

11-1220000-000075-10
2006 Edition

Combat against Drug Smuggling in Korea 2007



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Preface



Today, countries around the world are making every effort to prevent drug abuse and drug trafficking because illicit drugs not only devastate health and lives of many individuals but also cause various crimes.

We are well aware that drug smuggling can not be eradicated by the effort of a single country since it has become transnational and organized criminal activities. Therefore, many countries and international organizations have launched the "War against Drugs" and are promoting information exchange and coordinating joint investigations to tackle drug trafficking.

Korea has been regarded as a "drug-free country" thanks to strong government measures against drug trafficking. However, we are currently witnessing a new and worrying trend - i.e., illegal transaction in drugs among individual abusers are increasing on the internet, and international drug syndicates continue to use Korea as a transit route for their transnational drug smuggling.

Considering that most of illegal drugs are smuggled from overseas, the best way to prevent the spread of narcotics in Korea is to intercept them at the Customs border. To this end, the Korea Customs Service is making nation-wide efforts to prevent the entry of illicit drugs into the country, inter alia, adopting pre-blocking policy on drug smuggling at the border, developing drug information system, and strengthening domestic and international cooperation.

This booklet contains useful information on drug trafficking situation including recent drug trends in Korea, enforcement measures by KCS, significant seizure cases, and statistics of drug seizures.

I hope it will help Customs officers and drug enforcement officers of other agencies home and abroad understand recent drug trends of Korea and KCS' drug enforcement activities.

June, 2007

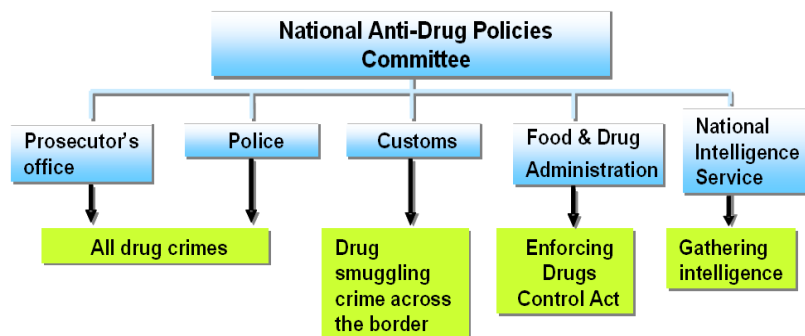
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I. KOREA DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Overview of Enforcement Agencies



● Korea Customs Service

In 1990, Korea Customs Service obtained the authority to investigate drug-related offences occurring within its customs area. KCS mainly conducts investigation into drug smuggling cases across the border. It also investigates international cases in collaboration with overseas agencies.



검찰

● Supreme Prosecutors' Office

The role of Supreme Prosecutors' Office, the headquarters for all kinds of prosecution activities, is categorized into three fields as the followings;

- ① Investigation of all kinds of drug cases
- ② Supervision of investigation into other agencies
- ③ Prosecution of drug criminals



● National Police Agency

National Police Agency performs the investigation into most criminal cases including all drug cases.



● National Maritime Police Agency

Since 1980, National Maritime Police Agency, which belonged to National Police Agency, has been a law enforcement agency under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. It now investigates drug crimes that are committed on the sea.



● National Intelligence Service

National Intelligence Service is not a drug investigation organization. However, it plays an important role in controlling drug offences. It mainly focuses its efforts on assisting other enforcement agencies with the intelligence products.

2. Drug Control Laws

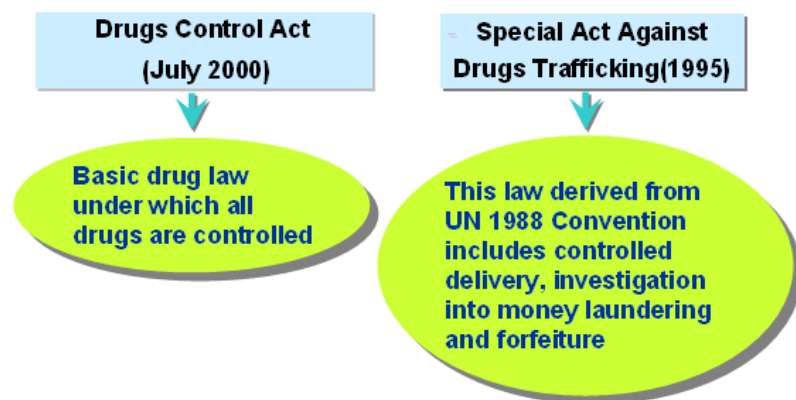
The *Act on the Control of Narcotics* is a basic law in drug enforcement in Korea. In the past, three different laws; the Narcotics Act, the Cannabis Control Act and the Psychotropic Substances Control Act regulated drug control and drug related offences in Korea. These acts were combined into the *Act on the Control of Narcotics* in July 2000.

Since January 1996, the *Special Act Against Illicit Drug Trafficking* has been effective. The Act contains powerful legitimate weapons for combating illegal drug trafficking such as investigation of money

laundering, confiscation, controlled delivery and mutual legal assistance recommended by the United Nations.

On December 28 1998, Korea joined the 『UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances』 and this convention has been effective since March 28 1999. This initiative has opened a new era in combating drug smuggling, illicit drug trafficking and illegal diversion of precursor chemicals at the international level.

