

## DEA Museum\_Golden Triangle

Sean Fearn: We are delighted to have two speakers today who frankly have traveled further than any of our previous lecture speakers, going back to when this program began in 2003. All the way from Thailand, we have a special warm welcome to both of our speakers this afternoon. We look forward to hearing from you. Just a couple of quick housekeeping items -- as a courtesy to both our speakers and to your fellow audience members, if I could please ask you to silence your cell phones and Blackberries for the duration of the program.

There is going to be an opportunity at the end, following their speeches and presentations, for question and answer. I would ask simply that those of you who are here live in the auditorium with us raise your hand and wait for a microphone to come to you so that not only will your fellow audience members hear your question, but also those who are watching live on the internet will hear it as well. For those of you who are watching over the internet, if you wanted to submit a question to us electronically, we do have that technical capability now. Just click on that Submit Question button up at the top of the window.

Today, we'll be looking at a particular country and focus, Thailand -- and a particular region, Southeast Asia. The DEA Museum Lecture Series allows us to hear from experts from around the world to get a broader perspective and a historical look back on many facets of the drug issue, from law enforcement, to prevention, to treatment -- and to explore those lessons learned. We are honored this afternoon to have as our moderator today an individual who perhaps is familiar to some of you who have spent any time in Southern California and watched local news there, Dr. [Trisha] Toyota.

Dr. Toyota is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of California in Los Angeles with a joint appointment to both the departments of anthropology and the department of Asian American studies. She received her PhD in socio-cultural

anthropology -- say that five times real fast -- from UCLA. She is an award-winning broadcast journalist with more than 25 years in Southern California television news. She began her television career at KNBC in Los Angeles and later used to KCBS television where she became one of LA's most recognized and respected news anchors.

Her broadcasting awards, frankly, include an Emmy, a Golden Mic, and Associated Press honors for excellence in news coverage. Dr. Toyota is active in many civic and educational organizations and, in addition to all of that, co-founder and past national president of the Asian American Journalists Association. She is a governor's appointee to the California Counsel for the Humanities and has been recognized and honored by numerous community and civic organizations. Moderating our lecture this afternoon, please welcome Dr. Trisha Toyota.

Trisha Toyota: Thank you very much, Sean. Good afternoon, everyone. It's a pleasure to be here. I'll explain just in a minute why I'm actually here. Because of what Sean told you, it might not seem that it sort of fits in with the DEA Museum or the DEA Foundation, but in fact it does and I'll explain that in just a moment. Thank you very much, Sean, for that very warm welcome. And it's good to see a lot of folks here, and I assume out there in web-land as well. The program that you're about to be participant to today really started about seven months ago when members including myself, members of the DEA Educational Foundation, were invited to Thailand.

And as you all know, this is an area that has been called the Golden Triangle. And it actually is a Golden Triangle, as we were able to see when we got there -- a triangle of geographic significance where Burma, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand meet at the Mekong River. Now, the impetus for this particular trip -- and we'll get into that a little bit as well, later -- was to see what is happening in Northern Thailand now. Probably most of us are familiar with the title the Golden Triangle. Right? Well, it is still a Golden Triangle but it is no longer -- no longer an area of drug production. And I want to quote -- a couple of years ago, the New York Times did an article about this particular area.

And it is -- I will tell you this, I'm an anthropologist at UCLA, I have been studying this area for some time -- as well, Southwest China. I just returned last week from the Yunnan and Szechwan provinces of Southwest China. Now, most of the people in Northern Thailand and in this Golden Triangle area eventually migrated from Southwest China. Many, many of the hill tribes in this area originally came from Southwest China perhaps eight, or nine, or ten centuries ago. These are people who have been in this area for a very, very long time. It is an area very rich in history, very rich in cultural complexities. Now, as we all know, not too long ago it was called the center of opium production in the world.

It is no longer that. The New York Times article was entitled "No Blowing Smoke: Poppies Fade in Southeast Asia." Quote, "The enduring image of Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle is one of brightly-colored poppy fields, opium-smoking hill tribes, and heroin labs hidden in the jungle. But the reality is that after years of producing the lion's share of the world's opium, the Golden Triangle is now only a bit player in the global heroin trade. While there have been anti-drug policies instituted by nation states in this area, the Times also credits the Thai royal family's impact in weaning farmers off of poppy production." And so the article says the royal family "encouraged opium-growing hill tribes to use their cooler climates to produce coffee, macadamia nuts, green vegetables, among other sustainable programs."

And sustainable is a word you're going to hear a lot about today. When I say sustainable, what am I talking about? Well, we're talking about developmental programs for people to survive, for their families to survive, and to also be incorporated into the nation states where they live -- to become contributing members of their society. This is what developmental programs are doing. And in particular, we were very, very warmly welcomed by the Mae Fah Luan Foundation, which you're going to hear more about today. The foundation, as we saw when we traveled up to the border of Northern Thailand, was begun by the Royal Princess Mother in the late 1980s.

It is still going strong. All kinds of sustainable programs from reforestation to coffee production, macadamia nut production -- one of my favorites, and you'll hear more about this as well -- the Doi Tung Foundation. I am a walking advert today, thank you [Khun Chai] for the -- and let me just say this, I know I'm not on mic, but I'll yell -- sustainable fashion from Doi Tung. I bought this at one of the developmental shops. Hand sewn, hand dyed. And I have gotten all kinds of comments about, "Where did you get that?" So then I tell them about the Doi Tung Foundation. We have two people to tell us more about the sustainability effort that is now going on -- the developmental efforts to ensure that drug production, drug consumption, is no longer a primary facet of the economy nor of the culture in the area. Joining us today, we're very pleased that he has flown -- both of you guys, actually, have flown halfway around the world.

Our first speaker, [Mirwacha Wong Nada Ditsi Khun]. Thank you very much, [Khun Chai]. We can call him [Khun Chai] after this. He is a member of the Thai royal family. He served as private secretary to Her Royal Highness, the Princess Mother. He was educated in Thailand, received his BA in Business Administration from Indiana University in Bloomington. He is secretary general and chief executive officer of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under royal patronage. He's also the director general of the Doi Tung Developmental Project. He serves on many boards of director, including Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Ltd., [Kampinsky] AG, Volunteer Doctor's Foundation, the Protheses Foundation, The Breast Foundation -- all under the patronage of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Mother.

He is chair of the foundation for East Asia Development and has received numerous honorary PhDs and other honors for his outstanding social welfare and development work. And before he comes up, one of my favorite titles on your resume -- you are a board member of the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, and I hope you will tell us more about that as well, which I think is wonderful. Here to talk to us about the situation in Northern Thailand, particularly [Chung Rai] which is where we actually went and saw your marvelous museum of opium -- the hall of opium there is an outstanding venue. And if any of you are ever in Thailand, Northern Thailand, fly to [Chang Rai], call

up [Khun Chai], and he will arrange a private tour for you. [Khun Chai], please, join me here.

