

**TRANSNATIONAL CRIME IN THAILAND: THE CASE
OF THE AFRICAN DRUG SYNDICATES**

Pol. Maj. Ekapol Panjamanond

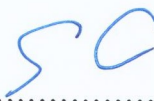
**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
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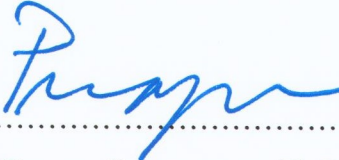
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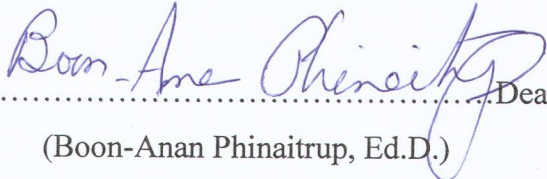
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ABSTRACT

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Narcotics problem is one of the critical problems in Thailand, which causes social problems, economic problems and quality of life of the people. The number of cases and quantity of illicit drugs seized has been increasing over the past decades. At present, narcotics issue has become even more complicated because of the social change, and globalization which allow more foreigners to come to Thailand. African drug syndicates become greater problem to Thai society nowadays, as the growing number of cases, number of Thai and Asian women were used and arrested. Thai authorities found difficulties in coping with the African drug syndicate for many reasons such as the method African drug syndicate uses is very complicated and new to most of Thai authorities who normally deal with South East Asian drug traffickers.

This dissertation aims to learn why African drug syndicates choose to operate in Thailand and what are African drug syndicates operational patterns, so that we can come up with the proper policy to deal with African drug syndicates in Thailand. This study will cover the interview of African drug dealers, and narcotics suppression agencies, both Thais and foreigners. This study will not cover the case of possess illicit drugs and consuming illicit drugs as the main focuses is on the drug trafficking level. The information in this research contains statement of the suspects, arrest report and other details from government agencies, which some cases still on the court process so writer have to cover some identity and information due to legal and rights issue.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Statement of the Problem	1
1.1.1 Narcotics Problem in Thailand	2
1.1.2 The Drug Situation in Thailand	3
1.1.3 Evolution of the Drug Problem in Thailand	4
1.2 Significance of the Problem	6
1.3 Research Questions	6
1.4 Research Objectives	6
1.5 Scope and Limitations	7
1.6 Expected Outputs	7
1.7 Organization of the Study	8
1.8 Definitions	8
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Concepts and Theories	11
2.1.1 The Meaning of Crime	11
2.1.2 Sources of Crime	13
2.1.3 Types of Crime	18
2.1.4 Women Committing Offences	20
2.1.5 Motivation for Drug Crimes	21
2.1.6 Transnational Organized Drug Crime	23

2.1.7	The Concept of Crime Prevention	31
2.1.8	Globalization	34
2.2	The Situation of the Drug Problem in the Present and Trends in the Future	36
2.2.1	The Situation of Drug Smuggling into Thailand	37
2.2.2	Methods of Drug Trafficking into Thailand	37
2.2.3	Drug Smuggling Methods and Distribution in Thailand	38
2.2.4	Statistics of Drug Cases in Thailand	38
2.2.5	The Trend of Drug Problems of African Drug Syndicates	41
2.3	The Thai Government's Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Strategy	44
2.3.1	Drug Prevention	45
2.3.2	The Policy for Preventing and Solving Drug Problems	47
2.3.3	The Government Policy to Solve Drug Problems in Thailand	47
2.4	Thai Law Related to African Drug Syndicates	49
2.4.1	The Laws Related to Drug Prevention and Suppression in Thailand	49
2.4.2	Immigration Act, B.E. 2522	54
2.4.3	Types of Visas	55
2.4.4	Literature Review of Law Enforcement in Thailand	56
CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHOD		59
3.1	Research Method	59
3.2	Unit of Analysis	60
3.3	Data Sources and Collection	60
3.3.1	Documentary Research	61
3.3.2	Interviews	61
3.3.3	Direct Observations	66
3.4	Data Analysis	66
3.5	Ensuring Research Quality	66
3.5.1	Construct Validity	66

3.5.2 Internal Validity	67
3.5.3 External Validity	67
3.5.4 Reliability	67
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH RESULTS	68
4.1 Factors that Affect African Drug Syndicates Committing Transnational Drug Trafficking in Thailand	68
4.1.1 Initial Point	68
4.1.2 Social Issues and Economy	69
4.1.3 African Survival and the Luxury Mindset	72
4.1.4 Law and Law Enforcement	74
4.1.5 Globalization	81
4.1.6 African Community	86
4.1.7 Landscape	87
4.2 Operational Model of the African Drug Syndicate	89
4.2.1 Circumstances to Maintain Status in Thailand	89
4.2.2 Narcotics Types and Sources	93
4.2.3 Drug Smuggling Methods	94
4.2.4 Financial Routes	97
4.2.5 African Drug Syndicate Organizational Style	99
4.2.6 Evolution of Operational Model of African Drug Syndicates	101
4.3 Problems in African Drug Syndicate Prevention and Solution Guidelines	104
4.3.1 Problems in African Drug Syndicate Prevention and Suppression	104
4.3.2 Effects on Society	107
4.3.3 Guidelines to Problem Solutions	109
CHAPTER 5 RESEARCH SUMMARY	117
5.1 Factors that Motivate Africans to Commit Transnational Drug Trades in Thailand	117
5.1.1 Social and Economic Factors	117
5.1.2 Globalization	119

5.1.3 Economic Goals	120
5.1.4 Blind Spot in Governmental Processes	121
5.1.5 The African Community	121
5.1.6 Terrain	122
5.2 The African Drug Syndicate's Operational Patterns	123
5.2.1 Pattern of Africans Retaining their Status in Thailand	123
5.2.2 African Drug Syndicate Organizational Structure	124
5.2.3 Trafficking Methods	125
5.2.4 Financial Routes	127
5.2.5 Drug Trafficking Patterns of African Drug Syndicates	128
5.3 Recommended Best Practices to Fight Against African Drug Syndicates	129
5.3.1 Problems in Combating African Drug Syndicates	130
5.3.2 Solutions to the African Drug Syndicate Problem	133
5.4 Summary	139
5.5 Limitations and Suggestions	140
BIBLIOGRAPHY	142
APPENDICES	148
Appendix A Question Outlines: 1 Government Agencies	149
Transnational Crime in Thailand Focus on African Drug Syndicates	
Appendix B Question Outlines: 2 African Inmates Transnational Crime in Thailand Focus on African Drug Syndicates	151
BIOGRAPHY	153

LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
2.1 Situational Crime Prevention Technique	34
2.2 Drug Arrests in Thailand in Fiscal Years 2013-2017	40
2.3 Price of Drugs	41
2.4 The Statistics of African Prisoners for Drug Crimes in 2016	42
2.5 African Arrests for Drugs by Nationality in Thailand	43
2.6 The Penalty Comparison of Narcotics Type 1 vs. Type 2	51
4.1 Nations Arresting Thai Drug Couriers in 2012	96

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Page
2.1 Drug Case Arrests in the Last Quarter 2017	39
2.2 Statistics of Drug Cases Separated by Drug Dealers and Consumption	39
2.3 Tentative Conceptual Framework	58
4.1 Africans Migrate and Become a Drug Syndicate in Thailand	89
4.2 African Drug Syndicate Network Style	101
5.1 A Comparison of Drug Organizations	125
5.2 African Drug Syndicate Operational Pattern	129
5.3 The African Problem and Thai Society	133
5.4 Drug Trafficking Triangle	137
5.5 Applying Situational Crime Prevention to African Drug Syndicates	138

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of this research. First, it introduces the importance of the narcotics problem in Thailand and the trend that indicates African drug syndicates are involved in the recent drug problems in Thailand. In order to recognize this issue properly, a study of the factors motivating African drug dealers to commit transnational drug trafficking in Thailand is required. Furthermore, the operational pattern of African drug syndicates is another issue included in this research, which aims to come up with an appropriate policy and protocol to deal with African drug syndicates.

Moreover, this chapter includes the research objectives, the scope of the research, definitions of relevant vocabulary, and expected outcomes of the study and research organization. To sum up, this chapter aims to provide a guideline for the whole research, giving a basic understanding of the narcotics problem in Thailand as declared in this dissertation.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Narcotics have long been a problem in the world for thousands of years, ever since humans first knew that some plants can affect their emotions. In earlier times, coca was used by the Inca and ancient tribes for spiritual ceremonies. After Spain gained rule, coca was given to local Indians to enhance their work capability (Thanyarak Songkla Hospital, 2005). Narcotic substances have been misused for centuries; for example, opium has been used for medical purposes by Mesopotamia since 5,000 years ago, but after science developed opium, it has been used as a narcotic. In China opium causes critical social problems, as a number of Chinese are addicted to opium. Furthermore, Great Britain at one time was the monopoly opium seller in China and caused conflict with the Chinese government which led to the

“Opium War” that lasted for 6 years until 1859, when China lost. In the late 19th century and continuously into the early the 20th century, a number of tribes moved to South East Asia and brought opium with them, which was the root of the opium problem in this region.

1.1.1 Narcotics Problem in Thailand

Narcotics problems have occurred in Thailand since the Ayudhaya era up until the Rattanakosin era. The drug of choice has evolved over time, from opium to heroin to morphine and now methamphetamine. Every government has come up with various policies to match with the situation and suppress drugs in Thailand.

The narcotics problem is one of the most critical problems of Thailand, which causes social problems, economic problems and quality of life problems for its people. In the year 2011 the number of drug cases was 192,091 cases, which increased dramatically to 261,112 cases in 2017 (Office of Narcotics Control Board: ONCB, 2017). Quantities of seized drugs also increased during the period of 2011-2017, methamphetamine tablets seized were 55.12 million pills in 2011, compared to 214.42 million pills in 2017, ICE increased from 1,241.39 kilograms in 2011 to 5,200.75 kilograms in 2017, and cocaine rose from 31.8 kilograms to 45.45 kilograms (ONCB, 2017). The numbers show that the trend of the drug situation in Thailand remains serious. Moreover, a survey conducted by ONCB in 2017 indicated that 22.7 percent said that drug abuse in the community was increasing from before. The survey also pointed out that people in the community were suffering from several issues caused by drug problems, such as property offences and violence in the community (Office of Narcotics Control Board: ONCB, 2017). Nevertheless, the Thai government has invested a large amount of its budget to solve the narcotics problem in Thailand. The Thai government spent 91.8196 billion baht, or 5.10101 billion baht per year, on their budget for narcotics policy from 2002 to 2017 (Sangsit Piriyangsun, Chatwaran Ongsingh, Nidawan Proasunthorn, Wanee Kowsuwansiri, & Chulerat Charoenporn, 2015). These numbers show the seriousness of the narcotics problem, which is increasing every year.

A number of policies have been adopted in order to cope with the drug situation in Thailand. One of the more famous policies was “The declaration of war on drugs” policy of ex-prime minister Taksin Shinawattra from 2002-2005. His

policy focused on aggressive suppression and at that time it worked. The number of drug cases, especially ICE and YABA, had been increasing rapidly, but in 2005 there were only 195 cases of ICE and 34,860 cases of YABA; however, the statistics of drug cases increased dramatically to 2,003 and 114,959 cases of ICE and YABA, respectively, in 2009 (Narcotics Law Enforcement Report, 2009).

1.1.2 The Drug Situation in Thailand

At present, the narcotics issue has become even more complicated because of social change and globalization, which allows more foreigners to come to Thailand. Furthermore, as Thailand shares borders with Laos and Myanmar at the “Golden Triangle”, one of the best known drug producing regions in the world, helped by Thailand’s transportation system, Thailand has become the center of drug trafficking in the region. Drug production outside the country has not decreased, since most clandestine drug laboratories were not dismantled. Opium and cannabis cultivation in neighboring countries has continued, while methamphetamine production in the Golden Triangle area remains huge. Production of illicit drugs in the region has created a big impact to countries that are located near this major drug producing source, like Thailand, China, and India. Drug insurgent groups produce and sell heroin, methamphetamine (both YABA and ICE), and opium to support other businesses, such as casinos, luxury hotels, and whisky refinery factories. Other drug producing groups in the same areas also include hill-tribe minority groups. A Thai intelligence agency reported that 8 major drug producing sites were found to be located near the northern Thai border opposite 3 border provinces of Thailand in this period (Narcotics Suppression Bureau: NSB, 2018).

Major drug of abuse is still centered on methamphetamine in tablet form (YABA) while crystallized methamphetamine (ICE) is on the rise. Marijuana is abused in both urban and rural areas and club drugs are abused in big cities. Volatile substance abuse is found in dense communities and slums in big cities in the northeast of Thailand. Areas of drug abuse are always found in big cities and tourist spots (Office of Narcotics Control Board: ONCB, 2016). Drug abusers are varied from place to place, but YABA abusers can be found in every part of the country. The number of drug patients in treatment centers increases every year. During the past

decade, the number of patients in treatment centers has increased considerably. There were 66,748 patients in treatment centers around the country in 2007, this number rose to 560,046 patients in 2012; after that the drug abuse situation seemed to alleviate, the number of patients reduced to 177,731 in 2016 and 197,516 in 2017 (Office of Narcotics Control Board: ONCB, 2017).

Drug production in Thailand is not a significant problem, though opium, cannabis, and kratom plants are grown in small areas of the country. Some methamphetamine kitchen labs were also found this year, which could only reproduce a small amount of Yaba pills per day. Smuggling and trafficking of drugs, however, are detected in many areas around the country, both in urban and rural areas. The northern border of Thailand is still the main area for drug smuggling at this time, since it is located near drug producing sites in neighboring countries. Smuggling of illicit drugs inside the country is found mainly in urban areas, particularly in big cities around the country. Thai people and hill tribes from neighboring countries are often found to be drug smugglers and traffickers (ONCB, 2017).

1.1.3 Evolution of the Drug Problem in Thailand

The term “globalization” has been used often since the changing millennium in the year 2000. Globalization refers to the process in which the world population merges into a single society. This process is influenced by various aspects, such as economy, technology, society, culture and politics (Croucher, 2004). Globalization is causing a number of changes in the world, for example the blending of cultures and races, the opening up of new markets, and the development of new technologies. These things happen because of the removal of barriers, which aims to encourage the trade of goods, services and resources. Although economic transformation is one of the important factors of globalization, the exchange and development of telecommunications and technology are as important. Communication technology makes people from around the world become closer to each other. We often hear the phrase “the world has become a global village,” which identifies how the world now is. However, a coin always has two sides, and so does globalization. A shift of the workforce from developed countries to developing countries where the costs are lower, the consumption of natural resources and the pollution caused by the emerging

of industries are the downsides. The telecommunication system which is the core of this globalization that brings people closer can also be used by terrorists and criminals, such as it was on 9/11. Law enforcement agencies throughout the world have to face huge obstacles to follow these people. As the criminals operate in organized ways, law enforcement agencies need to work together. But in reality, there are many complications preventing authorities from working together, such as differences in the law of different countries, the delay of contacting through official processes, and the lack of technology to trace or trap the communication of people from different corners of the world. Globalization affects the narcotics trade in Thailand at many stages, for example in the flow of foreigners, both legally and illegally entering the kingdom of Thailand, and the growth of international transportation and communication systems. Drug traffickers normally use these advanced technologies in order to avoid the detection of law enforcement, which unfortunately works. In Thailand, the authorities also have similar complications in arresting international crime organizations. There are many gangs and criminal organizations in large tourism areas, such as Russian gangs and motorbike gangs in Pattaya and Phuket, and Iranian and African drug syndicates in Bangkok.

African drug syndicates are systematic criminal organizations which are well-organized. The organizations' members branch out to live in various cities on each continent, such as in Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Malaysia and Thailand. Each member has a different role to play. For those members in African drug syndicates, they use online applications such as Facebook Messenger, Whatsapp or Viber to communicate with each other across the globe, which makes it very difficult for law enforcement agencies to track them down. Furthermore, there are a number of methods that these drug traffickers use, such as body packs, drug ingestion or sometimes putting it in the anus or vagina of the courier.

There are a number of Thai ladies who have been used as couriers by African drug syndicates. From 2010 to 2013 there were 292 Thai women arrested in 35 countries around the world and charged with narcotics offences (Komchadluek, 2013). Some of these ladies knew that it was illegal drugs, some did not know, but they were tricked by African boyfriends who they'd met on the Internet. These trends indicate the negative effects of globalization that the world should pay attention to and seriously cooperate on in fighting these criminal activities.

1.2 Significance of the Problem

African drug syndicates have become a greater problem to Thai society nowadays with a growing number of Thai and Asian women being used and arrested. According to information from the Royal Thai Police, there were 667 African suspects arrested between 2012 and 2017 and charged with narcotics offences, 565 suspects were Nigerian, or 84.7 percent.

Thai authorities have found difficulties in coping with African drug syndicates because of the complexity of the methods African drug syndicates use, which is new to most Thai authorities who normally deal with South East Asian drug traffickers who carry bags containing YABA walking or driving across borders.

This research will provide another aspect of narcotics study. Unlike most studies which focus on how to solve the problem, this research will focus on the causes of the problem. Why do Africans choose to operate in Thailand?

Furthermore, this research will provide information that law enforcement agencies can use in the findings and recommendations to improve their performance on suppression of African drug syndicates.

1.3 Research Questions

1.3.1 Why do African drug syndicates choose to operate transnational drug trafficking in Thailand?

1.3.2 What are the African drug syndicates' operational patterns?

1.3.3 What is the most appropriate practice for Thai authorities for coping with the African drug syndicate problem?

1.4 Research Objectives

This research focuses on the following objectives:

1.4.1 To identify the factors that motivate African drug syndicates to commit transnational drug trafficking in Thailand.

1.4.2 To investigate African drug syndicates' operational patterns.

1.4.3 To recommend the best practices or protocols for Thai authorities to deal with African drug syndicates.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

This study focuses on the attempt to identify the major factors affecting narcotics cases related to African drug syndicates, and the work patterns of those African drug syndicates. In order to identify the causes of this problem and provide solutions, this study will interview African drug dealers and narcotics suppression agencies, both Thais and foreigners. The scope of this study is as follows:

1.5.1 Cases of possessing illicit drugs and consuming illicit drugs will not be included in the study, as the main focus is at the drug trafficking level.

1.5.2 The information in this research contains statements by the suspects, arrest reports and other details from government agencies. Some cases are still in the court process, so the writer has had to cover some identities and information due to legal and rights issues.

1.5.3 This study focuses on cases of African drug syndicates related to drug trafficking in Thailand.

1.5.4 This study focuses on cases of African drug syndicates related to ICE and cocaine.

1.5.5 As over 80 percent of African prisoners in Thailand are Nigerian, the sample group for the interviews will be Nigerian prisoners.

1.5.6 This study conducted the interviews from January to May 2018.

1.6 Expected Outputs

This study and its findings aim to produce the following outcomes:

1.6.1 The factors that motivate African drug syndicates to commit transnational drug trafficking in Thailand.

1.6.2 A report on African drug syndicates' operational patterns.

1.6.3 A report containing useful recommendations on how to improve the quality of narcotics suppression and prevention.

1.7 Organization of the Study

- Chapter 1 Introduction of the problem and the overview of the study
- Chapter 2 Literature review
- Chapter 3 Research design
- Chapter 4 Findings
- Chapter 5 Interpretation and analysis. Conclusion and recommendations

1.8 Definitions

1.8.1 Drug

Drugs include chemical substances or any objects, as well as narcotics and chemical substances producing narcotics, taken into the human body by eating, inhaling, injecting or any other method. Drugs affect the body and mind by increasing the need for more drugs, causing withdrawal symptoms or the need to take drugs relentlessly. Health deteriorates from taking drugs.

1.8.2 Drug Courier

The traffickers of drugs, and particularly the use of human carriers (often called “drug mules”), for this purpose.

1.8.3 Drug Syndicate

A drug syndicate or cartel is a criminal organization developed with the primary purpose of promoting and controlling drug trafficking operations. They range from loosely managed agreements among various drug traffickers to formalized commercial enterprises. The term was first applied when the largest trafficking organizations reached an agreement to coordinate the production and distribution of cocaine.

1.8.4 Licit/illicit Drugs

United Nations drug control conventions do not recognize a distinction between licit and illicit drugs, they describe only the use to be licit or illicit. Here, the

term illicit drugs is used to describe drugs which are under international control (and which may or may not have licit medical purposes) but which are produced, trafficked and/or consumed illicitly.

1.8.5 Narcotics

The word narcotics initially referred medically to any psychoactive compound with any sleep-inducing properties. In the United States, it has since become associated with opiates and opioids, commonly morphine and heroin and their derivatives, such as hydrocodone. The term is, today, imprecisely defined and typically has negative connotations. When used in a legal context in the U.S., a narcotic drug is simply one that is totally prohibited, or one that is used in violation of strict governmental regulation, such as codeine or morphine.

1.8.6 Transnational Drug Trafficking

Transnational drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. UNODC is continuously monitoring and researching global illicit drug markets in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics. Drug trafficking is a key part of this research. Further information can be found in the yearly World Drug Report.

1.8.7 YABA

In Thai, Yaba means mad drug. It used to be called yama or horse pill, referring to drugs that make the consumer feel energetic. Yaba is a tablet form of methamphetamine mixed with caffeine and other substances (US National Drug Intelligence Center, 2013).

1.8.8 ICE

Crystal methamphetamine ('ICE') is a stimulant drug, which means it speeds up the messages travelling between the brain and the body. It is stronger and more addictive, and therefore has more harmful side effects than the powdered form of methamphetamine known as speed.

1.8.9 Organization Abbreviations

- 1) ONCB refers to Office of Narcotics Control Board.
- 2) NSB refers to Narcotics Suppression Bureau.
- 3) UNODC refers to United Nations Office on Drug and Crime.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter is comprised of a review of the literature on concepts, principles and theories, both in Thailand and internationally, related to African drug trafficking in Thailand. The chapter will be separated into four major parts, which are the concepts and theories that are related to the topic, the situation of the narcotics problem in Thailand, the concepts concerning drug suppression, and Thai law related to the drug trade.

2.1 Concepts and Theories

This section includes a discussion on the theories and concepts related to transnational drug trafficking, but before that it discusses a broad understanding of criminology which will lead to a better understanding of the fieldwork. Then, the discussion will go deeper into concepts related to crime at the present, and globalization which affects crime in many ways.

2.1.1 The Meaning of Crime

Although the word “crime” appeared in the world lexicon a long time ago, this word has different meanings in different societies, cultures and eras. Therefore, regarding the study of transnational crime focusing on African drug syndicates, this research has collected various meanings of crime in order to understand it for this study.

There are vast numbers of scholars who have provided considerable meanings for crime. First of all, a crime is the act of infringing on criminal law. However many acts are blamed, punished, immoral or infamous, but will not be deemed a crime if they are not prohibited by the law (Sutherland & Cressey, 1976). It must be unlawful behavior that can be penalized by the authorities and the state (Oxford English

Dictionary, 2009). Correspondingly, a crime violates the criminal law, and those who act like that must be punished (Suphap Suphatthana, 1995).

Furthermore, crime or criminal offence is an act that not only harms an individual but also harms society and the public, which is forbidden by law (Martin, 2003). Annop Chubumrung (1989) also suggested that a crime means behavior making persons and societies face danger. It is dangerous to lives, bodies and property. Therefore, persons who are dangerous to society must be punished by persons who have authority with the law. Moreover, a criminal must be punished by a group or part of the group with punishing equipment, which is more severe than moral measures. It affects a victim who directly suffers a loss. And also, a crime is a social phenomenon caused by a person's acts, which the law prohibits, and which the criminal must be punished for (Sawitree Paitoon, 1990). In addition, a crime is a social phenomenon starting from a person's acts, which the law enacts prohibitions on to be deemed faults, and the offender must be punished for (Arun Suwanbuppha, 1975).

According to Suwalee Chayakul (1981), a crime is separated into two cases: the legal consideration and the social consideration. For example, the first consideration is the criminal law, an act of breaking the law, and the other is a social crime focusing on conflict between persons in the society. It is a principle that considers how violating acts or conflicting acts occur, what are the important factors that make the act unable to adjust or follow the law. Similarly, Sakchai Leatpanichpan (2013) proposed that there are two meanings of a crime, the narrow definition is illegal acts following the criminal law or laws with criminal penalties, and the wide definition means acts violating public interest.

A word "crime" means violating the criminal law. The word "Aa-Ya" in Thai, means power or penalties, and the word "Karma" in Thai, means acts. When the two words are combined, in English, using the word "Crime", which has the root from "Crimen" in Latin, means allegation or a person's commission of a crime to another person (The Dictionary of the Royal Society, 1982).

To summarize, the word crime means an act causing danger to the public in terms of life or property, violating the criminal law, or having the intention of not doing a prescribed law. If a person violates the law, he must be punished following offences enacted by the law.

2.1.2 Sources of Crime

In criminology, one of the most asked questions is the reason for crime. According to the evolution of searching for reasons or factors of what causes criminals, students in ancient criminology believed that an evil possessed a person to be a criminal. And then, they believed in the free will theory, which believes that humans are different from animals because humans have the ability to know right from wrong. When you do the wrong thing, you must be punished, and when you do the right thing, you must receive a good thing in return. The more a person does the wrong thing, the more they must be punished. This theory was popular in ancient times and was called the Classical School of Criminal. Then there was a small change in this theory, whereby retarded persons who have psychoses and children cannot know the right thing so they must not be punished. This theory is called the Neo-Classical School. Then factors of crimes were developed and real situations were studied, instead of only guessing from an armchair. The study of facts influencing a person to become a criminal is the Determinism Method for searching out facts and solving problems. There are many psychologists and criminologists studying the reasons of crime, but the theory of Sutherland, called Differential Association, the difference of conspiracy in a crime, is interesting. He believed that social and cultural factors influence human behavior (Socio-Cultural Factors), especially for crimes, which he explained further, as follows (Sutherland & Cressey, 1978):

- 1) Crimes are not able to occur by themselves, but they occur from learning. Learning about crime means both the method and the attitude, by which one not only learns how to commit crimes but also receives bad attitudes that distort a moral sense and makes people think that doing the wrong thing is fine.

- 2) Primary groups are an important basic of learning. Learning crime from elemental societies such as family and friends, which provide the primary and closest environment that form attitudes; becomes distorted. Persons become criminals because the inside feeling of violating the law is much stronger than the feeling of following the law. It means the desire of committing an offence is more important than the law. The law is not important, and punishment by jailing is also not important.

3) Violence, how longer and more important acts of violence with provocation is a testing tool for behavior toward crime.

2.1.2.1 Decision and Social Operation Theory

This theory explains some of the factors affecting the behavior of persons (Ruangroj Jomsueb, 1991). This theory is able to understand, analyze and explain elements of psychology which have influence over the behavior and decisions of people. The factors affecting decision making can be separated into three types, as follows (Reeder, 1974):

Firstly, the pull factors, which are abstract factors such as goals, beliefs, values, habits and customs. Every act must have a goal or an objective, which might be a belief, a feeling, a government announcement or conditions set by oneself or other people following desire. Furthermore, a belief is an idea or feeling without any reference. This belief will have much influence over a decision because most people will act based on their belief in mind.

In addition, value is one of the systems of belief. Living in society must provide conditions. Doing or not doing things is based on the decisions of society. Moreover, habits and customs are patterns providing responsibility within groups, which people in societies will clearly accept as being perfect and logical. They act like this because of habits and customs.

The second factor is push factors, which are comprised of expectation, commitment and force. Expectation is a feeling that occurs within persons, groups and societies. It is a belief or feeling or act following the desires of society. Commitment can be given by example as when special groups gather in society, there must be agreements and commitments which members in the groups must follow. Nevertheless, force is a person's feeling that they have no choice. It might be forced by ochlocracy or laws. This force is more of violence than willingness.

The third factor is available factors, which include opportunity, ability and support. Opportunity can be described as being able to select or do something following an opportunity, but someone cannot do so if there is a lack of opportunity. Furthermore, persons accept the abilities they have for achieving their goals. Lastly, support is part of both assistance and resistance in which persons or groups show their

opinions. It is their motivation for doing something because they think there are supporters pushing them into doing so.

Such social factors of acting affect people's behavior in social settings. Mentions theory can be separated into two main parts: people, and the social system. Regarding the factors of people, it includes: Objectives, Beliefs, Opinions, Consciousness, Feeling, Knowledge and Understanding. As for factors of the social system, these include: Values of Society, Customs, Regulations and Norms. Therefore, explanation and expectation of social phenomena must be analyzed by these factors.

2.1.2.2 Differential Association Theory

Sutherland believed that the behavior of a criminal comes from knowledge. He presented Differential Association Theory in his book called "Principles of Criminology", the 3rd publication, 1939. Sutherland had close friends who were psychologists at Indiana University during the 1930s; therefore, the concepts of learning behavior of humans influenced Sutherland's concepts and academic work.

Differential Association Theory, first presented in 1939, pointed out that a crime based on chaos within society results from social processes of change due to competition, conflict and unfair societies. These cause cultural conflicts which make differences in association among people with different social values and patterns of behavior; therefore, a crime is the result of the relationship between persons or groups and criminal patterns. The more often persons have this relationship, the more often they become criminals. There is no genetic transformation for becoming a criminal. Moreover, individual differences are the main reasons for crime because a person is influenced by association differences and the regularity of criminal connections. Also, a strain on emotion is sometimes an important reason to make a person get out of his house and have a connection with offenders (Sutherland & Cressey, 1976).