KOREA'S DRUG CONTROL LAWS



PENAL PROVISIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES

☐ Act on the Control of Narcotics

Drug type	Type of offence	Penalty	
Narcotics (Opium, Heroin & Cocaine)	<input type="checkbox"/> Import or export, manufacture, trade or interceding in trade	Simple	Imprisonment for life or for not less than 5 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold or possess the narcotics for above purposes	For profit or habit	Death penalty, imprisonment for life or for not less than 10 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold, possess, control or transfer or receive in violation of this act	Simple	Imprisonment for not exceeding 5 years, or a fine not exceeding 50 million won
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultivate a plant forming a raw material of the narcotics for import or export, trade or manufacture	Habit	Imprisonment for 3 years or more
	<input type="checkbox"/> Handle the narcotics or deliver a prescription in violation of this act	Simple	Imprisonment for not exceeding 10 years, or a fine not exceeding 100 million won
		Habit	Aggravated up to 1/2 of above penalty
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultivate a plant forming a raw material of the narcotics, or hold or possess a raw material, seed or seedling containing the relevant components	Simple	Imprisonment for not exceeding 5 years, or a fine not exceeding 50 million won
		Habit	Aggravated up to 1/2 of above penalty

Drug type	Type of offence		Penalty
Cannabis	<input type="checkbox"/> Import or export	Simple	Imprisonment for life or for not less than 5 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold or possess for import or export	For profit or habit	Death penalty, imprisonment for life or for not less than 10 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultivate the hemp for export, trade or manufacture in violation of the act	Simple	Imprisonment for one year or more
		Habit	Imprisonment for 3 years or more
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use or handle marijuana in violation of this act	Simple	Imprisonment for not exceeding 5 years, or a fine not exceeding 50 million won
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultivate, hold, possess, transfer, receive, transport or keep in custody in violation of this act	Habit	Aggravated up to 1/2 of above penalty
Psychotropic substances	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacture, import or export, trade, intercede in trade, transfer or receive	Simple	Life sentence or minimum of 5 years imprisonment
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold or possess for above purposes	For profit or habit	Death penalty, imprisonment for life or for not less than 10 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade, offer, prepare, dose or deliver in violation of this act		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade, intercede in trade, transfer or receiver the substances forming a raw material of psychotropic drugs for the purpose of manufacture	Simple	Imprisonment for one year or more
		Habit	Imprisonment for three years or more
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use, control, prepare, dose or deliver in violation of this act	Simple	Imprisonment for not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding 100 million won
	<input type="checkbox"/> Issues a prescription indicating the psychotropic drugs	Habit	Aggravated up to 1/2 of above penalty

Special Act Against Illicit Drug Trafficking

Type of offence	Penalty
<input type="checkbox"/> Import or export, manufacture, trade or interceding in trade; or hold or possess of <i>narcotics</i> for above purposes by profession <input type="checkbox"/> Import or export, hold or possess for import or export of <i>marijuana</i> by profession <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacture, import or export, trade, intercede in trade, transfer or receive; or hold or possess for above purposes; or trade, offer, prepare, dose or deliver <i>psychotropic substances</i> by profession	Death penalty, imprisonment for life or for not less than 10 years, and a fine not exceeding 100 million won
<input type="checkbox"/> Trade, intercede in trade, transfer or receiver the substances forming a raw material of <i>psychotropic drugs</i> for the purpose of manufacture by profession <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivate the hemp for export, trade or manufacture of <i>marijuana</i> by profession <input type="checkbox"/> Offer or deliver to the minors, or has the minors smoke or intake <i>marijuana</i> or taste of <i>its seeds</i> by profession	Imprisonment not less than 3 years, and a fine not exceeding 30 million won
<input type="checkbox"/> Concealment or disguise of illicit proceeds	Imprisonment not exceeding 7 years, or a fine not exceeding 30 million won
<input type="checkbox"/> Import or export of goods known as narcotic drugs	Imprisonment not less than 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Transfer or receive goods known as narcotic drugs in violation of <i>Act on the Control of Narcotics</i>	Imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or a fine not exceeding 5 million won

3. Customs Drug Enforcement Activities

(1) Organization

In 1990, empowered with enforcement authority over drug smuggling, KCS newly established the Intelligence Division to coordinate and supervise customs drug enforcement activities at the national level. The key roles of the Division were to collect drug-related information, cooperate with overseas enforcement agencies and develop investigative techniques.

In the process of the reorganization of KCS in July 1996, the Intelligence Division was renamed as the Special Investigation Division that was responsible for enforcement of illegal transaction of CITES, IPR and foreign currencies as well as drug trafficking.

In January 2002, KCS has changed the Special Investigation Division at the headquarters into the Narcotics Investigation Division, focusing purely on drug enforcement and strengthening its capabilities to control drugs smuggling.

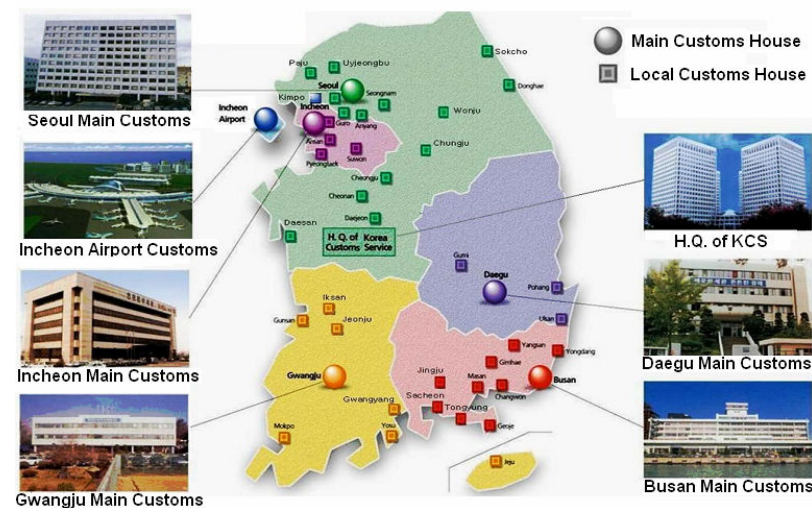
In addition, KCS, together with the Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO), set up Joint Drug Investigation Teams in order to effectively investigate drug smuggling cases. With the creation of the teams, KCS was also able to expand its investigation of drug cases beyond the customs area on the condition of joint operation with a relevant prosecution office.

