

APCCA Newsletter No. 16

May 2003

Note from Director, Singapore Prison Service

Warmest greetings from the staff and inmates of the Singapore Prison Service!

A new year brings about many innovations, events and changes in our respective Services. The APCCA newsletter will continue to serve as a platform for the sharing of knowledge and new experiences. This is evident from your generous contributions in the May issue on the latest improvements in operations and rehabilitation. Articles on inmate and staff welfare programs also illustrate the genuine care and concern we have for our staff and inmates. Indeed, the APCCA newsletter brings out the best of the Correctional Services in the Asia-Pacific region, with its articles on both rehabilitation and welfare programs.

I believe we will face many challenges in the year ahead. Let us endeavour to do the best we can, and continue to learn from each other.

Highlights for APCCA May 2003

1) 23rd APCCA Conference in Hong Kong

The 23rd APCCA Conference will be hosted by Hong Kong (China) from 7—13 December 2003. The Conference venue is the BP International House, and may be viewed at this website www.bpih.com.hk.

2) Discussion Guide for 23rd APCCA Conference

APCCA Rapporteur Professor David Biles has prepared the Discussion Guide for the 23rd

APCCA Conference to be held in December this year. Please refer to the APCCA website at www.apcca.org to view this Discussion Guide.

3) Professor Biles steps down as APCCA Rapporteur

Armed with degrees in criminology, psychology, sociology and education, Professor Biles has served as Rapporteur in APCCA for the past 10 years. He is also Regional Vice Chair of Oceania for the International Prisons and Corrections Association, and Professorial Associate in Corrections in Charles Stuart University. Professor Biles has been published widely in all areas of criminology with his major work being concentrated on correctional policy and practice, deaths in custody, and private prisons. He has had an illustrious career as Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Head of Research for the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Senior Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Melbourne, and an Education Officer in four different prisons.

APCCA would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Professor Biles for his contribution to APCCA in the past 10 years.

A Farewell Note from Professor David Biles



With a feeling of considerable sadness I have to inform my many friends and associates in APCCA that the time has come for me to announce my departure from this wonderful organisation. Even though the 22nd APCCA in Thailand in 2001 voted unanimously for Dr Neil Morgan and me to continue in our roles for a further three years, it seems appropriate for me to leave before then.

Now that a permanent secretariat has been established in Hong Kong and Singapore, many of the routine tasks which I have handled over the past 15 years no longer require my input. Also, I am absolutely confident that some of the more demanding tasks (such as preparing the annual Discussion Guide and the Draft Report of each conference) will be handled very effectively by Dr Morgan, with the support of his wife, Irene Morgan, and the permanent secretariat.

My wife, Julie, and I have greatly appreciated the opportunities provided to us by APCCA to visit many beautiful countries in the Asia and Pacific region, and we have also thoroughly enjoyed the generous hospitality offered by the conference hosts. We will treasure our memories of these events for many years to come.

I must add that I have always found the discussions of correctional issues, and the visits to correctional institutions, to be extremely interesting and informative. I have no doubt that APCCA has made an important contribution to the development of modern and professional correctional services in the region, and I am also sure that this will continue in the years to come.

I would be very happy to provide any further assistance or advice that might help APCCA or its individual participants if that is needed. Meanwhile, I wish good luck and good fortune in the future to all in APCCA, and I look forward to learning of further APCCA successes through the reports of conferences and this newsletter.

Discussion Guide for 23rd APCCA

Professor David Biles has informed the APCCA Newsletter that the Discussion Guide for the 23rd APCCA in Hong Kong has now been prepared and will be distributed to delegates with the official invitations to the conference.

Professor Biles pointed out that the three substantive agenda items, which follow the first item dealing with contemporary issues in corrections, are all connected with each other. These items focus on prisoners' complaints and grievances, prison officer culture and major prison disturbances.

Even though these three items seem quite different they are closely linked, he said, as a negative or undesirable prison officer culture may lead to higher numbers of complaints by prisoners, and prisoners who feel aggrieved are more likely to be involved in riots or other disturbances than those who are not.

Also, one of the ways to reduce the incidence of major prison disturbances is to remove the causes which, even though sometimes complex, have their origins in the frustrations and grievances experienced by prisoners. Furthermore, a progressive or positive prison officer culture will give high priority to responding to prisoners' complaints and grievances in a professional manner and therefore contribute to the effective management of prisons.

UNAFEI Holds the Public Lectures on Criminal Policy

On 31 January 2003 the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) held a Public Lecture Programme on Criminal Policy, together with the Japan Criminal Policy Society and the Asia Crime

Prevention Foundation, at the main conference hall of the Ministry of Justice in Tokyo, Japan, as an annual event.