Sutherland revised and adjusted his theory many times, together with the printing of a book on the principles of criminology assisted by his student, Cressey. This book has often been mentioned for over half of a century now.

2.1.2.3 The Theories of Motivation for Committing Crimes

Committing an offence is always pushed by the environment. It's because someone cannot adjust to their environment that there arise supporting factors to commit an offence, which come from problems in the social structure and institutions, as well as relationships between persons and the environment.

Motivation is a powerful force driving persons' behavior and setting the direction of goals. Persons who have high motivation will try to set goals tirelessly, but persons who have low motivation will not display that kind of behavior or else stop prior to achieving their objectives. There are many who give the meaning of motivation:

Motivation is motivation of working. It means anything that is a force of power or incitement to display behavior with willingness in order to lead to the best performance of work, desire is the most important reason for motivation (Thida Sukjai, 2005). Motivation also means factors or everything motivating people to display behavior to achieve goals or objectives or receive objects of desire (Siriporn Jantasri, 2007). In other words, motivation means internal stimulus, incentive, or persuasive power of each person causing belief, desire, wanting to do something to achieve their goals within the process of a person's desire (Chandej Veerakul, 2009; Suchada Bumrunsil, 2010).

Anomie theory pointed out that arbitrary rules of behavior and lawless societies create offenders who do not accept the laws and regulations in society. Generally, people have two needs: Physical needs and Psychological needs. Physical needs are food, residence, water, medicine, and safety. Psychological needs are richness, power, honor, and reputation achievement. If people cannot control their mind, it can cause people to easily commit an offence. Merton said that social structure consists of goals or expectations and principles or acts, which are means of effectively providing such expectations. When people need richness in the short term, they commit an offence by drug trafficking, until finally, they are arrested.

People in different countries have the same motivations to commit crimes. Some reasons include economic and social problems, as well as increasing population. When people cannot find ways out, they will commit crimes such as goods smuggling and drug trafficking, which builds richness in the short term.

Moreover, broken families, parents divorcing or quarrelling, make people not want to live in their house and go out to live with friends. When they do not have money, they may commit a crime.

Because Thai people have received Western cultures, they become full of many desires such as consumerism, and for sex and expensive clothes. When they have many more desires, they commit a crime. Also, unemployment is another factor together with economic problems. When people are unemployed they are nervous and do vices such as taking drugs, drinking alcohol, gambling or loafing.

Sociologists study the crime problem with two important points. The first point is the relationship between social structure and crime with the question, “How is this crime involved with society?”, “What social structure causes a crime occur?”, “Will the rate of crime change?” “When will the social structure change?” (Annop Chubumrung, 1989). The other point is considering the process of change when people turn into criminals. This point studies how people turn into criminals and what factors are involved. The theories in this study are as follows:

1) Social Structural Theories

The social structure sets many aspects of crime, such as the economic social structure (Prawut Thawonsiri, 1988). There are a number of sociologists and criminologists who claim that economic factors result in crime problems, such as Marx and Friedrich Engels, especially the book of Karl Marx, “Communist Manifesto”, 1847. This book mentions many problems in society, including crime problems, all coming from the social inequality of services and goods. Solving this problem would mean entirely changing the social structure with a social revolution and changing all economic systems.

Durkheim (2007) believed that committing a crime is a normal duty of human beings. When social norms cannot control a human’s acts or meet the needs of society and any of its people, violating social norms will occur, leading to committing an offence in short order.

2) Social Process Theories

Social Process Theory explains how the process of a person’s behavior of crime develops and makes a person become a criminal. The hypothesis of this theory states that human behavior can be learned and criminal behavior might be received from the learning process (Siegel, 2000).

Social and economic conditions influence people committing crime, especially drug crimes because these crimes focus on money or other property. Social inequality of basic needs and services drives people to commit an offence. In the case of Africans moving to live in Thailand, they do not always receive basic needs and public services because of their illegal status. Therefore, they must do anything they can to receive money and necessities for living in Thailand. For example, they deceive Thai women into getting married to get a visa for living in Thailand, or they do drug smuggling because they're unable to find any other career.

2.1.3 Types of Crime

There are four factors that define the types of crime in a sociological approach, which are: styles of criminal operations, groups supporting criminal behavior, similarities between criminal behavior and legal behavior, and reactions from society. These four factors are set to Typology studies which finally separate the crimes into 9 types, as follows (Clinard, Quinney, & Wildeman, 2010):

First is conventional crime, which is crime that has normal patterns that is not interested in benefit and often appears with other crimes. Children committing these offences always imitate adults, such as burglaries or robberies. It is general criminal law.

Second is organized crime, which consists of criminals establishing an organization, with a hierarchy, and with other criminals willing to connect and work together, such as for drug trafficking, goods smuggling, brothels, casinos, beggar gangs and property crimes.

The third category is occupational crime, which is crime that utilizes power in positions, both in the private sector and the government sector. Offenders of this crime type do not feel guilty, such as goods smugglers, corrupt people or persons hoarding goods. Their violations are complicated; therefore, it is difficult to investigate their behavior. Sutherland calls this type of crime business crime or white-collar crime. It means the persons violating these criminal laws have a high status and have high influence within society. They can also be famous or executives in huge businesses with good business status. They always commit offences by utilizing power in their career, for example with tax avoidance and monopoly trade. This crime

causes business damage, as well as economic damage to the country (as cited in Weraphong Boonyopas, 1994).

The fourth type is political crime. This is crime focused on the achievement of politic objectives, such crimes include offences such as terrorism by organizations against the government, selling secrets to the nation's enemies, coups d'état, espionage and war crimes.

Next is public crime, which is crime that affects the public. This type of crime always has no injured parties (victimless crime). The offenders are always the injured parties, but they are not punished severely by society, such as prostitution, gambling, violating traffic laws and drug addiction. This crime is sometime called local crime.

The sixth type is violent person crime. This is crime that violates the bodies of persons in severe ways. This crime always has no criminal history of committed offences, but the criminal commits a crime by motivation for personal reasons, that is, they were not previously criminals and have no direct supporters. Also, it may occur due to a sub culture of groups, or from being severely pressured or taunted. This behavior clearly has conflict with values, and when persons commit this type of offence, they will be punished extremely by society, such as a husband killing his wife and her lover, a wife killing her husband, rape, physical assault or killing a person out of anger.

The following type is professional crime, which is crime when the offenders are experts in their career but are not honest in that career, such as con men, gunmen, goods smugglers, persons forging signatures and persons counterfeiting money.

Occasional property crime is the eighth type. This is crime that occurs every once in a while, depending on opportunity, and focuses on property. Most offenders have a history of violations. Also, they often think that they have valid reasons for committing the offence and do not feel guilty, for example, stealing cars, using false checks and damage to public property.

Lastly is corporate crime, which involves a company committing an offence against business laws, such as tax avoidance, monopoly, hoarding goods and dishonest financial companies.

Drug trafficking is an organized crime where there is a mastermind at the top of a pyramid organization, such as in Mexican drug organization or minorities in Thailand's neighboring countries.

2.1.4 Women Committing Offences

The study of committing offences by human beings always studies men and youth committing the offence because, as mentioned, people always understand that crime must involve men's acts and the character of women is not generally aggressive, they have kindness and weakness. Therefore, the study of the behavior behind committing offences by women is not popular or interesting. However, there are still some researchers who study women, as follows:

Lombroso studied women to explain the committing of offences by women. From his study entitled "The Female Offender", the criminal must be abnormal in habits and personality, developed a long time ago. He studied by comparing the skull, skin, height and other characteristics between criminals, women prostitutes and normal women. The result answered his hypothesis that women committing an offence have biological differences from normal women. Besides, a woman committing a crime is nonchalant and conservative. Lombroso thought that women are below the status and class of men and must tolerate the pain both in their bodies and minds. Moreover, women have many habits like children, such as being jealous and vindictive. Therefore, these characteristics make women have opportunities to commit offences or crimes with lack of a conscious mind. However, women who do not commit offences still have a woman's nature, for example, a gentle mind, lack of sexual desire and weakness of the body (Lombroso & Ferrero, 1920).

Lombroso's study tried to explain the reasons women commit offences by considering biological factors, weakness of the body and abnormal mind, which changes the nature of women so that women lack a conscious mind to consider the right thing and thus commit an offence. This study still cannot explain why women commit offences precisely because of only one aspect, weakness in the body.

Simon (1975) wrote about women committing offences in the book, "Woman and Crime", Simon's study is entirely different from Lombroso's study because Simon did not pay attention to weakness of the body of women, but focused instead on environmental factors, especially changing social and economic structures. These are considered as driving factors for the change in mental status that results in women committing offences. There has been an increasing rate of offences by women because women have more freedom to work outside. It makes women close to many

kinds of crime more than in the past in every country. Besides, a lot of women who work outside receive much more education and training, but also learn such emotions as feeling for the victims and being disadvantaged.

2.1.5 Motivation for Drug Crimes

As this research focuses on African drug syndicates with the accused being in possession with the intent to sell, and other cases with higher penalties, motivation for drug crimes in this part will only be concerned with the motivation of drug dealers, excluding drug consumers.

2.1.5.1 Factors Leading to the Drug Trade (Paitoon Sangpoom, 2008)

The most important factor that leads people to sell drugs is that the person used to be a drug addict who needed money to buy drugs. It is a cycle that starts with consuming drugs, and then selling and buying drugs. Furthermore, there are other factors that lead people to sell drugs. Firstly, personal factors, for example personal interest in drugs, needing attention, which is a factor of drug addict groups, feeling worthless, wanting to try out of curiosity, values, and the expense of the drugs.

The second factor is relationships in the family. Family is the first social unit to give advice not to get involved with drugs. As we can see, a broken family has a direct impact on the children in various ways; drug abuse is one of the consequences. Even children who live with their parents can turn to drugs because of the relationship among family members.

The third factor is friends, especially friends who are addicted to drugs. A friend is the most powerful factor leading people, especially teenagers, to drugs. At first, friends in school or in the neighborhood lead one to try drugs, which then leads one to being in places that are surrounded by drug addicts. In this environment where there are large numbers of drug addicts, people will meet other new types of drugs, which leads to further expense, and finally leads to selling drugs.

The fourth factor is environment. Environment is another major factor leading to the selling of drugs. In communities that have drug problems, people tend to get involved in the drug cycle easily.

2.1.5.2 Economic Factors

The economic factor is one of the greatest reasons for people becoming drug dealers. Drug dealers usually earn great amounts of money, which can be extremely greater than an honest career, especially in rural areas of developing countries like Thailand. In northern parts of Thailand there is a large part of the population who is hill tribe. The population of hill tribes, such as Hmong and Lisu, normally earn very little from agriculture.

This study indicates that the most important factor leading the hill tribe population to commit drug crime, either trafficking or selling, is economic. Hmong and Lisu hill tribe members often have financial difficulty, possessing debt and uncertain incomes. Furthermore, the influence of capitalism causes the hill tribe member to want to earn more and buy unnecessary goods such as TVs. The Hmong hill tribe usually starts off as drug traffickers for cousins or family members. After gaining trust, the Hmong hill tribe person will upgrade to a drug middle man or supplier, because of less risk. On the other hand, Lisu hill tribe members participate in drug dealing by receiving drugs from the owner and storing it in their village, then waiting for a buyer to come and pick up the drugs. Lisu hill tribe people also separate some drugs to sell in the village or nearby, as that is more profitable (Chansiri Vathong, Somkiat Wansiriwilai, & Suvit Inthong, 2003).

Furthermore, economic factors also concern cost. In the case of the drug trade, the cost is considered to be the chance of being arrested and facing the penalty. In developed countries such as the United States, Canada and England, higher penalties lead to decreases in crime rates, on the other hand, a lower penalty leads to an increase in crime rate (Apichart Ardcharoen, 1999).

To sum up, humans have systematic ways of reasoning and calculating cost and benefit. The cost of the drug trade can be either financial or non-financial, such as excitement. Hence, when people calculate and find that there is a higher benefit than cost, they will commit crime; meaning in this context, the drug trade. In addition, if the penalty for every crime were the same, the consideration of the criminal would mainly lie on the benefit (Apichart Ardcharoen, 1999).

2.1.5.3 Knowledge Transfer among Drug Dealers (Paitoon Sangpoom, 2008)

There are several important knowledge transfer procedures leading ordinary people to become drug dealers.

1) The Face of New Drug Dealers

New drug dealers usually come from drug addicts who consume drugs to a level where they need more drugs but cannot afford them. The drug addict will have a behavioral shift towards crime, such as stealing money from their family, and when such behavior cannot offer enough money to buy drugs, they turn to selling drugs.

2) Learning that Selling Drug is Not Difficult

At the first stage, drug dealers will only sell to their drug addicted friends, then they develop to further stages by several components, which are on-hand customers, knowing places where drug addicts go and support groups, then fear changes to courage after success.

3) Incentive

The drug dealer usually sells drugs to people they know in the early stage and shifts to the next level when they have more customers, which leads to greater profit.

4) Feeling Powerful

Drug dealers who are in the drug trade for a while tend to have connections to other drug dealers who can offer support with drugs or capital. Furthermore, after succeeding in selling drugs for a while without getting arrested by law enforcement, drug dealers will feel powerful as they consider themselves to be above the law and cannot get caught.

2.1.6 Transnational Organized Drug Crime

At present, as globalization shrinks our world with advanced telecommunication technology and transportation systems, the illicit drug trade has become an international trade with international organizations operating in every part of the globe.

Drug crime is one of the crimes most affecting Thailand, both its society and economy. At the moment, there are extensive drug studies in many aspects. However,

this study focuses on characteristics and patterns of African drug syndicates involved in drug trafficking, which will be detailed in Chapter four.

The characteristics of drug crimes are different from other crimes in various dimensions, such as drug crime usually has politicians or officials of government agencies involved in it. Most arresting officers are only arresting staff members in the drug trafficking organization.

Drug crime and drug trafficking can make huge money for offenders; therefore, they can spend money building influence to avoid arrest.

Drug crimes are victimless crimes. Offenders and victims have a willingness to do the illegal activities together to meet their needs, which is different from other crimes when victims complain to police to arrest the offender, this is the key point for investigating crime. However, for drug crimes, offenders and victims all commit an offence; therefore, as a matter of fact, there are no victims (Wut Laosunthorn, 1993).

2.1.6.1 The Meaning of Drugs

For studying about drugs, it is necessary to know the meaning and types of drugs. The meaning and types of drugs will be listed as follows:

Drugs means medicine or chemical substances or any objects including plants or parts of plants coming to fruition as narcotics, or utilizing narcotics and chemicals to produce narcotics: opium and marijuana, taken into the human body by eating it, inhaling, smoking, injecting or any other method. After that, humans become unable to stop taking it. It causes chronic poisons in the body and mind that degenerate into an increasing need for drugs, withdrawal symptoms, and needing to take drugs relentlessly. Health deteriorates by taking the drugs. Therefore, all drugs are defined following the Minister of Public Health announcement, but they do not mean most common household medicines (Dictionary of the Royal Society, 1982).

In an international drug control framework, drug means any of the substances in Schedule I and II of the 1961 Convention, whether natural or synthetic. It is a term of diverse usage. In medication, it refers to a substance that has the potential to prevent or heal disease or enhance physical or mental welfare; in pharmacology it means any chemical agent that alters the biochemical or physiological processes of tissues or organisms (UNODC, 2016).

According to Rattana Saipanich (2006), drug means a substance of dependence, as follows:

1) Alcohol, substances in this group are all substances with Ethyl alcohol, such as alcohol, beer, and wine, activating GABA receptors, making our body processes slower, affecting emotion and the conscious mind. Alcohol is best absorbed in the intestine, 90% of alcohol will be digested by an oxidation process, and excess water is excreted out through the kidney.

2) Cannabis or Marijuana, the activating process of marijuana is unclear, but its active metabolism is fast, and its half-life is 50 hours. However, it quickly redistributes in fat, so it spends its active time of only 2-3 hours by making those taking it hungry, worried, and affecting movement control and decision making.

3) Amphetamine, substances in this group include CNS stimulants such as Amphetamine, Methylphenidate and appetite suppressants. Amphetamines activate the secretion of neurotransmitters (Dopamine), which control behavior towards work, and controls behavior relying on reward, so it activates the brain at low frequencies, making one more relaxed, with satisfaction, self-confidence, as well as mental alertness. When people take too much, they can become worried, unable to sleep, lustful and bored with food. Activation depends on usage methods and usage quantity. If you eat, it takes 30 minutes to activate, and lasts 2-3 hours, but can last longer than 10-30 hours. Its half-life is 7-9 hours. If injected in a vein, it will activate fast, within 1 minute.

4) Opioids are one of the addictive substances used extensively in Thailand, especially among groups who are poor and have low education. Substances in this group include heroin, morphine, cocaine, Methadone, Meperidine and Pethidine.

5) Cocaine is a reinforced substance and is most dangerous. Cocaine is used among rich groups in Thailand. The activating mechanism is like Amphetamine, and the period of activation is rather short because of its half-life of about 30-90 minutes. Fast activation occurs when injected into a blood vessel. Cocaine, Methadone, Meperidine and Pethidine are also used by snuffing.

6) Sedatives and Hypnotics activate by making the user less anxious, resulting in symptoms similar to alcohol. Substances in this group include Benzodiazepines, Carbonate, Depressants, sleeping pills and anesthetics.

Therefore, drugs means all medicines, substances or plants taken into the human body by any method, activated in the body so that there is more desire in the human's mind to increase the quantity of such substances.

2.1.6.2 Sources of Drugs

This research collected information on the sources of many types of drugs, which are different for each type of drug, spreading over many regions of the world.

There are several major drug producing areas, which are as follows (UNODC, 2010):

1) The Golden Triangle is an area of South East Asia, covering some areas of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand. These areas are important sources of opium, and produce the best quality of marijuana.

2) The Andean Zone encompasses areas of Central America or Latin America, covering Peru, Panama, Jamaica, and The Caribbean, including areas of northern South America famous for producing Cocaine, such as Columbia, Venezuela, Brazil and Bolivia, some areas cultivate both opium and marijuana.

3) The Golden Crescent is an area of South West Asia, covering Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, which are important sources of opium, and produces most of the world's heroin. Afghanistan produced two thirds of the global opium poppy cultivation in 2009 (UNODC, 2010).

At present, world heroin seizures demonstrate an annual flow of 430-450 tons of heroin to the international heroin market. From the statistics, opium from Myanmar and Laos yields some 50 tons, and the rest, 380 tons of heroin and morphine, is produced exclusively from Afghan opium (UNODC, 2010).

All of the mentioned countries can produce opium and many types of drugs for drug trafficking, both inside and outside the countries, as well as selling in every country all over the world. Besides the mentioned areas, there are still sub-sources of drugs, which can be separated into 3 groups (UNODC, 1999):

1) Morocco and some countries in Africa are sources of opium and cocaine.

2) Eastern Europe and the Union of Myanmar, a group called "Wa-Daeng", are sources of drugs, Synthetic Drudge, for example, Methamphetamine or "Ya Ba" in Thailand, and Ecstasy or "Ya E".

3) Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are sources of marijuana, opium and ephedrine.

2.1.6.3 Routes and Methods of Drug Trafficking (UNODC, 2010)

There are many routes for drug trafficking from their sources. However, drug trafficking routes can be separated from the areas producing drugs into two main routes:

1) The Route from the Golden Crescent

These areas are located in South-West Asia, which mostly produce opium, morphine and heroin. There are three routes for drug trafficking from these four countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, to points all over the world:

(1) The Balkan route goes from Turkey to Yugoslavia to deliver drugs to Eastern Europe. This route is rather convenient for drug trafficking because the investigating system is not strict.

(2) The north route. Drug traffick originates in Iran, Turkey or Pakistan, delivering drugs by aircraft or boat. This route is used by delivering first to the nearest country, prior to delivery to other countries in Europe and USA, and some are sold in the countries making up the Transit Center.

(3) Drug trafficking that comes from sources in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan go to Turkey, after that, using Balkan routes, most are delivered to countries in Europe and America. This route has been used to deliver opium and morphine since a long time ago.

2) The Route from the Golden Triangle

These routes have a South East Asia origin. Drug trafficking to other countries still uses the main route from Myanmar to Thailand, delivering some to other countries. However, Thailand is still a significant transshipment country in this region (Thanat Khoman, 1990).

There are many crime organizations using this route:

(1) Thai groups do drug trafficking through the sea, hiding drugs with goods or using Thai crews as smugglers. In the past, there have been many Thai crews arrested on charges of drug trafficking in other countries.

(2) The Nigerian Syndicate has played a role in drug trafficking for a long time. In 1985 heroin trafficking began, covered by cloth trading, and the amount of trafficking has only increased. In 1990 there were 115 Nigerians arrested for heroin trafficking. Most were arrested at Don Mueang airport, taking heroin of 200-300 kilograms, which was of the highest value. Then, in B.E. 2535-2536, Nigerians moved their trafficking to the sea, but after that came delivering by airmail, and hiding drugs in human bodies.

(3) The Chinese Syndicate is of Chinese nationals, most live in Hong Kong and Taiwan. This group has played an important role since a long time ago, doing drug trafficking from the Golden Triangle to the world market. This group utilizes a strong Chinese culture together with Chinese communities in every country; therefore, they are able to work easily, extensively, and so far, effectively. The main heroin trafficking route is the Balkan and northern route that connects Afghanistan to the large market in Russia and Western Europe. On the other hand, the Balkan route also links Iran to Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria across South-East Europe to Western Europe, this market has an approximate value of 20 billion US. dollars per year. The northern route for heroin trafficking goes via Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (or Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan) to Kazakhstan and on to Russia. The market is estimated to be around 13 billion US. dollars annually (UNODC, 2010).

Regarding this study, in the past most drug trafficking by African drug syndicates was for heroin to sell to the USA or Europe. The researcher will explain details and trafficking routes of African drug syndicates in Chapter 4.

2.1.6.4 Organized Crime

Most drug trafficking networks are considered to be organized crime; therefore, concepts of organized crime are vital in this study. Theories and concepts of organized crime were first started to be studied among Mafia groups in New York and other large cities that were concerned about local criminal activity. Then, organized crime in the 70's and 80's became transnational crime that included international illicit trade, such as drug trafficking and human trafficking (Kleemans, 2014).

1) Alien Conspiracy Theory

In the beginning, the Alien Conspiracy model was developed by policy makers in the States in order to cope with the Italian-American Mafia which

was involved in many criminal activities in New York and other cities in North America. In 1951, the Kefauver committee in the U.S. summarized that organized crime was under the control of an alien conspiracy or “Mafia”. The theory presumes that the Italian organized crime problem was imported by immigrants in the late 19th century and intimidating democratic countries such as the United States by taking over governmental organizations using violence and corruption. The core concept of this theory is that organized crime does not result from society but from “outsiders”. The concept of an alien conspiracy dominated the argument among social science scholars in the States until the 1980’s; however, in other countries this perspective is still notable. Alien conspiracy has used to describe the phenomena of particular criminal activity that involves foreigners, such as Turkish and Chinese drug traffickers who were considered to be the main heroin traffickers to Russia. Moreover, ethnicity is another key issue that defines the characteristic of organized crime groups (Kleemans, 2014).

To sum up, organized crime can be referred to as trouble from “outsiders”, which ignores the action of “insiders” and opportunities that are created by society.

2) Bureaucracy Theory

Cressey (1969, as cited in Kleemans, 2014) describes in his book, ‘Theft of the Nation’, how organized crime is a formal bureaucratic organization with a pyramid-shape that has a boss on top, a strict chain of command, clear tasks for each part, and a code of conduct. For the most part, organized crime is considered an outstanding organization that has a particular organizational structure. The concept of bureaucracy was used widespread among criminal justice scholars during the 60’s and 70’s in the States when there was debate raging on the Mafia issue. On the other hand, there were critics of this concept because it did not contain empirical findings. Furthermore, some critics were focused on the local illicit market while ignoring the reality that there were long-lasting illegal organizations, such as the Japanese Yakuza and Russian Mafia. Nevertheless, many scholars debate that a number of mafia organizations are bound together as a family or brotherhood, where financial compensation is less vital than respect and honor.

3) Illegal Enterprise Theory

Illegal Enterprise Theory emphasizes the similarities between legal and illegal activities. Offenders are recognized as normal entrepreneurs who aim for profit and are driven by the same laws of economics as legal activities. Furthermore, some products have been categorized or illegalized by the government, and some of the products and services have been taxed, such as cigarettes and alcohol. In the economist perspective, restricting the products will not reduce the demand, yet it will increase the number of illegal entrepreneurs. Moreover, the differences in laws, regulations and local policies between states or countries create opportunities for illegal entrepreneurs. In addition, most criminal enterprises are predicted to be small and short-lived by using several concepts from economics, such as transaction costs (Reuter, 1983 as cited in Kleemans, 2014).

4) Social Embeddedness and Criminal Networks

In the world of organized crime, where the activities involved are illegal, trust cannot be found easily. Therefore, organized crime usually operates within social ties. Social ties are important, as offenders operate in relatively hostile and uncertain environments, primarily as a result of the illegality of their activities. In the normal business world, there are laws and regulations to regulate the transactions and activities of companies and enterprises, yet in the organized crime world there are no rules for paying debts or suing in the courts. Hence, it is difficult to gain trust and cooperation. In both the legal and illegal markets, the solution is to operate with trustworthy partners through a network or from someone with references. Family, friends and colleagues can provide an introduction to a third party. Drug offenders may acquire great opportunities through networking in terms of resources such as capital, knowledge and connections.

Furthermore, social relations do not occur randomly, but through social law and distance (Feld, 1981 as cited in Kleemans, 2014), which explains that the closer people share similar preferences, the easier they can build trust. In other words, people from the same origin, same ethnicity, age etc. can more easily build a relationship and network.

2.1.6.5 Problems Related to Drug Trafficking

Drug problems lead to various problems in society, and the scale of those social problems is an important indicator of the level and path of prevention needed to encounter those problems (Goldstein, 1990). Drugs cause problems to both individuals and society. For individuals, health issues are one of the biggest concerns, and on the society level, drugs lead to property crimes, such as theft and other violence within society, corruption and instability, the government, consequently, has to put an enormous budget on this issue (UNODC, 2010).

Drug abuse leads to personal health issues, which can either be immediate or with long-term effects. One of the most critical problems of the immediate effect is drug related death, which means overdose, poisoning right after consumption (Unal, 2009).

On the international drug trade level, it causes greater damage to society in two dimensions. The first issue is that terrorist groups use transnational drug trafficking as a financial source, in which they may be involved in the drug trafficking, the drug production or provide security (Carlson, 2005). The second issue is the opposite; the drug trafficking organization uses the terrorist scheme to protect their drug trafficking (Makarenko, 2002).

The next aspect of transnational drug trafficking is money laundering. Illegal financial transaction leads to the risk of putting financial institutions under criminal organizational control, stops economic development, and becomes the source of further corruption in the public sector.

2.1.7 The Concept of Crime Prevention

There are two main streams for coping with crime, which are suppression and prevention. Suppression is dealing with crime that has already occurred. Prevention is the method to protect society from crime happening in the first place.

2.1.7.1 Prevention Theories

Crime prevention is one of the models used to protect people in society from criminal activities. It is the effort to prevent future crime from occurring (Sutherland & Cressey, 1978). The following are concepts of prevention theories:

1) Law Enforcement Approach

Sir Robert Peel determined that the first article of the principle of police is that prevention and suppression is at the foundation of the police's mission (Bratton, 2014). Later, this principle became the foundation of the law enforcement approach for the prevention of crime. The operation of this approach causes criminals to not commit an offence because of fear of arrest. The principle of this approach is that the appearance of police increases the risk of arrest according to the criminals. It also reduces the opportunities of criminals to commit an offence. Besides, the spread of police all over an area makes people feel comfortable and relaxed. According to the strategy of this approach, police investigate an area, and when they find offenders, police must arrest them at once. Moreover, the police must establish checkpoints, as well as determine important places for both routine operations and special jobs.

According to the above-mentioned concept and strategy police must have prominent uniforms and vehicles which can be easily seen at long distance in order to terrorize and prevent criminals in the areas police investigate.

The concept of the approach focuses on promoting the efficiency of the police organization in order to solely protect people in responsible areas without directly requesting assistance from the people.

According to this concept, persons who are selected and trained have the best efficiency for protecting against crime and being able to control chaos situations by themselves. For the tools used to communicate with people, police only use one-way communication to other people, because this concept allows people to only know the operation and efficiency of the police for their own confidence, without their opinions getting in the way of police operations.

2) Theory of Crime Control through Environmental Design

This theory is a synthesis concept, with the Law Enforcement Approach being the thesis, and a Community Relations Approach being the anti-thesis. This theory realizes that there are differences, both physical and environmental, in a relationship that causes a lot of different behaviors, there are five major principles (Jeffrey, 1971):

(1) Reduce opportunities for crime, and do not ignore the importance of persons who have a trend to violate or not violate laws.

(2) Be able to control property crime under suitable situations.

(3) Promote morality and humanity.

(4) Support honest people in communities with methods within a framework of laws.

(5) Utilize definitions in laws as much as possible in order to allow people to receive the most benefit from the laws.