[Khun Chai]: Well, good afternoon, everyone. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is my great honor to be here among such an influential group of people -- makers and implementers, academics, and American friends both in Washington D.C. as well as in LA. And to share the fruits of our 25-year journey in transforming the world's largest, or once-largest opium production as Trisha said already, the Golden Triangle into a land of sustainable development. Before I begin, I would like to express my sincere thank you to Bill Alden and Sean Fearn, who urged me to speak at this gathering and made the arrangement to make it possible. The Golden Triangle is where Thailand, Laos, [unintelligible] and the Union of Myanmar share borders. Only 50 years ago, its chief product was opium.

Opium, to this area, was like coal in the north of England, or corn in the American Midwest. It was, on one hand, a household commodity for ethical communities, providing a major source of medicine and income. On the other hand, however, it was a cause of major wars and a national, regional, and global fit weakening the fabrics of societies. In those days, the patrols of the opium-growing territory and trade were various drug lords with their own private armies of thousands of men. Rebellions against the state, whether against communist Laos, socialist Myanmar, or democratic Thailand was a way of life.

Drug trafficking, arm trades, and lack of rule of law prevailed. Of the drug lords, the most famous was [Khun Sah] or [Jang Si Fu], the [Shan] warlord, the so-called Opium King, who rules over six provinces with a population of eight million, and an army of between 20,000-30,000 men. He was directly responsible for a major percentage of heroin production of the Golden Triangle which eventually found its way into the streets of Thailand, Hong Kong, Australia, Europe, and the United States. It is often the view that one common, conducive environment to drug crop cultivation is the presence of a weak state.

Take Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Columbia as current examples. However, we need to look more deeply and ask ourselves -- what is it about the weak state? Is it just like the lack of the government to enforce law? Or is it the lack of the government intervention to improve the quality of life of the people? In most cases, true until today, opium poppy and other narcotic crops such as cannabis or coca are grown by poor farmers with few or no alternatives to earn cash income. It is not them but the middlemen and the cartels who make the money, therefore His Majesty King [Pumipon] of Thailand considered such conditions in the Golden Triangle a development problem, not a drug problem.

His focus was first on progressive development of people and their livelihoods, not outright drug eradication. His Majesty introduced crop substitution in 1969 to provide opium growers with income earning options that are both legal and viable. Our king guided that opium should not be destroyed unless viable alternative crops are productive. Eradication would not work by itself, as people would be stripped of their existing income while presenting them with no new opportunities, driving them into poverty and undermining national security. Only once you have provided people with livelihood opportunities, and if they continue to do illegal things, then should you carry out eradication.

In our experience, we allowed the coexistence of crops like maize, soy beans and highland rice with poppies for a period of time. Inspired by His Majesty's guidance, Thailand benefited from concerted efforts amongst government agencies and international supporters such as the UN ODC, US, and Europe. We must accept the fact that development takes time -- time to switch from one illicit crop to a variety of other licit ones, time to implement economic as well as agricultural changes, and time to commit to the development of a new social infrastructure and adopt a different way of life. In the case of Thailand, AD has been implemented for over 40 years. The first results were not evident until after eight years.

Once the world's major opium producer, Thailand could reduce opium production or population production from 18,000 hectare in 1965 to approximately 200 hectares today. Since the year 2003, the UN ODC has declared that Thailand's opium production has been maintained at the -- in significant level. The Doi Tung Development Project, administered by the Mae Fah Luang Foundation is situated in the north Thailand, in the heart of the Golden Triangle. It is where we have been gathering our sustainable alternative livelihood experience for the last 25 years. Now, this is what Doi Tung, a 15,000 hectare mountainous area, looked like in 1987 -- all barren from slash and burn agriculture.

The trees were cut down to make way for poppy cultivation. There was no basic infrastructure. Local people had to rely on rain-fed rice which was not enough to eat for the whole year. Opium became the main source of option -- or income option. The problems of illegal logging, slash and burn cultivation, human trafficking, and drugs were prevailing. Life was so desperate that daughters became the most valuable assets and were often sold to the sex industry. Then came HIV AIDS. The mountain you see here is called Doi [Chang Mu], the tallest peak in our project area. With its cool climate and altitude, suitable to growing opium, it housed one of the largest poppy fields in the area and was a major trafficking route.

One great lady saw through the problems and believed that these opium growers, drug traffickers, and prostitutes were not criminals. They just wanted to survive and to have a life. She believed that they had no other opportunities but to resort to such illicit businesses. Poverty was the driving force behind opium cultivation. The lady was the late mother of the present king of Thailand, who followed in her son's footsteps to help the underprivileged poor, and built community for rural communities for the nation's security. She was the founder of the Mae Fah Luang foundation, as well as the Doi Tung Development Project, established to tackle the supply side of drug problems, as well as other related social illnesses, through sustainable livelihood development.

Our approach is holistic. We help people to help themselves in three fundamental areas, which are health, livelihood, and education. We start with health first, because sick people cannot work. Once people have good health, we move on to provide viable livelihood options starting with food security. Finally, when people have stable income and children no longer have to work to support their family, the priority is education. This leads them to long-term development. We plan our Doi Tung Development Project to span across a 30-year timeframe. Notice, 30 years' timeframe, setting goals from day one for the people to rise above poverty through licit livelihood opportunities and people empowerment, for the forest to revive, and for the project to be financially self-sustained through our own businesses.

Through our experiences, we are now able to shorten the development process to six to twelve years. Simple, practical, and logical are the basis of our development plans. We learn from His Majesty, King, and adapted his principles into what we call the 3Ss Model. The first S is survival. We have to rapidly ensure that people know where their next meal is coming from. Let me repeat -- they have to know where the next meal is coming from. This usually involves what we call quick hits -- very tangible results that are immediately visible to the community. In addition to building trust, they provide the launching pad for the rest of the program. Came the second S -- it's sufficiency. Here, there is a clear increase in living standards that we can and have measured.

In this phase, we have paid off some debts. Some of them pay off some debts already, but some of them even all debts are paid. The community is become self-reliant and starts to have enough. The final S is sustainability. They have become fully independent to run their own lives and have comfortable savings, enough to ensure that external shocks, whether environmental risk or political and economic instability, cannot harm them. That is really true sustainability. Throughout the process, we always emphasize building trust with the people and empowering them to solve their own problems. Close connection with the community is the key. In order to know their real problems and needs, we learn from the community first. Then we learn together with

them. We walk the hills, we live with them and eat with them. We listen and learn from them, to feel -- to feel anything and everything about them and around them.

