to the United Nations, in accordance with requirements outlined in the international drug control conventions. Mr. Cyrus is responsible for implementation of the NDS in Grenada.

Crime Stopper!

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The following is a summary of Grenada Drug Information Network (GREDIN) Statistical Report Of Indicators for the period 1 January to 30 June 2009.

Arrested And Charged For Drug-Related Offences
♦ Number of persons arrested and charged for drug-related offences: 354
♦ Number of persons twenty years and under: 46

Types And Quantity Of Drugs Confiscated By The Royal Grenada Police Force
♦ Cocaine: 85.6 kg
♦ Cannabis Plants: 2,463 units
♦ Marijuana: 194.44 kg
♦ Marijuana cigarettes: 990 units

Persons Sentenced to Prisons For Drug Related Offenses
♦ Number of persons: 43

Further details on this subject can be obtained from the Drug Control Secretariat.

51 kg of cannabis was seized on 9 June 2009, as a result of a joint operation carried out by Officers attached to the Drug Squad of the Royal Grenada Police Force and the Grenada Coast Guard.

File Photo Of Kester Cyrus

Visit the Drug Control Secretariat on-line!
www.gov.gd/ncodc.html