Two visiting experts from the 123rd International Senior Seminar of UNAFEI gave lectures on contemporary issues in the area of criminal justice. Professor John Braithwaite, Professor of the Australian National University, gave a lecture entitled “Restorative Justice: Justice of the Future,” which outlined the current situation of restorative justice programmes around the world, the effects of restorative justice programmes on reoffending and the future prospects of restorative justice. Oberregierungsärztin Sylvia Frey, Executive Assistant of the Federal Ministry of Justice, Germany, presented a comprehensive overview on victims’ rights in Germany. The title of her lecture was “Victim’s Rights in Germany – Information and Participation in Criminal Procedure, Reparation and Practical Assistance.” In the question-answer session after each lecture, there were active discussions between the lecturers and the audience.

The two lecturers successfully widened the perspectives of the audience of over 200 consisting of senior officials from the Ministry of Justice, public prosecutors, practicing attorneys, legal trainees, scholars and university students as well as the participants of the 123rd International Senior Seminar.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Congratulations goes to the “Nuff Stuff” team from the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre, Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia which was recently selected as the Australian National Winner of GetReel, as well as the State finalist for Western Australia/Northern Territory for their clay animation anti-marijuana advertisement.

The GetReel Competition was a joint drug education initiative of Youth Off The Streets and the Sony Foundation Australia that gave young people the chance to take charge of their own drug education by designing TV ads targeting youth drug use or a

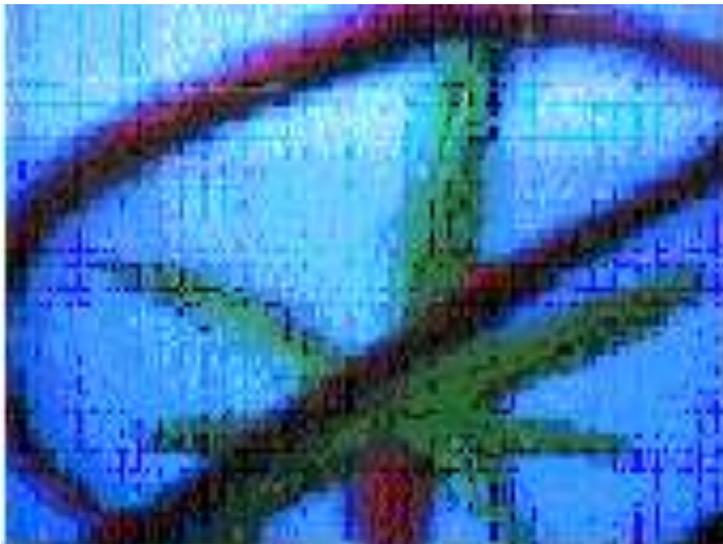
related issue. Youth Off The Streets is a registered charity working with chronically homeless and drug addicted young people.

Over 350 entries were received from schools, community groups and individuals from all around Australia, that targeted a whole range of drugs, youth issues and risk taking behaviours.



As National winner the Centre won a giant Sony Wega TV and Sony Walkman/CD/Video packs, along with professional assistance to turn their design into a TV ad. As State finalist the Centre also received a digital video camera and CD/Video packs for individual team members.

WELL DONE!



Long Bay art program aids Bali bomb victims

Two inmates of the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre's Art Unit, Long Bay, Sydney, were represented at an auction which took place at inner-city Darling Harbour in December last year.

The “Bali Fundraiser” auction took place on 6 December 2002 within the Darling Harbour Exhibition Centre and was organised by Craig Salvatori, whose wife, Kathy, was a victim of the terrorist attack at Kuta beach. Craig Salvatori is a former Eastern Suburbs (Sydney) and test rugby league player. The auction raised about A\$500,000 with over A\$1,800 coming from the sale of the Long Bay art works. Businesses in Sydney’s eastern suburbs strongly supported the auction.

Co-ordinator Sue Paull explains that the inmates responded immediately to the invitation to take part. “One of the inmates, Doug, submitted a painting. Another, Giuseppe, was represented by two paintings. And another, Robert, had two watercolours in the auction.”

Works produced by inmates involved at the MSPC’s art unit make up a considerable part of the items on view and for sale at the Centre’s Boom Gate Gallery. Now in its eleventh year of operation, the Gallery is part of a pathway, which assists inmates with artistic potential.

“We currently have a former inmate enrolled at the State’s National Art School,” Sue says, “and another pursuing art studies at the College of Fine Arts on day release. These inmates have followed a pathway which involves participation in the art studio program, having works on view at the Boom Gate Gallery, and then enrolment at a tertiary arts facility.”

Gallery hours are 9.30am to 3.15pm at weekends and by appointment throughout the week. Many works from the Boom Gate Gallery now hang in offices and public areas of Roden Cutler House and in departmental facilities around the state.