Look at the world through their eyes. Don't just think what is best and impose upon them. I always say communication, communication, and more communication. Participation, participation, and participation. To be successful, we have to make the community part of the solution and not consider them as part of the problem. We bring local communities to work with us in every step. We instill in them a sense of ownership from day one, and build their capacity so that they can carry on the development process on their own when the project winds down. This means from day one we have already put in place an exit strategy. At Doi Tung, we began with the reforestation program. Opium farmers were immediately hired as forest re-workers.

They had cash payment daily, three times of what they normally earned from opium. The nature was revived, trust was built, and continued cooperation and participation followed. In addition, we have researched that other livelihood options were needed to provide long-term income to sustain the people's lives. The answer was an economic forest of coffee, Arabica coffee, and macadamia nut, which was suitable to the area, able to grow in the same conditions as opium, and offered the significant value-adding opportunities. Importantly, we went down the value-adding route, as no commodity crop in itself can compete with opium. At Doi Tung, we do not sell coffee [unintelligible] as commodities. We maximize their value by processing them into finished, consumer food products, creating additional jobs and generating more income.

Roasting coffee multiplies the value of the green bean five-fold. The ultimate step in the valley chain is through the coffee bars or coffee shop, selling coffee in a cup. Today, through five branches of Café Doi Tung, we command a price of \$200 per kg. In addition to our food business, we have created three other sub-businesses under the brand Doi Tung which are handcrafts, tourism, and horticulture. We believe that business with conscience is an important tool for the people to obtain knowledge, enhance their skill sets -- all important elements for better livelihood. We ensure raw

materials of good quality and intermediate technology, simple enough for the local people to use.

We built on what the people are already doing, then bring in experts and designers to help develop their skill by showing them additional techniques and designs in order for our products to stay competitive and market-driven. Let me show you our fashion collection from early this year. This was specially designed for the launch of the [official] Thailand magazine, designed and created by our Thai designer with his team from London, the US, and several universities in Thailand. The fabric was made by our hill tribe weavers. The elderly women spin yarn, the middle aged women do the weaving, and the young women are sewers. Some of them used to be prostitutes, others are illiterate. But when provided with opportunity, they now have stable income. Their dignity is regained and their cultural heritage is conserved.

We are well on our way to introducing some of them to international markets. IKEA, the world's largest home furnishing company, has developed a partnership with us over the past five years and we are now producing a collection of ceramic dinnerware for IKEA Thailand as part of their [unintelligible] initiative. Our products display the UN ODC label, stating that the sales of our products or these products contribute to the achievement of a drug-free world. Our success is measured not by the amount of drug crops eradicated or financial profit figures, but by one simple question -- for every dollar spent, what do the people get out of it?

This is the outcome, not the input or the output. From the land where opium was considered the main source of income and practically the only livelihood option that people had, Doi Tung has been opium-free for 24 years while the people's health, income, and social conditions and the surrounding nature have been simultaneously improved. We managed to increase the income of the Doi Tung residents tenfold, approximately \$900 per household per annum in 1988, or 68% below Thailand's poverty line, to approximately \$9000 per household per annum by the year 2010, which is 100% above Thailand's poverty line. Proudly speaking, more and more of our children have

graduated from universities and along with local leaders and their communities they are prepared to take ownership of the development project which we will hand over to them by the year 2017.

Only when the people are well off can other social issues be addressed and can the forest thrive. Let's take a look at Doi Tung 35 years ago, again. Today, Doi Tung has regained its lush green forest and the natural environment has been revived. This means we also are able to reduce the immense costs which otherwise would be spent in dealing with drug addiction, trade, and trafficking over 100 tons of opium a year from the area. So, 24 years is equivalent to 2,400 tons. In other words, we have stopped \$58 billion's worth of drugs entering the US, European, and other markets. We have brought our principles and approaches as well as experience from Doi Tung to other areas domestically and internationally to solve poverty and related social problems, including drug-crop cultivation at their root cause, contributing to more secure communities.

Wherever we work, the principles stay the same but are adapted to fit the area's -- or the -- each area's problems, geo-social realities, and the people's potential. Domestically, we are now involved in implementing development projects nationwide. In addition, while the Doi Tung Development Project tackles drug problems from the supply side, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation's Hall of Opium tries to address the drug problems from the demand side. The King's mother regarded that learning should be fun, and this has served as the basis for the construction of the Hall of Opium as an entertainment center which tells the story of opium and provides a comprehensive source of knowledge on opium, opiates, and other narcotic substances.

Our goal is to educate the public, especially youth, about narcotic substances so that people would steer clear from drugs and join forces to come back -- combat the problem together. I have a vision for the Hall of Opium to provide grounds for youth representatives to spend five days and four nights understanding all they can about drugs so that they can become youth ambassadors connecting amongst themselves nationally and also across the world, throughout online and other mediums. This

network will form the basis of youth to help youth, exchanging thoughts and drawing strength from each other, as they themselves would know best how to reach fellow youth.

Right before the talk, we got to visit the DEA Museum, which was impressive and confirmed that there are areas of commonalities where we could work together on. After this talk, we will have discussion with DEA on possibilities for future cooperation. Our other [unintelligible] project and attraction is the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park. When the initiative started 40 years ago, the intention was to preserve local tribal skills by helping communities' artisans access domestic and foreign markets for the handicrafts without being exploited by the middleman.

The small project was evolved to become the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park, a museum and learning center that houses the region's largest art and cultural heritage of the [La Nah] peoples. Internationally, we have been requested to work in fragile and impoverished hot spots. We have assisted with comprehensive area-based [rule and] livelihood development programs [Yang Kah] Shan State in Myanmar --- in Aceh, Indonesia -- and currently in Yenanchaung township in the dry zone area Myanmar. In addition, just two weeks ago we signed an MOU with the Thai and Myanmar governments for us to implement a six-year sustainable alternative development project in the Shan State along the Myanmar border.

I think you know very well that that these are the trafficking routes. There's a lot of drugs. But anyway, we tried to solve the forest, you know, opium poppy production, forest encroachment, illegal logging, and other so-called crimes. In these projects, we [unintelligible] greater development activities spanning health, irrigation, agriculture, live -- livestock, value-adding, and alternative energy initiatives. Importantly, we emphasize help the community to help themselves so they are able to continue improving their own lives after the project ends. We make sure that our money is worth every cent spent. Take for example our project in [unintelligible] in the year 2002. The total direct

investment cost in three years [unintelligible] personnel amounted to approximately \$640 for -- \$640,000, sorry, or \$106 per person.