KCS, also together with the SPO, established Joint Drug Intelligence Task Force in 2002. The Task Force is to gather, analyse and disseminate drug information to effectively cope with rapidly changing trends of drug smuggling.

In 2003, Drug Enforcement Task Forces have been set up in 42 customs-houses including 12 branch offices. The Task Forces comprising 236 customs inspectors and investigators aim at strengthening monitoring activities in the stream of customs clearances at the front line.

As of 2006, there are 47 Customs Houses nationwide Korea. Customs, differently from others agencies, is specialized in the controlling of drug trafficking crossing border. Considering that most drugs seized in Korea are smuggled from abroad, the role of Customs is crucial in blocking drug supply channels from overseas en route to its boundary.

Jurisdictional Areas of Korea Customs



(2) Intelligence Analysis System

For facilitated processing of passengers, KCS introduced Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) in cooperation with airlines and the Ministry of Justice in January 2001.

APIS refers to a system by which customs receives passenger lists from airline companies before planes arrive at the airport. It helps customs officers effectively select high-risk passengers to be examined and let the majority of trustworthy passengers be cleared promptly.

With APIS, Customs selects high-risk passengers by analyzing and comparing the transmitted passenger list with its own clearance data, exit and entry information of Immigration Office.

The introduction of APIS in Korea Customs was timed with the opening of Incheon International Airport, the largest international airport in Korea in March 2001. Since May 2002, APIS has been implemented at the airports of Gimhae and Jeju.



X-ray Inspection Monitoring at Incheon Airport

As a supplementary measure to APIS, RPSS (Real-Time Passenger Selection System) has been operated since May 2002. The RPSS targets passengers flying in by foreign airlines that do not transmit passenger lists to Customs.

It automatically selects high-risk passengers through a real-time comparison of the exit and entry information and high-risk passengers database of KCS' Passenger Information System.

As high-risk passengers can be detected before their entry to country, Customs can strengthen its ability to find high-risk passengers, while it can enhance quality of public services by providing facilitated clearance for trustworthy passengers.

In 2007, KCS newly developed Drug Smuggling Forecasting System. This system puts the drug smuggling-related information into Database on the real-time basis. Based on those information, the system produces drug smuggling index and assesses risk by transportation method used to smuggle drugs.

Also, the system produces targeting and profiling information through the analysis using statistics technique. By doing so, the system can support the strategic decision-making process and enhance the efficiency of the enforcement.

Thanks to the forecasting system, KCS was able to conduct drug enforcement in a scientific manner and boost our Targeting capabilities in high-risk areas including passenger, mail and express cargo.

Structure of Drug Smuggling Forecasting System



(3) Deploying Drug Detector Dog

Korea Customs had first deployed 6 drug detector dogs at the Gimpo airport in December 1989 to detect narcotics concealed by passengers and in cargoes.

To improve the Drug Detector Dogs Program, KCS invited two canine experts from the U.S. Customs Service to conduct an overall evaluation in August 1996. And then, it employed 18 new trainers in October 1996 and purchased 30 detector dogs (7 Golden Retrievers, 19 Labrador Retrievers, 2 Beagles, and 2 Cocker Spaniels).

In June of 1997, Korea Customs implemented overseas training program for narcotic handlers in order to acquire advanced detective techniques. Four handlers visited the U.S.A. Customs Canine Training Center and three handlers visited Japan Customs Drug Detector Dog Training Center.

KCS has conducted a training program annually at the center and attended the Military Working Dogs Competition sponsored by the U.S. Army in Korea. In the competition, KCS' narcotics team won the honor of the Best Dog in July 1998.

Furthermore, to meet demand for sniffer dogs and more systematic training with the opening of the Incheon International Airport, we at KCS established a new training center, the Customs Canine Training Center, in July 2001.

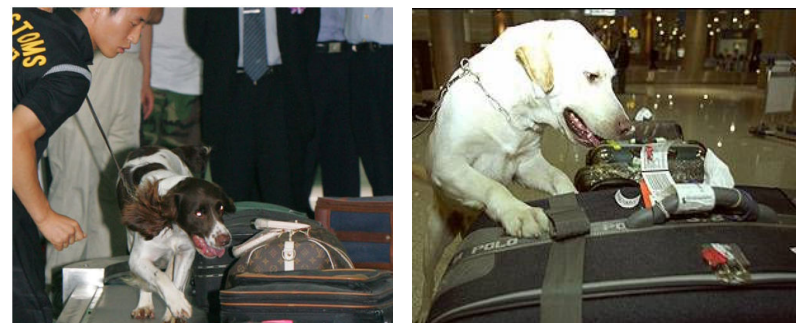
The Training Center located near Incheon International Airport is approximately 65,000 square meters and equipped with up-to-date facilities including kennels, a carousel training hall, a passenger detection training hall, a cargo detection training hall, an animal hospital, a administration building and ammunition storages.