Caption:

(from left) Asst Commissioner Offender Management Luke Grant, MSPC Governor Marilyn Wright and Art Unit coordinator Sue Paull in the busy Long Bay studio.



The CSC International Transfers Division

International Transfers Programs are administered by CSC's International Transfers Division at NHQ with the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and its missions abroad.

There are currently more than 3,000 Canadians imprisoned abroad and some 1,100 foreign offenders serving sentences in Canada. In the early 1970s, Canada and the United States signed a treaty which allowed Canadian and American offenders in either country to serve their sentence in their country of citizenship. Canada has since entered into transfer agreements with 119 sovereign jurisdictions.

Under these agreements, since 1978, Canada has repatriated 967 of its citizens while 116 foreign nationals sentenced in Canada have been returned to their home countries.

Serge Boudreau, Manager, International Transfers says it is “foremost a humanitarian program whose basis rests in CSC's Mission, to enable offenders to serve foreign imposed sentences in their country of citizenship.”

“It is an effort to alleviate undue hardships borne by offenders and their families, and to facilitate their eventual reintegration into society.”

Transfer decisions are discretionary. For a transfer to take place, the jurisdiction where the offender was sentenced, the country of citizenship to which he or she is being returned and the offender must all agree to it.

In Canada, all transfers must be approved by the Solicitor General of Canada.

Caption:

Serge Boudreau, Manager, International Transfer Division



Coming Home

International Transfer for Canadians Sentenced Abroad

In the picturesque Adirondacks of New York State, many come to enjoy the benefits of nature – fresh air, lakes, mountains and a myriad of outdoor activities. In 1932 and again in 1980, this region hosted the Winter Olympics and welcomed visitors from around the world. After the 1980 games, the Athletes’ Village was converted into a federal correctional

institution, FCI Ray Brook. Originally built to house 500 inmates, the facility now holds 1,227 (as of June 27, 2002).

On June 18, 2002, representatives from both Canada and the United States traveled to Ray Brook to observe the transfer of 12 Canadian citizens into Canadian custody. After the verification of consent hearing, the inmates were to be taken to the Regional Reception Centre (RRC) in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Quebec. From there, the offenders were to be sent to correctional institutions across Canada to serve the remainder of their sentences.

International transfers are the result of agreements between sovereign nations. Their purpose is to allow the return of offenders from the country in which they were convicted to their home countries. These transfers are now an internationally accepted feature of modern corrections. With the consent of both countries and of the offender, they allow offenders to serve a sentence imposed by another country in the country of their citizenship.

A Hearing Before a Judge

Such transfers require detailed preparation on the part of many people to ensure their legality. Many of the Canadians and Americans who worked on the transfer that occurred on June 18 attended the hearing at FCI Ray Brook. United States Magistrate Judge Larry Kudrle examined each case and spoke to each offender to ensure his consent to the transfer, as required by American law.

Assistant Federal Public Defender Paul J. Evangelista of the District of Northern New York and Vermont represented the offenders at the hearing.

"I go through the verification form with them and make sure they understand each of the factors," he says. "My role is to make sure that the persons being transferred understand

what rights they have, what rights they're giving up and to make sure they have counsel at the hearing."

The offenders arrived at FCI Ray Brook from state and federal institutions across the United States, some from as far away as California.

The Hearing

The offenders come to the hearing room in beige jump suits – standard issue for the inmates at FCI Ray Brook. One by one, each man is sworn in before Judge Kudrle who assesses their competency and ensures that they have had an opportunity to consult with the public defender. The judge explains to each offender the conditions for transfer. For example, their convictions can be modified or set aside through appropriate proceedings in the United States only and that the sentence will be carried out according to the laws of Canada. He also advises them that once he verifies their consent, it cannot be revoked.

"Is your consent wholly voluntary and not from threats, promises or improper inducements?" he asks each offender.

In turn, the 12 men agree to the transfer before Judge Kudrle, who finds in each case that the consent was voluntary and informed. Each offender is required to signify his consent in writing.

Canadian Correctional Officers Take Custody

When the hearing ends, an escort team of correctional officers from the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is waiting to take physical custody of the 12 offenders and to return them to Canada. The escort team had driven down that morning from the Regional Reception Centre (RRC) with an escort vehicle, known as the keeper's truck, and a specially equipped bus. The CSC escort team meets the offenders and prepares them for the four-hour journey home.

Inmates are strip-searched and their hands and feet shackled. They are then led onto the CSC bus where two or three individuals are seated together behind a secure barrier, essentially in a cell.