3) Situational Crime Prevention Theory

According to Clarke (1997), crime can be prevented by reducing opportunity, increasing the risk of committing it, and dropping the reward. This approach was developed by researchers and practitioners to solve certain crimes. Situational crime prevention is comprised of various strategies, such as surveillance and increased control over places and people.

Clarke (1995 as cited in Unal, 2009) suggested that situational crime prevention consists of five steps, which are:

(1) Collect information about certain crime problems.

(2) Analyze situational conditions that allow the crime to occur.

(3) Systematically study the possible means of blocking opportunities for particular crimes (including an analysis of costs).

(4) Implement the most promising, feasible, and economical measures.

(5) Monitor the results with dissemination of experiences.

Furthermore, at the beginning Clarke is concerned only with opportunity blocking, which contains twelve techniques to increase perceived risks and perceived efforts, and reduce rewards. But after more research and information, Clarke and Homel (1997 as cited in Unal, 2009) added four techniques to reduce excuses. Finally, Cornish and Clarke (2003) added four more techniques to reduce provocations.

Table 2.1 Situational Crime Prevention Technique

Technique				
Incentivize Effort	Increase Risk	Reduce Rewards	Reduce Provocations	Remove Excuses
1. Target Hardening	6. Extend guardianship	11. Conceal Target	16. Reduce frustrations and stress	21. Set rules
2. Control access facilities	7. Assist natural surveillance	12. Remove targets	17. Avoid disputes	22. Post instructions
3. Screen exits	8. Reduce anonymity	13. Identify property	18. Reduce emotional arousal	23. Alert conscience
4. Deflect offenders	9. Utilize place manager	14. Disrupt market	19. Neutrilize peer pressure	24. Assist compliance
5. Control tools/weapons	10. Strengthen formal surveillance	15. Deny benefits	20. Discourage imitation	25. Control drugs and alcohol

Source: Unal, 2009, p. 42.

2.1.7.2 Crime Suppression

Crime Suppression is a protocol to stop criminal activity from happening and controlling or arresting criminals to prevent them from committing crime again. Furthermore, punishing criminals is a way which aims to scare criminals from committing a crime. There are two protocols to suppression:

The normal suppression protocol is to withhold criminals at the crime scene, to investigate the criminals and bring them to justice. Also important is intelligence activity to obtain intelligence on criminal activity, such as on their armory and drugs.

2.1.8 Globalization

Globalization is the process of building relationships between countries and people throughout the world by combining markets, production and resources all over

the world, and utilizing the international trading system to move labor and international funds. The factors causing globalization are international trade and services, such as investing in equipment, factories, stock markets and bonds, including the factors of culture, environment, politics and technology.

According to “Modernization and Convergence”, modernization is natural for the evolution of societies (Chattip Natsupa, 1998). The growth of an economy and changing economic plans relates to the evolution of societies, which comes from the idea of sociology that a society separates into each part. Each part works its duty, linking with every other part in the system to lead to the existence of a society. Global communication infrastructure connects all the work by utilizing the Internet in communication. Satellites make communication fast and results in global business. These lead to a global market in which people and entrepreneurs closely connect with each other.

Regarding a changing economy, family patterns, ways of life and sub-units rising in societies, these affect people’s values, belief in society from experiences from school, workplaces or media such as imported movies and advertisements, as well as newspapers, radio and television. These modern changes come in two ways: the government’s policies for industrial society, and uncontrolled factors because of freedom of sharing information. Right now, modern society is defined by Western ways of life and culture.

2.1.8.1 The Effects of Globalization

1) Positive Effects of Globalization

(1) Production is faster and more efficient under competition.

(2) Imported cheap goods make product prices lower in societies under global competition.

(3) Freedom of trade activates the development of technology and ideas of innovation from outside countries.

(4) More employment is created from export industries than from import industries.

(5) Freedom to move funds to interested counties with lower interest rates.

2) Negative Effects of Globalization

(1) Low-priced products due to cheap labor are imported into the country.

(2) Multinational enterprises from parent countries invest in other countries because of economies of scale and cheap labor. This makes local industries lose jobs in that country.

Globalization makes travelling across countries easier and cheaper than ever before. Moreover, communication technology allows people all over the world to communicate online or through many applications on their smart phones. Doing financial business is very fast; therefore, more expatriates come to live or work in Thailand, as do transnational organized crime gangs who come to Thailand to escape criminal cases, or in order to commit offences, as with African drug syndicates.

2.2 The Situation of the Drug Problem in the Present and Trends in the Future

Regarding changing routes for drug smuggling, in addition to drug smuggling on the border of northern Thailand, there are drug smuggling routes along the border of central Thailand and northeast Thailand, as well as fishing boats passing from neighboring countries through the Andaman Sea in Southern Thailand, and from China via the Mekong River to Myanmar. Producing, trading and spreading Methamphetamines are the main drug problems in Thailand. Although there are measures for intercepting drugs smuggled along the borders, its trade is still more due to high benefits and a weak economy. Because supplies of Methamphetamine have more than doubled, there is a demand in Thailand. Therefore, Thailand is the route of choice for drug smuggling to outside countries. Over the course of 20 years China has largely eliminated its drug trafficking organizations, especially in Yunnan, which was the main route of heroin trafficking from Myanmar. This makes drug trafficking organizations more likely to use the routes in Thailand, both smuggling along the borders and smuggling via the ocean.

The trend for Ecstasy and cocaine is also increasing, though it is spreading in special groups because of its high price. Right now, though, it is cheaper because there are more drugs available on the market.

Regarding the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States, drug trafficking by airplanes is strictly investigated, both of people and things. Therefore, there is a trend for drug organizations to use ocean routes more, instead of air routes for drug smuggling (Office of Narcotics Control Board, 2017).

There is an increasing trend of drug trafficking from Myanmar and Laos into Thailand in accordance with continuing increased demand, both inside and outside Thailand. This makes northeast Thailand along the border with Laos a main route for drug smuggling. Drugs confiscated from this area are mostly Ya Ba, Ice, heroin and marijuana. The severity of drug trafficking and its spread is higher there because of a lot of demand for drugs, especially during the high season for travel around the New Year Festival. The drug situation bring watched mostly is drug smuggling using Thailand as a route to a third country (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2014).

2.2.1 The Situation of Drug Smuggling into Thailand

There is an increasing severity of drug trafficking from Myanmar and Laos into Thailand. The factors are as follows (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2014):

- 1) Changing routes of drug smugglers to escape interception by officials along the borders.
- 2) The landscape along the Mekong's border for drug smuggling.
- 3) Economic development along the borders of the Golden Triangle and the Mekong River promotes drug smuggling. It makes this area the main route of drug smuggling and illegal contraband, in which minority groups get benefit from being agents for both drugs and other illegal businesses.

2.2.2 Methods of Drug Trafficking into Thailand

Regarding drug smuggling with supportive weather, the army and armed caravans are popular smuggling patterns in areas along the Thai-Myanmar border and Thai-Laos border. Vehicles for hiding drugs such as pick-up trucks and vehicles for agricultural products are used for drug smuggling from inside these areas. The routes

are often countryside roads and bypasses for avoiding checkpoints. For airline drug smuggling, it is still popular to use persons swallowing drugs, which is investigated by X-ray equipment at the airports (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2015).

2.2.3 Drug Smuggling Methods and Distribution in Thailand

Most of the main cases resulting in arrest are found to involve trucks and many patterns of trailers that are utilized for smuggling drugs by mixing them with agricultural products or general products. Patterns for smuggling are both using a lead car with a following car, and not using a lead car and following car. As well, there are independent drug couriers using their own cars or public buses for drug smuggling. Huge drug networks will receive orders from big drug traders in many areas and smuggle drugs in large quantities of millions of pills with a phone number of the drug buyers for connecting with once the drugs make it to Bangkok, or they get distributed to buyers in other areas within a few days (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2015).

2.2.4 Statistics of Drug Cases in Thailand

Statistics for drug case arrests from The Royal Thai Police in fiscal year 2018 show that, from October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, there were 72,259 arrests, 76,130 offenders, with seized assets consisting of 52,522,703 pills of Ya Ba, 3,334.46 kg. of Ice, 311.04 kg. of heroin, 1381.41 kg. of dry marijuana and 11.06 kg. of cocaine (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2018).

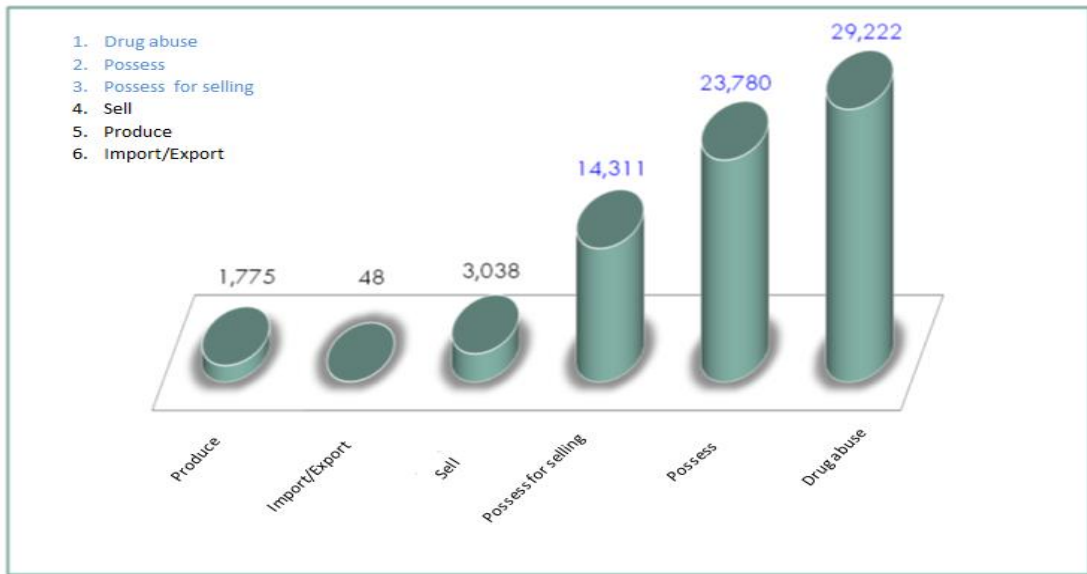


Figure 2.1 Drug Case Arrests in the Last Quarter 2017

Source: Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2018.

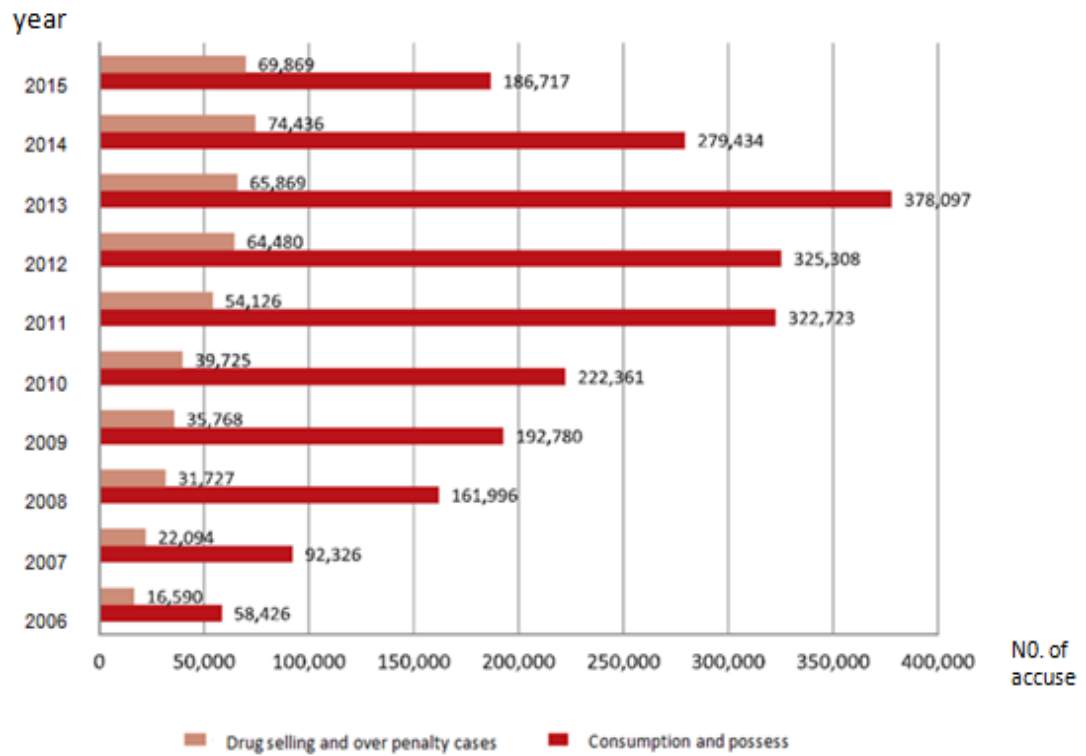


Figure 2.2 Statistics of Drug Cases Separated by Drug Dealers and Consumption

Source: Office of Justice Affair, 2015.

The reason for the decrease in numbers for drug consumption and possession is the policy that considers the drug consumer as a patient. Mr. Sirinya Sitdhichai, Secretary General of ONCB, stated National Security Council Notification No. 108/2557 dated July 21, 2557 B.E. on the application of the suspect to receive rehabilitation treatment. The purpose is to move drug addicts to a patient setting and provide them with rehabilitation treatment without any legal charges. Furthermore, the policy also provides opportunities for drug users to receive treatment that is suitable for addictive conditions. Once the treatment has been completed, government agencies can be of assistance in a number of areas, including career capital and skill development so that the patient is able to return to normal life happily (Ministry of Justice, 2018).

Table 2.2 Drug Arrests in Thailand in Fiscal Years 2013-2017

Accusation	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Drug Consumption	204,363	150,023	97,347	62,120	71,207
Transportation of Drugs	45	23	7	1	
Possession for Selling	45,011	45,480	42,037	43,901	49,786
Selling	15,018	14,507	13,835	11,920	12,506
Producing Drugs	3,830	9,624	12,082	11,912	8,434
Possession of Drugs	98,900	88,280	79,076	70,432	71,828
Importing	393	495	350	252	193
Exporting	1	5	21	21	19
Total	367,561	308,437	244,755	200,559	213,973

Source: Police Data Center, 2018.

Table 2.3 Price of Drugs

Type	Source	Tachileik	Border Areas of Chaing Mai and Chaing Rai	Central Thailand
1. Ya Ba (Baht/Pill)				
1.1 Bad Quality	2-3	7-9	12-15	30-60
1.2 Fair Quality	2-4	10	15-25	50-80
1.3 Good Quality	5	15	25-45	80-100
2. Ice (Baht Kilogram)	300,000	350,000- 400,000	450,000	750,000- 1,000,000
3. Heroin (Baht Piece 700 g)	320,000	340,000- 350,000	350,000- 380,000	500,000- 700,000
4. Raw Opium (Baht/1.6 Kg.)	7,000	10,000	12,000	18,000- 30,000

Note: Data on January 2018

Source: Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2018.

2.2.5 The Trend of Drug Problems of African Drug Syndicates

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) gives a warning about cocaine, that drug smugglers in Asia have increased continually over the past 3 years. Latin American drug traders use Bangladesh and Nepal to be warehouses and distribution centers. Meanwhile, the Philippines, Singapore, Australia, India and Hong Kong are the new markets for trading cocaine by transnational organized criminals because of continual increases in cocaine addiction, most being new rich groups or working persons earning high incomes who enjoy having a party. The representative of UNODC in Mexico states that drug trading gangs in Mexico, such as the Cinaguo gang, sell more cocaine in Asia, besides Europe and North America, which are the biggest markets in the world. Meanwhile, prevention and investigation for transnational crime in countries of South Asia is so careless that drug traders use this weak point to sell drugs in this region (UNODC, 1999).

Most African offenders in Thailand are Nigerian, who started the role of drug trafficking in Thailand over 20 years ago. In Thailand, cocaine is sold to foreign travelers at Soi Na Na, Sukhumvit Road in Bangkok, as well as to Thai addicts who

are rich and have educational records from overseas, especially from America and Europe. Because Africans are now living in countries all over the world, there are other new types of drug trafficking from sources on various continents to sell in Thailand, such as Ice from countries in Africa, heroin from the Golden Crescent (Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan), Ice and marijuana from India, and Ice from the People's Republic of China. At present, African drug syndicates have expanded their smuggling operations to sell to lower classes, as well as tourist areas like Pattaya, Hua Hin, Samui and Phuket. Additionally, they use Thailand as their base of smuggling in order to sell drugs to other countries, for example, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and countries in ASEAN. At present, the Department of Corrections has a lot of African prisoners in jail and most of them have committed drug crimes (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2017).

Table 2.4 The Statistics of African Prisoners for Drug Crimes in 2016

Country	Male	Female	Total
Ghana	25	1	26
Nigeria	336	2	338
Cameroon	2	0	2
Congo	2	0	2
Liberia	1	0	1
Sierra Leone	13	0	13
Guinea	25	1	26
Uganda	0	4	4
Kenya	2	7	9
Rwanda	0	2	2
Zambia	12	0	12
Mozambique	8	2	10
South Africa	8	7	15
Total	434	26	460

Note: Data on June 21, 2016

Source: Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2016

Table 2.5 African Arrests for Drugs by Nationality in Thailand

Nationalities	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Ghana	6	5	6	3	3	
Guinea Bissao	1					
Guinea	9	5	4	2	1	
Sierra Leone	4	3	3	9	1	
Zambia	6	6		5	2	1
Nigeria	143	151	113	110	66	49
Mozambique	8	4		2	1	
Uganda	2	2		1	1	
Liberia	1	3	3			
South Africa	4	3	5	4	6	3
Total	184	182	134	136	81	53

Source: Police Data Center, 2018.

2.2.5.1 Drug Smuggling to Thailand

Drug smuggling is still prevalent through international airports and regional airports all over Thailand. Over several years, transnational drug-trading networks, especially African drug syndicates, have dictated the cocaine imported from Latin American sources and marijuana imported from India. Regarding making arrests, it was found that cocaine smuggling has increased; however, reports of making arrests for Ice smuggling of African drug syndicates are not available (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2017).

Drug couriers are often Thai and other Asian women, such as from the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Africa, both white and black. They smuggle through international airports, both in Bangkok and other regions such as Don Mueang airport, Phuket airport and Krabi airport or through checkpoints to neighboring countries, for example, Laos and Malaysia. There are many methods of hiding drugs. Most smugglers hide drugs in their luggage and backpacks, including hiding in it books, bottles of consumer products, automobile parts, and parcels. It is

also found that white Africans send their bags with Thai women on the plane arriving to Phuket International airport. Moreover, it is found that Africans order Ice sent in parcels to Australia.

2.3 The Thai Government's Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Strategy

Drug problems are a severe threat to society, influencing the peace of the people and the nation's stability since long ago. The severity of the problem changes with the situation and policies in each period. The government has tried to determine policies for solving drug problems so far in order to reduce the level of severity and eliminate these problems entirely. In the present, news of making arrests of drugs offenders, be it producers, traders or drugs addicts, are continually seen in the media. Youth is the most at risk group for Ya Ba's spreading. Every part of society seriously tries to prevent and solve this problem.

In the past, a number of policies have been adopted in order to fight against the drug problem in Thailand. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's government mainly focused on solving drug problems, determining it to be the nation's agenda and its key measure, declaring a war on drugs, which was a significant turning point in Thailand's history. This policy continually and systematically solved drug problems. In the era of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, the government also determined the policy for drug problems by solving it with a plan for "Joining Thai people's power, surviving from drugs", which was an urgent policy integrating the operation of every sector to entirely eliminate drug problems. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's government declared that "the drug problem is an important problem affecting people's peace and being a threat to the nation's security." The government issued the prime minister's order no. 82/2552, March 17, 2009 for the subject "The strategy, prevention mechanism and problem solutions following the government's policy". This order determined its main strategy - "five fences strategy", consisting of 7 measures/projects: the border fence project, the community fence project, the society fence project, the school fence

project, the family fence project, the drugs suppression project and the drug addict therapy project and integration (Prime Minister Order, 2009).

Prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government announced to the parliament, August 23, B.E. 2554, that the drug problem was the nation's serious agenda and in her first year in operation put forth an urgent policy and issuingd prime minister's order no. 154/2554, September 9, B.E. 2554, "The nation's power strategy overcoming drugs", focusing on operating with the participation of every sector, both the government sector and the people's sectors. Regarding this policy continually operating, the government issued order no. 23/2555, October 1, 2555, on the subject of sustainable operation of the nation's power strategy overcoming drugs B.E. 2556, establishing the center of the nation's power strategy overcoming drugs. The main objective of this policy was reducing drug problems and continually operating from B.E. 2555. There are 7 plans for this policy: 1) The plan for building the power of societies and communities. 2) The plan for solving drug addiction (demand). 3) The plan for providing immunity and preventing drug problems. 4) The plan for drug suppression and enforcement law. 5) International cooperation. 6) The interception of drugs, and 7) The plan for integrating management and special plans (RYT9, 2013).

2.3.1 Drug Prevention

Drug prevention focuses on people development by using all methods to educate people with the knowledge to understand the danger of drugs, select suitable alternatives, solve problems and live with a good quality of life through drug prevention. Being alive has value for them, their families, communities and society. If people live their lives in morality, following society, knowing their duty and how to solve problems, their families, communities and societies will not be in trouble. Therefore, the development of quality of life is by providing people with value and the ability to prevent drug problems (Office of Narcotics Control Board, 2011a).

2.3.1.1 Self-Prevention

It is necessary to consult with a doctor or a pharmacist when you want to use medicine. You should not experience all types of drugs. If you have problems, you should consult with families or teachers. You should utilize free time to be advantageous for yourself, family and community, such as training in a career for

more income, reading, playing music, doing sports and having relationships with good friends, and avoiding vices and addictive things.

2.3.1.2 Family Prevention

Family prevention is the process of building warmth within families by helping each other, adapting oneself to different situations, and accepting the real status of yourself and your family. For example, parents should pay attention to their children by being close and solving their problems. They should have good behavior for their children's sake, such as not drinking alcohol or taking drugs.

2.3.1.3 Community Prevention

One should gain knowledge about drug prevention from related persons or organizations, teach such knowledge to community members, and participate in activities for the benefit of the community. One should donate money or dedicate oneself to supporting such activities, such as doing sports, training in a career and taking care of the community. One should help drug addicts get therapy and accept those who stop taking drugs and help them to live within communities to prevent them from taking drugs again. One should participate in solving drug problems in communities with government officials by informing them about sources, distributing shops and drug taking places.

Factors influencing the committing of an offence come from the body, mind, society and economy. Preventing people from getting involving in drugs is necessary, which can protect us all by providing quality care against using drugs, utilizing one's free time to an advantage. Parents should pay more attention to their children by giving love and understanding to members of their families. Community prevention should come from the members of communities by cooperating in drug prevention.

2.3.2 The Policy for Preventing and Solving Drug Problems

The operating plan for preventing and solving drugs problems 2016 consists of 4 plans (Office of Narcotics Control Board, 2014).

2.3.2.1 The Plan for Drug Prevention

- 1) The plan for providing immunity in childhood.
- 2) The plan for providing immunity for schools.

3) The plan for providing immunity for youth outside school.
 4) The plan for providing immunity for laborers.
 5) The plan for preventing and providing participation for people.

6) The plan for social order.

2.3.2.2 The Plan for Drug Therapy

- 1) The plan for willingness of therapy.
- 2) The plan for forced therapy.
- 3) The plan for therapy in a penalty system.
- 4) The plan for managing a therapy system.
- 5) The plan for following people receiving therapy.
- 6) The plan for assisting people receiving drug therapy.

2.3.2.3 The Plan for Drug Suppression

- 1) The plan for intercepting drugs.
- 2) The plan for drug suppression.
- 3) The plan for controlling narcotic plants.
- 4) The plan for international cooperation.

2.3.2.4 The plan for integration of management

2.3.3 The Government Policy to Solve Drug Problems in Thailand

Present Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's government has continued to emphasize the importance of solving drug problems. According to the government's policy announcement to the National Legislative Assembly, September 12, B.E. 2557 (Prayut Chan-o-cha, 2014a), the reinforcement of the strength of society is still focused on overall prevention and suppression of drug problems, including continuation of the plan for preventing and solving drug problems in B.E. 2558 and 2559 in order to continue the main strategy of prevention and suppression of drug problems in Thailand. Therefore, we can see that each government has emphasized the importance of solving this problem and determines policy for the related agencies working together to work towards a solution for drug problems in order to obtain solid results and achieve its target. It is also necessary to evaluate policies during each period to get more information for the government's administration. Plans and

strategies must adjust in order to be suitable and consistent with situations in order to solve drug problems with efficiency and effectiveness.

2.3.3.1 Strategies to Solve Narcotics Problems

There were 11 strategies in the announcement by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. According to the second strategy, prevention for the country's stability and foreign affairs, the government determined the drug problem to be one of the most urgent problems being considered by preventing and solving it with strict law enforcement and completely solving other problems linked with the drug problem as well. According to article 10.3, the government urgently operates drugs prevention and suppression under an urgent policy with the principle of "prevention prior to suppression", drug addicts must be taking therapy, and drug traders must be extremely punished.

- 1) Strictly enforcing laws and providing special processes.
- 2) Strictly controlling chemical substances that might be produced into drugs and reinforcing the government's mechanisms, as well as lawful measures.
- 3) Building cooperation with international organizations and other countries to control and eliminate sources and transnational distribution networks.
- 4) Revising laws to provide convenience for drug addiction therapy and getting therapy at once with no offences.

2.3.2.2 The Strategic Plan for Preventing and Solving Drug Problems

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha issued the order of the Prime Minister's Office No. 156/2557, establishing the Narcotics Control Management Center (NCMC), October 18, B.E. 2557, hoping that NCMC will be the center for solving the nation's drug problems. Conducting and implementing strategic plans and measures for solid results is General Paibul Kumchaya, the Minister of Justice, who was appointed the general manager of the Narcotics Control Management Center. The chiefs of related organizations were members of the board and the secretary of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, who were also the secretary and a member of the board. The cabinet agreed to the annual practical plan for preventing and solving drug problems in accordance with the strategic plan for preventing and solving drug

problems B.E. 2558-2562 as of fiscal year B.E. 2558. The strategic plan for preventing and solving drug problems B.E. 2558-2562 is as follows (Prayut Chan-ocha, 2014b):

- 1) Reinforce cooperation for intercepting drugs, chemical precursors, and chemical substances along the borders.
- 2) Develop equipment, technology and staff in suppression, prevention, investigation and therapy.
- 3) Develop and promote concepts of practice within the justice processes of ASEAN.
- 4) Develop and utilize information that is linked together.
- 5) Promote immunity for preventing drugs in youth groups.
- 6) Promote standards for preventing and solving drug problems in target groups.

2.4 Thai Law Related to African Drug Syndicates

Studying transnational drug trafficking in Thailand requires a broad understanding of Thai law related to narcotics, immigration and other relevant laws. In this part, the researcher will examine the laws that are linked to this research.

2.4.1 The Laws Related to Drug Prevention and Suppression in Thailand

There are several acts that directly relate to African drug syndicates, which are:

2.4.1.1 Act on Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offence Relating to Narcotics, B.E. 2534

This Act increases efficiency for dealing with drug traders, drug addicts, as well as the kingpin in drug organizations. It is necessary for setting measures for special suppression.

This Act has the objective of increasing efficiency in offender suppression, especially by focusing on penalizing drug traders, investors and the key dictator behind the scenes. Their property used for drug trading must be forfeited to eliminate their capital and provide property forfeited to the “drug prevention and

suppression fund” in order to utilize money for continually solving drug problems. This Act has charges for conspiracy and support, which is an advantage for expanding investigations into networks because most arrests are only for drug smuggling. In the past it was very difficult to arrest drug investors because the court focused on money from the actual drug trading and didn't know if it was linked to investors or not. In fact, money from drug trading always passes through so many accounts that it reaches the drug investors over a long period of time and that amount of money is not always equal to the amount earned from drug the actual trading.

2.4.1.2 Psychotropic Substances Act, B.E. 2518

Thailand is a member of the convention on psychotropic substances, signed in Austral B.E. 2514 in order to cooperate with other countries for controlling the production, selling, import, export and passing through or possessing of psychotropic substances both inside and outside Thailand. This Act has key measures as follows:

- 1) The control of psychotropic substances in their production, distribution, import, export, possessing and passing through, which must be received with permission and must follow rules set by government agencies.

- 2) Psychotropic substances have been separated into each type for convenience because of the severity of the substances in determining measures for their control.

2.4.1.3 Drugs Prevention and Suppression Act, B.E. 2519, amending (No. 4) B.E. 2545

Drugs pose an extreme threat to economic and social development and the government has a policy of strict prevention and suppression of drug trading and use. It is necessary to have laws to set measures and provide the power of prevention and suppression to the police for their efficient performance.

This act empowers the authorities to have powers beyond criminal law and the criminal procedural code. The criminal procedural code specifies that authorities can search a residence only when there is a flagrant offence or search warrant. Yet, the Drugs Prevention and Suppression Act allows authorities to enter a residence when there are suspicious circumstances such that the residence is

registered and being investigated for involvement in the commission of an offence, or that offenders may move or hide the evidence.