As of 2006, 30 detector dogs and 42 canine handlers are working across

the country at major air/seaport Customs houses.

Deployment of Drug Detector Dogs in 2006

Customs	Airport Customs						Seaport Customs				Total
	Incheon	Gimpo	Gim-hae	Daegu	Jeju	Gwangju	Incheon	Gun-san	Sokcho	Pyung-taek	
Heads	13	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	30



Baggage Search using Drug Detect Dog

(4) Drug Detection Equipment

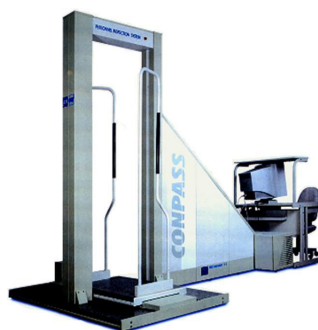
To conduct drug enforcement activities effectively, KCS is using scientific equipment such as X-ray machines, Ion-scanners and container X-ray machines at the main airports and seaports.

Customs has operated X-ray machines in the process of inspecting passenger baggage and personal belongings.



(Ion-Scan Machine)

KCS also introduced Ion-scan machines which are used to detect drugs by analyzing molecules of drugs around suspicious goods or persons. KCS runs 138 X-Ray machines and 43 ion-scan machines nationwide.



(Body Scan Machine)

For speedy inspection of container cargos, KCS also deploys container X-ray scanning system. KCS has introduced container X-ray machines since 2002 to major seaport Customs nationwide.



(X-ray container inspection machine)

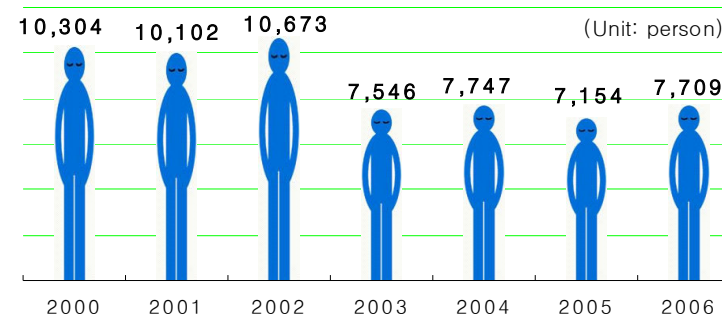
II. RECENT DRUG SMUGGLING TRENDS

1. General Situation

In Korea, the number of drug offenders has been stable and drugs were only used by those working in certain areas.

The number of offenders arrested in the violation of drug law in Korea had shown a sharp drop in 2003 from more than 10,000 before then and has showed a continuous decrease trend. In 2006, the number of arrestees marked 7,709 showing 7.8% increase from 7,154 in 2005.

Chart 1: The Number of Drug Offenders in Korea, 2000-2006



(Source: Korea Supreme Prosecutors' Office)

As shown in Table 1, the total quantity of illicit drug seized in Korea recorded 47,488 grams, which has shown 21% increase from 39,256 grams in 2005. This significant increase in the quantity is mainly contributable to the several big seizures made by Customs including 4,000 grams of cocaine seizure and 4,960 grams of herbal cannabis seizure in March and October respectively.

Table 1: Nationwide Drug Seizures in Korea, 2004-2006

Drug Type	Year			Change(%)
	2004	2005	2006	
Opium	1,714	11	98	788
Heroin	12	9	18	103
Cocaine	8	-	4,772	-
Cannabis Herb	36,162	18,436	20,859	13
Cannabis Resin	11,366	1,511	158	△90
Methamphetamine(ICE)	12,192	19,289	21,543	12
Methamphetamine(Yaba)	-	18	-	-
MDMA	20,388	10,744	356	△97
LSD	7	-	-	-
Total	61,454 grams 20,395 tabs	39,256 gram 10,762 tabs	47,488 gram 356 tabs	21 △97

* Unit of Yaba, MDMA, and LSD is tablet. (Source: Korea Supreme Prosecutors' Office)

As for drug price in Korea, except methamphetamine and cannabis, it is not easy to manage calculate transaction prices for there are not so many drug abusers for other drugs.

In Korea, wholesale price of methamphetamine was US\$148 per gram in 2004 marking the high level ever recorded, and then decreased to US\$138 in 2005 and 104 US\$ in 2006. There was no significant change in retail price of methamphetamine in recent years.

According to the Supreme Prosecutors' office, drug prices in black market of Korea shows as Table 2 below.

Table 2: Drug Prices in Korea (As of December 2006)

Drug kinds	(Unit of price: US\$)				
	Methampheta mine	Cannabis herb	Cannabis resin	MDMA (per tab)	Opium
Wholesale (per gram)	104	0.8	-	-	-
Retail (per dose)	80	1.2~4	32	24	24

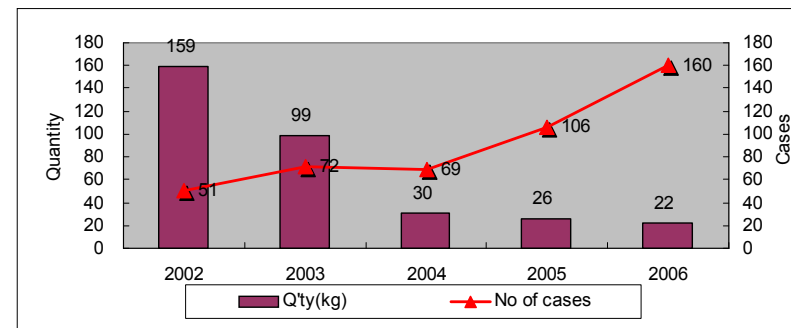
* Source: Korea Supreme Prosecutors' Office

2. Drug Seizures by Customs

In 2006, seizures of major type drugs made by Korea Customs Service (KCS) showed a slight decrease in the quantity whereas the number showed a significant increase recording 160 cases totaling 21.7kg and 3,177 tablets.