The revenue generated from the project in three years also is approximately \$700,000 -- what the local community earned both in cash and in kind for the first time. For you here, the total investment over three years would only translate into \$35 per person per year, which means \$3 per person per month, only 10 cents per day. 10 cents in this part of the world -- what do you get out of it? Nothing. As for Afghanistan, the British government invited me to share our experience at the first drug conference in Kabul in the year 2002, and from 2003-5 we provided consultancy to an American NGO funded by the USAID to advise and train many groups of Afghans totaling hundreds of them, made up of government ministers, so many ministers who came over to Doi Tung, opium famers and community leaders from [Helmen, Gundahar, Zabul, and Gazni], who came to Doi Tung and learned from us.

And I reciprocate also -- the year 2003-5 I was in [Gundahar, Helmen] working with them there, too. Then the year 2006, we began cooperation with the Afghan ministry of rural development and rehabilitation in [Bao] province in the Northern part of the country. Prior to that, [Bao] was the third largest opium cultivation province in Afghanistan but became opium-free in 2006 due to the governor's anti-drug campaign. Our assistance on livestock sector based development was part of the governor's reward to his people for stopping opium cultivation. The sheep project or sheep bank project that we created has provided a mechanism for a better -- for better-off members of Afghan society to assist poorer members, strengthening community solo - solidarity.

Furthermore, as the project has significantly increased the quantity and quality of the indigenous [Kariguh] sheep, the women are able to earn income from value addition activities like yarn spinning, and eventually rugs and carpet making. In these projects where we work, whether in Afghanistan or in Myanmar, the first and second largest narcotic crop planting areas in the world, respectively, we never ask who grows opium. We are not there to penalize anyone. Our focus is to build trust and livelihood

opportunities for opium-growing as well as non-opium community members so that in the end the community can choose to break free from poppy cultivation or not entering into it in the first place.

Through our international projects, Thailand has become a donor in both software and -- or expertise, and hardware of funds, also -- also not -- a very small sum, because we are tiny country and not rich, okay? But as we are not a big country, so we can't spend too much money on that -- but assisting other communities confronting other problems we had once faced. Fortunately, there is increasing recognition by the international community for the importance of a more balanced and sustainable approach to alternative development, including recent research and action plans by the UN ODC, [GI ZAT, TNI, and BOLA] among others, calling for more integrated and long-term efforts and more human-centric development programs for poor farming communities.

Last November, the Mae Fah Luang foundation and the Thai government together with the UN ODC and the government of Beirut hosted an international development on alternative development at Dai Tong and related sites where -- where state representatives, international organizations, develop -- development experts and academics from all different continents came together to exchange experiences and draft a set of international guiding principle on AD. This will serve as a reference for more affective AD programs in the future. Beirut will host a follow-up conference in Lima this -- next month to get high level ministerial in the international endorsement for these principles. Ladies and gentlemen, I speak today based on our experiences from the Golden Triangle.

I do believe that these lessons can be applied to communities struggling with drug-cultivation problems and poverty elsewhere in the world. However, there is no one size fits all solution. The principle must be adapted to fit the needs, problems, the realities of each area and each people. But the reassuring fact is that what I've shared with you is not a rocket science, but the understanding of basic human needs. There is

a saying that conscience is nonexistent unless your stomach is full. Will we need to put ourselves into their shoes to understand them, therefore our efforts have never been about fighting opium poppy cultivation as in -- in itself, but rather fighting poverty and the lack of op -- opportunity, which we truly believe are the root cause of drug crop cultivation.

If you use law enforcement alone and deprive the people of income opportunity, we may end up isolating them and driving them in -- into further desperation -- desperation, and at times violence. But if we reach out to them, earn their trust, and provide them with livelihood opportunities, we will find a common solution to the problem together. That is why eradication should only be considered after extensive -- extensive development efforts have been put in place. Furthermore, I would like to urge you all to also look at the other side of the coin. The poor rural farmers are only one small part of the supply side of the drug problem. What about the processors, the traders, and the drug lords? In addition, if there is no demand, there is no supply. Today, the Golden Triangle may have lost its prominence, but the Golden Crescent has by far overtaken its place.

This is because what? Because the demand is still here. Therefore, in my personal perspective, the drug dilemma must be tackled on four main fronts. One, effective law enforcement. Second, armed control. Why? Because without guns and ammunitions, our weapons, the drug trade and drug lords are powerless. Thirdly, proper measures to address demand. And last but not least, sustainable solutions to the supply side of the problem. There is also the worsening concern of chemical drugs involving a whole different group of more sophisticated and well-funded players which I won't go into here. It is my belief that the only -- that only by undertaking a comprehensive approach and at all four fronts will we be able to combat the drug problem in a meaningful and sustainable manner, and begin to see a gleam of hope for a drug-free world. Thank you.

Trisha Toyota: A lot of food for thought. Thank you very much, [Khun Chai]. Also joining us today at the symposium from Bangkok, Thailand as well -- [Joseph Riggan]. He is the DEA regional director in Bangkok, promoted to that position in 2011. He is a former assistant regional director of DEA in Thailand, a former country attaché in Bern, Switzerland. [Mr. Reagan] has a long enforcement career serving as a special agent in charge in Detroit, group supervisor in Memphis, criminal investigator in Chicago and St. Louis, and he's also a superlative travel coordinator for all of us who were on our trip to Thailand. Please welcome Mr. [Joseph Reagan].

Joseph Reagan: Thank you, Dr. Toyota. I'd like to thank the museum and the educational foundation for inviting me here and, as well, all of you for finding time to attend. What I'm going to present on today is just a brief history of DEA in Thailand and our relationship with the Thai authorities through the years. I'd like to begin, just to give a brief synopsis of today's agenda -- I'm going to talk about the narcotics units that we work with, what Thailand's historical drug role has been. [Khun Chai] covered quite a bit of it and did an excellent job. And the new emerging drug threats that Thailand's faced with that the DEA is working with the government of Thailand to -- to combat. DEA and our predecessor agencies have been in Thailand since 1963.

It was one of the very first offices opened overseas by, at that time, Federal Bureau of Narcotics or [BNN]. Fortunately for DEA, we're a single-mission agency, and that afforded us an opportunity to concentrate on counter narcotics with the government of Thailand through the years. We've -- we've had a very long partnership from the very beginning, and it continues today through many generations of Thai officers and DEA agents. Some of the agencies that we work with are the Royal Thai Police and Narcotics Suppression Bureau, the Office of Narcotic Control Board in Thailand, the Board of Patrol Police, the Royal Thai Marine Police. On occasion, we work with the army and the navy of Thailand. The list goes on and on. About any enforcement entity in Thailand that is involved in counter narcotics, DEA has worked with and continues to work with today.