2.4.1.4 Narcotic Act, B.E. 2522, Amending (No. 5) B.E. 2545

This Act is enacted in accordance with the International Convention on Narcotics, which Thailand is a member of, and adjusts it for law development in order to provide for suppression and control of narcotics in order to be more efficient. This Act separates drugs into 5 types and determines different penalties (index 3).

Narcotics involving African drug syndicates are termed Type 1 (Ice) and Type 2 (cocaine), as concluded in the table below:

Table 2.6 The Penalty Comparison of Narcotics Type 1 vs. Type 2

Charge	Narcotic Type 1	Narcotic Type 2
Production, Import and Export	1) Life imprisonment and fined 1,000,000-5,000,000 Baht 2) Calculated as pure substances, more than 3 grams deemed to sell, life imprisonment 3) Produced by separate containers , containers included, calculated to be pure substances, more than 3 g, imprisoned 4-15 years or fined 80,000-300,000 Baht or both imprisonment and fine 4) Produced for selling, calculated to be pure substances, less than 3 grams, imprisoned 4 years to life imprisonment and fined 400,000-5,000,000 Baht	1) Imprisoned 1-10 years and fined 100,000 - 1,000,000 Baht 2) If morphine, opium or cocaine, imprisoned 20 years to life imprisonment and fined 2,000,000-5,000,000 Baht

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Charge	Narcotic Type 1	Narcotic Type 2
Sale, Possession for Sale	<p>1) Calculated to be pure substances, less than 3 grams, imprisoned 4-15 years or fined 80,000-300,000 Baht or both imprisonment and fine</p> <p>2) Calculated to be pure substances, from 3-20 grams, imprisoned 4 years to life imprisonment and fined 400,000-5,000,000 Baht</p> <p>3) Calculated to be pure substances more than 20 grams, life imprisonment and fined 1,000,000-5,000,000 Baht or life imprisonment</p>	<p>1) Imprisoned 1-10 years or fined 20,000 -200,000 Baht or both imprisonment and fine</p> <p>2) If morphine, opium or cocaine, calculated to be pure substances less than 100 grams, imprisoned 3-20 years or fined 60,000-400,000 Baht or both imprisonment and fine. Calculated to be pure substances more than 100 grams, imprisoned 5 years to life imprisonment and fined 500,000-5,000,000 Baht</p>
Possession	<p>Calculated to be pure substances, less than 3 grams, imprisoned 1-10 years or fined 20,000-200,000 Baht or both imprisonment and fine</p>	<p>1) Imprisoned less than 5 years or fined less than 100,000 บาท or both imprisonment and fine</p> <p>2) Calculated to be pure substances, more than 100 g deemed possession for sale</p>
Use	<p>Imprisoned 6 months - 3 years or fined 10,000-60,000 Baht or both imprisonment and fine</p>	<p>Imprisoned 6 months - 3 years or fined 10,000-60,000 Baht or both imprisonment and fine</p>

In Thai law narcotics are divided into five types, but in this research the highlight will be on types related to African drug networks as follows, the 1st type (Synthetic substances, for example, amphetamine, Ice) has the highest punishment. The 2nd type (for example, cocaine) has less punishment. Besides, Section 15 specifies that the possession of amphetamine or amphetamine derivative that is pure substance in quantities from 375 milligrams upward, or from 15 usage units upward (amphetamine 15 tablets onward) has different punishments, and Section 17 which specifies the 2nd type of narcotic quantity of 100 grams. Section 66 specifies that the penalty for possession of the 1st type of narcotics if not over the specified quantity will be jail for 4-15 years or a fine from 80,000-300,000 Baht. But if a pure substance that is over the specification in Section 15 but not over 20 grams, the offender must be punished from 4 years to life and fined from 400,000-500,000 Baht, and if over 20 grams, the highest punishment is execution and a fine from 400,000-5,000,000 Baht. Section 69 specifies that the possession of narcotics, 2nd type, for the purpose of distribution if not over the quantity specified in Section 17, the punishment will be jail from 3-20 years and a fine from 60,000-400,000 Baht, and if over 100 grams, it must be jail from 5 years to life and a fine from 500,000-5,000,000 Baht. Apart from this, in accordance with Section 65, if there is an import of the 1st type of narcotic to distribute, the highest punishment is execution. Therefore, there is no provision of the law for the 2nd type in cases of importing narcotics to distribute.

The Narcotic Act, article 100/2, is still important in that if the court considers that offenders give important information and benefit drug suppression for government officials, police or investigating officials, offenders will be punished less than the minimum penalties stipulated by law.

This Act develops laws for drug suppression and control, expanding the definition of committing an offence for export of some types of controlled drugs. There will be a committee for setting control measures by the Ministry of Health and clearly setting the types of drugs, such as what kind of drugs can be exported, which are used in government jobs. Drug producing, importing, exporting or possessing must be granted permission for beforehand. Some medicines in control of the Ministry are chemical precursors to produce drugs. Therefore, amending the Act controls drugs for trade for protection from corrupt people by making chemical

precursors into drugs. This Act, as amended, has the highest penalty of life imprisonment.

Moreover, Narcotic Act, article 100/2, is still an advantage when negotiating with offenders for their cooperation in expanded drug cases and investigating in order to find other offenders.

However, penalties for Type 2 narcotics are less than the penalties for Type 1 narcotics. Ice and cocaine are priced closely in the market, around 1.2-1.5 million baht for one kg., but penalties of Type 1 w narcotics ill be life imprisonment, while Type 2 narcotics receives lesser penalties.

2.4.1.5 Money Laundering Control Act, B.E. 2542

This Act stipulates that offences of conspiracy with more than 2 accomplices for laundering money will face half of the penalties for their offences.

If they laundered money following subsection 1, they must face penalties for this offence. After laundering money, but obstructing another accomplice, he will face penalties as in subsection 1.

If an offender agrees to tell the truth about laundering money before committing an offence, the court will not punish that person, or punish that person less than the penalties enacted in the law.

This Act aims to warn persons not to commit an offence. People getting money from committing an offence is illegal. Therefore, laws have been enacted that a person commits a drug offence if supporting, providing or hiding drugs. They will be considered offenders and punished with laundering laws, and their property must be seized. Laundering laws focus on property in order to cut the process of offenders and cut the money in continually committed offences. Laundering laws in Thailand focus strongly on seizing assets. Although it is unfair for offenders, this law makes persons afraid to commit the offence.

2.4.2 Immigration Act, B.E. 2522

Regarding Article 38, an owner of a house or a manager of a hotel having aliens living in the house or hotel in a temporary living arrangement must inform officials at the Immigration Dept. in that area within 24 hours from the time of the

aliens moving into the residence. If there is no Immigration in that area, they must inform police at the police station.

Regarding Article 77, those who do not follow Article 38 must be fined less than 2,000 Baht, but if they are a manager of a hotel they must be fined from 2,000 Baht up to 10,000 Baht.

Section 38 of Immigration Act, B.E. 2522 stipulates that the host, caretaker or owner of a residence in which foreigners are staying have a duty to inform officials at the Immigration Dept. in that area within 24 hours from the time of the aliens began living in the residence. If there is no Immigration in that area, they must inform police at the police station or inform by post or Internet in order to protect against transnational crime, such as smuggling into the city, illegal labor, drug trading or human trafficking.

2.4.3 Types of Visas

For foreigners who want to travel to Thailand, they must obtain a visa or visa application from the Ambassador of Thailand or Consulate. Some countries are exempt from visa requirements from Thailand. There are 2 types (Consular, 2018).

1) For countries exempted from visas, for tourism tourists can stay in Thailand for up to 30 days.

2) Countries with the exception of Thailand

The type of visa that foreigners usually use to travel to Thailand consists of:

2.4.3.1 Tourist Visa is allowed to stay for 60 days.

2.4.3.2 Temporary Visas and Non-Immigrant Visa is allowed to stay for 90 days.

1) Contact or conducting business and work (non-B).

2) Study visits and training (non-ED).

3) Other (non-O), Life after retirement sponsorship or sponsorship from the family.

2.4.4 Literature Review of Law Enforcement in Thailand

The law is a tool for preventing crime and controlling people in society in order to live together in peace. Law enforcement is another tool used together with laws. Therefore, the main factor of law enforcement is an official enforcing the law.

A project of research on transnational crime with economic and social effects in Pattaya identified the concept of crime prevention in Thailand by enforcing the law, which is referred to as the Classical School, believing that crime happens when people have free will from birth. People always do something that gives benefit and do not do something that gives them no benefit. If people consider that committing a crime will get them more benefit than doing the right thing, as well as a small penalty from law enforcement, crime can occur. Therefore, the concept of crime prevention focuses on the efficiency of law enforcement to make people fear the penalties of laws in order to prevent crime (Pornthep Namakorn, 2012).

The concept of efficiency of law enforcement is as follows:

2.4.4.1 Certainty

When the law is enforced, penalties must show certainty for the offenders being punished.

2.4.4.2 Equality

The law as enforced must exhibit equality when used with people in society. There must be no discrimination between rich and poor, or between persons having more opportunity or less opportunity.

2.4.4.3 Rapidity

Law enforcement must show rapidity in order to suppress and restrain people so as to not commit an offence.

2.4.4.4 Suitable Penalties

Penalties by law enforcement must be suitable to the offence in order to make people fear committing that offence. Moreover, too severe of penalties might be channels for persecuting innocent persons as criminals.

Regarding crime prevention and law enforcement, the justice system focuses on crime prevention and suppression (crime control). In any country enforcing the law with this concept, the penalties of the law will be severe. For Thailand, we can see from the government's policy for declaring war on drugs in B.E.

2545 it provided methods for offence prevention in drug cases with determined severe penalties. These include life imprisonment and execution for big drug dealers in order to make people in society afraid of committing any offence involving drugs. The positive results from this concept are rapidly achieving its target; however, this technique is not real crime prevention. Therefore, crimes have continued to exist in Thailand from that moment forward.

As mentioned in Chapter one, this research has three research questions and after reviewing all the literature, a summarization into a tentative conceptual framework answers the first research question regarding the factors that motivate Africans to commit drug trafficking in Thailand. This tentative conceptual fraework will only be a guideline for the study of the motivations of African drug syndicates, because this research is a qualitative research, hence there will not be a strict conceptual framework for the study. There are several factors that motivate Africans to commit drug trafficking in Thailand, the first factor could be personal factors, such as financial need or peer influence. The second factor is external environment. For example, when Africans who reside in Thailand are not able to access basic infrastructure or adjust to their new environment, they might consult friends or family and get information on drug trafficking.

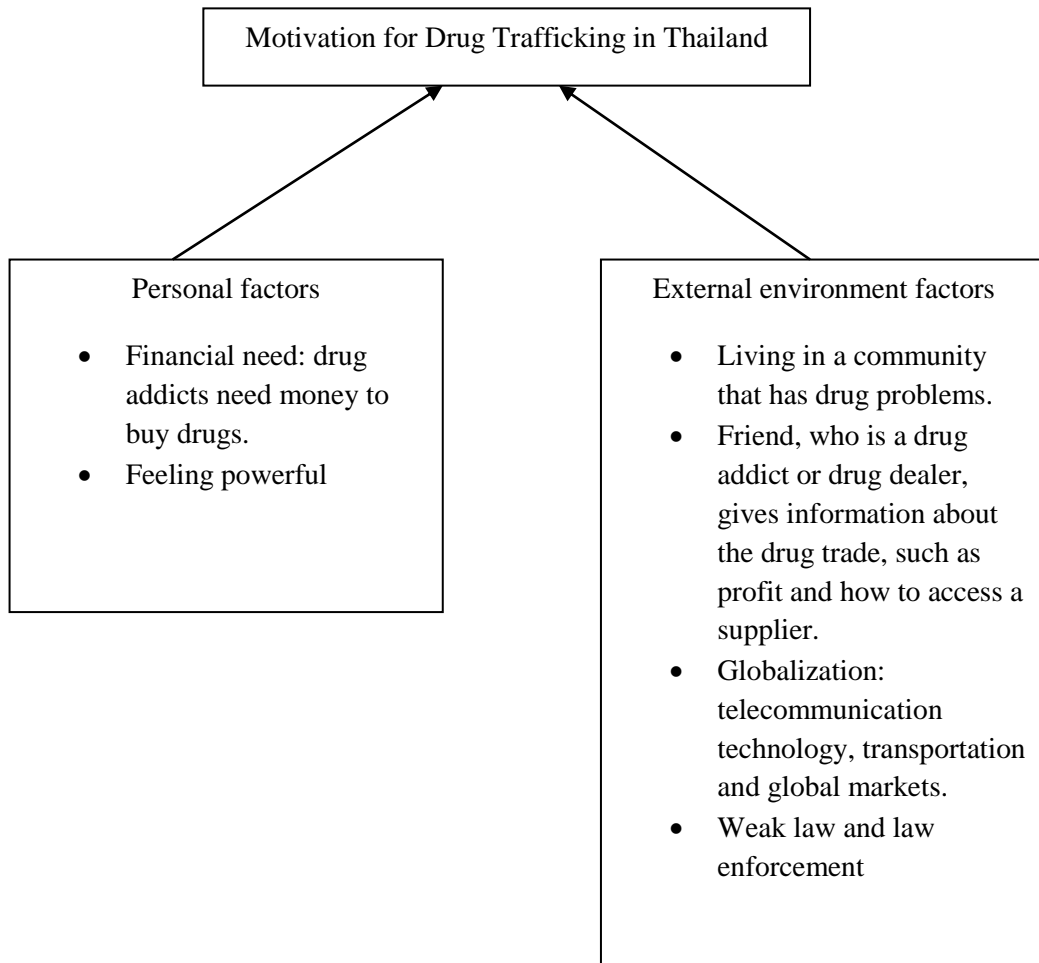


Figure 2.3 Tentative Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter aims to clarify the research design and methodology used in this research. First it begins with the research method, which will be discussed in the overview of the methodology. Then it discusses the procedure of data collection and the data sources. Next is a discussion of the data interpretation and analysis, the technique to analyze the data. Lastly, this chapter will discuss the detail of ensuring the quality of the research.

3.1 Research Method

This research on transnational crime in Thailand focusing on African drug syndicates is a qualitative research with a single case study. The case study method focuses on a unique case orientation, in which the number of cases or samples is not large. This method will provide in-depth and detailed information on all aspects of the issue (Patton, 1990).

This research aims to answer the research questions, “Why does the African drug syndicate commit crimes in Thailand? And what is the African drug syndicate’s operational pattern?” The objectives of the research are as follows.

- 1) To identify what factors motivates the African drug syndicate to transact narcotics in Thailand.
- 2) To clarify the African drug syndicate’s operational patterns.
- 3) To recommend policy to solve the African Drug syndicate problem.

The research will focus on the causes of transnational crime in Thailand, focusing on the case of the African drug syndicate by these methods.

3.2 Unit of Analysis

This research will collect information on the causes of the African drug syndicate's dealings in Thailand from two major categories: law enforcement, and Nigerian inmates. The law enforcement agencies are divided into local and international agencies, yet the authorities that elected to participate in the interviews are agencies that primarily focus on African drug traffickers. The major local law enforcement agencies are comprised of the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) and the Royal Thai Police. There are two major units from the Royal Thai Police that are included in this research, which are the Narcotics Suppression Bureau as the main unit of the Royal Thai Police who fight against international drug trafficking in Thailand, and the Immigration Bureau, which is the main unit that deals with immigrant and transnational criminals. International law enforcement agencies include the Drug Enforcement agency (DEA) and an Australian law enforcement agency which requested us to conceal their unit title. The DEA is the main drug enforcement agency that has been sending their agents to work in this region for decades and cooperates with local authorities in order to fight against drugs. The DEA has had a number of cases with NSB and ONCB investigating African drug traffickers who operate in Thailand.

Nigerian inmates participating in this research are inmates who were imprisoned for narcotics cases and accused of possession with the intent to sell and higher penalties. All inmates were arrested in Thailand and are imprisoned in the Central Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts.

3.3 Data Sources and Collection

This research collected data from various sources in order to certify the validity of the data. Multiple sources of data are comprised of documentation, in-depth interviews and direct observation. Triangulation helps increase the weight of collected data rather than having just one source of data (Patton, 1990).

This research uses several methods to collect relevant information, which are as follows:

3.3.1 Documentary Research

In the study of the state of transnational crime in Thailand focusing on African drug syndicates, the first stage will be a study of the literature on the motives behind transnational drug trafficking in Thailand, then the operational pattern of the African drug syndicate. The data in this study are from texts, articles, online articles, newspapers, research reports, theses, investigative reports, etc., from knowledgeable sources such as textbooks, books, academic articles, electronic documents both in Thailand and abroad, relevant government agencies, the library of institutes, etc. and from bookstores by purchasing a copy and making a copy of the summary information for reference.

3.3.1.1 Determine the issues related to transnational crime in Thailand focusing on African drug syndicates.

3.3.1.2 Explore the relevant documents on transnational crime in Thailand focusing on African drug syndicates.

3.3.1.3 Select a number of documents in accordance with 3.3.1.1.

3.3.1.4 Examine the selected documents in accordance with 3.3.1.2.

3.3.1.5 Summarize the problematic issues of transnational crime in Thailand focusing on African drug syndicates and the causes of such problems.

3.3.2 Interviews

This research will include in-depth interviews with interviewees who are experts on transnational crime and international drug trafficking, whether they are current practitioners or had worked in government agencies, such as police officers from law enforcement agencies, as well as officers from the Narcotics Control Unit, who have experience in suppressing the African drug syndicate. Furthermore, this research will include interviews with Nigerian inmates who were charged with selling illegal substances and cases with higher penalties.

By conducting in depth interviews, the research aims to discover the source factors affecting transnational crime in Thailand in the case of African drug syndicates. Moreover, the research aims to find out the African drug syndicate's operational pattern and suggest solutions to the problem. The following section outlines the procedure before conducting the interview.

3.3.2.1 This research will separate the interviewees into two categories, which are the law enforcement agents and the Nigerian inmates. This research will include an interview with two officers from each agency who have been doing work related to African drug syndicates for over five years. On the other hand, on the inmate side, the interviewees will be Nigerian inmates who were charged with possessing drugs for sale or higher penalty accusations. There are sixteen interviewees in total, divided into ten from the law enforcement side and six from the inmate side, the interviewees include:

1) Two police officers from the Immigration Bureau, which comprises of:

(1) A police colonel who is now positioned as a superintendent of the investigation division. He has been working at the Immigration Bureau for more than 15 years and for more than 12 years he has been working directly with Africans in Thailand.

(2) A police major who is now positioned as an inspector at the investigation division. He has been working here for eight years and specializes in African investigations.

2) Two officers of the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), including:

(1) A C eight level, who has been working at ONCB for more than twenty years and was among the first group of Thai people who started investigating the African drug syndicate. He has experience in all types of drug trafficking in Thailand. At present, he is positioned at the head of the suppression division at ONCB.

(2) A head of the port unit who is responsible for all airports and ports in Thailand. He has been working as a suppression agent of the ONCB for more than fifteen years, and for the last four years he has been responsible for all ports. He has discovered enormous amounts of drugs at Suvannabhumi and other airports, where African drug syndicates use various ways to smuggle drugs into Thailand.

3) Two police officers are from the Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB), comprised of:

(1) A police major general who is positioned as the deputy commissioner. He has been working at NSB for more than 15 years and has more than 30 years of police experience. He was one of the first few men in NSB to start investigating African drug syndicates. He has been working with international law enforcement agencies for more than 5 years to fight against African drug syndicates. He has also represented the Royal Thai Police on a number of occasions at international conferences on transnational drug trafficking. Furthermore, he was the first police officer from NSB who went to Brazil to investigate Thai women who were imprisoned there for drug trafficking as part of the African drug syndicate.

(2) A police colonel who is now a superintendent of the law and discipline subdivision. He has been working at NSB for more than 10 years with over 20 years of police experience. He was one of the first who was sent to interrogate at NSB and collect data on the African drug syndicate in Thailand by interviewing all suspects who had been arrested. Furthermore, he used to be the superintendent at Narcotics Suppression Division 1, which is responsible for the area around Soi Nana and Pratunam, which are two of the most popular places for Africans in Bangkok.

4) Two agents from the Drug Enforcement Authority (DEA), including:

(1) A 59 year old agent who has been working in Thailand for more than twenty years. He has more than 5 years of experience as a police officer in the New York Police Department (NYPD). He had dealt with African drug syndicates in the States as a policeman and after he joined the DEA, he was one of the first DEA agents assigned to work in Thailand in the 90's and was the one who started collecting intelligence on African drug syndicates at the beginning.

(2) Another agent is a 58 year old agent who at present is at the executive level of the DEA in the Far East region. He has 28 years of experience at the DEA with more than 20 years working on African drug syndicates. As a DEA agent he cooperates with Thai authorities to combat against African drug dealers in Thailand. He provides all kinds of support, such as intelligence, as a translator for local African dialects, and in creating joint operations with Thai authorities.

5) Two senior law enforcement officers from Australia, who asked to conceal their organization's title due to their regulations.

(1) A 46 year old agent who is at the executive level of Australian law enforcement in Thailand. He has more than 15 years of work experience against African drug syndicates in Australia and more than 5 years cooperating with the Royal Thai Police and ONCB.

(2) A 48 year old senior agent who has more than 20 years of experience fighting against African drug syndicates and transnational drug trafficking organizations. She has created a number of joint operations with NSB and ONCB which has resulted in many cases.

6) Six Nigerian inmates in drug libel cases who were accused of possession with the intention to sell and cases with higher penalties. The six inmates are:

(1) A 35 year old Nigerian male who had been living in Thailand for 13 years before being arrested. He has a Thai wife with two children. At the early stage he worked at a language school in Pattaya. He was arrested with 500 grams of Ice and charged with possession of Type 1 narcotics for sale.

(2) A 40 year old Nigerian male who has lived in Thailand for 9 years. He was arrested in 2014 and charged with possession of Type 1 narcotics for selling. He has a Thai wife and a daughter. At the beginning he exported dried fish from Thailand to Nigeria and earned around 700-800 US dollars a month.

(3) Another inmate is a 35 year old Nigerian inmate who has lived in Thailand for 10 years. He earned a bachelor degree in engineering before moving to Thailand. In Thailand, he worked at a university as a research assistant and also exported dried fish to Nigeria. He was arrested with two kilograms of cocaine at Suvarnabhumi airport and charged with import of Type 2 narcotics into the Kingdom of Thailand.

(4) A 32 year old Nigerian who was arrested with 75 grams of ICE at Soi NaNa and charged with possession of Type 1 narcotics for selling. He has lived in Thailand for 12 years. Before that he was living in Singapore for a few years. He has a Thai wife and a son who now lives with his grandmother. Before being arrested he imported cocaine from South America several times.

(5) A 38 year old Nigerian who was arrested with his Thai wife and two Nigerian males with a kilogram of cocaine from Brazil. He and his wife were arrested after the officers arrested another two Nigerian males and investigated them, finding out that he and his wife were the owners of the drugs. He was charged with importing Type 2 narcotics into Thailand. He has been living in Thailand for 14 years, at that time he exported clothes to Nigeria but after five years he changed to selling drugs.

(6) The last inmate is a 36 year old Nigerian who was arrested with 30 grams of ICE and charged with possession for selling. He has been living in Thailand for six years. He came at first on a tourist visa. At first he bought clothes from Sra Kaew province and sold them in Pratunam or exported them to Nigeria.

3.3.2.2 Qualify those who meet the criteria mentioned in 3.3.2.1 and interview twelve law enforcement officers (two from each agency) and six Nigerian inmates who were charged with possession for selling and higher penalties.

3.3.2.3 Create question outlines to inquire about the problem of transnational crime in Thailand focusing on African drug syndicates. The question outlines are separated into two sets, which are: authority questions, and inmate questions. This research uses open-ended questions to ask the interviewees, and follows up with questions that are structured to limit bias, and gain more complete data (Silverman, 1993). Question outlines are divided into three major parts according to the research questions. The data were collected by interviews to investigate the state of transnational crime in Thailand, case studies of African narcotics networks, and law enforcement issues (Interview form is in Appendix A).

3.3.2.4 Check the question outlines created under 3.3.2.3 by the consultant. (The details of the interview form appear in Appendix A).

3.3.2.5 Interview persons who qualified under 3.3.2.1, sixteen people in total, which includes ten law enforcement agents and six Nigerian inmates.

3.3.2.6 Coordinate with the Advisors and Program of Doctor of Philosophy in the Development Administration to issue written permission to interview people in accordance with 3.3.2.5.

3.3.3 Direct Observations

The researcher worked at Narcotics Intelligence Division between 2010 and 2014; hence the researcher witnessed a number of African drug traffickers' statements and had the opportunity to participate in several international narcotics meetings.

Being in the above mentioned position allowed the researcher to obtain information on actors who were involved in this issue and who are key players on this topic.

3.4 Data Analysis

This research studied the operational patterns of African drug syndicates by conducting in-depth interviews with the experts listed above, plus information from relevant documents such as the African drug syndicate investigation report from NSB. After all interviews with all the experts and the study of the documents, the analysis of the outcome will be made by using content analysis. This research uses content analysis as a tool to interpret data collected from the mentioned data sources. The analysis of the content will be divided into three major parts according to the question outlines, which are: the reasons that African drug traffickers operate in Thailand, African drug syndicate operational patterns, and solution guidelines.

3.5 Ensuring Research Quality

According to Patton (1990), qualitative research requires quality data to conduct an analysis and come up with validated results. To ensure the quality of the research, this researcher conducted four tests, on construct validity, internal validity, external validity, and reliability.

3.5.1 Construct Validity

This research collected data from several sources (Triangulation), such as documentation and in-depth interviews. By doing so, personal bias of the researcher was reduced and the validity of the data increased. Furthermore, the researcher was

able to compare the findings from different sources and sum up the most accurate outcomes.

3.5.2 Internal Validity

In order to test internal validity in this research, every interviewee was asked to present their past case experiences related to African drug traffickers. The documents included in this research had already been verified by the authorities.

3.5.3 External Validity

External validity tests whether the findings in this research can be applied to other cases. In order to do so, this research includes theoretical propositions, research design and interpretation techniques were used to demonstrate the validity of the findings.

3.5.4 Reliability

This research was conducted by using several data sources and collection methods, in order to minimize error in the results.

CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH RESULTS

From the document research and the interviews with ten law enforcement agents from five agencies and six Nigerian inmates who were accused of drug possession for selling and accusations with higher penalties in accordance with Appendix 1 question issues, the following are results that have been divided according to the issue in question:

4.1 Factors that Affect African Drug Syndicates Committing Transnational Drug Trafficking in Thailand

In the past decade, there has been a great increase in the number of Africans committing drug related crimes in Thailand. The problem has not been solved, as there are a number in obstacles for law enforcement's fight against this threat. This can be seen from both the number of cases and the amount of drugs seized from African drug dealers, as mentioned earlier in this paper. As a result, studying the roots of the problem may help law enforcement and authorities have a better understanding and come up with the right policies for the problem. This section will discuss the factors that affect the migration of Africans and factors that lead to the drug trade in Thailand.

4.1.1 Initial Point

There has been a large number of Africans entering Thailand in the last few decades. Most Africans that come into Thailand are Nigerian, Thailand and Nigeria first established diplomatic relations on the 1st of November, 1962 (Department of South Asia, Middle East and African Affairs, 2018). There is still no definite information on when Africans first started to immigrate in order to live in Thailand, but Thai authorities began to know about narcotics cases related to Africans

approximately 20 years ago. Yet, they were largely Nigerians who entered to learn Thai language and then smuggled heroin from Myanmar to the United States of America. A police colonel from NSB put it this way:

About 20-30 years ago, we had begun to find out that Africans smuggled drugs and distributed them in Thailand. However, in those times, distributions were in the form of club drugs or drugs that create vigorous fun for tourists. Thus, their customer groups were foreign tourists that travelled to Thailand as well as Thai customer groups that had graduated from overseas. The early Africans usually used their advantage in language to communicate with these groups of people.

A DEA agent also stated that:

In those eras, Thailand's social status did not have many Africans as today. African people are easy to notice as in the mentioned case of a targeted Nigerian who travelled to Chiang Rai province. Officers had investigated and were able to arrest the suspect eventually. Nowadays, Thailand has many African communities and it is no surprise any more to see them walking around in many provinces that are not tourist cities.

One of the Nigerian inmates said that "Thailand and Nigeria has a relationship of more than 50 years and after that, Nigerians began to acknowledge Thailand's information".

4.1.2 Social Issues and Economy

Most countries on the African continent are developing countries and presently many countries are found having internal wars that affect an already unsmooth economy and increase poverty within the population.

4.1.2.1 Religious Prejudice

The first issue that arose from the interviews was religious prejudice. In many countries in Africa the majority of the population is Muslim and Christian,

leaving the country's minority groups with inequality treatment. Therefore, Christian Africans, especially the ones that can communicate in English, will travel away from their hometown and spend their lives in many countries globally, such as China, Malaysia and Brazil. A police general from NSB said this:

Most African people who enter into Thailand to do drug smuggling, most of them are Christian. Referring to information, we found that Christians, especially in Nigeria, are treated with inequality and with political instability that has caused a bad economy, this made them migrate to foreign lands.

Another NSB police officer confirmed that of "Africans who migrated into Thailand and were found committing offences that were related to narcotics, no one was found to be Muslim, but Christian mostly".