These seizure records showed a decrease by 18% in the quantity and increase by 28% in the number of case in comparison with those of the previous year.

Chart 2: Drug Seizures Trend by Customs, 2002-2006



It is notable that the number of methamphetamine seizures in 2006 nearly doubled which mainly contributed to the increase of total number of seizures.

Seizures record of psychotropic substances such as diazepam and fenfluramine, known as diet pills, showed a sharp drop from 222 cases with 337,000 tablets in 2004, 33 cases with 161,918 tablets in 2005 to 18 cases with 46,637 tablets in 2006.

Table 3: Drug Seizures by Korea Customs, 2004-2006

Drug Type	2004		2005		2006		Change(%)	
	Case	Q'ty(g)	Case	Q'ty(g)	Case	Q'ty(g)	Case	Q'ty(g)
Heroin	-	-	-	-	1	18	-	-
Cocaine	4	8	-	-	6	4,013	-	-
Opium	2	8	-	-	1	95.4	-	-
Cannabis Herb	19	10,777	33	13,453	33	7,409	0	45
Cannabis Resin	2	11,300	6	1,467	3	154.4	△50	△96
Cannabis Oil	1	19	-	-	1	100	-	-
Methamphetamine	32	8,305	55	11,402	109	9,977	-	△95
Y a b a	-	-	1	18tab	-	-	-	-
MDMA	9	20,261tab	11	954tab	6	3,177 tab	△46	233
Sub-total of major drugs	69	30,417 gr 20,261 tab	106	26,322 gr 972 tab	160	21,667 gr 3,177 tab	51	△18 233
Psychotropic Substances	222	337,000tab	33	161,918tab	18	46,637 tab	△32	△71
Total	291	30,417 gr 357,261tab	139	26,322 gr 162,890 tab	178	21,667 gr 49,814 tab	28	△18 △69

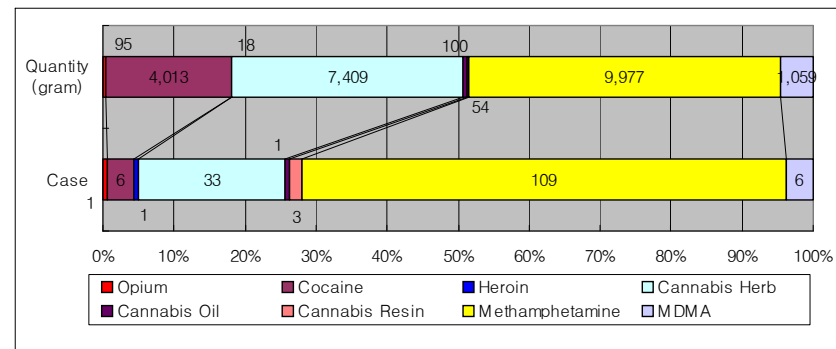
* Unit of Yaba, MDMA, Psychotropic substance: Tablet

** Psychotropic substances are mainly diazepam and fenfluramine (a.k.a. diet pills).

In Korea, the major drugs in problem have been methamphetamine and cannabis. As Table 2 shows, methamphetamine dominated both in the number and quantity recording 109 cases totaling 9,977 grams, which accounted for 68% and 43% of the total respectively.

Herbal cannabis followed methamphetamine recording 33 cases totaling 7,409 accounting for 21% and 33% of the total respectively.

Chart 3: Customs' Drug Seizures by Drug Type in 2006



3. Drug Smuggling Trend

3.1 Overview

In 2006, according to the customs drug seizures data analysis, three distinctive trends have been observed as below.

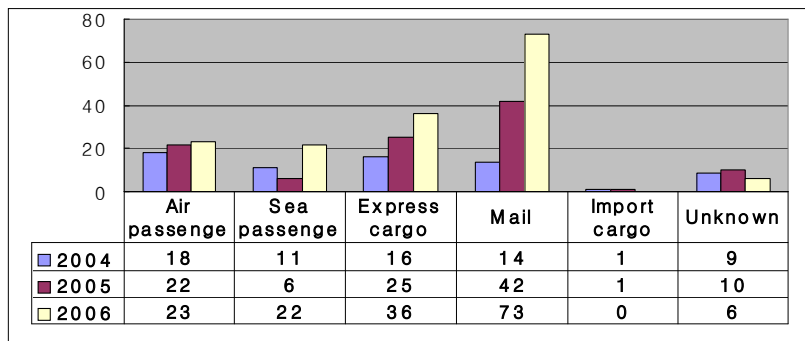
- Dramatic increase of drug trafficking using mail and express cargo;
- Small-sizing in the quantity of smuggling per case;
- Continuous detection of transit cases.