Joining the bus and the keeper's truck are two vans that will carry the American and Canadian observers who prepared the transfers and attended the hearing. The CSC vehicles are unarmed as all firearms were left at the border crossing. While in the United States, the four Canadian vehicles are escorted by two vehicles from FCI Ray Brook, one in front and one behind. The American vehicles contain armed correctional officers.

Just before reaching the Canadian border, the officers pull their vehicles off to the side to bid farewell to their Canadian colleagues and to the visiting American officials. The remaining four vehicles continue on to the Canadian border crossing.

Crossing Over

The bus, the keeper's truck and the vans stop at the crossing. Emergency passports have been prepared by the Canadian Missions for the inmates specifically for this transfer and these are now presented to an immigration officer. The firearms held at the border when

the CSC officers entered the United States are returned and the inmates are escorted off the bus to use the restroom.

When everyone is back inside the vehicles and all is judged to be in order, the convoy sets off for Montreal and the RRC in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines.

The convoy's movement along a public highway is done with great care and concern for the public's safety, the escorting officers and the inmates being transferred. The four vehicles travel as a single unit. Should another vehicle cut into the line of the convoy, the keeper's truck expertly moves that vehicle out of the convoy's line and away from the bus.

This tight and efficient formation is maintained until the convoy reaches the RRC. Here, the inmates are processed into a CSC institution. In this transfer, five of the offenders will stay in the Quebec Region while the other seven undergo another transfer the next day, this time to institutions in the Ontario and Pacific regions.

The day was long for all involved. It took months of thorough preparation and close co-operation between different countries and legal systems. It called upon the diligent efforts of staff at all points in the process. Twelve Canadians were still incarcerated because of crimes they had committed in another land. But as the sun sets on this June day, they are back in their own country.

Caption: Leaving FCI Ray Brook, the 4 Canadian vehicles are escorted by 2 vehicles from FCI Ray Brook (White Trucks) one in front & one behind. The American vehicles contain armed Correctional Officers.



Department develops strategy for Pacific offenders

New Zealand Department of Corrections

Pacific peoples in New Zealand constitute a rapidly growing and changing population. In a New Zealand context, Pacific peoples are people from the smaller island nations of the Pacific region who have migrated and settled in New Zealand. The main islands being Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue, Tokelau and Fiji. In 2001 there were 231,798 people of Pacific ethnicity living in New Zealand.

As a group Pacific peoples are over-represented in the prison population with Pacific inmates comprising consistently around 10 percent of the prison population and yet Pacific peoples comprise only six percent of the general population. In response, the Department of Corrections has developed its first-ever strategic plan for Pacific peoples, *The Pacific Strategy 2002 – 2005*.

The Strategy aims to specifically address re-offending by Pacific offenders through rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community, responding to increased

demand to accommodate the needs of Pacific peoples, enhancing organisational capability to be responsive to the needs of Pacific peoples and, establishing formal working relationships with Pacific communities. The Strategy was developed in consultation with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and Pacific communities throughout New Zealand.

Senior Policy Adviser (Pacific) Selafi Purcell says New Zealand was the dream destination for Pacific peoples, offering a better future for them and their children.

“The Strategy aims to provide Pacific offenders with the hope and means of living in a crime-free lifestyle by reducing the risks of re-offending.”

The Department has also launched the *Fautua Pasefika Policy*, a key initiative of the Strategy which allows nominated Pacific community leaders greater and easier access to prisons, and Pacific inmates. The Policy allows these community leaders to advocate on behalf of the community to the Department and Minister of Corrections on any issues affecting Pacific inmates. The Department launched a similar initiative for Māori (the indigenous people of New Zealand) last year.

Caption:

New Zealand's Corrections Minister Mark Gosche addresses the audience at the launch of the Pacific Strategy.



Project for High-Risk Teens Gets Underway

A major initiative aimed at reducing youth reoffending is being set up in New Zealand as a joint initiative between two government agencies ~ the Departments of Corrections and Child, Youth and Family Services.

The pilot Reducing Youth Offending Programme, which will target offenders between 14 and 18 years who are at risk of becoming serious adult offenders, is on track to “go live” by June 2003.

“The Programme is designed to help stop young people from developing entrenched adult offending patterns. It is not for young people committing minor offences, or for teenagers who have made one-off mistakes, but for those who are at risk of becoming serious adult offenders,” says project sponsor Jared Mullen, General Manager Policy Development, Department of Corrections.

Each young person will receive a customised programme based on Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST). MST works with both the offender and their family, and the programme targets other influences in their lives, such as school and peers. The programme involves a case worker working intensively with the family for up to six months. The case worker is the primary deliverer of services which are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“The programme will be a condition of Supervision (a community-based sentence) and the primary desired outcome will be that the youth has abstained from offending, or there has been a reduction in the number or seriousness of offences committed,” says Jared.