As you can see from the slide, DEA currently has three officers in Thailand. And you can see the dates that they were founded. There was a fourth office in [Sonkla], Thailand. It co -- closed a number of years ago. Through these offices, we work day in and day out with the Thai police, conducting investigations, assisting in training and infrastructure in Thailand to combat narcotics. We also work in later years on counter drug money laundering activities through the Thai Anti Money Laundering Office and the Office of Narcotic Control Board that has the authorities to investigate those type offenses. As time went on, the historical patterns that were founded in the early sixties, seventies, and eighties of massive shipments of narcotics coming out of Thailand and moving to the states has -- has dropped.

We have a different set of circumstances these days, and money-laundering is part of that circumstance. One of the methods that we've utilized since 1998 was the establishment of sensitive investigative units in Thailand. The units receive quite a bit of training from the US government and from DEA. Thai officers are brought to the US and receive five, six weeks of training. They -- they are the first point that we utilize in Thailand to conduct investigations. The officers are made aware of the US law and -- and how our system works, and the investigations on a number of occasions are conducted so that we can get prosecution in the United States.

One thing I also wanted to mention is the SIU's work in conjunction with other DEA SIU units around the world to exchange information and conduct worldwide investigations. They -- the officers in the SIU units are vetted, receive periodic polygraphs, and have a very high level of trust and ability. The -- there's two main organizations in Thailand that we work with -- the Royal Thai Police Narcotic Suppression Bureau, and as you'll see later the Office of Narcotic Control Board. The Narcotic Suppression Bureau came into being about the same time the DEA's predecessor agencies arrived in Thailand. We've kind of grown up together through the years. There's a long, long historical relationship as -- as trafficking and the -- patterns developed and the Golden Triangle expanded, the Thai government reacted and established varying degrees of counter drug units.

And you can see from the slide here that it started out relatively small, as DEA did, and through the years has expanded and today is a major part of the Royal Thai Police, the Narcotics Suppression Bureau. This gives you basically the overview of the suppression bureau, the Narcotics Suppression Bureau. They are changing it, even, today, adding new units to combat -- combat new threats and adjust to the different trafficking changes. The other entity that the DEA works with is the Office of Narcotics Control Board. It came in being through variant efforts of the Thai government starting in the mid-fifties. Up until the early fifties, mid-fifties, opium-smoking was not illegal in Thailand. In the mid-fifties, the smoking bans began for opium.

And as a result, consumers changed and started to use heroin. The government recognized this and put some policies in place to try to combat this. This slide basically lays out the history of ONCB and how they came about. Again, their rise parallels DEA's rise in Thailand. They are the government-designated coordinating body for narcotics in Thailand. They control the counter narcotic policy as well as demand reduction and some enforcement, and we work often with the Office of Narcotic Control Board. As you can see, they have a wide expanse of duties. Relatively small operation, but they cover a wide spectrum of challenges. Into -- a little bit into the role of Thailand and drugs, [Khun Chai] explained very thoroughly the Golden Triangle.

As you can see, and from [Khun Chai's] slides, you can see that the opium production in the Golden Triangle, most of which traffics through Thailand, most of it has fallen off dramatically in the last 15 years or so. Although in the past few years there's been an upswing in opium production, it's not in Thailand where that production's occurring. It's been attributed to Burma. Once the opium-growing ceased in Thailand, it became a base of operation for a lot of the middlemen and a lot of the brokers, primarily due to the infrastructure in Thailand as opposed to further north and east -- or west in the Golden Triangle. The traffickers had access to telephones, communications, banking, transportation, and built their structure of the middle-men that were making the money in Thailand.

Until the mid-eighties, Khun Sa, himself, was in Thailand and the government of Thailand waged a campaign and forced him into Burma, where he stayed for many years in Burma, controlling the opium trade. Although a lot of the middlemen and brokers were in Thailand, he remained in Burma and was fairly untouchable until the mid-nineties, when for a number of reasons he agreed to surrender to the government of Burma and went under house arrest in Rangoon. One interesting note is Khun Sa in 1988, you can see from the slides, was responsible for 2400 kilo shipment that was en route to New York that was seized as a combined effort between DEA and the Royal Thai Police.

In addition to the activities of the Doi Tong and the Mae Fah Luang Foundation on the sustainable development side to reduce the growing of opium in Thailand, there was also a concentrated effort by the government of Thailand and DEA to attack these middlemen and brokers, and one of the very first wholesale operations and probably the most successful was deemed Operation Tiger Trap. And it was conducted in the early nineties, and what it -- what it consisted of was through a joint effort of DEA and the Royal Thai Police, was identifying these brokers and middlemen that still existed in Thailand to facilitate the trafficking of heroin out of Burma, at that time.

Through an investigation, number of investigations, the traffickers that were identified were indicted in the US, and they were subsequently arrested and extradited to the US, which put Khun Sa and the [Shan] United Army on notice that they were vulnerable. What occurred after that was Khun Sa and the SUA abandoned heroin traffic in the course of a few years after that. The problem is still ongoing. There's new drug threats that are occurring in Thailand. There's heroin flowing in again to Thailand. Methamphetamine is a big problem in Thailand. It's the drug of choice in Thailand and a lot of places in Asia. In Thailand, the preferred method of consuming is a [Ya Ba] tablet that's about 80 percent caffeine, about 20 percent meth.

Over the past three years, the seizures have continued to go up by the authorities in Thailand. I think this year they're estimating probably about 80 million of these tablets seized this year. It's a major problem throughout Thailand and Asia, as is crystal meth, that is very lucrative. If it can be smuggled out of the manufacturing areas and the ethnic areas of Burma, and find its way to Japan or Australia, it can sell for an incredible amount of money. Thailand's also under threat from cocaine. It's not in the volume that we see in the US, but it is making end roads into Thailand.

And as you can see, they're threatened -- Thailand's threatened by everything the rest of the world is, although they've -- the government of Thailand and Mae Fah Long have done a fantastic job in eliminating opium production, poppy growth in Thailand, other than some very small, scattered plots. These new threats are impacting Thailand every day, and DEA is continuing to work with Thailand to reduce and eliminate these threats. That's basically all I have. I wanted to give a very quick overview of where we're at in Thailand, DEA's relationship with Thailand. I think we're going to have a question and answer segment and, please, I'll entertain any questions that anyone might have. Thank you.