However, there was no statement supporting this issue from the Nigerian inmates.

4.1.2.2 Criminal Friendly Environment

Thailand does not have a society and culture similar to countries on the African continent, but Thailand is considered to be a popular country that many Africans travel to reside in because Thailand has policies that are open for tourists and it has many factors of convenience for living, such as a low cost of living. Thailand also has more public utility readiness than neighboring countries and already has a number of African people residing here. In addition, Thailand has no strict alien control system like in Singapore, in other words, it is easy to come and live in Thailand, as the country lacks an effective follow-up system. Also, Thailand's football industry is on the rise, so some Africans come to Thailand as footballers.

Thai people are friendly, kind, generous, sympathetic and willing to welcome foreigners. Especially Thai women, as most of them who associate with African groups are ones who have been ignored by Thai people, such as the group of service girls. The Africans will be friendly with these groups of Thai ladies in order to create a marriage relationship that will enable them to remain in Thailand. When these factors are brought together, Thailand is considered a popular country that Africans choose to reside in. According to a DEA agent:

Thailand's characteristics can be called a "Criminal Friendly Environment", meaning that Thailand has a proper environment for criminals to live in, which is not particularly only for the African Drug Syndicate, but also includes other criminal groups too.

An ONCB agent confirmed:

The African's social condition is more difficult than in Thailand, which is why they immigrate here. Yet, their lives are abiding on Thais' attitudes of kindness; especially vulnerable are Thai women, the African will befriend them, ask for their sympathy and association, and finally marry them for a permanent visa.

A Nigerian inmate supported that "Thailand is a peaceful country, no chaos and comfortable, the more money you have the more comfortable you will be, even though you don't have money, in Thailand you can still live more comfortably than in neighboring countries".

4.1.2.3 Economic Readiness

Thailand is considered to be a popular country that many African people reside in because Thailand's cost of living is not that high when compared to the facilities Thailand possesses. Thailand has a better public utility system when compared with neighboring countries like Laos, Myanmar or Cambodia. Most African people can travel in Thailand with much status, mostly as tourists, and aim to open their own business that sends goods to Africa, such as ready-made wholesale clothes and dried foods, e.g. dried fish and agricultural products. Thailand also has a good post and cargo system that allows small business owners to import and export. Furthermore, Thailand has good, fast and convenient financial and banking systems. In addition, travelling to Thailand is more convenient than neighboring countries because it has straight non-stop flights from the African continent to Suvarnabhumi International Airport. A Nigerian inmate said that:

In Nigeria there are still poor living condition, poor government administration that lacks sufficient knowledge, therefore, they decide to come to live in Thailand in order to do a garments business and export to sell in their home country. Doing business in Thailand does not need much capital; also, it's easier than in Laos or Cambodia.

A police inspector pointed out that:

It is much more difficult to live in Africa than in Thailand, they have to do everything in every way to survive; hence, they immigrate to live in Thailand. Most African drug dealers we arrested claimed that they were business owners.

An Australian law enforcement agent said that:

Africans come in determined to find economic opportunities in various business models, such as garments, selling clothes and shoes in order to export to their home country. Besides, the financial system is one of the crucial parts that the African narcotics groups use presently, for example, money transferring via Western Union.

4.1.3 African Survival and the Luxury Mindset

Originally, most Africans aimed to migrate and live in Thailand for opportunity in order to make a living, such as doing businesses by buying various goods, for example dried fish and garments, in order to export and sell in their home countries on the African continent. But living in Thailand is hard to find an honest job because Africans are not in demand by the labor market due to the difference in language and foreign worker regulations. Therefore, some African groups that have less capital cannot own a business and are unable to find a job, which makes some of them choose to sell drugs. To participate in the drug trade, Africans learn the procedure from friends or relatives.

Furthermore, African immigrants who reside in Thailand have different value characteristics from other neighboring countries, for example Africans have the value of living a luxurious life, buying lavish materials, having nightlife, wearing clothes with ornaments and posting about it on social networks. A Thai immigration officer pointed out this:

African people, especially Nigerians, most of them migrated out of the country not for surviving, but migrated out of the country just for luxury. Thus, they come out of their country just to look better and when they came to live in Thailand, they cannot utilize their labour or perform honest jobs, they make little money and are slow, therefore, they choose to do anything in order to have money, such as scamming through social online sites (Romance Scamming), false documents, scams (Call Centers, Scammers) and the important thing, entering into the country to do drug smuggling.

A Nigerian inmate said that:

I came to Thailand to import clothes back to Nigeria. However, that thing was not successful, so I asked for advice from friends who offered me to earn money by taking a bag from one place to another; and that was the start of my drug trafficking.

Another Nigerian inmate supported that this way:

I graduated with a Bachelor Degree and came to live in Thailand for 5-6 years. At first, when I entered to live in Thailand, I intended to do business by exporting goods to sell in Nigeria. Before I got arrested by the officers, I had applied to study in a university and worked with the university's research team, along with the buying of merchandise to export and sell in Nigeria. Thus, with each export, I'd get 100,000 Baht and be in the exporting business, I had to use a lot of capital, therefore, when I lacked liquidity, I consulted with

other Nigerian friends and I had been recommended to deliver drugs, so I decided to do drug trafficking too because it was easier to get more money.

4.1.4 Law and Law Enforcement

In studying African drug syndicates in Thailand, two major laws are involved. First is the immigration law that controls all foreigners coming into Thailand. The other law is narcotics law, which is comprised of various acts that relate to African drug traffickers.

4.1.4.1 Blind Spot in Immigration Law and Regulations

There are several issues regarding Alien laws, regulations and law enforcement related to African drug syndicates.

1) Ineffective Immigration Law and Its Enforcement

For law that relates to aliens, the principal law is the Immigration Act B.E.2522, in accordance with section 38, it specifies that the owner or the premise's owner or the hotel manager that accepts an alien to have a temporary stay in the Kingdom must notify officers at the local Immigration office about the premises or hotel within 24 hours, counting from the hour the alien arrived. In case the locality has no Immigration office, then he/she must report to the local police station of such location. Yet, section 77 has specified a fine of not over 2,000 Baht for the residential owner, and if it is a hotel manager, they will be fined 2,000-10,000 Baht. Today, it's hard to find any report because of non-strict regulation enforcement, and also the fine is a light fine. According to one of the Thai law enforcement agents:

Thailand's law is found comprehensive but enforcement by the involved officers is not yet fully effective, for example, in the petition to come to Thailand, some cases petition for touring and once the visa is expired, they sneak to stay in Thailand, there is no serious enforcement on the immigration law. It is very rare to see officers inspect local apartments as to whether there are foreigners staying inside.

2) Headless Document Verification

The submission of various documents and evidence to official units is not seriously inspected as to the background and when it was submitted, there is no storage in the data base for the next inspection, for example, when an alien enters into the Kingdom of Thailand, he must fill in the document called Immigration Form 6, which specifies the purpose of the trip and where he/she will reside. In fact, when an alien passes through Immigration and enters into the country, there is no further inspection to see if that alien is staying at the specified address indicated on Immigration Form 6 or not. This is the recklessness of law enforcement officers.

Apart from the visa petition, consideration must be given to the risk country groups that related departments had a conference on, and who agreed that these risk country groups be divided into regions with 30 countries from the African continent. They consist of: 1) Central Africa, 2) Cameroon, 3) Republic of Congo, 4) Democratic Republic of Congo, 5) Equatorial Guinea, 6) Ghana, 7) Liberia, 8) Nigeria, 9) Sao Tome and 10) Principe, 11) Sierra Leone, and 12) Sudan. For other Africans considered to be risk groups related to drug trafficking, they are categorized as watch groups. Thus, the Embassy and Consulate General have increased the strictness of visa inspections for each of these risk groups who now have special inspections, such as submitting cases to the National Intelligence Agency to have their records checked (Conference Report of Students, Teachers and Foreign Personnel in Thai Educational Institutes on October 19, 2017).

For aliens to maintain their status in Thailand, the documents used as evidence for visa petitions are unreliable, including Thailand's visa extension petition, which can easily be done at the border where it is much easier than the airport. Furthermore, Africans who were deported back to Africa can change to a new passport with a single change in name or nationality and come back to Thailand again because the system cannot identify biological aspects of a person. A Nigerian inmate stated that:

Knowing from my friend from Hat Yai District that a visa can be extended easily and I'm able to purchase a passport from Africa, people who produce a visa will send it to me to use in Thailand. Additionally, the cost for making a

passport that I could use was \$1,500. I sent the money to a friend in Kenya and within two weeks I received my new passport. The method was to change my nationality on the passport, previously it could be done easily because at that time passports were not yet computerized.

An International law enforcement agent stated that:

The lack of facial identification systems within the Immigration/Border arrivals and departures procedures certainly allows for false passports to be utilized for re-gaining access into Thailand, even if identified while perpetrating crime. Previous cases show these syndicates have access to false passports from a number of African countries with the ability to possess excellent false passports.

A Thai law enforcement agent stated that:

Every associated Department should have serious cooperation to inspect alien entry and those staying in the Kingdom of Thailand in order to screen the petitioners and to prevent future crimes. Besides, Thailand has no effective alien database storage and that affects the in and out entry, for example, when finding aliens committed an offence, they will be deported, but after they have already been deported, the Africans or foreigners are able to change their names or surnames in order to change passports and return to Thailand again.

The Thai Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria reported that Nigerians and Cameroonians who petitioned for Non-Ed Visas in order to access Thailand in many cases used a petition for a Non-B Visa in order to do business but had no sufficient proof, or unreliable proof, and were refused on their petitions. Meanwhile, these people return for a repetition trying for a student visa. In addition, they also use false documents from their original country, such as higher education transcripts, this has mostly been found from Cameroon and Ghana.

3) Slipshod Authority Inspections

Presently, there are many foreigners who want to move in and stay in Thailand for a long time or permanently without a proper visa or lacking proper qualifications to stay. There are various channels that African immigrants adopt in order to stay in Thailand, such as tourist visas, footballer careers and educational channels. Moreover, one of the smuggling channels to stay in Thailand is to be a language teacher or student. Therefore, people from risky country groups and watch-over groups, especially from Africa, can petition for a visa to study in higher education by directly petitioning the university without passing through the central unit as lower education does. Besides, some universities have quite relaxed programs that let foreigners file for visa petitions to stay in Thailand for a long time. From the Conference Report related to student visas, teachers and foreign personnel in Thai Institutes on October 19, 2017 - "At Ramkhamhaeng University, students can maintain student status for 8 years and when students are discharged, they are able to reapply and continue to be in student status for another 8 years. Thus, there are a number of African students, especially Nigerians and Cameroonians that are registered to study in this program. Most of them are over age for general students, for example, 40 years old, and have studied already for more than 10 years with the university issuing a Letter of Certification and Student I.D. Card for 20 years". Again, from the Conference Report related to student, teacher and foreign personnel visas of Thai Educational Institutes on October 19, 2017 - "There had been found some unusual matters in the student institutes, especially for non-formal education; for example, the Genius Language School in Chonburi province had more than 300 foreign teachers, which was more than the number of students, and most of the students lived in Nonthaburi province". In addition, an inspection from many related departments does very little. According to a police general:

Thailand has developed tourism and supported tourists to come to Thailand. In many ways, it creates gaps for people coming into the country, especially when compared with the United States of America or the EU Group, entering those countries is very difficult.

An ONCB agent supported that:

When aliens travel to Thailand with a Tourist Visa for 30 days they fill in the document with their residing addresses. However, once they've already entered the country there is no system to follow up those aliens to see if they are truly staying at the mentioned accommodation. Furthermore, when their visa expires, there is no method of following up if the person has gone out of the country.

4.1.4.2 Issue on Narcotics Law and its Enforcement

Laws that relate to narcotics in Thailand consist of the Narcotic Act of B.E. 2522 and the Act on the Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offence Relating to Narcotics B.E. 2534.

1) Imbalanced Penalties

The highest punishment in Thai Narcotic Law is execution. At present, there have been no executions for many years, and if compared with other countries' narcotics laws, Thailand is considered to have strict punishment in accordance with that Narcotics Act. In this research the major concern is on narcotics Types 1 and 2, as the major drugs related to African syndicates. The penalty for possessing for sale of narcotics Type 1 is higher than for Type 2, but the price on the market for Ice and cocaine is not much different. One of the Thai law enforcement agents stated that:

Thailand's narcotics laws considers the punishment by quantity of drugs, not the wrongdoer's context, and the suspects will all receive the same high punishment, no matter if they're the owner of the drugs, or owner of the money, or even the ones that have been scammed to be drug traffickers. However, narcotics laws of countries in South America state that drug traffickers be punished for only 4-6 years, and when they've completed 1-3 years, there can be amnesty and they could be released, though they have to report themselves to officers for behavioral control periodically. But criminals

are not interested in laws and severe punishment, because they thought that they would never get caught.

An international law enforcer said that “the entering of African criminals into Thailand is not related to the law, but exists in the gap, which is more beneficial to them”.

A Nigerian inmate said that:

Foreigners thought that Thailand’s narcotics laws have high punishment and is too severe, but most of them learn about the law after they have already gone to prison and gone through the courts. In the beginning, they did not pay attention to the law, they were only interested in the income.

Another Nigerian inmate confirmed that:

Thailand has very high punishment for cases that relate to narcotics, especially Ice, which is much higher than cocaine. I myself, used to do cocaine, I feel very sorry that I’ve gotten arrested by officers with Ice and have been punished with too high a punishment, because when I did the case I did not know about the law.

2) Ineffective Law Enforcement

Thailand has two major units to enforce narcotics laws and suppress drugs. First, is the Royal Thai Police, which assigns local police to deal with street level crimes, and the Narcotics Suppression Bureau, which focuses on drug trafficking and the transnational drug trade. The Royal Thai Police has total positions of almost 300,000 officers, but at present there are only about 220,000 officers. This number includes general staff and traffic police, which is not related to suppression and drug prevention. Therefore, the existing officers need to work very hard to cover the numbers. The second unit is the Office of Narcotics Control Board, which is the main government agency that drives government policy to prevent and suppress drugs in Thailand. Thai law and regulations that relate to African drug syndicates is

considered very strict and has very high penalties, especially narcotics laws, which include the highest punishment of execution. But in the meantime, the law is considered to be the law enforcers' main instrument to use, and if the law enforcers recklessly apply the law, then the laws cannot be utilized. Therefore, in fighting against transnational drug traffickers, the authorities must seriously enforce the law and conduct further investigation in every possible case. An international law enforcement agent stated that:

Thailand's laws are strict, but the numbers of officers that make enforcement solid are insufficient. About 10 years ago, U.S.A. narcotics officers, or DEA, cooperated with police officers of the Narcotics Suppression Bureau to arrest "Al Capone" who was an influential Nigerian at Soi Nana and Sukhumvit, Soi 3. At that time, officers arrested Al Capone, together with his 5 subordinates, and this arrest tumbled down the whole network, after that there were no more Africans for a long while.

A Thai law enforcement agent stated that:

The law is efficient enough, but the number of officers to enforce the law is insufficient; hence, the suppression cannot reach the maximum outcome. But no matter how good the law enforcement is, the criminal will always find a way to commit crime.

A Nigerian inmate said that:

Most Thai police are doing good work. However, some Thai officers are still doing corruption; for example, they just put drugs in someone's pockets and try to get a bribe. It has been confirmed by many foreigners that they had been confronted with that action in order to take away their assets.

In conclusion, narcotics law has no influence on the access of narcotics and the business in Thailand of the African drug syndicate because the syndicate does not think that they will get caught, they do not pay attention to the laws and punishment. They only think about their benefit from the drug business and think more on the topic of entrance laws into Thailand and sustaining their status in Thailand in order to avoid arrest or deportation, which are the most common issues that government officers and inmates give.

4.1.5 Globalization

Globalization is the lifting of borders between countries and populations so the entire world can travel from one country to another more conveniently and quickly and with more economical fares than before. Thus, African people can travel to Thailand conveniently and more quickly because they have airlines that have direct flights from the African continent to Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Besides, Thailand still has a policy to open up more for African travelers in accordance with the agreement between the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and countries of the African groups, so they can apply for visas as long as there is nothing against the regulations, for example, they must have 500 USD in pocket money. Nowadays, Thailand has more foreigners who have access to live and work. Furthermore, at present there is starting to be a foreign community that is exclusively African. Previously, there was only Soi Nana, Pratunam and Ramkhamhaeng, but today there will be no surprise when travelling upcountry to find colored people.

It is obvious that globalization shapes the illicit drug market into a more sophisticated area. The development of new technologies provides greater opportunity to communicate with counterparts from across the world. From this perspective, criminals have more advantage because the authorities still have limitations in many ways, such as differences of law, cultures and language barriers, and if they do not have a close relationship to other enforcement units, it can be difficult to obtain a sudden response and cooperation. Furthermore, the advance of new technologies is one of the biggest complications for authorities to trace drug traffickers. Using SMS or prepaid phones is the most common communication method for drug dealers (UNODC, 2013).

4.1.5.1 Advanced Telecommunication Technology

Over the past few decades, new sophisticated telecommunication advances in telephones and the Internet have become spread out around the globe. The number of people who have access to the Internet has increased dramatically, from 2.6 million in 1990 to 2 billion in 2010 (UNODC, 2012). This number demonstrates the developing technology among the world's population. However, the criminal also gains access to these technologies. An Australian senior law enforcer said that:

All technologies develop to help the world population live more comfortably and conveniently. At the same time, when criminals can bring these technologies to commit transnational crimes easily it can difficult for officers to arrest them. This is not only with drug trafficking, it includes other crimes too.

1) Internet

The Internet has had a major impact on the illicit drug business. For drug traffickers, the Internet helps them with the price level in various markets; and for the drug abusers, the Internet provides them with information on various kinds of drugs and opportunities to acquire them cheaply. Moreover, new drugs not yet under international control (such as those sold under the brand name Spice) have been successfully marketed via the Internet. On the other hand, the Internet provides a great opportunity to the authorities to monitor the drug situation and markets. It also delivers an easier way for authorities across the globe to be able to connect with each other. Unfortunately, drug organizations seem to have become more cautious in their use of the Internet. They usually employ computer experts to encrypt their Internet activities and make them untraceable. Rapid changes in technology, along with the adaptability of the criminals to the new technologies available, cause major challenges for most authorities. In addition, the lack of international Internet regulations causes difficulties for authorities trying to impede criminals. A DEA agent stated that “modern communication contact has made many transnational crime groups perform

easily and it's hard for State officers to detect and arrest them due to these applications that have very good security systems”.

NSB police supported that:

Transnational drug traffickers usually communicate via VOIP (voice over IP), which is much cheaper and more difficult to trace than the use of land line phones. Furthermore, transnational drug traffickers use the Internet for many purposes related to their operation, such as buying air tickets for couriers.

A Nigerian inmate stated that, “I bought an air ticket from the travel agent I knew at Soi NaNa, then the travel agent sent the e-ticket through his email and I forwarded it to the Thai lady”.

2) Smartphones

Another key issue is the growth of smartphone use in the last few years. The share of the world population with a mobile phone subscription has risen from 0.2 percent in 1990 to 78.6 percent in 2010. The growth averaged 36 percent per year over the period 1990-2010 (UNODC, 2012). In developed countries the number of mobile phone subscriptions often exceeds the total population figure, even the least developed countries have substantial rates of mobile telephone penetration (33.5 mobile phones per 100 inhabitants); for example, in Afghanistan it's 37.8. Mobile phone functions, especially short message service (SMS) as well as the anonymous nature of prepaid SIM card holders, has completely changed the illicit drug business. SMS messages are difficult for law enforcement authorities to monitor and trace, and the widespread use of cheap anonymous SIM cards makes tracing them even more difficult. Moreover, a mobile phone may act as a drug trafficker's customer registry, and for some traffickers their main assets are the numbers stored on their telephone.

Communication contact between countries can be done instantly through many applications on smartphones, such as Whatsapp, Facebook Messenger and Viber. Telecommunication systems and modern technology, no matter whether it is for communication or the banking system, such as Western Union, are all crucial factors that create transnational crime problems, and it is quite hard to follow

up the wrongdoers because of these technologies that have strict security systems, including the development of privacy apps to conceal customers' application information.

The mobile phone is a common gadget for traffickers, which allows them to access information on law enforcement activities and save time over face-to-face meetings. Furthermore, there is more evidence suggesting that traffickers gain benefit from the increased movement of people, goods and capital (Marsh, Wilson, Kenehan, 2008).

A Nigerian inmate said, "before I would travel out of Nigeria, I'd search for information by asking Nigerian relatives through the Whatsapp application, which was convenient because there are Nigerians living all around the world".

Another Nigerian inmate stated that "I communicate about drugs with my brothers in South America through Facebook messenger".

A general of the Royal Thai police stated that:

The African drug syndicate usually uses smartphones to communicate with co-workers, either Africans who live in South America or couriers who they've sent to smuggle drugs back to Thailand. There were a number of cases where we found evidence about narcotics cases on the smartphone of the suspects. For example, there was a case where police officers arrested a Thai woman, according to the arrest warrant, accused of conspiracy to import Type two narcotics into Thailand. On the suspect's phone, the officer found a conversation message between the suspect and another woman about travel information from Sao Paulo, Brazil to Singapore and Thailand. The recipient in the conversation was later identified and arrested with 600 grams of cocaine in 44 swallowed capsules.

4.1.5.2 Expanding Global Markets

The next issue could be the rapid growth of the international trade which somehow facilitates drug traffickers. The large amounts of legal goods that are transported around the world make it extremely difficult for the authorities to check

every container, and exports have risen 440 percent over the past two decades. The total number of shipments is around 1.1 billion tons, of which approximately less than 0.005 percent of this number could be illicit drugs. In Thailand many narcotics arrest cases are sent through many forms of postal parcel, for example, stuffed in with merchandise or clothing that is soaked with narcotics. A Thai Immigration police officer stated that “as a result of globalization, nowadays there is a huge number of international traders across the globe, and somehow drug traffickers are also a part of the market. Transnational drug traffickers send drugs through parcels or cargo”.

4.1.5.3 Cheaper and Faster Transportation Systems

The last issue is the rapid growth of air transportation in the last few decades. The number of aircraft departures rose by more than 80 percent between 1990 and 2009, or 3.2 percent per year. Plus, fierce competition in air fare reduction influences drug traffickers to take advantage by employing “mules” (people transporting illicit drugs across borders inside their bodies) or by concealing drugs inside air freight or postal parcels. The total passengers travelling by air transportation and the amount of freight transportation rose by 4 percent and 4.6 percent per annum, respectively (UNODC, 2012). An officer from Thai authorities mentioned this:

Transportation development is one of the significant parts that has made transnational drug traffickers able to travel out of their own country to a 3rd country in order to gather their own groups to move conveniently, the state officers are unable to control that.

A Thai Immigration police officer said that:

Globalization creates an easy way to find information. Thus, Africans that entered into Thailand use all these channels when searching for information or asking friends or relatives that have stayed in Thailand about accessing methods for living in Thailand.

Another Thai police supported that:

Globalization definitely affects Africans entering into Thailand in many dimensions, such as convenience in travelling, communication that makes it easy to contact relatives who lived here before in order to search for trading and information on easy overseas export-import of merchandise.

To sum up, globalization shrinks the world into one global community where people from opposite sides of the world can communicate by fingertip via either the Internet or smartphones. Furthermore, the growth in transportation systems allows people to travel across continents much more easily and cheaply than before, which helps expand the global market and trade. African drug syndicates use all these advanced technologies as part of their operation, either for information gathering or committing drug trades, which will be discussed more in the operational pattern part.

4.1.6 African Community

Today, most African communities in Thailand are located in many districts of Bangkok, such as the Soi On-Nuj, Ramkhamhaeng and Lardprao areas. Thus, these African communities exchange sources of information among African groups, including work information, visa processes or many transnational crimes, as well as information sources for Africans who are just thinking to move to Thailand. Therefore, when there is an existing African community in Thailand, the chance of Africans living here increases due to Africans' nature of being reliable toward people from the same neighborhood or town, whom they refer to as "Brother" or "Sister". When there are African communities in Thailand, Africans feel comfortable, they can get counseling or have seniors take care of them and give them suggestions when they move to Thailand. The African community can be seen in many places, such as African restaurants, night clubs and churches. These communities are the places Africans use to meet up and sometimes there is suspicious evidence found there. For example, according to a report from the Narcotics Suppression Bureau, it specified that in "the blockade search at a Christian church in the On-nuj area, the search results found many unusual things, such as Thai women's I.D. cards, bank books and digital

weighing machines in the total of 15 machines, but we did not find addictive substance. Moreover, we found a secret room that had many foreign aliens hiding, they had no passports or proper visas”. A Thai police officer stated that “Africans will have some kind of club, such as a church or restaurant, as a place to exchange information on the way of life and survival methods, these communities can become drug traffickers instantly”.

A DEA agent said this:

Nowadays, Thailand has an African community that is expanding more than before. Once it has a community, then there will continually be more expansion, because people will move to live with the people that came from the same neighborhood, for example Thai Town in L.A.

An Australian law enforcement agent said, “when there is an African community born in Thailand, the African population in Thailand will expand more by including migration of African families to Thailand”.

4.1.7 Landscape

Thailand is located in the center of the Southeast Asia region, and has convenient transportation similar to a “HUB”. Thus, when travelling in the region most countries in Southeast Asia are in a free trade zone to promote tourism policies and investment, therefore, this creates various crime issues that are easily disguised as tourists or investors. At present, what is being found more is an infiltration of African footballers who come in to play football in Thailand. For the drug trafficking problem, it’s been found that Nigerians come in to use Thailand as a communication center. They smuggle drugs from Africa and South America to Thailand before they spread to a 3rd country, for example Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Australia. An American law enforcement agent stated that:

Thailand is located at a location that is called a “Strategic Location” for drug trafficking because it’s located by the northern region called “The Golden Triangle” which, approximately 20 years ago, was considered to be one of the world’s biggest heroin manufacturing sources. Later on manufacturing groups located in Thai

neighborhoods in the Golden Triangle changed to produce methamphetamine addictive substances (Amphetamine, Ice) and export it to Thailand in order to transport it to various worldwide countries. However, despite drug traffickers using Thailand because they found it convenient to get the drugs, it also reduced the cost and risk of arrest by using a middle merchant. An ONCB agent supported that:

Thailand is located at the travelling center of the Southeast Asia region and located close to a significant drug manufacturing source, which is the Golden Triangle, therefore, Africans use Thailand as a narcotics receiving and sending base.

To sum up, in Africa there are still various social and economic problems, and in some countries there is civil war which causes poverty. Hence, Africans use advanced telecommunication technology to gather information about where to migrate to, and Thailand is one of the best choices due to its economic readiness and lower cost of living compared to other countries with similar infrastructure. Once Africans migrate to Thailand, some may have thought about committing drug trades at first, but mostly they aim to do legal business and are looking for a better life. However, when things do not go according to plan and Africans cannot get a job or their business collapses, they turn to friends or family members in the African community, asking for advice and getting information about drug trafficking. Then, Africans who cannot get an honest job turn to the drug trade as drug trading can compensate faster and much more than an honest job. In addition, the law and law enforcement do not affect Africans' decision to commit drug trafficking because criminals do not think they are going to get caught.

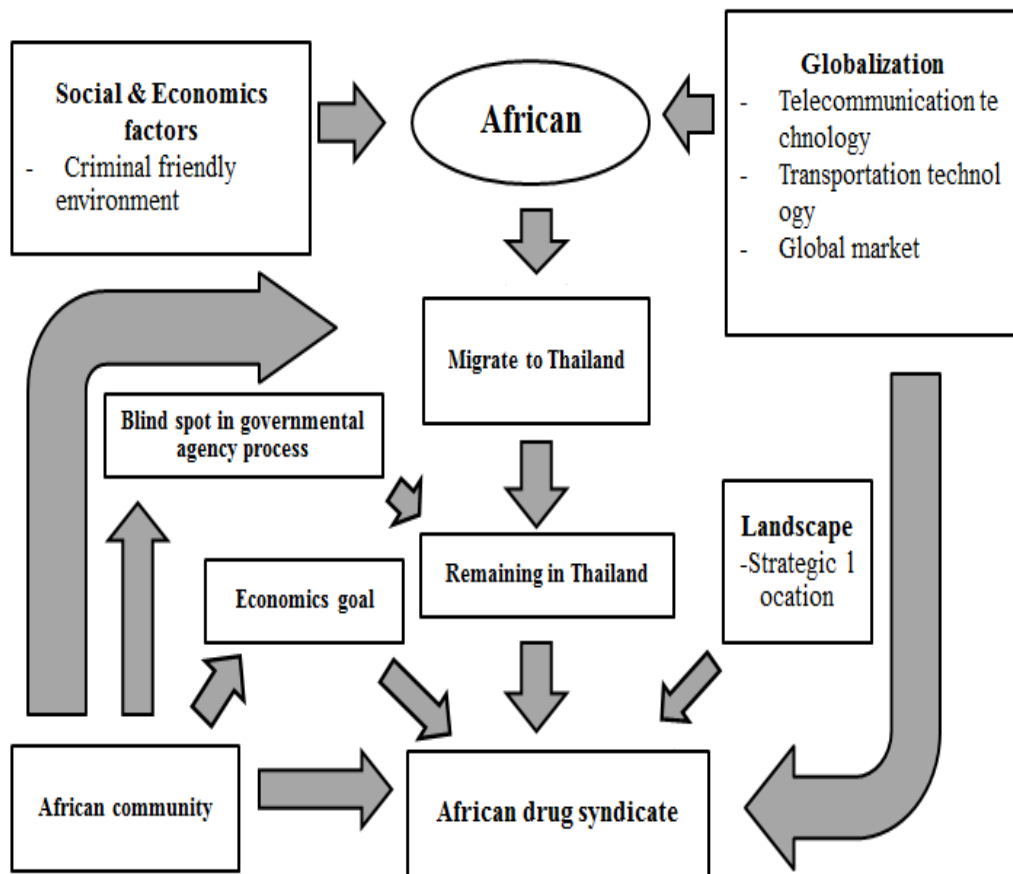


Figure 4.1 Africans Migrate and Become a Drug Syndicate in Thailand

4.2 Operational Model of the African Drug Syndicate

4.2.1 Circumstances to Maintain Status in Thailand

Africans who enter into Thailand and commit crime mostly come in on a tourist or student visa. After that, they look for channels to remain in Thailand. The most popular method is to do marriage registration with Thai women in order to obtain a Non-O Type Visa. Besides marriage registration, legitimate child registration is enough to petition for the mentioned type of visa too. The African Drug Syndicate uses marriage registration in order to maintain status and stay in Thailand; in addition, they can use those women to distribute drugs and be nominees for opening bank accounts or do other transactions in order to avoid inspection from State Officers.