The programme will be piloted until June 2006 in two centres, Auckland in the North Island and Christchurch in the South Island. It will be independently evaluated and results reported back to government in September 2005.

Caption:

New Zealand Dept of Corrections Chief Executive Mark Byers discusses progress with members of the Reducing Youth Offending Programme project team.



New Prisons Planned for New Zealand

Four new regional corrections facilities are currently planned for New Zealand. The facilities will add to the country's network of 18 prisons, presently capable of housing up to 6,400 inmates. Chief Financial Officer Richard Morris says a key goal of the facilities is to keep offenders close to their support networks.

"We know that it benefits inmates to be near their family and community support. This in turn improves their chances of leading a crime-free life and successfully returning to the community."

Mr Morris says the prisons are needed for several reasons, including the forecasted increase in the prison population.

“The regional facilities will be among the most modern in Australasia. They’ll be far more conducive to inmate rehabilitation.”

The new prisons will boast the latest design features and take cultural needs into account. Their design will complement the focus on self-responsibility and decision-making for inmates. Each will contain all the buildings and equipment needed to provide programmes and employment training. The prisons will accommodate all security level inmates, from high to low security classification (but not maximum security offenders), and remand inmates.

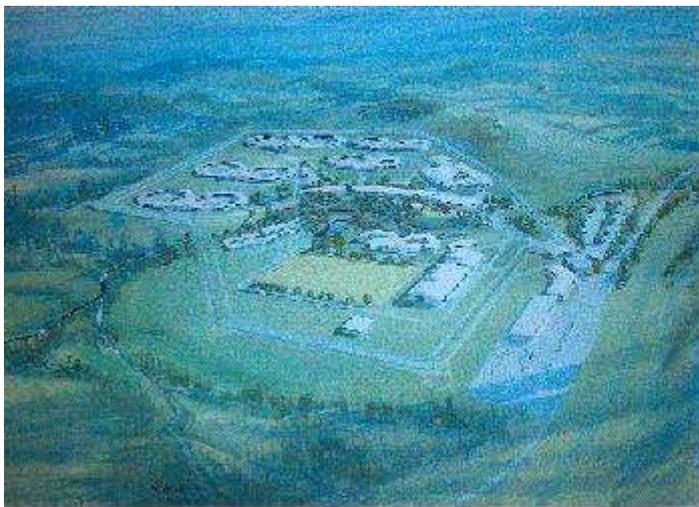
“The facilities will ensure a very low risk of security breaches such as escapes, because of the modern security features they will use, in tandem with management practices,” says Mr Morris. **In particular, the emphasis will be on a highly secure perimeter but permit high levels of interaction within the facility.**

Over the past few years the Department involved local communities and other interested people in a comprehensive search for suitable prison sites. The four prisons are at different stages of development. In Northland, near Ngawha, a 350-bed men’s prison is now under construction and expected to open in February 2005. Last year the Department successfully negotiated the Environment Court hearing and subsequent High Court Appeal regarding this facility. The outcome of the legal challenges cemented the certainty of a prison at the chosen site.

In Manukau City, Auckland, the case for a 150-bed women’s prison in Manukau was heard by commissioners appointed by the local council, as part of the resource management planning approval process. The Corrections Minister will confirm or decline the recommendations from the Council. Those who made submissions in the earlier stages of the planning approval process may decide to appeal the Minister’s decision to the Environment Court. This facility is expected to open in early 2006.

Likewise in the Waikato, the submissions in support of, or against, planning approval for the Spring Hill Men's Corrections Facility are being heard by commissioners appointed by the regional and district council. This facility intends to cater for up to 650 inmates and is scheduled to open in 2007.

In the South Island, a 330-bed men's corrections facility is needed for inmates from the Otago region. The Department is preparing to lodge documents seeking planning approval for the proposed prison with the local council in June. Dependant on planning approvals this facility is expected to open in 2008.



Hong Kong Has New Commissioner

Mr Kelvin Pang Sung-yuen, succeeded Mr Benny Ng Ching-kwok as Commissioner of Correctional Services in Hong Kong on January 1. Mr Ng, who became Commissioner in May 1999, started end-of-agreement leave on the same day.

Mr Pang joined the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (then known as Prisons Department) as an Officer in 1971 and rose through the ranks to become Assistant Commissioner in 1994 and Deputy Commissioner in February 2000.

Mr Pang has worked in various formations of the Department and has a wide range of frontline and administrative experiences. He has witnessed and personally involved in the many fundamental changes in correctional work in Hong Kong over the past some 20 years.