Trisha Toyota: Obviously [off topic shot set up] A lot of ground has been covered here in the last few minutes. I think one of the [off topic] things that Joe brought up is this continuing threat of drugs despite what we heard very clearly in terms of Doi Tung and Mae Fah Luang projects' success in Northern Thailand. And perhaps, I don't know, if I could maybe lead off the questions in the few minutes that we have by asking both of the gentlemen -- Khun Chai, obviously you're very involved in the fact that the drug eradication has worked through the programs that Mae Fah Luang and Doi Tung have [unintelligible] in the last 20 years. What is your feeling about what Joe just said, in terms of the increase of opium production in -- north of the border in Thailand?

Khun Chai: Well see, the thing is, the problem is why is it increasing, you see? I mean, all of you -- you must know that there is demand. If the people are not using it, how would they grow opium, why should they grow opium? So I bring along the opium or

heroin and put it right here, you know, on the street in Washington DC, or New York, or wherever and people stop talking it. That is, the supply side wouldn't be producing. But the thing is, the people are using it, the demand side. But majority of the cases you are talking about on the supply side. But you have to have the -- clapping with one hand doesn't make any noise, does it? So one side is a supply side, and one side is demand side, that's why make noise. Okay?

Trisha Toyota: Yeah, okay. You're absolutely right about that. Right? Joe, let me ask you, in terms of -- obviously DEA's involved in enforcement. What is the DEA's role in northern Thailand and obviously in a place that is changing very rapidly in terms of US recognition of Burma, to eradicate, to stop this increase that we're beginning to see with regard to opium and all the rest of the drugs that you had on the slide?

Joe Reagan: DEA -- we work with the Thai police to identify and interdict narcotics shipments and other drugs that transit through Thailand from the production areas. We also do a lot of training and institution building to assist in these type of investigations and work forward to try to prevent the drugs from reaching the market.

Trisha Toyota: You know, you were alluding to this, that this is obviously a huge global problem and you might be in Thailand, you might be in Bangkok, but the effects are pretty much global in terms of production, in terms of distribution now.

Joseph Reagan: It's true. Drug trafficking in the 1960s when DEA first started in Thailand -- it was a different set of circumstances. Heroin was produced in Northern Thailand, transited out in hundred-kilo, as you saw thousand-kilo, shipments to the states. Over time, what's happened now is that model has changed. The drug traffickers don't let borders stand in their way. They -- or they function as a multinational corporation. And although there's very limited amounts of drugs coming out of Thailand reaching the states, those same organizations that are in Central America, South America sending shipments to the US -- they're also in Asia, including Thailand, trying to establish footholds to build their organization to make money. DEA investigates those

organizations, to have impact on what's going on with the US, with the shipments to the US also.

Trisha Toyota: I'd like to ask the audience -- or even if we have questions coming in from the web -- if you have any questions, if you could just sort of stand. We do have microphones. Just quickly identify yourself and then to the gentlemen to whom the question is directed. Anybody have any? Yes, ma'am.

Female Speaker: All right. We have one question that came in from a web viewer, and this question is directed toward [Khun Chai]. "Based on your success against opium in Thailand, are there any recommendations you could make to the countries in South America, whose people are dependent upon coca cocaine production, and can you offer any recommendations to the USA whose domestic marijuana production is prevalent?"

Khun Chai: I think that question should ask Bill. We're going to talk about that in a few minutes. I think what we have done in the Golden Triangle -- it can be replicate anywhere in the world. I believe it wholeheartedly, okay, but the thing is are we going to work together or not? Are we -- do we have agenda? Are we trying to solve the problem on the eradication? If you do the eradication, I won't go with you. But if you're going to solve the root cause, get the people out of poverty, all right, which we believe that is the real root cause, the cause of all these production. If you can -- for example, they know all these things very bad things, they can get caught and so on, and they have to risk it because they have no alternatives.

But if you can bring the alternatives to them like what we did, they earn three times more than what they earn from opium -- why should they go with opium? But can you find that sort of work for them? I call work. I don't call substitution crop, because no substitution crop can substitute opium, marijuana, or coca. Okay? So you got to do holistically. Everything. All right? Like what we do in coffee, macadamia. Put the value-added. I even do the branding. And if this -- you can do all this branding, all right, for whatever those places in South America that we have to find the soil first, the water, all

right, the water -- and what is suitable, the crops to grow from the ground. And then put the value-added to it. Not just sell it as commodities, because it impossible. You won't make money. You got put the value creation into it, value chain.

But I believe wholeheartedly that we can do it. But are we going to do it together or not? Are we going to really -- when you plan something, I plan them on the paper first, all right? Planting on the paper, that means what? That means a lot of farmers, they don't even know what they do and they're going to get the money. All right? They don't know the cost. [unintelligible] the cost or the what you may call it, the investment cost. And they don't even know where they're going to sell it, because the middle man comes to the houses or to the field to buy it. So [unintelligible] all the prices and so on. But if you can get these people and then have the market, everything that you do you have to do the market-driven, all right? Where's the market, what's the price?

And you plan them on the paper so you can calculate them, feasibility studies in all the products. And then you go back to the people. Would you like to do this? If you do this, you're going to get this back to so and so forth. And let them decide what to do. No one in this world want to be bad guy, but they can't afford to be a good guy because they have no opportunities. It's us, all of us, to lend them their hands, because its effect, as you say, Trisha, it's global issue. So whatever happens in South America, it happens in Thailand. Whatever happens in Thailand, it happens in America. It's always all interconnected. So you can't do things like silo. You have to put it holistic and integrated, all right? Work together as a whole.

Trisha Toyota:        You want to add anything to that, Joe? I think, you know, one of the things that [Khun Chai] really emphasizes is that -- the close connection with the community that you go out and you live with people, you find out what it is that they need, what it is that they are doing, how you can change pretty much to give them an alternative means of survival. It's alternative means of survival. And [Khun Chai], I think, expressed that very well. Is that something that DEA can also embrace?

Khun Chai: Yes. I think what you should do -- I'm going to ask -- you know, we're going to talk later. I think DEA is not going to do the enforcement alone. I don't think -- I'm going to -- Bill, we got to have some work to do on this afternoon, all right, because I'll suggest to you that don't look on the other side only. You have to look the other side coin also, all right? Enforcement, law enforcement, one has to have, without any doubt. But at the same time, I would urge DEA, if I talk to [INL] I would urge them to ask DEA to go on the other side as well. That means helping them to get out of poverty so they won't be in drugs. You have to do two prongs. That's why I'm going to have a lot of discussion this afternoon later about this side of the story. I came the whole way, halfway around the world. It's no free lunch, man.

Trisha Toyota: You talk about your free lunch -- Joe, today you had free lunch. You have anything you want to contribute to what [Khun Chai] said?

