



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

The establishment of the South East Asia Justice Network

Jinsuk Park



Criminal Justice Systems Programme – Accomplishments 2019

Strengthening Law Enforcement

- Toolkits for police officers and prosecutors on child sexual exploitation in Viet Nam

Cross-border Cooperation in Criminal Matters

- Establishing an informal network of central authorities for Mutual Legal Assistance in the region (SEAJUST)

Prison Management

- Developing information for prison staff on the management and rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders



Mutual legal assistance is a form of cooperation between different states for the purpose of collecting and exchanging information to assist in criminal investigations or proceedings.

Challenges include:

Inadequate legal frameworks

Differences between legal systems

Different languages

Lack of trust and/or lack of knowledge about legal principles and requirements in other states

Legal Cooperation Networks

Modelled on the European Judicial Network –

- West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP)
- Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus (CASC)
- Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.

Features:

- Contact points designated from central authority
- Plenary meetings and training
- Information sharing
- Interregional network cooperation



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South East Asia Justice Network (SEAJUST)

Key advantages:

- ✓ Building rapport with practitioners in other jurisdictions
- ✓ Building the capacity of practitioners
- ✓ Gaining an improved understanding of legal systems in neighboring countries
- ✓ Improving confidence in contacting and communicating with other countries regarding MLA requests

Additional features:

- Coordinated by UNODC with the support of ASEAN Secretariat
- Open for non-ASEAN member states





SEAJUST Activities

Oct.2019

Introductory
Meeting,
Thailand

Feb. 2020

Draft TOR
Meeting,
Thailand

March 2020

TOR
Adoption
Meeting,
Austria

April 2020

Crime
Congress,
Japan

**Sep./Oct.
2020**

Plenary
Meeting,
Venue TBC

Nov. 2020

Study Trip to
EJN Plenary
Meeting,
Germany





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