Nowadays, Africans prefer to register as a student of a private university in order to petition for a student visa. Student registration of private educational institutes can be done easily and documents are inspected for completion only. Some institutes are not interested whether the registered students are registered to learn or not, some institutes can perform a re-entry when the education is completed (such as after 8 years), continuously extending until the African can continually maintain their status.

Apart from that, Africans still have other methods to maintain their status in Thailand, such as applying to be a language teacher. Thus, in some schools there are more foreign language teachers than students. Another option is Company or Partnership registration, where in reality there is no business processes, or even an address for an open company, just a row house or P.O. Box. In this scenario there are no related authorities going to inspect it at all.

It can be summarized that most Africans that access Thailand enter with the following different descriptions, as follows:

1) With tourist status, which allows them to stay in the Kingdom for 30–90 days; during this period, some of them will seek an opportunity to stay for a longer period with various methods. For example,

(1) Marriage registration with Thai women (Some cases do the registration overseas and petition for spouse status) . Regarding the marriage issue with Thai women in order to obtain nationality, in many cases those women were arrested in narcotics cases too. For example, there was a case in 2014, officers from NSB and ONCB arrested a Nigerian man and a Thai woman. The investigation found that the Nigerian male used to enter into Thailand under another name with Ghana nationality. Yet, after befriending this Thai woman, both of them travelled out of Thailand and petitioned for a visa at the Thai Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria under a new Nigerian name and returned to Thailand together, after that the Thai woman registered for marriage in order to continue to petition for a Non –O visa.

Marriage registration of Africans and Thai women had a famous case in Knownsung District, Nong Bua Lam Phu province. Mr. Sripeerapol or Nunthapol Chumkum, a former Deputy District Chief, secretly brought Thai people's names to register marriage with foreigners for money. From 2007 to 2012, a total of

611 cases were found. In the year 2011 there were legal and illegal marriage registrations in the total of 625 cases. There were illegal registrations with foreigners in the total of 414 cases. Mr. Sripeerapol received payment of 8,000-15,000 Baht per each case. In addition, the inspection found registrations with Africans in total of 195 cases, divided into Nigerian 137 persons, Cameroonian 34 persons, Guinea 11 persons, Ghana 8 persons, Mozambique 2 persons, Central Africa 1 person, Kenya 1 person and Sudan 1 person. For Thai women's marriage registration with foreigners, following proper steps, they must show up themselves to the registrar together with two marriage witnesses. While Mr. Sripeerapol's former registrar was interrogated on this matter, he searched for women's names in the Civil Registration in order to take hundreds of women's names to fill in the marriage documents together with false signatures, both the people's names and the witnesses. Later, the authorities found passport evidence of the mentioned foreigners and brought those names in to check in the Immigration system, they found that all the nationalities were from the targeted countries list; that is, Indian, Nigerian, Nepalese and Iranian, which then had to be inspected in detail. From the Immigration information, of foreigners that are hired to do false marriage documents, over 50% have an intention to hide themselves in Thailand illegally. Finally, when checking those foreigners' names that were in the false marriage registration, some scary information emerged - most of the names were gang members who had criminal records in Thailand (Pornpen Sikapa, 2015).

A Thai police officer said that "African drug syndicates are mostly found to befriend Thai women, hoping to get marriage registration and obtain a visa to stay in Thailand. Apart from this, in some cases they use these women to commit narcotics crimes too".

(2) Some apply to study in a higher education institute (some private educational institutes are able to apply by Online system), and some apply as language teachers. Immigration officers will allow staying in Thailand no longer than 90 days and a request to stay not over 1 year. The enrollment to study in educational institutes has only one purpose, to petition for Non – E Visa privilege, and some institutions do not pay any attention whether the enrollments are to study for real. For example, Thai police arrested a Nigerian male with 100 grams of Ice and searched his residence; there they found additional Ice weighing approximately 200 grams. Furthermore,

from their investigation it was found that the suspect was a language teacher at Genius International Language School, which was related with another case where police arrested three Nigerian suspects with 6,400 gram of Ice. From the investigation, it was found that one of the suspects was a former student of Genius International Language School.

2) Petition to enter into business status by opening a cover business company by being in partnership with Thai people or being an employee. In order to claim for an extension to stay for 1 year each time, this kind of petition requires more documents than a student petition.

(1) Apply for a job as a language teacher in order to petition for Non –B Visa privilege. The application is not clear if the applicant is qualified for being a teacher or not, or can truly teach the language or not. Thus, some institutions are open for business only to conceal and are merely channels for the African Syndicate's benefit only. For example, NSB police arrested a Uganda woman in 2015 and a Nigerian male in 2016; both of them were language teachers at Bright Merit School.

(2) Form a cover company to get a Non-B visa. For example, Australian police seized six kilograms of Ice hidden in a refrigerator that was transported from Thailand to Melbourne Australia. The shipment was shipped by Speed General Trading Ltd. From the investigation, it was found that a Nigerian male and a Thai woman hired a rental truck to deliver the refrigerator to Speed General Trading Ltd. From the investigation it was found that the Thai woman registered a company under the name of I Love Jesus Babe Co., in order to support the Nigerian male's employment for a visa petition only to access Thailand, without doing any business at all.

3) Apply by being a selective footballer and others. But what is more interesting is volunteering as a Christian pastor.

(1) There was an interesting case about the disguise as a volunteer saint. NSB and ONCB searched the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand in Soi On-Nuj 44, from the search they found Africans, approximately 180 people. 98 people were prosecuted with illegal access and staying in the Kingdom without permission, 26 people with expired visa, 4 people had not reported themselves within 90 days, 1

person with a false visa and 1 person provided shelter to hide. The investigation of the Evangelical Fellowship Thailand revealed that it was related to narcotics and scam networks.

(2) The application to be a footballer (Professional Football Club). The issuance of Non-B Visa type is another channel. Thus, there are real footballers and temporary pending footballers who are waiting for selection in order to claim for their stay.

Thai law enforcement said that “Africans that enter to violate in Thailand have many methods to sustain their status of staying in Thailand, such as marrying a Thai lady, student registration and being a footballer”.

4.2.2 Narcotics Types and Sources

African drug syndicates are mostly involved in several drugs, in particular heroin, Ice and cocaine, which have specific sources.

4.2.2.1 Heroin

Around 20 years ago, the African Drug Syndicate brought heroin from neighboring countries of Thailand in order to transport and sell them in the United States of America.

4.2.2.2 Ice

In the last decade, African drug syndicates have imported Ice from the country groups around the Golden Crescent area (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan) , including countries on the African continent and China.

4.2.2.3 Cocaine

Another common business of African drug syndicates is importing cocaine from South America. The importing of cocaine usually goes through Brazil, which is similar to Thailand in that it has been used as a HUB for narcotics exporting in the region.

4.2.2.4 Other Drugs

The last type is other kinds of drugs, such as heroin or rubber marijuana from the Golden Crescent area and India.

A Thai law enforcement agent said that “mostly, we’ve found that arrests of the African Drug Syndicate, together with evidence of Ice or cocaine, came from importing and distributing to a small group in Thailand”.

An American law enforcement agent said, “usually, narcotics that we find with African drug syndicates is related to heroin, cocaine and Ice, and later we’ve found Ice imported more from China”.

Thai police supported that:

Drugs that African drug syndicates import to Thailand can be divided into 5 sources, they are South America, (cocaine), Africa (Ice), the Golden Crescent (Ice, heroin) the Golden Triangle (Ice, heroin) and China (Ice).

An African inmate said this, “Mostly we import cocaine from Brazil, which is like the transit point in trafficking drugs to Thailand because Brazil is easy to go in and out of and Brazil has borders that connect to many countries that produce cocaine”.

Another inmate mentioned that “the main drugs that I sell are Ice and cocaine. For Ice, anyone can do it, but importing cocaine to Thailand has to use a lot of capital and is more difficult because it must be imported from South America”.

4.2.3 Drug Smuggling Methods

The African Drug Syndicate has several processes in its model, drug smuggling from the country of origin consists of the importing of cocaine from South America, including Argentina, Columbia and Bolivia through Brazil, and the import of Ice from countries around the Golden Crescent area, the African continent and China.

4.2.3.1 Using Couriers

The African Drug Syndicate uses drug couriers for transporting drugs to Thailand. Most of the couriers are Thai women that African drug dealers found at entertainment places (service girls) or from the Internet. This use of couriers, besides the prevention from arrest or inspection by officers when they get caught, makes it hard to connect to them because these Thai women have loyalty toward their lovers

and when get caught, they often keep silent as they have been instructed not to testify against Africans. Also, there is compensation to the Thai women's families if they get arrested and when officers try to interrogate these women they do not give full cooperation, even though there is Section 100/2 in negotiations. However, the author has had experience interrogating a Thai woman for a case of trafficking at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, the arrested woman had cooperated at one level hoping for a penalty reduction in accordance with Section 100/2, but the information that she revealed was not enough to arrest other wrong doers of the gang. That woman gave her reason to the author, "Can you take care of my family like the way they do?" But, sometimes suspects give full cooperation until it leads to an expansion to other members of the African Drug Syndicate. For example, NSB police arrested seven Thai women in different places and times, after the investigation they found out that all of them worked for a Nigerian male called Micky, or Boss, who still has not been arrested. Each suspect travelled by different routes to avoid the authorities. Some of the women were arrested in Malaysia which can result in execution even while the mastermind is still out there. A Thai law enforcement agent stated that "when bringing narcotics into the country, the African Drug Syndicate usually uses Thai people, especially women, to transport in order to avoid arrest".

A Nigerian inmate said that:

For drug trafficking into Thailand, mostly they will use Thai women or women from other countries. But, sometime they will change according to the situation, for example, in Brazil, if the country is strict with Thai women or Asians, they will change to African women or sometimes they will find women from South America to do their drug trafficking.

Another inmate mentioned that "I import cocaine from Brazil by using Thai women as couriers mostly, sometimes some other nationalities or sometimes I change to men".

The third inmate confirmed that,

I used a Thai woman to do drug trafficking from Brazil. I did not know that lady, she worked in a bar at Pattaya. I only knew that this lady got arrested in the narcotics case. I just persuaded her to do cocaine trafficking with the hiring wage of 200,000 Baht.

Table 4.1 Nations Arresting Thai Drug Couriers in 2012

No.	Country	No. of Cases	No. of Accused	Gender	
				Female	Male
1.	Argentina	3	3	3	
2.	Bolivia	1	1	1	
3.	Brazil	18	21	20	1
4.	Cambodia	8	10	10	
5.	Malaysia	1	1	1	
6.	Nepal	1	1	1	
7.	Oman	4	4	4	
8.	Peru	4	4	4	
9.	Philippines	2	2	2	
10.	Sri Lanka	2	3	3	
11.	Thailand	4	5	5	
12.	Turkey	8	8	7	1
13.	U.A.E	3	3	3	
14.	Vietnam	5	6	5	1
	Total	64	72	69	3

Source: Office of Narcotics Control Board, 2014.

4.2.3.2 Parcels

Moreover, the West African Syndicate uses another trafficking method of sending parcels through the post and hiring Thai ladies to receive the parcels. The parcels usually are sent from Argentina to the recipient in Thailand. For example, on

19 Apr 2013, Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB) police arrested a Nigerian male and a Thai female who presented themselves to receive a parcel at the post office. The parcel contained 5 dresses, scientific examination indicated that those dresses were coated with cocaine. Thai police officers stated that:

African drug syndicates have 2 main processes, they are import and export. Thus, import is the importing from 5 production sources, which are cocaine from South America, Ice from Africa, Ice and heroin from country groups of the Golden Crescent, Ice and heroin from country groups of the Golden Triangle, and Ice from China. They export to neighboring countries, to Malaysia or to some other 3rd country like Japan and China, by using a courier, most are Thai women and usually they will ship it as a parcel of merchandise.

An Australian senior law enforcer said that:

The African Drug Syndicate has many transport models and they will change all the time to avoid arrest from narcotics officers. Procedures include couriers, body-packs and sending by parcel. In parcel shipments in Australia, it used to be the case that the African Drug Syndicate would send the drugs by parcel to an abandoned house and the renter would not be far away from that house, he would keep an eye on the delivery, and when nobody's around, he'd come out to pick up the parcel.

4.2.4 Financial Routes

So far, the investigation on financial routes of African drug syndicates has had very little success because these drug syndicate, when they come to Thailand, usually use Thai women that they befriend to open a bank account and do money transactions for them in order to avoid inspection from officers.

Money that is gained from drug trafficking by African drug syndicates is mostly laundered by purchasing merchandise and appliances in order to ship as international shipments that are administered by their own African groups. Each of drug smuggling operations will be described as a mutual investment between the

country of origin's cartels and Thailand's buyers. Thus, they agree to share a percentage, and when receiving the money, they will transfer it via Western Union. A DEA agent said that:

Financial route models of African drug syndicates mostly find Thai women as nominees for various transactions, especially the opening of a bank account. Thus, in the United States of America, we used to find that African drug syndicates would send money back home by putting money in a container; furthermore, there is another model of Hawala exchange.

The Police Major General of the Royal Thai police says, "Today, there is still no definite proof of how the financial route of the money gained from drugs works, we've only found money transferred by Western Union just to pay for the daily cost of couriers".

Another police officer supported that:

The financial route topic is considered to have little information. Thus, obtained information comes from the interrogation; such as, there is an African who wants to buy merchandise at Pratunam and have it shipped as cargo, and all of the sudden he has received money from the cargo; or for a shipment of rice to Nigeria, we never have inspection on the money for the rice, how and where it comes from.

A Nigerian inmate said that:

I was in partnership with a Nigerian who lived in Brazil while we were smuggling cocaine into Thailand. Thus, we divided duties, the Nigerian who lived in Brazil would spend money in buying drugs and for me, I would look for Thai women to swallow the drugs and pay for travelling expenses, we would share 50-50 and I'd transfer the money via Western Union, but if the South American carries it in without swallowing, then the share will be 60-40 because the Brazil side invested more money.

Another inmate said that “the transferring of drug money to friends in Brazil was with transfers through Western Union and overseas banking accounts”.

4.2.5 African Drug Syndicate Organizational Style

African Drug Syndicate organization seems to consist of a network connecting many groups in various countries in different regions and they divide duties clearly and systematically. Thus, they’ve developed a model of organization for transnational crime that connects many countries in Africa, South America, Asia and Southeast Asia, including The Republic of China, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Argentina, Peru, Columbia and Brazil. At present, there is intelligence that African drug syndicates have more connections to local business groups such as garments and restaurants. In addition, African drug syndicates have used Thailand as their base for drug smuggling through the international postal system to a 3rd country, as well.

The organizational model of African drug syndicates is different from Mexican, South American or hill tribe groups in Thailand’s neighboring countries, who have a kingpin as the big boss that sits on top of the pyramid and has a command chain like a military organization. Mostly, the African Drug Syndicate has a cluster or many minor groups connected together who mostly are connected to people from the same neighborhood or city and who have spread out to live abroad. Thus, this organizational model is able to have more than 1 boss and each group will have different skilled people; for example, one group that searches for Thai women to smuggle drugs, another group that looks for drugs from South America, and a group that sends out to the 3rd country. However, an organizational style in this model will have an administrative type of decentralization, in which each group has loose connections and a flexible command chain. A DEA agent said this:

Previously, around more than 20 years ago, there was a kingpin in African groups, but now there is no mentioned information available. But if it has, it may be the group of terrorists that controls drug smuggling between countries in order to bring money for further activities. An organizational description of the African Drug Syndicate has found that it is a description of minor groups that cooperate together to divide duties between each part of the network.

An Australian Senior Law Enforcer said that “the African Drug Syndicate is considered to be a criminal organization that has a model description of dividing duties, and no one controls everything, they focus on buying and selling at small levels and emphasize importing a little and selling quickly”.

Another international law enforcement agent said that:

The African Drug Syndicate has the description of a splinter; this means split into small groups and doing duty according to ones' skills. Thus, this type of descriptive organization can have 30 bosses. Naturally, African drug syndicates will contact and do business with people that came from the same neighborhood by relying on their reliability.

A Thai police office said that:

From my past working experience, I never found African drug syndicates to have a big boss like Mexican drug organizations, but only small cells that are scattered all over the world and have communication through social network systems and the telephone, and usually use local language in their communication.

Another Thai police supported that:

The African Drug Syndicate has no real boss but abides on a distinctive point of each one dividing the duty; for example, the one who has good human relationships will do the duty of contacting couriers. Furthermore, the African Drug Syndicate has clear duty assignments, the duty of providing for drug couriers, and the arranger of air tickets for the drug couriers, the one who contacts overseas drug owners and the one who picks up drugs once they arrive in Thailand.

A Nigerian inmate said, “in the drug trafficking business of the African Drug Syndicate, there is no boss doing duty in Africa, the nature of the business is of a partnership between drug owners and buyers so that they will sell drugs in order to make profits.”

Another inmate said that “No boss, I joined my friends that lived in Brazil as friends who were in the same neighborhood suggested I do. And from that moment on, there were contacts by telephone and we agreed to do business (sell drugs together).

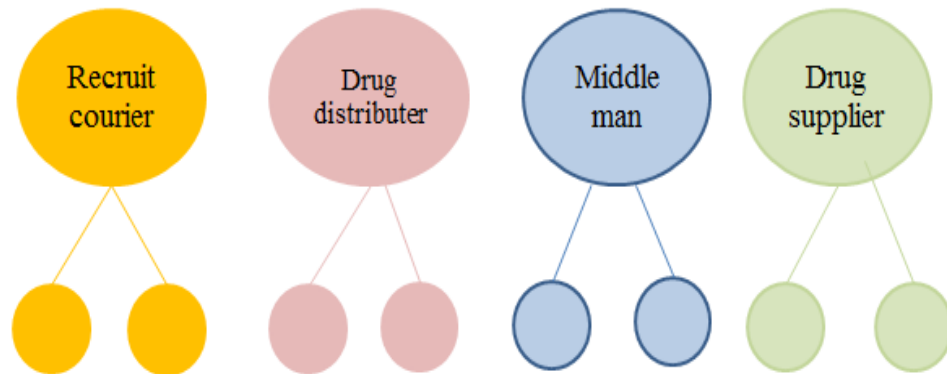


Figure 4.2 African Drug Syndicate Network Style

4.2.6 Evolution of Operational Model of African Drug Syndicates

The creation of crime by African groups in Thailand shows that most of the crimes are related to drugs. The problem of drug smuggling by African groups in Thailand began in the year 1985 (NSB, 2015). Most drugs then were heroin and cocaine from the South American continent to distribute in Thailand. Later on, there was the smuggling of Ice from Africa to distribute too, and yet, the smuggling of heroin to the Republic of China has gone on continuously. However, an interesting wrongdoing model is the use of Thai women and other nationalities to do drug trafficking of “cocaine” and “Ice”. These network groups changed their smuggling routes and various models for smuggling into Thailand, for example smuggling drugs through international airports in many regions, such as Phuket and Samui, or smuggled through border channels along various provincial areas that are closer to Thailand’s neighboring countries, changing courier groups to be other nationalities from the ASEAN region, such as Malaysians or Filipinos.

Africans have been in the role of drugs in Thailand beginning with the business of buying merchandise such as clothing, leather and shoes and putting heroin

mingled in with the product and smuggled back to their home country. The origin is from the area of the Golden Triangle, which is the northern part of Thailand along the boundary of Thailand-Myanmar-Laos. The smuggling operation brings heroin into the Central region or Bangkok, or maybe takes a short cut from the northern part of Thailand along the borders of Thailand-Laos and then turns back to the central region of Thailand. Usually, the smuggling is done by Thai hill-tribe people or northern Thai-Chinese people, together with Thai people who live in Bangkok, who then bring the heroin to deliver to the African Drug Syndicate. During those periods, the business markets of the Africans are US and European groups.

If they are caught often they begin to use methods of hiding more carefully, for example, under the floor of the luggage panel or in a consumer goods container. When they started getting arrested while receiving heroin from the delivery person more often, and the price of heroin from the Golden Triangle increased, the African Drug Syndicate started to smuggle heroin from Pakistan, which had its origin from the area of Afghanistan (Golden Crescent).

The business market has expanded into Australia and China. Previously, it was only the United States of America and Europe. From India, they would bring heroin into Thailand and then to China, later on it would head directly to China, or go through Hong Kong, or to countries nearby Thailand, such as, Malaysia, Kampuchea and Laos, heading to China.

Smuggling uses the method of swallowing drugs, as well as hiding them in couriers' suitcases to African countries that are affiliated with the Soviet Union, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Thailand.

Over approximately the past 10 years, African drug syndicates have begun to increase cocaine output from South America. During the first period it had sent over Thai women to smuggle drugs out using the routes of Argentina/Brazil-Europe-Bangkok, and once arrests became frequent, then they avoided arrest by using the southern Thailand routes instead, and later on travelled to Malaysia, Kampuchea and then into Thailand. During 2006 many Peruvian smugglers were arrested after travelling from Argentina through Malaysia to Thailand and each one had swallowed 1 kilogram of drug.

Presently the African Drug Syndicate has begun to be minor Ice dealers, selling to drug addicts who are foreigners or Thai escort ladies, and it was found that they were bringing Ice from overseas. For example, the case of 2 Thai women at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, they flew from Nigeria-Egypt-Thailand and they confessed that they believed the Ice was brought from Nigeria. A foreign law enforcement agent said that:

The operational model of the African Drug Syndicate mostly began with the import of drugs from overseas in order to sell in the country or export to a 3rd country because the profits are much higher. For example, the price of Ice in Thailand is \$20,000/kg., but if exported to Japan or Australia, the price will be up to \$120,000 per 1 kilogram. One thing that has changed is, at the moment, the African Drug Syndicate does not directly deal with narcotics, but they will use other people, such as Thai women.

A Thai police officer stated that, “previously, they used a courier, but now there is more prevention from investigation, so they turn to sending by postal parcel in the form of merchandise mailed to a P/O box or postal deposit box”.

Another Thai police officer mentioned that:

The African Drug Syndicate has always changed their models in order to avoid arrest by officers, for example, the booking of airplane tickets, once they've felt that it's not safe, they will immediately buy another ticket in order to change the routing and then refund the old ticket. Thus, the African Drug Syndicate is not that versatile in planning but they can change models swiftly.

A Thai law enforcement agent said this:

Previously, the African Drug Syndicate used the drug smuggling model of using their own people who had been scammed into doing it for wages. Some cases were hoping to travel and live in Thailand but they had no money for travelling, so they get scammed into smuggling drugs for wages. Later on,

they changed to use Thai women as travelers in order to smuggle and transport drugs into the country, or in some cases they married Thai women who do the duty of looking for other women to replace them and to do the smuggling job.

A Nigerian inmate said that “the smuggling model is not fixed; it’s up to the situation and keeps changing all the time in order not to get arrested”.

Another inmate supported that “the operational method has changed over time to avoid detection from the authorities. Before, it was just carrying a bag of heroin, then it changed to making secret pockets in the luggage to hide drugs, then it changed to using couriers and postal parcels”.

4.3 Problems in African Drug Syndicate Prevention and Solution

Guidelines

4.3.1 Problems in African Drug Syndicate Prevention and Suppression

The African Drug Syndicate is a problem that has been raised as an international problem, one that affects all countries around that world and Thailand has encountered this problem for the past ten years. However, many departments that have a duty to prevent and suppress have started to participate more in order to solve this problem. But, during the mentioned period of prevention and suppression, the African Drug Syndicate is difficult because of many factors found according to this research, which concludes the problems as follows:

4.3.1.1 Thailand has a policy to promote tourism, which is the main income for the country. But, in the meantime, Thailand is not aware of the truth, especially about the access of many Africans by using tourist visas, not including illegal entry that has no purpose of tourism but enters to create a whole lot of problems, especially narcotics problems.

4.3.1.2 Once they have entered Thailand, the Africans will find a way to maintain their status to live in Thailand by taking advantage of gaps in channels of various government regulations whereby related departments are not aware of these people’s behavior.

4.3.1.3 Due to Thailand not having an effective identity inspection system, Thailand cannot screen suspects or prohibited people who come in and out of the Kingdom.

4.3.1.4 In the transnational crime problem, the disadvantage of national officers is the coordination between national and international departments which need long periods of time. In contrast, African drug syndicates can contact and communicate to adjust their plans in order to avoid arrest almost instantly.

4.3.1.5 Language is also considered to be a barrier, because in narcotics cases screened information is counted to be very important, and usually communicated in their own local languages; therefore, it is more difficult for worldwide officers to get advantaged information. The Police Major General of the Royal Thai police said that:

One problem in suppressing the African Drug Syndicate is language, because the mentioned group uses local languages in their communication and the Royal Thai Police lacks personnel in this aspect. In addition, the problem of controlling the in-out of the country of the African Drug Syndicate seems to be a big problem because Thailand lacks an identity inspection system and the correctness inspection of document identification is processed too slowly. And yet, Thailand has not received cooperation from such embassies and departments related to the matter as it should have.

An Australian Senior Law Enforcer said that:

The African Drug Syndicate is not only a problem for the police, because these criminal groups spread all over the world and its international nature is causing difficulty in following up and arrests. Besides, the African Drug Syndicate has a procedural process in the model of a percentage game, which means they do it little by little but frequently, and the most important thing is language and to look for a translator, which is very difficult to access for news and information.

An American law enforcement agent stated that:

The big problem is the language, because we're unable to find necessary information. Moreover, globalization has caused the Africans to cater all over the world and it makes the African Drug Syndicate able to expand their working boundaries; besides, the technology applications of these groups are highly secure, which also makes it hard to access the information.

Another American law enforcement agent confirmed that:

The important problem is language, these groups of people use their local language, which is difficult to access in the screened information. Furthermore, cooperation between departments is considered to be a principal factor in successfully suppressing international crime, but in fact, communication between departments is very little. For example, Case 9/11, there were many departments associated with this case from the beginning to the end and there was a process of exchanging information until the case was brought to operational success.

A Thai law enforcement agent mentioned that:

The significant problem in suppressing narcotics is language, because when there is an arrest, these groups of people will immediately pretend that they cannot speak English and change to speak their local language and that causes the results expansion investigation to cease. But, the bigger problem is prevention, in other words, when we push them away from the country, how come the same old person is able to come back again.

A Nigerian inmate said that "the problem of state officers mainly is the corruption of the officers. Some officers have the behavior of taking bribes and obtaining money from Africans, if they refuse, they will be charged for drugs".

Another inmate said that “Some police do corruption, asking for money from Africans in order to be released or not to stuff drugs”.

4.3.2 Effects on Society

Problems with narcotics have developed to become transnational crimes and crucial global problems, especially in the ASEAN region, which has important bases for drug distribution and African narcotics dealers behind the scenes. Today, Thailand has inmates all around the country, for a total of 312,855 inmates. Of those, foreigners total 14,467 people. 576 are Africans, narcotics cases are in the total of 478, and general cases are in the total of 98 cases. A total of 360 cases are narcotics cases of Nigerians (Narcotics Suppression Bureau). During the past period of 2-3 years, there were hundreds of Thai people, especially women, who were arrested in China and India and many were executed. Besides, there are still other criminal types that Africans were involved in, whether cases of money laundering, false electronic information (Skimmers), scams in transferring money through profiles, scams on the Internet (Romance scamming), and most of the victims are usually Thai women.

The inmate problem in prison is an enormous burden on the country’s budget, and prisons or penitentiary rooms of the Immigration Office have more inmates than they can handle. Besides, the numbers of Thai women that have been caught with drugs overseas affects Thailand’s image.