He was the first Assistant Commissioner took charge of the Rehabilitation Division set up in 1998 to give directives and formulate strategies for the long-term development of rehabilitative services for inmates and prisoners.

Mr Pang said the change of leadership of the Department would not affect Hong Kong's role in the APCCA. "I fully share the same sense of purpose and dedication other members have for the APCCA. The Hong Kong Correctional Services will continue to give full support to the APCCA and, being the Fund Administrator and one arm of the APCCA Secretariat, serve the grouping with commitment," he said.

Describing the holding of the 23rd APCCA in Hong Kong this December as an honour to the Hong Kong Correctional Services, Mr Pang said: "To play host to the annual meeting at a time when the government is calling for cost-cutting, I sense a great challenge ahead of me and my staff. We will make the best use of available resources to make the conference a success."

(Photo caption: Mr Kelvin Pang Sung-yuen (right), newly-appointed Commissioner of Correctional Services in Hong Kong, presents a souvenir to the outgoing Commissioner, Mr Benny Ng Ching-kwok, at a gathering.)

Caption:

Mr Kelvin Pang Sung-Yuen (right) appointed Commissioner of Correctional Services in Hong Kong, presents a souvenir to the outgoing Commissioner, Mr Benny Ng.



Hong Kong Correctional Services Wins Gold Award for Innovative Practice

The Green Haven Scheme run by the Hong Kong Correctional Services has won a gold award for its green innovative practice in the 2002 Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards.

With sponsorship from the Beat Drugs Fund, the Department started the community education scheme at its Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre from January 2001 to promote both the anti-drug message and the importance of environmental protection among young people.

Young participants aged 13 to 18 meet with inmates of the Centre to gain insights into the detrimental effects of drug abuse and visit green facilities on Hei Ling Chau to learn more about environmental protection. In a ceremony, they vow to stay away from drugs, and plant seedlings to signify support for environmental protection.

Hei Ling Chau is an island managed by the Hong Kong Correctional Services since 1975. There are three penal institutions, namely the Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre, Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution and Lai Sun Correctional Institution on the island.

“The Scheme has been well received. Nearly 3 000 students, youngsters, teachers, and youth workers from over a hundred schools and youth organisations have taken part in the programme in the past two years,” said Mr Poon Wing-hong, Senior Superintendent of Hei Ling Region.

“We have spared no efforts in preserving the natural surroundings on the island. The green initiatives implemented included the adoption of an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, composting, production of recycled paper, tree and flower planting, protection of rare species, etc.,” Mr Poon added.

“These initiatives help inmates cultivate a ‘Green Living Manner’, a healthy lifestyle from which they would stand to benefit even after their release.”

The 2002 Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards was jointly organised by the Environmental Campaign Committee, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong Productivity Council.

Established in 1999, the awards scheme aims to encourage, promote and give public recognition to organisations in Hong Kong which adopt the principles of green practices in their business.

A total of 193 private and public organisations participated in the 2002 Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards to vie for various awards in four categories, namely the Green Office Award (Large Organisations), the Green Office Award (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises), the Green Property Management Award (Private Housing) and the Green Innovative Practice Award.

The Green Haven Scheme received a gold award in the Green Innovative Practice category, which was assessed according to the eco-innovative model with the three key components of innovative culture, concept generation and performance as well as community contribution.

Captions:

Young participants of the Green Haven Scheme learn about the green initiatives being implemented on Hei Ling Chau.



Hong Kong Pilots Legal Video Visit Scheme

The Hong Kong Correctional Services has recently started a pilot Video Legal Visit service following the success of the Video Visit Scheme for inmates and their friends and relatives introduced in April 2001.

Under the pilot scheme, a lawyer can make use of the visit centre in the High Court in the central business district to meet with his inmate client detained in the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre, a major reception facility for male adult remand inmates, through a video-conferencing system during office hours. Facsimile machine with encryption function is available for the transmission of documents between the lawyer and his client. The entire service is free of charge.

Chief Officer (Penal Operations), Mr Kan Chi-keung, said that the Video Legal Visit service was another example of the Department's application of modern technology to deliver customer-oriented services.

“The new service provides a convenient means for legal professionals to meet with inmate clients in our custody. The response has been good as in the first three months since its implementation in December last year, more than 100 such visits have been arranged,” Mr Kan said.

“To the users, it is efficient and cost effective, not to mention the saving in travelling time. As regards prison operations, the service would also save operational cost in the longer run.”

It is expected that there would be a growing demand for the service and the Department will consider expanding it subject to a review in the near future.

Caption:

An inmate at the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre meets with his lawyer through the video-conferencing system.