Joseph Reagan: I'd just like to say [Khun Chai's] right to the extent it's a three-legged stool. It's enforcement, demand reduction, and treatment. The DEA's mandate is the enforcement arm. There's other agencies from the US government and every government throughout the world, for the most part, that will engage in demand reduction and treatment, and it can only -- drug addiction can only be combated through -- through a organized attack of those three legs of the stool, so to speak.

Trisha Toyota: Any of our audience members might have a question, go ahead and please stand. We have a microphone over here. Don't be shy. How about all of you students over there? I understand we have a group of students here from -- yeah.

Female Speaker: We have another question from a web viewer. Joe, this one is for you. "On the list -- on the list, you didn't include designer synthetic drugs such as K-2, spice, and bath salts. I understand lots of precursor and finished products come from Asia. Have you seen more of these drugs and people using them?"

Joseph Reagan: To my knowledge, it's not a common drug of choice in Thailand. Marijuana is widely consumed there, but the new designer synthetics that are so prevalent in the US have not taken root in Thailand. There's other areas of Asia where they have, but in Thailand itself we just don't see much of it.

Trisha Toyota: Any other questions out there? Okay, go ahead.

Female Speaker: Our web viewers are definitely sending some in. This is for [Khun Chai]. "Considering the differences in culture between Thailand and Afghanistan, and considering the massive user base in the USA, do you think there is hope to implement your successes in Afghanistan?"

Khun Chai: I believe wholeheartedly it can be done. But the thing is, the government, Afghanistan government, are they serious? And if you can't have -- you have to break down into three levels. One is a center level. The center level, that means these cabinet. President [Kazi]. Is he ready to do it, and his cabinet, all right? And it comes on -- the second level is the governor, all right, the local authorities. Are they ready to do it? And thirdly is the local people. I am more than positive that the local people, majority of the people of Afghanistan, want to do it. But I think the other -- the other levels in Afghanistan, they -- they make money out of it. All right? So it's very difficult. But it's getting better, because some being removed. You know, once upon a time, governor [unintelligible] was presenting 45% opium in Afghanistan.

The biggest went up to about nearly 4000 tons a year. But I think the people want to get out of it, but they have no choice. No choice. If you can provide choice -- and the second thing that I like to add onto this is that a lot of people working in Afghanistan. But do they have the heart for the Afghans, or they are making money out of it. This is what I'm so unhappy with I have seen in Afghanistan. They use the issue of Afghanistan, but they are getting all the country's money for themselves more so for the people in Afghanistan.

That's what I'm really P'd off about it. You see what I mean? It's a lot of money that you spend in America, you know, American moneys. It's a lot of money being spent there. But I don't think the people get anything out of it too much. A hundred percent being put into Afghanistan, I don't think the local people, the Afghans themselves don't even get ten percent out of it. So there is something wrong there that you have to change. It's your problem, not mine. But I answer that it can be done.

Trisha Toyota: Other questions? Yes.

Male Speaker: Good afternoon, [Khun Chai]. Could you tell us a little bit about the Alternative Development program, in [Achey] with the super goat program and how that's working, if it is working?

Khun Chai: Yes. In [Achey], we started the year 2006, and UN ODC has requested me to go over and the Indonesian government, the ministry of foreign affairs, they ask me to deliver a speech about the -- what we have done in Dai Tong. So they recognized us as a success model. So I went to speak to them. And can you imagine, I spoke not in [Achey]. They invited me to speak in [Midan]. So I asked, Why the hell you invite me to talk in [Medan] about [Achenise]? It's not in the [Achey]. Big guy not going to [Achey], so it start off wrong already. You see?

They are not in there. So I told them, if you're going to do like this, I'll talk to you that day. But if you're going to do about [Achey] you have to go into the [Achey] area and get the [Achenise] to come and talk to you. We had about 200-odd people there, but I think that we might have about 20 [Achenise]. 10 percent. So you're talking to yourself. Why bother? You see? So that's why. So next year, they invited me to [Achey] and talk there. So I offered them to come to our place first, all right? I invited them, I played for the traveling expenses and so on, so forth. Let them come to see our project and see whether these -- the thing that we do here in Thailand can be applicable in [Achey]. And this is what you want or not? Does it really solve your problem for them? And let them decide. And I brought governor, also.

I mean, all the levels. The [mullah], you see, the religious, one of the highest there that the people trust. So we got to get so many levels. And then combined together, I invited about twenty of them to come to our place. And then they said, yes, this is it. They want. So we went there to do the alternative -- sustainable alternative development. And also, the one is quick kit -- I always do anywhere in the world, I have to have a quick kit. Because that quick kit will earn me the trust, and our staff the trust. Once you get the trust, people will work with you. So you have to really get something that can be -- you can see it, you can taste it, you can smell it, you can hear it, and you can feel it. That's the only proof that trust will earned.

So what we did is what we went there, our staff went there, we went together -- Malaria. Imagine, when they said malaria -- they have to die. You know it's not -- you don't have to die because malaria. So we -- we went in with the malaria kits also, wherever we go, these areas. So we can treat them instant treatment, within three days. [unintelligible] so the word spread around that we can deal with malaria, so trust was built. And then we went into the crop substitution -- not crop substitution, the marijuana. But they don't earn as much as opium. But anyway, we put other crops into there, and we did the goat bank. I started the goat bank, you know, to multiply goats.

Fast-growing goat and so on so that they can earn the living and the -- that assets. That how I did it in [Achey]. And now, malaria program we did for 4,717 people but now it's been accepted and accepted as the governor's idea put into the district, using our system, cover altogether 4.2 million people. And now the WHO, UNICEF, American Red Cross and all those people came to see our project in [Achey]. And they want us to go and do it somewhere else. I said, to hell with you. You come and learn from us and do it. You see, majority of the cases like American Red Cross -- I'm sorry, I won't talk about it. It's telecast, isn't it. Okay?

Trisha Toyota: Any -- I think I've got time for one more? Yeah, or maybe two more. Go ahead, Katie.

Female Speaker: Yes. From another web viewer, this is actually for both of you, but if we could start with Joe and then [Khun Chai] -- "Has cooperation with Burma increased since the opening-up and release of Nobel Prize Winner [Ang Su Khi]?"

Joseph Regan: DEA's always -- not always, about 20-25 years we've had an office in Rangoon. And we work with the Burmese authority -- authorities on counter drug. We've always had a good relationship with the Burmese police, and it continues to this day. We really haven't seen any -- any difference in that aspect since the release of [An Su Kih].