In addition, the arrest of African Drug Syndicate members will lead to future social problems, in other words, most of these Africans will enter and look for Thai women in order to marry or have kids to petition for a visa for a longer stay, therefore, when the leader of the family, or in some cases the wives too, get arrested, their children risk growing up and stepping into the whirlpool of crime that will lead them continually to future problems. Statistics show that there are over 800 African nationals who have married Thai women and there are over 2,000 half Thai half African children (Narcotics Suppression Bureau, 2015). A general from NSB stated that:

The problem of African Drug Syndicates is the affect of more narcotics spreading out and Thai society becoming weaker. As well, there are many

Nigerian inmates who have children with Thai women and these children that lack a family leader will become social problems in the future. The country's image will be destroyed by large numbers of Thai women who have been arrested overseas, moreover, Thailand will become a center for criminals, and if we neglect it, it will affect the country's security.

An American law enforcement agent said that:

The problem is the African Drug Syndicate is still evolving, and if there's no adjustment to the cocaine penalty to make it equal to the Ice penalty, because these 2 types have similar costs, cocaine will be imported more until the price is cheaper and Thailand becomes similar to America, which has cocaine all over the streets, and become a continuous problem with more addicts and other problems that will follow. Besides, Thai women have been deceived to be instruments of drugs traffickers, this will create social problems later on and no one takes care of their children, Thailand's image will be damaged and we will be condemned.

Another American law enforcement agent supported that:

In the year 2008 we found very few of prostitutes at Soi Nana, but in 2010 there were large numbers of Russian, Thai and African prostitutes because the African Drug Syndicate is the one who controls it and I have no idea what kind of agreement exists for controlling the Russian prostitutes. Therefore, these are examples of what will happen if we let the African Drug Syndicate continue to evolve.

A Police Colonel from NSB said that:

Drugs that involve Africans are not even 1% of the total, but overall it brings huge damage. In particular, Thai women who were arrested overseas make Thailand's image as one to look down on, the following social problems are

because Africans do not do birth control because they need children in order to petition for visas, and once they get arrested, those children become future social problems. Moreover, in the economic aspect is the budget for taking care of almost 500 African inmates and the African government does not agree to accept them back to Africa, this causes problems for Thailand.

A Thai police officer mentioned that:

African drug syndicates create narcotics problems in society and this creates a bad image for Thailand becoming a “Drug Free Zone”, because there are peddlers along Sukhumvit Road and tourism areas. In addition, Thai women are scammed into smuggling drugs until they get arrested and no one can then take care of their children, so they, too, will become future social problems.

A Nigerian inmate stated that:

Thailand’s narcotics laws are extremely severe, it seems like the government does not think about children who lack parents. One day they might turn back to the narcotics cycle again. People must live with their family, otherwise they have a chance to come back to drugs.

4.3.3 Guidelines to Problem Solutions

Solutions to the African Drug Syndicate Problem must be continuous and serious, as already mentioned, because problems of the African Drug Syndicate have already been highlighted as a world problem. Today, even though Thailand has major problems that must be quickly solved, if there are no preventive measures to prevent and to solve this, Thailand may be affected by this type of criminal organization and might not be able to control it in the same way as other countries that are encountered with it these days.

4.3.3.1 Cooperation among Agencies

Relevant departments must join together to participate in problem solving, because the African Drug Syndicate is not a problem for any one department.

Thus, the nature of this transnational criminal organization is the nature of convenient contact in communication and rapidly adjustable plans or models, and if national officers don't have coordination, they will be unable to follow the African Drug Syndicate immediately. The cooperation needs to be in exchanging messages; for example, whenever the Thai police checks routing information of a suspect's smuggling and trafficking of drugs, but their mission is still not quite clear that the smuggling courier will be bringing it back to Thailand, they may be able to deliver to nearby countries instead. Therefore, they should send coordinated messages to Malaysia, Kampuchea or Laos. By using this method, they receive cooperation and success and are able to inspect for drugs, arrest the wrongdoers and get an understanding of the African Drug Syndicate's circumstances for all the officers and department heads in related departments and ministries. Furthermore, law enforcement of every relevant officer must increase in strictness. Thus, relevant departments must seriously check their own authority and not leave any gaps in the law for these criminal groups to take advantage of. A senior Australian law enforcer said that:

The factor of success in controlling the African Drug Syndicate is long-term international cooperation between law enforcement units in each country and being able to coordinate information quickly, the possession of a database that relates to this transnational criminal group and Thailand should have more result driven attitudes and must work hard in order to make the African Drug Syndicate's life in the country harder.

A Thai law enforcement agent said that:

Relevant departments must cooperate together and seriously. Thus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be strict in the category of issuing visas, Immigration police must inspect undesirable persons, such as, do they have money to stay? For how many days? Officers from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board must join together to blockade, search and pressure them at

their residence and push for the non-visas to make them go back to their country.

A Thai police officer said that:

Work in the security aspect is another part of the Consulate officer or embassy's duties, and must be in consideration of and give precedence to cooperation between departments that are related to document inspection.

4.3.3.2 Technology

The technology of biometrics should be brought in for the prevention of false documents to access the country and for the extension of stay, including a data base of African drug syndicates that can be connected to foreign departments' data bases, such as Interpol and DEA, for records inspections of foreign offenders who travel in/out of the country. A Thai law enforcement agent said, "there must be an installation of security tools, such as fingerprint scanning and facial recognition programs that store their identities in the database, in order to prevent false passports from returning back to Thailand".

The main factor for successful investigation and suppression of organizational crime is intelligence. In fact, the receiving of African Drug Syndicate information is difficult because there are obstacles in both language and the access to information. Therefore, the government should emphasize technology that will give access to the information, such as wiretapping machines, satellite traps, African translators and covered informants. And when there is an arrest, there should be a results expansion investigation about co-movements and financial routes each time in order to destroy the entire network. An American law enforcement agent stated that:

To be successful in suppression of transnational drug trafficking organizations such as with Africans, intelligence is the most important thing. In order to obtain intelligence, you need someone who can speak their dialects and new tools or devices that help law enforcement access the intelligence.

A Nigerian inmate mentioned that “We normally communicate in our local dialect, such as Egbo, in order to avoid detection from authorities”.

4.3.3.3 Information Sharing

While Thailand is focused on tourism policy, there should be education to general people to be aware of the harm caused by foreigners who come in to create crime in Thailand. For example, the way that Africans scam Thai women to marry in order to file for a visa petition and the number of Thai women who have been arrested and jailed or executed by countries overseas. A Thai police major general said that:

The government should have a campaign to let people know the crime model of foreigners and the country’s policy to prevent the danger from these foreigners, not only Africans that enter to create crime in various forms but including resident gangs and terrorists. In addition, government should build cooperation between countries in order to exchange information and foster cooperation in preventing and suppressing various transnational crimes.

A Nigerian inmate said that “the government should invest in the educational aspect in order to help people not get involved with drugs and the gangs related to narcotics”.

Furthermore, as members of transnational drug networks spread out to live in many countries around the world, a number of law enforcement agencies in every country are part of the game. Transnational drug trafficking networks have an advantage over law enforcement in that the aspect of the organizational style of the criminal is flat, which allows them to communicate, change their plan or exchange information faster and easier than those law enforcement agents in many countries. An American law enforcement agent stated that:

The work of national officers must be to create a relationship between law enforcement units in order to create cooperation in screened information exchange and cooperation on an operational level. Cooperation among international agencies is one of the most powerful tools to fight against transnational criminals.

4.3.3.4 The Adaptation of the Public Sector (NSB, 2017)

From the Investigation Report of African Drug Syndicates of the Narcotics Police Division 1 , the Narcotics Suppression Bureau specified that they “should arrange for plan integrations in both operations and measures in problem solution & prevention, in both the short and long terms, and adjust and modify regulations in each department that still have gaps that are channels for wrongdoers to utilize, as follows:

1) Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(1) Increase strictness in considering the approval of Africans that travel into the country for tourism, business or education and foster family visa types, including documents and necessary reasons, such as tourism, approved together with the Royal Thai Police, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Commerce or other Government departments in general. There are several government agencies that could adapt their work in order to fight against African Drug Syndicates.

(2) Stop Embassy visa approvals in neighboring countries for foreigners that have been living in Thailand by requiring them to return to their homeland country to petition.

2) Ministry of Education.

Survey and arrange for registration, especially at higher education levels in both government and private sectors, to see the registration of African students or African teachers registered to study or teach, and determine how many teachers and suspicious students there are, such as those who never come to class or do not continue learning or have learning periods that are longer than usual. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education should survey and arrange for registration of every language institute to see if Africans have registered as language teachers, showing locations together with proof of evidence. Moreover, survey and arrange for organizational registration in religion that has Africans as processors and with what kind of status. In addition, arrange for copies of registrations submitted to the Royal Thai Police.

3) Ministry of the Interior.

Survey and arrange for marriage certificates and registration and legitimizing the children of Africans and Thai women for the whole country. Additionally, provide proof and acknowledgment of spousal status or whether the legitimate status of a child is true or false. Next is to state that the Office of Civil Registration must specify additional space in the civil registration system to show spouse surnames of foreigners in English that appear in passports for the benefit of investigations.

4) Ministry of Commerce.

Survey and arrange for company registrations that are filed by foreigners as joint processors. Enforce every company to have proof of actual status, such as business premises and tax payments, besides registration documents. If there is a cancellation of the mentioned business registration, provide coordination with the Royal Thai Police and related departments to continue the process.

5) Ministry of Labor.

Survey and arrange for foreign labor registrations to be regulated in order to have proof of actual status.

6) Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

Survey and arrange foreign athlete registrations. Furthermore, clubs or athletic affiliations must be controlled and report foreign athlete status periodically, including for athletes that are in the middle of an ability test.

7) Ministry of Justice.

Strictly control and take care of the system of foreign inmate visits in accordance with regulations. Issue or amend laws or regulations to respond to prevention and suppression in order to solve the problem of transnational drug trafficking. Moreover, the Ministry of Justice must play a central role in obstacle data collection from every government department in general and perform their duty of administering conferences with related departments.

8) Royal Thai Police

Survey and arrange for local information on foreigners. Further, coordinate with local departments in the areas that are related to targeted personnel or places. In cases of arrested foreigners related to narcotics, every case must be

submitted to or coordinated with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board in order for the ONCB to keep up their database. Put intense measures on the topic of permits to go in-out of the Kingdom with consideration of the targeted person's nationality. Seriously punish national officers that are involved in or acquire benefits. Approve and assign central departments as a collective coordination of information and operations.

9) Metropolitan Bangkok

Enforce the law in controlling the construction or renovation of buildings in case the premise is for business purposes or religious services of suspected persons. Survey and arrange for marriage certificate registrations or legitimization of a foreign child.

In summary, based on documents and interviews, most African countries have social problems such as war and poverty. Therefore, there are large numbers of Africans who want to migrate and live abroad. Globalization shrinks the world into a single community where everyone can go anywhere at much cheaper prices than before. And there is a lot of information on the Internet, or friends who have already moved abroad, so Africans who want to migrate can ask for information.

Most Africans who decide to move to Thailand aim to move to Thailand for life opportunities, as there is more economic readiness here than in Africa. Thailand's cost of living is also much cheaper than more developed countries in the region such as Singapore. On the other hand, entering and remaining in Thailand is easier than in Singapore. Furthermore, comparing Thailand to neighboring countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia or Laos, Thailand may have a slightly higher cost of living but greater infrastructure than those countries. Hence, most Africans decide to migrate to Thailand rather than other countries in South East Asia.

Africans who already reside in Thailand gather at several African communities, such as churches and African restaurants. For those who aim to do business or look for honest jobs, but with no success, the research found that most of them would discuss with friends or family how to survive in Thailand, which can lead them to the drug trade. In addition, the law and law enforcement does not have any effect on their decisions to commit crime, as they thought that they never were going to get arrested.

African drug trafficking's organizational style is different from Mexican or South American cartels, which have a kingpin on top of a pyramid who has full control over the organization. Rather, African drug syndicates are more like networks of many groups of Africans who come from neighborhoods or cities and do business together. This cluster style allows African drug syndicates to have more than one boss, in which every boss and group has different expertise and duties. Twenty to thirty years ago, African drug dealers were usually involved in heroin trafficking from the Golden Triangle to the USA or Europe, but in the past ten years there was a shift to import Ice from Africa and the Golden Crescent or cocaine from South America and China into Thailand, either for sale in Thailand or to deliver to third countries where the price can go up multiple times.

Thai authorities have found it difficult to fight against African drug syndicates as they use advanced technologies such as smart phones and the Internet to communicate, which is hard to detect. Furthermore, Africans usually communicate through local dialects that are very difficult to get intelligence on. In addition, the African Drug Syndicate problem leads to various further problems for Thai society, such as the image of the country after large numbers of Thai women were arrested abroad because of smuggling drugs for Africans. Thai-African orphans whose parents were arrested in drug cases have to live by struggling as no parents are taking care of them and the risk is high to be involved in criminal activity in the future. To solve the African Drug Syndicate problem, every relevant agency must cooperate and take this issue as their main task, information sharing among local and international agencies must be set up, and new technology systems must be adopted.

CHAPTER 5

RESEARCH SUMMARY

In this chapter, the information from Chapter four will be used in analysis with the relevant literature in Chapter two to synthesize the conclusions of this research. This research aims to identify factors driving the African Drug Syndicate to commit transnational drug trafficking into Thailand, what their operational patterns are, and summarize the data to come up with policy recommendations to fight against this issue. The data was collected from two opposite sides, the law enforcement agents and the inmates. This chapter will divide the analytical data into three sections, which are factors driving Africans to commit transnational drug trafficking in Thailand, African drug syndicates' operational patterns, and policy recommendations, plus a summary and the limitations of the research.

5.1 Factors that Motivate Africans to Commit Transnational Drug Trades in Thailand

According to research findings in the previous chapter, there are several factors affecting African migration to Thailand and factors that motivate Africans to get involved in drug trafficking in Thailand. There is no one major factor, each factor contributes to different offences at various stages. This chapter will examine each factor and its relationship to the actions of the African Drug Syndicate.

5.1.1 Social and Economic Factors

According to the findings in Chapter four, social and economic conditions are the main factors affecting African migrants to leave their home countries and getting involved in transnational drug trafficking in Thailand. The motivation for people to commit crime is basically the same, even in different countries and cultures. It will be

either economics or social problems. However, social and economic factors affect the African Drug Syndicate in Thailand in various dimensions.

5.1.1.1 Criminal Friendly Environment

Crime usually comes from the environment that drives the offense, for example some people cannot adapt to the environment. Furthermore, the economic system can create an atmosphere of impulsive behavior. Merton (1938) stated that social structure consists of goals or hopes, and actions that make hope to become fulfilled. In the case of people who aim for richness, they will do whatever it takes to achieve that goal, even if it involves crime. According to Paitoon Sangpoom (2008), there are several factors driving people into the drug trade, one of those factors is the environment. An environment where there are drug problems can lead people to drug abuse or the drug trade. Moreover, an increase in the population can also cause crime. When people cannot access basic infrastructure that government provides, they sometimes turn to crime.

In this context, the social structures of countries in Africa are not well-rounded in the provision of goods and services, which causes migration. African people look for opportunities to move to other countries around the world, such as China, Brazil and Thailand. In terms of social structure, Thailand has a better living condition than neighboring countries like Laos, Cambodia or Myanmar, because of the availability of public utilities and foreigners living in large numbers. There are many foreigners in Bangkok, which has created a number of foreign communities in the city, including an African community. In addition, Thailand has a relatively low cost of living compared to neighboring countries which have similar infrastructure, such as Singapore or Malaysia. Furthermore, Thailand is not as strict as Singapore in terms of immigration control, according to one of the inmates. It can be said that Thailand has a good living condition at an affordable price.

Later, when Africans came to Thailand and did not have the opportunity to work or do legal business as intended, they started to find ways to survive, one was by turning to drug trafficking.

5.1.2 Globalization

Globalization is a term used to describe the state of society in a world where everything looks closer together than ever before. Interaction between people from different continents can now be done at the fingertips. This is a phenomenon that brings benefits to society and the world population in many ways, such as expanding markets, a shift in the supply chain, and more employment. On the other hand, it is a phenomenon that has made it difficult for law enforcement officials, as criminals have developed into transnational criminals by exploiting globalization. Globalization creates communication that connects the whole world by using modern technology such as the Internet, satellite phones and smart phones, resulting in global business and a global market. As we can see from the news, drug dealers adjust their trafficking patterns to more advance ways, such as trading through social media, e.g. Facebook.

Based on the results outlined in Chapter four, globalization has been part of the pre-emigration phase to Thailand, as well as part of the drug trafficking scheme of the African Drug Syndicate. Before leaving their homes in Africa, African drug syndicates will rely on information from relatives or friends from the same community who have gone abroad, via Whatsapp or Facebook messenger, including long distance calls. Then after Africans got the information of living in Thailand and decided to move to Thailand, when some African were not able to find a job or earn money as expected they turned to drug trafficking, by using telecommunication technology to deal with drug suppliers in foreign countries, as well as smuggle drugs into Thailand via mail or postal services. In addition, globalization causes a flow of labor and expatriates into Thailand, which creates a society where foreigners do not look suspicious anymore.

Globalization that has resulted in international trade in commodities has also led to the development of technology in financial transactions. International transactions are popular among African drug syndicates. African drug syndicates usually use money transfer services through Western Union and international banking, in which these services have good security procedures for protecting customer information, making law enforcement agencies unable to access the information necessary for their investigations.

5.1.3 Economic Goals

This research found that motivational factors for committing drug trafficking are need, desire, and financial problems. When an illegal method for getting money is easy, people do that despite it's being against the law. There might be several minor reasons for African drug syndicates committing transnational drug trafficking, but the main motivation is because they want to earn a large amount of money. The economic factor is one of the biggest reasons behind the drug trade. The drug trade usually returns an extremely high profit, for example, Ice from the production source costs about 300,000 baht per one kilogram, but the retail price in central of Thailand or Bangkok could be more than a million baht. Moreover, a study of the motivations for the drug trade among hill-tribe people in northern Thailand suggests that economics is the greatest reason for Hmong and Lisu hill-tribes committing drug trafficking and selling. Hmong and Lisu usually have unstable incomes, plus the influence of capitalism that causes these people to want unnecessary goods such as mobile phones or TVs (Chansiri Vathong, Somkiat Wansiriwilai, & Suvit Inthong, 2003). The mindset of Hmong and Lisu hill-tribes is similar to African drug syndicates in terms of the influence of capitalism that causes those drug traffickers to want unnecessary goods.

Furthermore, African Drug Syndicate behavior can be explained by Decision Making and Social Work in that human behavior can be divided into two main components: people, i.e, goals, needs, beliefs and experiences; and social systems, i.e, laws, regulations, social norms culture and tradition (Reeder, 1974). The African Drug Syndicate has a pull factor, which is the economic goal, and a driving force, which is the expectation of having a better life. So, they decide to immigrate to Thailand. In some cases, if unsuccessful, there may be supportive factors, which are groups of Africans living in Thailand before them and giving advice.

Nevertheless, the economic factor also concerns the calculation of cost and benefit. In terms of committing a crime, the cost is getting arrested, and the benefit is definitely the money. Humans have a systematic way of calculating cost and benefit before committing a crime (Apichart Ardcharoen, 1999). In this context, Africans are concerned more with the high income they could get over the thought that they may get arrested.

5.1.4 Blind Spot in Governmental Processes

Laws, regulations and law enforcement do not directly affect the African Drug Syndicate's decision to commit narcotics crime. As mentioned earlier, drug traffickers will consider the cost and benefit of the crime before committing to the drug trade. Criminals who commit such crimes will not take penalties into account, but will only think about their returns. Anomie Theory describes behavioral and legal immorality, in that criminals do not recognize the laws and norms of society. However, laws and regulations are very relevant to the African Drug Syndicate migrant in Thailand.

The research found that the African Drug Syndicate has various methods for remaining in Thailand, which involve a number of government agencies, not only the police. Africans use the disadvantages of the laws and regulations and weak enforcement of law to obtain a visa and stay in Thailand; as mentioned in Chapter four, African drug syndicates use a number of methods to obtain visas, such as getting married to a Thai lady, child registration, business registration and education registration.

The methods of Africans remaining in Thailand are related to several agencies, not just the police. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must screen documents for risky African visas applicants. There should be a criminal background check before granting a visa. The Ministry of Commerce needs to monitor companies that are registered only for a visa. The Ministry of Education must control educational institutions in cases of foreign students from risky countries. Law enforcement by all relevant agencies is necessary to reduce Africans' chances of illegally staying in Thailand. From Law Enforcement theory, enforcing the law could have a psychological effect on criminals, who would be afraid to commit crimes because they were afraid of being arrested.

5.1.5 The African Community

African people who live in Thailand usually gather at church or African restaurants. They exchange information about many things, such as careers and business knowledge, but also committing crime. According to Paitoon Sangpoom (2008), there are several stages of knowledge transfer among drug dealers that can be applied to the decision to join the drug market of African Drug Syndicates. Africans

who cannot live by an honest job will ask for advice from someone they trust, if these people are drug traffickers, they will teach them how to get drugs, where to sell them and other knowledge that can be passed on. At first, they will learn places to get drugs and people to sell to. Then, when they have existing customers, they will earn a certain amount of money, which leads to an expanding drug trade. After committing the drug trade for a while and never getting caught, they feel power as they believe they're above the law. Furthermore, African people have a habit of trusting relatives and friends from the same community. By having a trustable person residing in Thailand it feels more secure. African communities in Thailand mostly are in Bangkok. There are African communities around Sukhumvit Soi 3 or Soi Nana, and Onnut, Pratunam, Ramkamhaeng and Bangkapi areas. The places Africans usually gather are Christian churches, African restaurants and night clubs.

In addition, the African community is also the place where the African Drug Syndicate finds counterparts or business partners in Thailand. For example, someone who knows the drug owner meets with another person who knows women who can travel to smuggle his drugs, or who already has done drug trafficking. There will be information sharing among groups from the same background, and with high trust.

5.1.6 Terrain

Thailand is a part of one of the largest drug-producing areas in the world known as the "Golden Triangle". It is a combination of the northern border region of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. Today, the Golden Triangle has developed into a major source of methamphetamine. It produces methamphetamine tablets, or "YABA", to sell in Thailand and nearby, and crystal methamphetamine, or "ICE", which sells in Thailand and is exported to foreign countries. The African Drug Syndicate has played a role in the Golden Triangle for about 20-30 years by exporting heroin to the United States and Europe. At present, the African Drug Syndicate has expanded its market to sell ICE in retail in Thailand. The African Drug Syndicate can buy ICE from neighboring countries at low prices. It can be purchased locally and resold quickly, reducing the risk of being caught by the authorities.

In summary, the socio-economic factors in Africa and Thailand have resulted in the arrival of Africans living in Thailand, as Thailand has a low cost of living and good infrastructure compared to neighboring countries. In their decision-making process, Africans rely on modern technology from globalization to obtain information about living in Thailand through African communities in Thailand with the same domicile. At the beginning, most of the Africans aim to do legal jobs such as exporting goods to Africa. However, when they come to Thailand and cannot find legitimate business or work, they sometimes consult with African people in the African community, such as at their church, to find a channel to make money. This African community is the factor affecting Africans' decision to join the drug syndicate. In this community, Africans who fail to achieve legitimate businesses or legal jobs have the perception that drug trafficking makes a good income. Furthermore, in the community there is even more information on how to trade drugs, how to get visas and remain in Thailand, as well as drug production sources. With all this information, Africans can easily decide whether to join the drug syndicate. Moreover, Thailand's location is fit for a drug distribution center, as the advanced transportation system and the location are both close to the Golden Triangle.

5.2 The African Drug Syndicate's Operational Patterns

This is a summary of the operational patterns of African drug syndicates from Chapter four, analyzed with the literature from Chapter two. The discussion will break down into five topics, which are: the pattern of how Africans retain their status in Thailand, organizational structure, trafficking methods, financial routes and patterns of drug trafficking.

5.2.1 Pattern of Africans Retaining their Status in Thailand

This topic is very important, as most Africans who were arrested in Thailand did not have proper visas. The Department of Consular Affairs has classified several types of visas or visa applications. However, it can be concluded that Africans are more likely to live in Thailand on a tourist visa, which will allow them to stay 60 days in the first phase. The African Drug Syndicate has the following patterns for maintaining their resident status:

5.2.1.1 Non-B visa is a business or employment transaction, where the African Drug Syndicates are registered to do business, or apply for jobs, such as language teachers, athletes, and especially footballers, which are commonly found at present. Furthermore, African Drug Syndicates usually apply for visas by submitting their names to language schools as a teacher, however, the police have started arresting some of these teachers from suspicious language schools.

5.2.1.2 Non-Ed visa is a visa for education. The African Drug Syndicate will be enrolled in private higher educational institutions or private universities. This could involve enrollment as students continuously for years, in some cases the student of an undergrad program keeps enrolling for almost ten years and his age is over 45.

5.2.1.3 Non-O visas are very common among African people who apply for marriage registration with Thai women or for a birth certificate in Thailand. The African Drug Syndicate will usually have Thai girlfriends and get married, in which case the African Drug Syndicate gains a number of advantages from the marriage, such as advantage in getting a visa and also using the Thai women as an ominee for financial transactions, and in some cases as drug couriers.

These three types of visas make the Africans able to legally remain in Thailand for up to 90 days, which can be extended for up to one year (Consular, 2018).

5.2.2 African Drug Syndicate Organizational Structure

African drug syndicates can be categorized as organized crime. Organized crime is a voluntary gathering of criminals and cooperation (Clinard & Quinney, 1979). Previously, drug organizations would have a pyramid structure, where the kingpin of the organization sits on top. This type of organization would have a centralization type of power, where the boss has full power over the whole organization (Kleemans, 2014). For Instance, the organizations that have an organizational structure like a pyramid include Mexican cartels or drug cartels in Southeast Asia, where we often hear the name of Khunsa or Yi Se. On the other hand, the African Drug Syndicate's organizational structure is more of a network of relationships between small groups with different expertise or functions. It is a

grouping of Africans who have the same domicile, speak the same dialect and having high trust levels. The trust level can be re-enforced by other people if they have the same nationality, if they did not know each other but came from the same domicile, they can contact the families of both parties in Africa to meet together and build confidence for both parties. As trust cannot be found easily in illegal organizations, organized crime tends to operate within social ties (Kleemans, 2014). In the illegal world, there are no laws and regulations; therefore, operating in these circumstances requires people who can be trusted.

The organizational structure of the African Drug Syndicate is a network, which allows fast communication, flat line decision making and quickly adaptable plans. It can change the pattern of action in a timely manner if it is found that at any stage there is a risk of being arrested by the authorities.

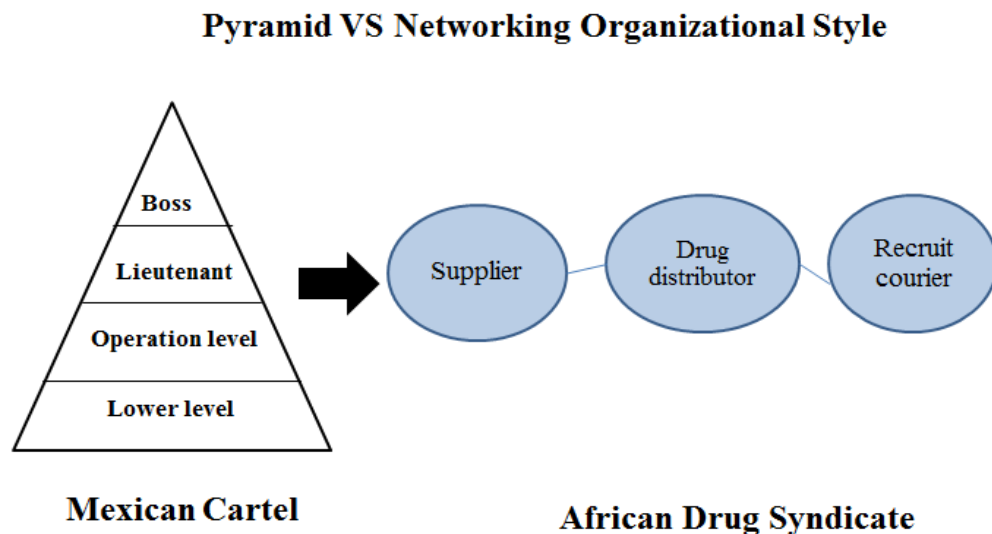


Figure 5.1 A Comparison of Drug Organizations

5.2.3 Trafficking Methods

The research found that the African Drug Syndicate has many patterns of drug trafficking, for example smuggling drugs through international airports in various regions throughout Thailand, which includes imports of cocaine from South America,

ICE from the Golden Crescent and hashish from India. Furthermore, African Drug Syndicates often use couriers or parcel delivery to smuggle drugs into Thailand.

5.2.3.1 Couriers

African drug syndicates most commonly use Thai women as couriers. There are also Asian women from the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam that Africans sometimes hire or use as couriers to smuggle drugs into Thailand. African drug syndicates usually smuggle drugs through the international airport in Bangkok and regional airports such as Don Mueang Airport, Phuket Airport, Krabi Airport, etc., or through various Immigration checkpoints at borders throughout the country, such as Nongkai checkpoint that connects with Lao DPR. Furthermore, drug couriers are instructed to use different methods, depending on the African boss, which varies according to the situation at that particular point in time. The point is to do whatever it takes to not get caught, for example by using Thai or other Asian woman as couriers.