3.1.1 Dramatic increase of drug trafficking using mail and express cargo

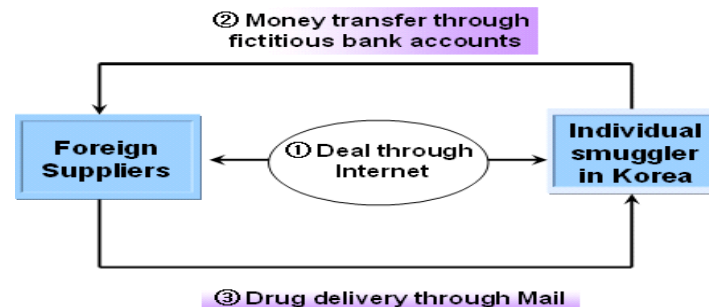
The most drugs seized by Customs had been smuggled from overseas through mails and express cargos as well as passengers. As Chart 3 shows, drug smuggling using mails and express cargoes is sharply increasing. Korea Customs seized 30 cases in 2004, 67 cases in 2005 and 109 cases in 2006 using this method of transport.

Drug traffickers may regard it is safer using mail or express cargo for they can make advantage of relatively simplified customs clearance and anonymity. Electronic goods, medicine, coffee, CD case, candle, cosmetics were the major goods used to conceal drugs.

Chart 4: Drug Seizures by Transport Method, 2004-2006



Drug smuggling using Internet



The major drugs applied for this smuggling method were herbal cannabis and methamphetamine. Ethnic Korean drug dealers residing in the North-east China and foreigners residing in Korea are those mainly related to this type of drug trafficking.

3.1.3 Continuous detection of transit case

It is also notable that Korea has been used as a transit point of drug trafficking between source/departure and destination countries. Korea customs has dismantled several quite scaled drug cases transit Korea by international drug syndicates.

Since 2003, a 15 cases totaling 61kg and 20,000 tablets of drug trafficking transiting Korea were intercepted by Customs. The major drugs transiting Korea have been methamphetamine, herbal cannabis, and MDMA.

In terms of methamphetamine, April 2006, 477 grams of methamphetamine smuggling en-route from the Philippines via Korea into Guam were detected by Customs. And 532 grams of methamphetamine smuggling routing from China via Korea into Guam were intercepted in Aug 2006.



Inspection of mail by detect dog and inspectors at Seoul Post Customs

3.1.2 Small-sizing in the quantity of smuggling per case

Another notable trend was considerable increase of small-size trafficking using mail via Internet communication. In 2006, Customs seized 36 cases of this method of drug trafficking which showed a notable increase compared to 2005 (10 cases).

Table 4: Drug Seizures Transiting Korea by Customs

	2003	2004	*2005	2006
Case	4	4	3	4
gram (Tablet)	35,612	11,488 (19,675)	5,200	9,232 -

* Two cases in 2005 were made in Guam

Drug	Source country	Final destination
Methamphetamine	China, Philippines	Japan, Guam
Cannabis/hashish	S. Africa, Nigeria, India	Japan
Opium/heroine	SE Asia	USA
MDMA	Belgium, Netherlands, France	Japan, New Zealand
Cocaine	S. America	Europe

In 2002, as for herbal cannabis trafficking, 6 cases totaling 137 kg in the routes of SA-KR-JP were seized in Korea. Interestingly, according to the CEN database¹⁾, it revealed that there was no ex-South Africa herbal cannabis seizure in Japan in 2002, whereas there were 5 cases totaling 94kg in the period 2000-2001 and 15 cases totaling 187kg in the period 2003-2004.

In August 2006, Korea Customs provided Japan Customs with intelligence on ex-India cannabis resin trafficking. Based on the intelligence, Japan Customs succeed in intercepting 4kg of cannabis resin routing India-Singapore-Korea-Japan at Narita airport, Japan.

CEN database analysis also shows that there were 4 cases of MDMA seizures transited Korea. In March 2006 year, 4 kg of cocaine trafficking transiting Korea and intended to smuggle into Europe were seized at Incheon airport, Korea.

Through above examples, we can notice that drug traffickers are constantly seek for new routes to disguise source/departure points, and

1) Drug Seizure Database run by World Customs Organization

timely exchange of drug intelligence and close cooperation including joint operation between relevant agencies are very important to effectively intercept international drug trafficking.

3.2 Methamphetamine

3.2.1 Overview

Korea did not face any serious risk from the drug before 1970s. In 1970s, however, as Japanese government implemented hard enforcement policies over the drug, the traffickers in Japan moved in and established clandestine labs in Korea to illegally manufacture the drug and ship it to Japan.



With the emergence of relatively cheap Taiwanese methamphetamine in 1980s that ultimately dominated Japanese domestic market, the Korea-base drug suppliers started to distribute their products within Korea. As the result, Methamphetamine was one of the most popular drugs in Korea from 1980s through 1990s.

As it caused a serious problem in the Korean society, drug enforcement agencies made every effort to crack down on all sorts of methamphetamine-related crimes. As the result, Korea-base clandestine labs were moved out to neighboring countries in the early 1990s. Since then, illicit methamphetamine has been smuggled from overseas into Korea.

In recent years, most methamphetamine seized in Korea is smuggled from overseas such as China, the Philippines, Thailand, and so on. The major portion of methamphetamine seized in Korea is produced by Korean drug ex-convicts who moved to China and set up clandestine laboratories in conspiracy with the ethnic Koreans residing in north-eastern China.

Methamphetamine manufactured in China is smuggled into Korea mainly by air passengers on their bodies/in personal belongings or postal parcels.

As for ephedrine hydrochloride, the precursor chemical for methamphetamine, Korea customs seized one case with 5kg in 1996 and another with 26kg in 1997, both of which were smuggled from China. Since 1998, however, there has been no ephedrine seizures, which may indicate that domestic manufacturing activities of methamphetamine have almost been rooted out.