GUTS Baton: a New Weapon for Thai Correctional Staff

There are currently more than 250,000 offenders are incarcerated in prisons and correctional institutions throughout Thailand, while the total number of correctional staff stands at 11,000. The ratio between correctional staff and prisoners is 1:25, which is the highest ratio in comparing to other countries in Asian and Pacific region. Prison staff have their duty to take the inmates in good custody, without riot or any attempt of escape. The Thai correctional staff's duty to take in custody of high number of criminal without modern security devices is considered a risky and dangerous mission.

What is the weapon used by Thai correctional staff?

The only weapon that Thai correctional staff are using is a wooden baton, with neither standard size nor appropriate strategic training. In case where there happens to be a disorder in prison and the inmate usurps an officer's baton, that baton would simply be used as a weapon against the officer himself.

GUTS Baton may be one good option as new weapon of Thai correctional staff.

GUTS Baton is a baton with particular characteristics. The material used is fiberglass instead of wood, but it renders strength and durability. The length of the baton is 24 inches, with a handle at one side. It is handy and effective if correctly trained. Consequently, if the baton is usurped by the prisoner, it would not be practically exercised as a weapon by an untrained person.

Starting in 2002, the Department of Corrections has brought GUTS Baton as a weapon for prison officers as a replacement of the traditional baton. Initially, strategic training was done as a pilot project in 25 prisons. On 28 January 2003, 501 male and female officers who have passed the strategic training demonstrated the use of GUTS Baton to the public.

The GUTS Baton is, indeed, one other step of innovation that the Department of Corrections has brought into practice, aiming to enhance better security in prisons, to handle first-hand turmoil suppression, and most importantly, to be a self-defense shield for Thai correctional officers.

Caption:

Thai Correctional Officers demonstrate the use of the GUTS Baton.



Extreme Flight

More than three hundred convicts were repatriated by a charter flight. This is believed to be an extreme flight in history, for its carrying of 339 special passengers, 284 of whom are male and the other 55 are female, from Thailand to Nigeria. What these passengers have in common is that **they are all Nigerian, they are convicts of drug crimes, they have spent a period time behind bars in Thailand, and most importantly, they are overwhelmed with happiness to return to their hometown.**

This is definitely not the first time that a prisoner has been transferred back to his home country. Thailand has operated international transfer of prisoners for over a decade. So far, bilateral transfer treaties between Thailand and more than 20 countries have been negotiated and ratified. However, Nigeria is the first country in Africa to sign a transfer treaty with Thailand. Since the treaty's entering into force in November 2002, all parties have tried with every effort to make the transfer of Nigerian prisoners possible.

Questions that have always been asked:

- ***What is the average sentence term of these Nigerian Prisoners?***
- ***How long have they served their time in Thailand?***
- ***Where do they go after the repatriation, prison or directly home?***

Let's clear the last question first. The transfer of prisoners is to facilitate the rehabilitation of the prisoners in their home country; so that they can receive visits from their loved ones more easily and that they can get access to appropriate rehabilitation program of their own culture. The law enforcement shall continue while Nigeria as a receiving country is

empowered to manage the remaining sentence time as regularly practiced in the transferring country.

As for the first question, the sentence term of these prisoners varies. It is widely recognized that, in Thailand, drug dealers or smugglers receive the highest punishment. Among these three hundred Nigerian prisoners, there is only one with the least sentence term of 6 years. The rest have higher terms, some of which are as high as 100 years. Among these convicts, 149 of them are sentenced to life imprisonment while 17 have the death penalty. However, all of them have served their time in Thailand for quite a while and most have received term commutation from the Collective Royal Pardon in some important occasions of the country. Consequently, as of the date of transfer, there were none from death row, 18 lifers, and the rest with certain sentence periods from 80 years to lower, the lowest one was with 6-year imprisonment.

Now comes the question that one would like to know: How long have these prisoners served their time before being repatriated? The information shall be roughly given in years. One may simply multiply by 365, and shall imagine how days have slowly passed inside those four square walls. One might also calculate the expense that the Thai government has spent for these prisoners as well as many other prisoners in Thai prisons. Think also about foreign prisoners whose countries do not have bilateral transfer treaties with Thailand and how they shall have to pass countless nights and days in despair.

Here is the information about the time spent in prisons before the transfer of Nigerian prisoners:

- Prisoners having served 4 – 7 years	17	persons
- Prisoners having served 8 years	26	persons
- Prisoners having served 9 years	30	persons
- Prisoners having served 10 years	77	persons
- Prisoners having served 11 years	64	persons
- Prisoners having served 12 years	108	persons

- Prisoners having served 13 years 12 persons
- Prisoners having served 14 years 1 persons

Even though the destination of this flight would still be four square walls, every prisoner is willing to accept it. There is no place like home. At the same time, Thailand is also pleased that the heavy burden of incarcerating these high-sentenced prisoners has been lessened at certain level.