The research found that most women involved in African drug syndicates have less education and come from poor families, often working in big cities or tourist areas. They are deceived into committing an offence in order to get money easily or for helping a boyfriend of hers. We can see from the news that Thai women are often arrested for drug trafficking. Black people always deceive Thai women by offering a lot of money in order to do illegal jobs, and which the Thai women think will be is easy and take just a little time. Therefore, this motivates Thai women to do these illegal jobs.

5.2.3.2 Drugs via Post and Parcel

The postal and parcel drug delivery method has become increasingly common in the last 5-6 years as globalization leads to the growth of online markets. This leads to the development of international transport at lower cost, as well as being faster and more convenient. At present, there are several international shipping companies that the African Drug Syndicate often uses to traffic in drugs. In one case of the Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB), two arrestees were arrested in the post office while picking up a parcel. Inside the parcel was a dress which was chemically plated with cocaine. In addition, the African Drug Syndicate has changed its delivery pattern to avoid being arrested by using Thai women's names as recipients and using Thai women to pick up the parcels. According to Australian senior law enforcement

agents, the African Drug Syndicate in Australia will rent a house in a neighborhood and keep quiet in the house until the parcel is delivered to an empty house nearby.

5.2.3.3 Drug Types and Sources

The African Drug Syndicate originally played a role in exporting heroin from the Golden Triangle to the United States or Europe 20 years ago. Later, the African Drug Syndicate changed to importing cocaine from South America to Asian countries, including Thailand. Information from UNODC (2010) indicates that South Asian countries are cocaine transit points before sending them to 3rd countries such as Singapore, India and Australia, which are new cocaine markets. Most of the customers are of working age, earn quite a lot and love to party. African drug syndicates import cocaine from South America to sell to foreigners who come and travel in Bangkok. In addition, the African drug syndicate has expanded their market into the retail ICE market, which usually sells to tourists.

As the drug market of the African Drug Syndicate has expanded into the trade of ICE and other drugs, African Drug Syndicates tend to import heroin and ICE from the Golden Crescent region (Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan), ICE and marijuana from India, and ICE from the People's Republic of China (NSB, 2017).

In summary, the drugs that the African Drug syndicates are involved in are:

- 1) Cocaine from South America
- 2) Ice from Africa, the Golden Crescent, China and the Golden Triangle
- 3) Heroin from the Golden Crescent
- 4) Hashish from India

5.2.4 Financial Routes

Studies of the financial routes used by the African Drug Syndicate in the past have yet to find clear evidence of how it behaves. The results of this study provide more insight into the financial pathways of the African Drug Syndicate. In the study of African drug syndicates, financial route studies are of paramount importance because money is the motive for drug crimes. Therefore, cutting financial routes can

cut the factors leading to the drug trade and reduce the problem of drugs in Thailand in the future.

African drug syndicates use international financial services to transfer drugs and expenses such as food and accommodation for the courier. African drug traffickers use Western Union services because of their ease of use and fewer police investigations. In addition, the African drug networks' financial transactions often use the name of a Thai woman as a transactional nominee to avoid inspection by the authorities.

5.2.5 Drug Trafficking Patterns of African Drug Syndicates

Drug trafficking models of the African Drug Syndicate have been modified over the years. The first model was the import of heroin from the Golden Triangle into Thailand for export to third countries, which at the time were the United States and Europe. Next, the price of heroin from the Golden Triangle rose, so the African Drug Syndicate turned to smuggling heroin from the Golden Crescent instead. After that, cocaine was imported for distribution to Thai people who had graduated from abroad or foreign tourists. Transporting in the first stage was not very complicated, the African Drug Syndicate would hide drugs in their own bags and just carry them into the airport. But after frequent arrests, there was a change to a way that is more tangentially concealed, such as being hidden in a secret luggage cover or in food containers. Then there was the transition from transporting it by themselves to using Thai women as drug couriers. When the Thai women became arrested more often, they changed to Asian women from other countries, such as the Philippines and Vietnam, and later changed again to African women and South Americans. Later, instead of using couriers or body-packs, African drug syndicates used post and parcel. Although the African Drug Syndicates' smuggling methods have changed over time, the drug trafficking patterns remain the same and can be broken down as follows.

- 1) The importation of drugs into Thailand.
- 2) Selling the drugs in Thailand.
- 3) Sending drugs out of Thailand to a third country

The findings suggest that the drug trafficking patterns of the African Drug Syndicate include two groups; first, groups that only import to Thailand and sell to

other groups for export or distribution within the country; and second, groups that do all the processes, importing and then selling in Thailand or exporting to a third country. The drug trade of African drug syndicates focuses on small quantities of drugs to dilute the risk if they get caught.

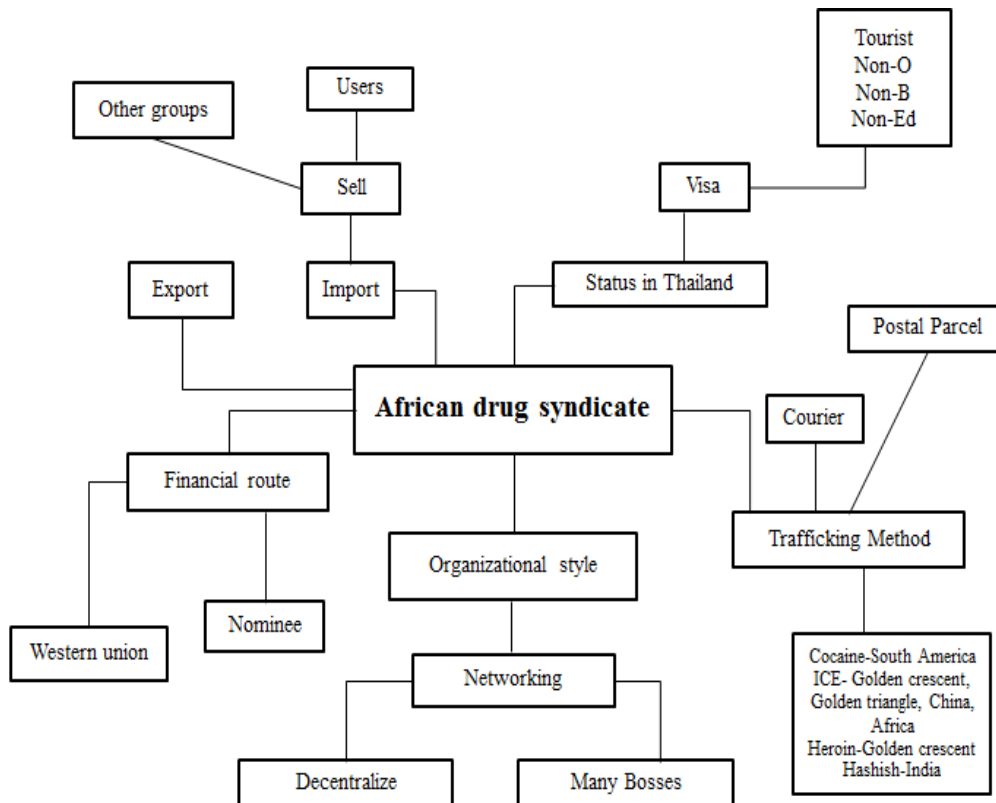


Figure 5.2 African Drug Syndicate Operational Pattern

5.3 Recommended Best Practices to Fight Against African Drug Syndicates

Solving drug problems should focus on prevention together with suppression, because suppression by itself cannot eliminate the problem entirely. There are no direct victims in the drug trade, as it focuses primarily on property, following drug supply and demand. The drug problem leads to various other problems in society, though, and the level of those problems indicates the level of protection needed (Goldstein, 1990). Thailand is not a source for drug production, but is the distribution

center for both exporting to a third country and selling drugs in the country. Therefore, Thailand should control the demand, which is the drug need of Thai people, with drug prevention measures, for example by promoting the strength of communities, providing knowledge about the danger of drugs and providing drug immunity to people and reducing the need for drugs. These mentioned measures are sustainable solutions for drug problems. This part will begin the discussion with the problem of combating African drug syndicates, and the second part will be a discussion on possible solutions.

5.3.1 Problems in Combating African Drug Syndicates

The problem of combating drug trafficking by African drug syndicates is discussed in Chapter four. It is not a specific problem for only police officers or law enforcement agencies, but rather a problem for the whole country, all involved parties must work together to solve this problem.

5.3.1.1 Problems with African Drug Syndicate Prevention

The big issue in preventing African drug syndicates is the law enforcement of officials and the lack of serious involvement among relevant agencies, because the African Drug Syndicate problem is new for many organizations. The lack of experience and knowledge in the behavior of African drug dealers in Thailand causes problems in the prevention.

Crime prevention is very important because it prevents damage to the society. Crime prevention can be done by enforcing the law strictly or reducing the risk factors that cause crime. Crime control through Environmental Theory describes the reduction of opportunities for criminal activity in the environment, and promotes unification of the people to oppose the groups that commit crime in ways that are under the law (Jeffrey, 1971).

The big issue in prevention regarding African drug syndicates is to prevent Africans from illegally entering and remaining in Thailand, in other words, protecting Thailand from undesirable persons who aim to take advantage of the country.

5.3.1.2 The Problem of Suppression of African Drug Syndicates

1) Language Barrier

The biggest obstacle in suppression of African Drug Syndicates is language, because the most important factor for suppression of drug dealers is intelligence. In the case of African Drug Syndicates they are more likely to communicate with one another in local dialects such as Igbo, one of the local languages in Nigeria. According to the results in Chapter four, law enforcement officials from all agencies commented on the same thing, that language is the most important issue. Due to a lack of personnel able to communicate in the same dialect as the African drug dealers, this makes it very difficult to access the intelligence. When an arrest is made, investigations into co-workers or financial routes are difficult.

2) Lack of Cooperation between Agencies

In addition to the language barrier, another downside for law enforcement all over the world is a lack of cooperation among relevant agencies. African drug syndicates spread out to live in many parts of the world, and with advances in telecommunication technology and a decentralized organizational structure, it allows African drug syndicates to communicate with their counterparts across the globe easily and swiftly. For example, if the African Drug Syndicate in South America thinks they should change their smuggling route, they can contact African drug dealers in Thailand and make a change in plans immediately. On the other hand, State officials cannot do this because government agencies' organizational structures are top-down or centralized. There is a clear command chain that cannot be overlooked, which causes delays in cooperation. In addition, the lack of relationships also prevents an exchange of information among agencies, for instance, two law enforcement agencies might be conducting investigations on the same drug syndicate, in which case both agencies have different intelligence information that if combined, could lead to successful results in the investigation. Nixon L. Frederick gave a good example of inter-agency coordination when the 9/11 event was at its earliest stages. All different law enforcement and national security agencies had investigated the mastermind behind the attack. The investigation took years, and was later revealed to have shared intelligence among US security forces, which eventually led to the identification of the target.

5.3.1.3 Future Issues of the African Drug Network

The fact that African drug syndicates are involved in drug trafficking in Thailand is causing many problems.

1) The spread of drugs in Thailand leads to many other problems, such as theft, drug addicts who loss control and hurt other people, and personal health issues for the drug addicts (Unal, 2009). This causes many social problems. It also affects the government's budget which is being used for prevention and suppression, for instance inmate care.

2) The image of Thailand trying to become a drug free zone for tourists is hampered, since the African Drug Syndicate has been selling illegal drugs to foreign tourists in various tourist spots, such as Soi Nana.

3) Thai women's image is degraded when they're being seen as drug couriers. Currently, many Thai women have been arrested for drug trafficking in many countries. And worse, many countries have executed Thai women.

4) Because the African Drug Syndicate is often married to Thai women or they have children with Thai women to obtain a visa in the future, when African people are arrested, African-Thai children will become orphans and have the chance of becoming social problems.

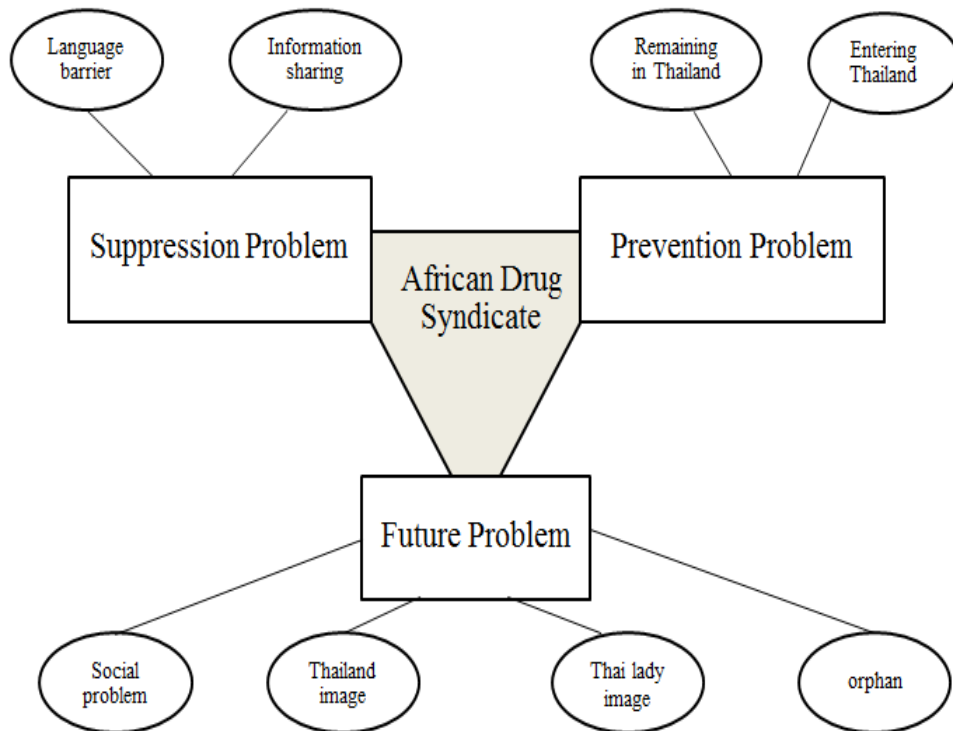


Figure 5.3 The African Problem and Thai Society

5.3.2 Solutions to the African Drug Syndicate Problem

Drugs have been a major problem in Thailand for a long time, which affects Thailand in many dimensions, both on societal and personal levels. Furthermore, narcotics lead to economic problems because the government has to spend an enormous amount of money on prevention, suppression and drug addict treatment. Governments in the last 15-20 years have identified drugs as a major problem of the country and have various policies to solve the problem. For example, the war on drugs in the Thaksin Shinawatra era used an aggressive suppression policy to make drug dealers and addicts fear. In those days, the number of narcotics cases significantly decreased, but intensive suppression should be accompanied by prevention. The effective way to undertake prevention regarding drug problems is to educate people about the dangers of drugs. Currently, there is a Drug Abuse Resistant Education (D.A.R.E.) program that requires police officers to serve as teachers. D.A.R.E. teachers teach children in schools and focus on the 6th grade to give children the

skills to make good decisions and deny drugs so that no children try it out. The D.A.R.E. program was assigned by the Royal Thai Police to Narcotics Suppression Bureau and has been operating continuously since 1999 (Siamdara, 2018).

However, new policies are needed to solve the African Drug Syndicate problem at the early stage before it grows any greater.

5.3.2.1 Possible Policies to Fight against African Drug Syndicates

In the government of General Prayuth Chanocha, the policy statement of the Minister has 11 issues. In Strategic Strategy no. 2 on the security of the state and foreign affairs, the government has designated the drug problem as one of the top issues that must be prevented and corrected by strict enforcement, tackling other issues that are constantly linked to the issue, and focusing on "Prevention ahead of suppression, drug addicts must be treated as patients. Traders must be punished strictly" (The Declaration of order of National Council for Peace and order, 2014, pp. 2-19).

However, the problem has not been solved directly. Therefore, some policies could be adopted to help the government stop the problem before it grows even larger. According to the findings from Chapter four, the following are possible policies:

- 1) Enhance cooperation among both International and local agencies.

The first policy is to strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies to prevent drug smuggling. In addition, the cooperation between agencies should not only be on the executive level, but should also be encouraged in order to establish a relationship at the practitioner level, so that practitioners can coordinate with the law enforcement authorities of different countries in a timely manner. Furthermore, the development of cooperation in the judicial process in ASEAN countries, this is very important because African drug syndicates have changed their patterns of smuggling, transporting drugs and pathways all the time. And there are times when the route changes to neighboring countries before being smuggled into Thailand through the border.

Moreover, every agency involved in the prevention and suppression of African drug syndicates must cooperate in a more concrete way. There should be a way to communicate between departments to speed up the

synchronization. For example, when the Thai Embassy in Abuja receives a Nigerian visa application and is able to send it to police officers at the Narcotics Suppression Bureau or officers from the Office of Narcotics Control Board or Immigration office for quickly checking whether the person has a criminal record.

In addition, cooperation with countries in Africa should be established in order to form a joint operation between law enforcement agencies. For instance, identity verification improves the ability of law enforcement officers to share important intelligence. Furthermore, the Thai government should be able to send African prisoners back to their home country.

2) Improve Immigration Control

The study indicated that African Drug Syndicates usually enter Thailand with a tourist visa and then apply for other types; in order to apply for other visas, Africans use various tricky methods, such as false marriages, enrolling in university courses or registering as a ghost company. After getting a visa, they are able to commit drug trafficking much easier. Hence, the government should have a policy to control this issue and reduce the chance of undesirable Africans and other nationalities from being illegally in Thailand and committing crimes.

A reduction of opportunities or factors that could lead to crime in the case of transnational crime must reduce the chances of illegally living in Thailand with fraudulent intent. Reducing this opportunity can be done as follows:

(1) Reducing the chance of remaining in Thailand illegally can be done in various ways, and relevant agencies must actively participate in monitoring the status of foreigners. For example, the Ministry of Education must closely monitor foreigners staying in Thailand on student visas, the Ministry of Commerce must strongly control companies that have foreigners from risky nationalities as stakeholder or employees and must check the location of the company, because in many cases police have found that registered companies involved with African Drug Syndicates were abandoned.

(2) Reduce the chances of illegally entering the country. Many Africans have been arrested and sent back to their home country but were able to return to Thailand because the monitoring system was vulnerable. Therefore, identity verification technology is necessary.

3) Creating Immunity

Creating immunity is a policy aimed at reducing potential drug addicts. Creating immunity can be done by knowledge building or education. The researcher believes that it is important to develop within the educational system at the youth level so that all people are knowledgeable about the punishment and harm of drugs and those foreigners who are criminals. The development of education can be done in conjunction with the provision of knowledge programs such as the D.A.R.E. Project, by increasing the knowledge of the patterns that certain groups of foreigners use to lure Thai people. In order for the public to be aware of the threat and cooperate with the state, government should create an information sharing channel with the public.

4) Supply and Demand Reduction

This strategy is basically to suppress and eliminate drug networks and organizations, including producers, traffickers and everyone involved in the network. The suppression must emphasize investigation on the financial route and seize the property of drug syndicates, as the main goal of drug organizations is the economic goal. Furthermore, the enforcement of law should have a psychological effect on criminals to frighten them from committing crimes.

Demand Reduction refers to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and addicts in order to decrease drug demand in all aspects and facilitate their reintegration into their communities with dignity as well as prevent their return to addiction by creating an anti-drug environment. Under this strategy, drug abusers and addicts are considered to be "patients" who should be provided with appropriate treatment and rehabilitation.

5.3.3.2 Situational Crime Prevention for African Drug Syndicates

Situational crime prevention has been examined with more than 100 studies that summarize effective opportunities for reducing crime (Unal, 2009). The studies started with extremely simple opportunity reducing techniques, such as installing barriers to prevent bus drivers from being robbed.

The core concept of situational crime prevention theory is that crime can be prevented by increasing the risk, reducing opportunity, dropping the reward, reducing provocation and removing excuses (Cornish & Clarke, 2003). Adopting

situational crime prevention is more on the operational level rather than policy level. Before going through the situational crime prevention model, Clarke suggested that the understanding of certain types of crime is necessary (Cornish & Clarke, 2003).

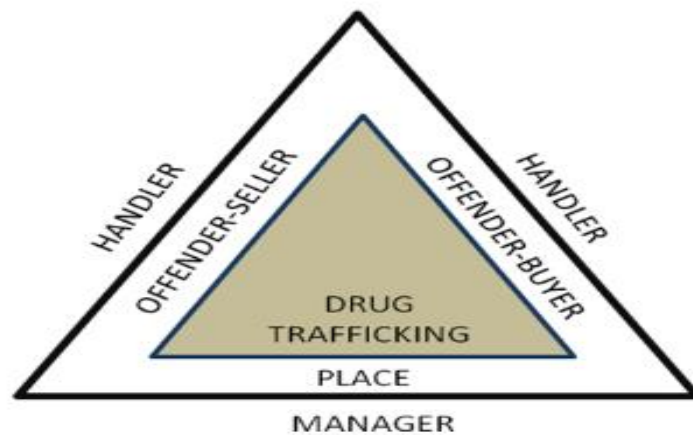


Figure 5.4 Drug Trafficking Triangle

Source: Unal, 2009.

The smaller triangle represents the two parties of drug trafficking, which need handlers to facilitate it and a place for the opportunity, in the case of transnational drug trafficking where a transaction is made from across the world via telecommunication technology. Furthermore, the African Drug Syndicate operates in Thailand, hence the opportunity exists for them when they are in Thailand. Handlers are people surrounding potential offenders. Unal (2009) suggested that friends, social network members and relatives could be possible handlers who may be exploited for preventive purposes.

Technique				
Increase effort	Increase risk	Reduce reward	Reduce provocation	Remove excuse
Installing biometric at border immigration point	Randomly check people who travel from risky drug source countries	property seize all participants involve in narcotics case	campaign about threat of foreigners	Accommodation owner must inform authority according to the law
Enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies	Randomly check parcel from risky countries			
Raid at African community more often	At check point, more strictly check possible courier such as one lady who cannot speak			
Raid on suspicious language school	Recruiting informants who can speak local dialect			
Check company that does not have any movement				

Figure 5.5 Applying Situational Crime Prevention to African Drug Syndicates

The table above illustrates the list of situational crime prevention techniques used in the fight against African drug syndicates. The first column indicates techniques to reduce opportunities for the African Drug Syndicate, which is comprised of:

- 1) Installing a biometric checking system at border immigration points to prevent Africans who were deported from reentry with new passports.
- 2) Enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies to strengthen cooperation and information sharing among agencies.
- 3) Raid African communities more often to obtain intelligence and prevent further criminal activity.
- 4) Raid suspicious language schools to prevent illegal visa applications.
- 5) Check companies that do not have any movement to prevent illegal visa applications.

The second column demonstrates practices to increase risk to African Drug Syndicate operations. The following are listed practices:

- 1) Randomly check people who travel from risky drug source countries, such as Brazil and Afghanistan.
- 2) Randomly check parcels from risky countries such as Argentina.
- 3) At checkpoints, more strictly check possible couriers such as a sole lady who cannot speak English traveling to Brazil for a month.
- 4) Recruiting informants who can speak the local dialect to obtain intelligence and do buys to bust operations.

Next is to reduce the reward of drug syndicates by conducting a financial investigation and seizing all suspicious property. The fourth column is to reduce provocation of handlers, in this case, Thai women who were used as couriers, by promoting the threat of Africans who use women as couriers, and how couriers end up in overseas prisons or worse, executed. The last column involves the manager or owner of the accommodation accepting foreigners, especially Africans, to inform local authorities.

5.4 Summary

This research examines the problem of African Drug Syndicates in Thailand. There are three main purposes: identify the factors that drive Africans to commit transnational drug trafficking in Thailand, identify their operational patterns, and come up with the best practices for authorities to combat against African drug networks. This research collects information from the interviews of two law enforcement agents from five different units, both Thai and international, and six Nigerian inmates.

The data indicates that social and economic factors drive African migrants to Thailand. Thailand also has a low cost of living and good infrastructure compared to neighboring countries. In the pre-migration stage, Africans obtain information about living in Thailand from African communities already in Thailand. Most Africans aim to come to Thailand for work, but when things do not go according to plan, they

consult with other Africans in the African community, such as at Christian churches. This can affect Africans' decision to join a drug syndicate. Furthermore, Thailand's location is fit as a drug distribution center, due to its advanced transportation system and location close to the Golden Triangle. In addition, in deciding to join a drug trafficking network, Africans do not take laws, regulations and law enforcement into account, as they are more focused on the benefits and not the cost (getting arrested).

Moreover, the findings suggest that the African Drug Syndicate is involved in two main drug trafficking streams, drugs which are imported to Thailand to sell to other groups for export or distribution inside the country, and importation and then sale in Thailand for export to a third country. The drug trade of African drug syndicates focuses on small quantities of drugs to mitigate the risk if they get caught. African drug syndicates mostly trade in cocaine from South America and Ice from Africa, China and the Middle East.

The possible solutions: according to current policy and application of the situational crime prevention concept, the solution is to strengthen the capability of law enforcement agencies, for example by installing biometric systems at Immigration to reduce the opportunity of African drug syndicates committing crime in Thailand. Furthermore, an increase in operational risk for African drug syndicates should be done by, for example, enhancing the level of checks on people travelling from risky countries.

5.5 Limitations and Suggestions

In this study, the information on African drug syndicates comes from a combination of interviews from five law enforcement agencies, including the Narcotics Suppression Bureau, The Immigration Bureau, The Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Drug Enforcement Administration and a senior law enforcement officer from Australia. In addition, six inmates were interviewed, all of them Nigerian. In this study, the study focused on the study of drug importation, mostly ICE and cocaine. The researcher has summarized the limitations and suggestions as follows.

1) Interviewing inmates with heavy sentences, sometimes they do not cooperate. Interviewing in the prison where the inmates are in a relaxed and familiar state, they can get annoyed and be unwilling to provide information. In the next research, if the suspects are in the arrest phase, they may cooperate and be more willing to provide information due to narcotics law section 100/2 that can be used to bargain for more information.

2) Because the African Drug Syndicate is concerned with other agencies besides law enforcement, such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, further research should be conducted by interviewing other relevant agencies.

3) The African Drug Syndicate has financial factors as a motive for their delinquency. Therefore, the next study should focus on the financial routes of the African drug syndicates to determine how to proceed after the money has been collected so that government officials can continue their work.

4) The next study should also examine other African nationals in order to identify other relevant information on drug trafficking of the African drug network.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

QUESTION OUTLINES: 1 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TRANSNATIONAL CRIME IN THAILAND FOCUS ON AFRICAN DRUG SYNDICATES

Section 1: Personal Information

- 1.1 Name
- 1.2 Age
- 1.3 Education Level
- 1.4 Occupation and current position
- 1.5 Experience in the current agency
- 1.6 Working experience related to African drug syndicates

Part 2 Why African drug syndicates choose to commit crime in Thailand

- 2.1 Are Socio-Cultural Factors Involved in African crime decisions?
- 2.2 Globalization is involved in the decision-making process of African criminal?
 - Communication
 - Telecommunications Such as communication banking system
- 2.3 How does narcotics and immigrant law and enforcement in Thailand affect African drug syndicates decision in choosing to commit crime in Thailand?
- 2.4 What are the key factors for Africans drug syndicates to operate in Thailand?

Part 3 Operational Patterns of the African Drug Syndicates

- 3.1 How does the African drug syndicate work?
- 3.2 What is the African drug syndicates organizational structure?
- 3.3 What is the African drug syndicate financial pattern.

3.4 What particular kind of drugs African drug syndicate selling? Where does it from? And what is the reason for choosing such drugs?

3.5 The African drug network has evolved its operational form or not.

Part 4 Troubleshooting

4.1 What are the problems encountered in the prevention of the African Narcotic Drugs Network?

4.2 How will the African drug networks come to engage in drug trafficking in Thailand, in the future?

4.3 How should the Thai government have a policy to prevent and suppress the African drug network?

4.4 What is the recommendation on the prevention and suppression of African drug networks in Thailand?

APPENDIX B

QUESTION OUTLINES: 2 AFRICAN INMATES TRANSNATIONAL CRIME IN THAILAND FOCUS ON AFRICAN DRUG SYNDICATES

Section 1: Personal Information

- 1.1 Name
- 1.2 Age
- 1.3 Education Level
- 1.4 Occupation before sentence
- 1.5 Income before sentence
- 1.6 Marital status
- 1.7 Number of Children

Part 2 Why African drug syndicates choose to commit crime in Thailand

- 2.1 Are Socio-Cultural Factors Involved in your crime decisions?
- 2.2 Globalization is involved in the decision-making process to commit crime?
 - Communication
 - Telecommunications Such as communication banking system
- 2.3 How do narcotics and immigration law and law enforcement in Thailand affect your decision in choosing to commit crime in Thailand?
- 2.4 What are the key factors for you to operate in Thailand?

Part 3 Operational Patterns of the African Drug Syndicates

- 3.1 How does the African drug syndicate work?
- 3.2 What is the African drug syndicates organizational structure?
- 3.3 What is the African drug syndicate financial pattern?

3.4 What particular kind of drugs African drug syndicate selling? Where does it from? And what is the reason for choosing such drugs?

3.5 The African drug network has evolved its operational form or not.

Part 4 Troubleshooting

4.1 What is the problem of authorities in the prevention and suppression African Narcotic Drugs Network?

4.2 What is your obstacle in committing drug trade in Thailand?

4.3 How should the Thai government have a policy to prevent and suppress the African drug network?

4.4 What is the recommendation on the prevention and suppression of African drug networks in Thailand?

BIOGRAPHY

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