2.2.2 Seizure Records

In 2006, Korea Customs seized 109 cases totaling 9,977 grams of methamphetamine, which is 99% increase and 13% decrease in the number of cases and quantity respectively compared to 2005.

The significant increase in the number of cases in 2006 is mainly resulted from the increase of end-user smuggling via mail and parcel.

Chart 5: Methamphetamine Seizures Trend, 1997-2006

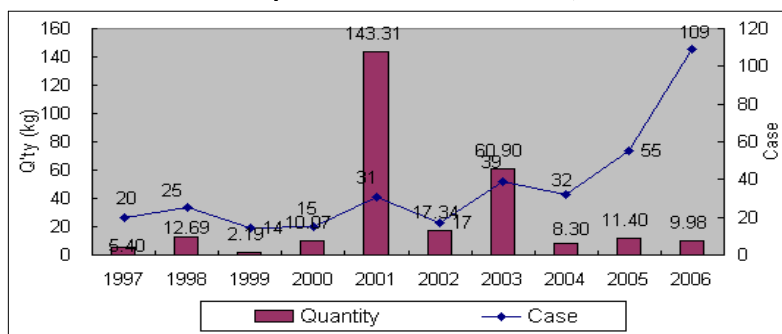
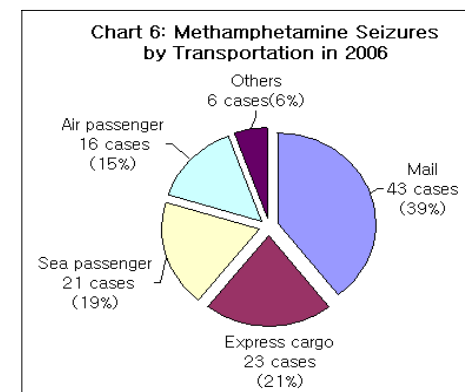


Table 5: Methamphetamine Seizure Records, 1997-2006

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Case	20	25	14	15	31	17	39	32	55	109
Quantity (gram)	5,396	12,685	2,190	10,073	143,314	17,339	60,900	8,304	11,402	9,977

In terms of transport methods, mail dominated with 43 cases (39%), followed by express cargo with and sea passenger with 23 cases (21%), air passenger with 16 cases (15%), and others with 6(6%).

As for the detection clue, intelligence from other agencies dominated with 54 cases, which was followed by routine-inspection (31 cases), tip-off from informant (11 cases), X-ray (6 cases), and detector dog (3 cases).



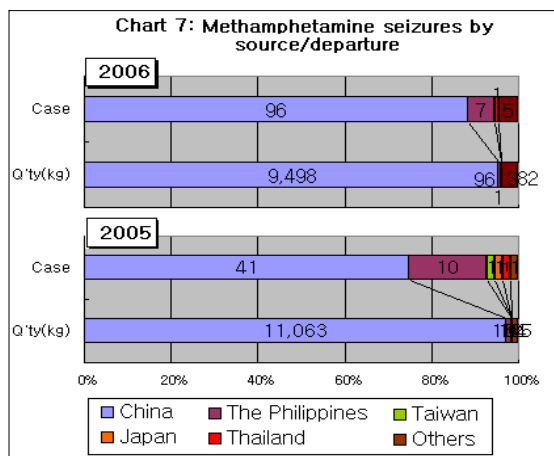
2.2.3 Source/Departure Country

China has been the major source/departure country for methamphetamine trafficking into Korea. Interestingly, in 2004, the number of methamphetamine seizures routed from the Philippines ranked top for the first time in recent years.

One of the major reasons of the increase in the number of seizures coming from the Philippines in 2004 was that drug enforcement agencies in Asia and the Pacific had strengthened enforcement on the drug trafficking from China and traffickers may have taken the Philippines as one of the substitute sources as the UNODC's Drug Situation Report mentioned.

In 2006, China was the number one source/departure country both in the

number and quantity of seizures marking 96 cases with 9,498 grams, which accounts for 88% and 95% of the total number and quantity respectively. The Philippines followed China with the seizures of 7 cases totaling 96 grams. There was one seizure from Thailand, and sources of the other 5 cases were unknown.



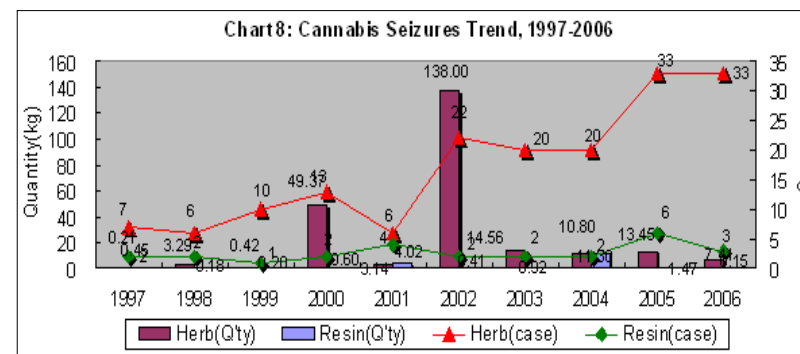
2.3 Cannabis Herb and Resin

2.3.1 Overview

Cannabis, especially cannabis herb is the second most popular drug in Korea only to methamphetamine. In 2006, KCS seized 36 cases of cannabis totaling 7.56kg. Out of them, herbal cannabis seizures were 33 cases, and cannabis resin seizures were 3 cases.