Khun Chai: All right. On my side, I'd like to say that the year 2000, at that time they call it [SLOC], you know, it's an army rallied, General [unintelligible] and the cabinet came to our place in Doi Tung. We signed a treaty that we're going to help each other concerning drug from that time, all right. And then that changed government and so on to the new -- let's say from [unintelligible], and then came along the President [Dim Sing] or Prime Minister [Dim Sing] now is President [Dim Sing]. He also came to our project for eight hours and then he likes it, and then we -- they ask us to extend now Dai Tong project across the border. So we are working very, very closely with them. But as for the question that concerning [An San Su Gi] I think everything is steady. You know, they're trying very hard to do it. You know, twelve years ago. And they are still trying, all right, but I see no difference for time being.

Trisha Toyota: Somebody have a question? One last question over here. Okay. Down in front, here.

Male Speaker: Yes. What would say is the best way to combat demand in other countries where they consume the drugs that you're fighting against?

Khun Chai: The best would be education. All right? But the -- when you say about education, education is in the air. It's not in classroom, okay? It hasn't got to be in the

classroom. It has to start from the family, not school. All right? And I think -- your question is very difficult to answer. You know why? Because of the technology. The more the technology advance -- advances, the less social -- it's going to be so, so little less -- less and less on social side. I hope you understand this. Because all these beep beep and what not, you know, you don't see face to face. All right, furthermore, everybody tries so hard from what? From the greed. Greed. They want more and more. So the family, when they work, both parents are working. And who's looking at the children? Have they been taught? Have they been reared, and then what is right and what is wrong? Do they have -- the parents have time to teach the -- their kids?

You see, so things are -- family as a family, it separate more and more and more. Less and less in social side. You see? That's why I think, with all due respect, I think families is getting worse and worse and worse. So I can't foresee that the demand side can be solved for the time being. I can't foresee it. I cannot foresee it. But I think we have to do something about that. So what we do is at our own family first. Like me, I concentrate on my family from the very beginning. Do the family has -- each family has wants. Ask yourself, anywhere in the world. Kids and parents are separate and growing apart further and further, so kids is going with kids and they get into -- when I was young, I would -- I would have tried drugs. I would have done it. You see, so and who's -- but my parents looked after me and showed me what to do and so on.

I show my kids. Don't you ever -- I mean, when you go to school, you know, people very nicely give you candy. Don't take it. You want any candy, you ask dad and mom. So these are the thing that one has to, within yourself, your inner circle, your family, you have to start that. You can't expect teachers or anyone else to do it for you. So I think that these are the things that -- I think -- the worst, now, and it's going to be worse. I don't know, I have to tell you this frankly, from my side, you know. Do it yourself, in your capacity, okay? Once I do it in my family, then all the people working around me that I will convince them and try to talk to them.

Look, I have one thousand seven hundred people working, my staff, for the foundation. Hardly any smoke. Hardly any smoke. Hardly any drink. So I think they come to our -- the people who join our foundation, they come here because they want to help people. It's not what they want -- want from us, but they want to come and give. Give, give, give. I look after them. So I think the -- you have to build your own self among yourself, first, and then you try to find others that have the same commonality and then join hands, getting bigger and bigger. That's the only way that I can answer you.

Trisha Toyota: That was a pretty good answer, I thought. Do you have any last comments, Joe, that maybe you want to add to that? In terms of demand, how do you get rid of the demand?

Joseph Reagan: Well, I agree with [Khun Chai] to the extent that it has to be through education and it should start with the family unit. If the family doesn't have that capacity, then it has to rely on social institutions, schools, community groups, friends, whatever to change the mindset and start education early. Fact of the matter is, by the time kids are in their teenage years, they're pretty much set on if they're going to take drugs or not. So you have to start early with an education program.

Khun Chai: Trisha, can I ask a question?

Trisha Toyota: Of course you may ask a question. [cross talk] Yes, you may. Why not?

Khun Chai: Yes. I want to ask you a question. Okay? The question I'd like to ask is this -- why drugs are made -- you know, you mentioned about Thailand, Thailand, Thailand. Why drugs are made in Thailand?

Joseph Reagan: There's no drugs made in Thailand.

Khun Chai: No drugs are made in Thailand?

Joseph Reagan: No. Marijuana, maybe. Marijuana is produced in Thailand. Methamphetamine is produced outside of Thailand and brought into Thailand. Heroin, the same.

Khun Chai: But why is that? Why not Malaysia? Why not Singapore? Why not Timbuktu?

Joseph Reagan: I think all those countries have the same issues as Thailand.

Khun Chai: You see, this is a genuine question. I don't understand it. Because of all these chemical drugs is coming from other countries, right? Coming to Thailand. But there must be somewhere in the border that governments cannot reach.

Joseph Reagan: Well, there is. The ethnic areas in Burma that are under the control of ethnic tribes that have a agreement with the government of Burma and are autonomous. And unfortunately in those regions there's a lot of drugs produced. The government of Burma is unable to go into those areas to eradicate or interdict the shipments because of the agreements that have been set previously.

Khun Chai: Why they are producing in those area? They're making money, a lot of money. What they're doing? They're buying guns, ammunitions to go against the state, right?

Joseph Reagan: That's correct. The -- in particular, the [Wah] State Army in the northeastern area of Burma derives the bulk of their livelihood from narcotics sales and taxing shipments that pass through their territory. In turn, they use the funds to acquire weapons and man their army. It's estimated that they have a 20,000-man army to secure their autonomous zone.

Khun Chai: You see, that's why I want to ask the question, because I thought that we take a lot of -- we use a lot the marketers in Thailand.

Joseph Reagan: Thailand, previously, 15-20 years ago was a trans-shipment country. The drugs passed through Thailand. Thailand in the past five years has become more and more of a consumer country, especially with methamphetamine. Currently, the methamphetamine threat, the drug threat, the government of Thailand has raised it to a national security issue. It's quite pervasive and it's going to be a bigger and bigger problem for Thailand that the government's trying to deal with, now.

Trisha Toyota: All right. Thank you very much, gentlemen. Did you want to say something? I just think that what we've had today is a multi-pronged approach to the drug situation in Thailand, both from an enforcement standpoint but also as you heard [Khun Chai] really emphasize, the sustainability, developmental skills now aimed at market-oriented global products to allow people to find another alternative means of living. And thank you very much, both of you, for being with us today.

Sean Fearn: Don't go anywhere, Trisha. Just in closing, I wanted to echo your thanks an on behalf of the DEA Museum and the DEA Educational Foundation whose chairmen, Bill Alden, is here in the front. Maybe, Bill, if you wanted to come up and help -- we have a small token of our appreciation. It certainly is not a free lunch and it doesn't cover your trip all the way from Thailand, but we are grateful -- and Trisha, for your duties today, moderating. Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our program. Our third and final lecture will be coming up on November 27th, right back here in the auditorium. We hope to see you then. Thank you very much.

End of recording.