



ASIA PACIFIC FORUM AGAINST DRUGS (APFAD-WFAD @ SINGAPORE 2019)

*“Prevention through Partnerships and Community Action –
for a World Without Drugs”*

The National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) of Singapore, in collaboration with the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD), organised the Asia Pacific Forum Against Drugs (APFAD-WFAD @ Singapore 2019) today. This is the third run of APFAD and is the Council's first joint forum with WFAD. WFAD is a multilateral global network of organisations and individuals who are united behind the United Nations' international drug control conventions.

2. The event brought together anti-drug practitioners and advocates as well as local and foreign delegates from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community partners, civil society groups and government agencies. Since its inaugural conference in 2015, APFAD has been a strategic platform for the local and regional anti-drug community to network and share best practices. This year, discussions centred on how to refine drug prevention strategies and scale community action, against the continuing global calls for drug liberalisation.

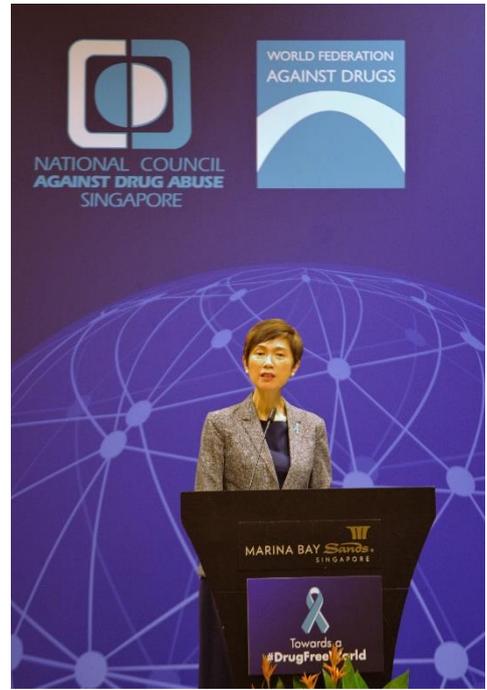
3. This year's list of conference speakers included leading experts in harm prevention research and programmes, as well as activists who have catalysed movements for the drug-free cause, such as Mr Bob McCoskrie, National Director of Family First NZ; Mr Luke Niforatos, the Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor at Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM); and Ms Mirella Dummar Frahi, Team Lead for Civil Society Team at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Mr McCoskrie spoke about how Big Marijuana may be making inroads into New Zealand in the near future and how he is leading Family First NZ to resist this. Mr Niforatos shared with the audience about the socio-economic and political drivers behind the cannabis legalisation situation in the United States while Ms Frahi delivered a presentation on the role of civil society organisations in promoting and delivering evidence-based and effective prevention of drug use.

4. A preview of NCADA's 2020 media campaign was also presented during the event. The campaign will feature an interactive short film by award-winning Singaporean director Royston Tan, which explores the challenges and choices relating to drug abuse that young people encounter today.

5. In her opening address, Guest-of-Honour Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs, referred to the serious opioid crisis in the United States. She highlighted the worrying development of the push for cannabis legalisation and its unintended consequences in many countries. As anti-drug efforts become more challenging with the increasing proliferation of liberal views, Minister Teo also emphasised the critical need to counter the proliferation of misinformation about cannabis and drug abuse.

6. In his welcome address, Dr Chew Tuan Chiong, Vice-Chairman of NCADA, reiterated the importance for a small city-state like Singapore to maintain a strong national consensus on our zero-tolerance stance towards drugs. He called for conference delegates to adopt the APFAD Declaration as a statement of common purpose to secure a drug-free world for the generations to come.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST DRUG ABUSE (NCADA), SINGAPORE
SECRETARIAT
7 NOVEMBER 2019**



Photos 1 and 2: Guest-of-Honour Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs speaking at the Asia Pacific Forum Against Drugs (APFAD-WFAD @ Singapore 2019). Photo credit: NCADA



Photo 3: Asia Pacific Forum Against Drugs (APFAD-WFAD @ Singapore 2019) Guest-of-Honour Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs, with representatives of the National Council Against Drug Abuse, World Federation Against Drugs, Director Central Narcotics Bureau, Deputy Commissioner (Policy & Transformation) of Prisons, and this year's forum speakers. Photo credit: NCADA

Asia Pacific Forum Against Drugs

APFAD-WFAD @ Singapore 2019

Prevention through Partnerships and Community Action – for a World Without Drugs

Guest of Honour

Mrs J. Teo

Minister for Manpower Minister for Home Affairs

7 - 8



Photo 4: Mr Bob McCoskrie, National Director, Family First NZ, speaking at APFAD-WFAD @ Singapore 2019.

Photo credit: NCADA



Photo 5: The APFAD Declaration at APFAD-WFAD @ Singapore 2019.
Photo credit: NCADA

~ END ~



APFAD DECLARATION

1. We envision a drug-free world for our children, and uphold Article 33 of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect our children from drug abuse:

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.”

2. Drug abuse is a global problem that harms millions of people, and destabilises families, which are the cornerstones of strong communities and nations. All peoples have the right to expect their governments and civil society to work together for a drug-free society. Our children have the right to grow up and develop in stable families, where they can achieve their potential, free from drugs.
3. We oppose the legalisation of drugs because such policies send the wrong message to our children that drugs are not harmful and addictive, which will inevitably lead to an increase in drug demand and abuse. There is an urgent need to counter the well-funded pro-drug lobby which aims to normalise drug abuse and legalise drugs.
4. Drug abuse should be addressed in a comprehensive and holistic manner, involving both drug demand and supply reduction measures. These measures should include preventive education, rehabilitation, evidence-based research and enforcement efforts. Drug rehabilitation programmes should have the goal of helping drug abusers kick the habit. We must be firm with repeat abusers to strongly discourage relapse and prevent contamination of others.
5. All persons have the responsibility to speak up and make a stand for a drug-free world for our children. Such a vision is neither utopian nor impossible. We call on all governments, non-government organisations (NGOs) and civil society groups to come together to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse, for the sake of our children, our families, and our communities around the world.

I, _____ (name) of _____ (country),

hereby pledge my support for the APFAD Declaration.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Organisation (Optional): (*Government/ NGO/ Civil Society Group)

Note:

**For participants to delete where appropriate:*

Individuals may pledge in their personal capacity, or in both their personal capacity and as a representative of their organisation.