



**ASIA PACIFIC FORUM AGAINST DRUGS 2017,  
SPEECH BY MR HAWAZI DAIPI,  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST DRUG ABUSE  
THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2017**

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Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law,  
Mr Ng Ser Song, Director, Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB),

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the 2nd Asia Pacific Forum Against Drugs!

2. The National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) aspires to be the voice of Singapore's anti-drug movement. It rallies community support for Singapore's zero tolerance stance, and supports ground-up efforts from both individuals and organisations.

**B. APFAD**

3. The APFAD began in 2015, with the aspiration of rallying like-minded anti-drug advocates from NGOs and government agencies in Asia, to network and share best practices on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.



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4. The impetus for such a cause continues to remain relevant today. The drug scene has evolved and will continue to evolve. We need partners, all over the world, to come together to co-create and fight for a drug free world for our children.

5. How do we encourage a healthy lifestyle without drugs, without being seen as an oppressive authoritarian? How do we engage those at risk, especially our children, with meaningful activities? Some of the speakers today will be sharing the policies and programmes that are currently in place which yield successful results in their countries. We hope that you can glean some useful insights from the sharing sessions.

**C. Adopting the Green & White Ribbon as our Anti-drug Symbol**

6. In Singapore, we use the green and white ribbon as our Anti-drug Symbol. The ribbon signifies: Health, Vitality and Strength. We encourage students to put on the green and white ribbon on World Drug Day which we commemorate on the 26th of June each year, as a pledge to the anti-drug cause.



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7. Since the first APFAD in 2015, we have also intensified our local advocacy efforts, by launching two key initiatives over the past year -
- i. First, the A3 network in December 2016 – made up of active individuals who identify with, support and promote the drug-free cause in Singapore, and
  - ii. Second, the United Against Drugs Coalition in April 2017, a coalition of organisations, both government and private, against drug abuse. This is a joint initiative with the Central Narcotics Bureau.
8. The above initiatives seek to generate community awareness and involvement for the drug-free cause through advocacy efforts from the ground.
9. We would like to thank APFAD participants who have adopted the ribbon since APFAD 2015, and hope you continue supporting the ribbon as our common anti-drug symbol in ASEAN and beyond. We need a symbol of unifying effort within our own entity as well as in our region and the world. We would like to urge other new APFAD participants to adopt the green and white ribbon, so that it would reach global recognition and unify like-minded organisations to work towards a drug-free world.



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**D. APFAD declaration**

10. The APFAD declaration is the promise that APFAD participants make, to continue to support anti-drug whole-heartedly, as one collective voice, for the sake of a drug-free society for our children.

**E. Conclusion**

11. We hope that this forum will prove to be fruitful, and that you are able to take back useful information, and share the results with everyone back home. We hope that through platforms like APFAD, the anti-drug movement, unified and supported by people from all backgrounds all over the globe, can be resonant enough to counter the pro-drug lobby. The anti-drug community must work together as one to secure a safe drug-free environment for our children.

12. Thank you.