Caption:

Female Nigerian prisoners, in native dress, prepare to return home.



Linking SCORE and Prisons

The Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) has been spearheading programmes to help ex-inmates and drug addicts re-enter society since 1976. Besides providing vocational and industrial training for inmates, SCORE organises work industries in the various Penal Institutions and Drug Rehabilitation Centres. This includes a bakery,

laundry, furniture-making, electrical and electronic assembly, employing about 3000 inmates. SCORE also provides job placement for released inmates, and collaborates with Halfway Houses in their efforts to rehabilitate drug abusers. It also works with inmates' families, government authorities, employers and the community to help inmates along the road to recovery.

With its mission to rehabilitate and help reintegrate ex-offenders back to society as responsible and contributing members of society, SCORE shares a common objective with the Singapore Prison Service in maximising offenders' reintegration potential. To facilitate the realisation of this shared goal, SCORE and Prisons also seek to engage inmates as part of the value-chain by training them to work on several joint projects. This would allow inmates to pick up work skills during incarceration, and ease their re-entry to the job market upon release.

The Selarang Park Drug Rehabilitation Centre (SPD) linkway project, which began in September 2002 is one of the collaborative projects between SCORE and Prisons, aimed at including inmates as part of the value-chain. This pilot project determined the feasibility of using inmates as part of the workforce for infrastructural and maintenance works within the prison institutions, and to provide practical experience to SCORE to act as Prison's managing agent for all such work that utilizes inmate labour.

A total of 40 inmates were trained for the project. These inmates worked side by side experienced contractors and engineers. Thereafter, supervision was conducted by SCORE staff and the contractor's foreman. The linkway was successfully completed after 5½ months of hard work. A certificate presentation ceremony was held on 22 February 2003, to recognize the efforts of inmates who had worked in the SPD Linkway project. In his speech as Guest of Honour, SCORE's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Jason Wong congratulated the inmates for completing the project. Invited family members were urged to continue encouraging their incarcerated loved ones so that they could reintegrate successfully to the family and society upon discharge.

Caption:

Inmates from SPD working on the Linkway with professional contractors.

Singapore Prisons Department achieves ISO 9001:2000

On 20 February 2003, Singapore Prisons Department's Rehabilitation Classification Process was certified as being in compliance with the ISO 9001:2000 standard. The Classification Process is a key process towards achieving the Department's mission of protecting society through the safe custody and rehabilitation of offenders. Having a good system of classifying our inmates allows the Department to make better use of our limited resources to achieve the best results. Since its implementation in October 2000, 12000 inmates have gone through the required rehabilitation classification interview.

Preparation work began in August 2002 and culminated with an external audit conducted by Certification International in February 2003. The Classification Unit was commended for its sustained commitment to the work processes, On-the-Job-Training programmes and feedback mechanisms.

ISO 9000 is one of the most recognised series of standards across the world. It is a series of international standards developed to assist organisations design, develop and implement effective quality management systems. ISO 9000 has been accepted as a national standard by more than 100 countries, including Singapore. By seeking to certify the Classification Process with the ISO 9001: 2000 standard, we can achieve our mission through world-class standards. We are also achieving our vision of becoming an exemplary prison system.

Caption:

Prisons' Classification Unit, with its officers-in-charge, Ms Debbie Ng (front row, 2nd from

right) & some of the internal auditor.



Appreciating Prison Staff Volunteers

In April 2001, the Singapore Prisons Department launched a Staff Volunteers' Scheme to encourage our officers to reach out to inmates, and the underprivileged in our community, promoting work-life balance and extending the scope of our helping profession. Besides tutoring and counselling inmates in drug and penal institutions, staff volunteers also help out at the Singapore Convalescent Home, Pertapis Children's Home, Red Cross Home for the Disabled and Salvation Army. Family members of our staff are also encouraged to join in these activities to help the less fortunate.

Since its launch, staff volunteerism has taken a quantum leap. Today, we have approximately 570 registered staff on our volunteer programmes. In conjunction with the national "Volunteers Month" in December 2002, the Department organised a Staff Appreciation Nite on 23 December 2002, in recognition and appreciation of our staff

volunteers. Staff Appreciation Nite started off with a presentation of certificates and awards by the Director of Prisons, Mr Chua Chin Kiat, to 26 outstanding staff volunteers. The Director also took the opportunity to thank staff who had responded to the call of volunteerism since April 2001. He stressed the continued need to build a community of volunteers and volunteering within prisons. The candle which Mr Chua lighted in the finale, represents a hope that the fire of volunteerism will continue to burn more brightly in the future.

Caption:

Director of Prisons (top row, second from right), and several Staff Volunteers.