Table 6: Cannabis Seizure Records, 1996-2005

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Herbal Cannabis	Case	7	6	10	13	6	22	20	20	33
	g	214	3,290	424	49,365	3,139	137,998	14,557	10,796	13,453
Cannabis resin	Case	2	2	1	2	4	2	2	2	6
	g	446	181	2	596	4,018	410	92	11,300	1,467



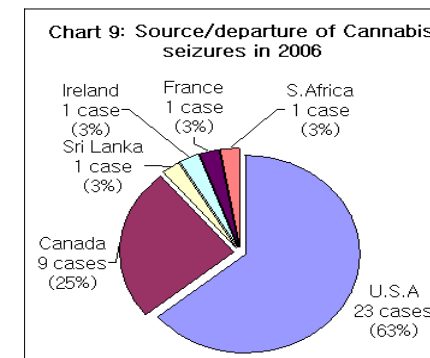
The number of cannabis seizures in 2006 decreased by 8% and 49% both in the number and quantity compared to 2005 (39 cases totaling 14.919 kg).

A considerable increase in herbal cannabis seizures in 2002 is attributable to the six cases seized at Incheon airport routed from South Africa. A total of 136.5kg of herbal cannabis was detected in the six cases. Of note is that, in 2002, there was no seizure of cannabis herb routed from South Africa in Japan, whereas the unusual six seizures were made in Korea during the year.

2.3.2 Source/Departure Country

The U.S.A has remained a major source/departure country of cannabis trafficking into Korea.

In 2006, 23 cases out of the total 36 seizures were sourced in the U.S.A, accounting for 64% of the total number of cases, which was followed by Canada with 9 cases.



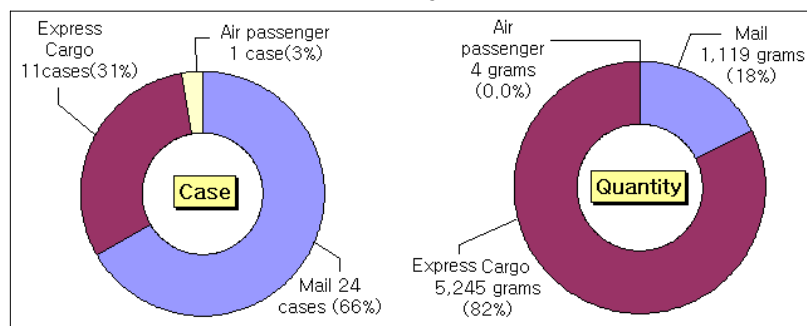
In 2006, in terms of quantity seized by source/departure country, South Africa dominated with 4,960 grams, followed by Canada (700 grams), and the U.S.A (504 grams).

2.3.3 Transport method

In 2006, the most preferred method of transport used for cannabis trafficking into Korea was mail, which accounted for 66% of the total number of cases and was followed by express cargo (31%), and air passenger (3%).

In terms of quantity seized, 82% of the total seizures was smuggled via Express cargo, and mail accounted for 18% of the total seizures.

Chart 10: Cannabis Seizures by Transport method in 2006



2.4 Other Drugs

Excepting methamphetamine and cannabis, other drugs such as opium, heroin, cocaine, and MDMA have not been major drugs in Korea. In 2006, Korea Customs seized 6 cases totaling 4,013 grams of cocaine. Among them, 5 cases were smuggled for domestic distribution or for the use of carriers, and one was transiting case from South America via Korea into Europe in which 4 kgs of cocaine were intercepted.

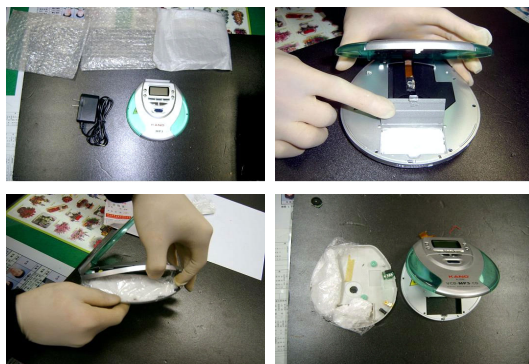
Since its first seizure in 2000, even though the quantities were not considerable, MDMA have been detected by KCS. In 2006, 8 cases with a total of 3,177 tablets of MDMA were seized by KCS. Typically, MDMA is being brought into Korea in small quantities via mail or express cargo by foreigners residing in Korea, or Koreans coming back from abroad such as the U.S.A and Canada where they stayed for a while.

For opium and heroin, there was one case with 18 grams of heroin seizure and one case with 95 grams of opium seizure which were smuggled from Hong Kong.



III. SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES IN 2006

■ On 31 January 2006, acting on a tip-off, customs officers at Busan Customs in cooperation with the Prosecutor's office seized 10 grams of methamphetamine sent from Qingdao, China via mail in Jinju Post Office. The drugs were concealed in a hole for inserting CD player's batteries.



■ On 10 February 2006, during a routine check, customs officers at Seoul Customs seized 47 grams of herbal cannabis sent from Canada via EMS. The drugs were concealed in metal chocolate box. A controlled delivery led to an arrest of a Korean female.



■ On 24 February 2006, during a routine X-ray inspection, customs officers at Incheon Custom seized 380 grams of methamphetamine from a Korean male passenger arrived from Dandong, China on the ship of 'Dongbangmyungju'. The drugs were concealed inside of a speaker.



■ On 27 February 2006, acting on a tip-off, Customs officers at Busan Customs in cooperation with the Prosecutor's office and Seoul Customs, seized 507 grams of methamphetamine sent from Beijing, China via EMS in Seoul Post Office. The drugs were concealed in a internet hub case.



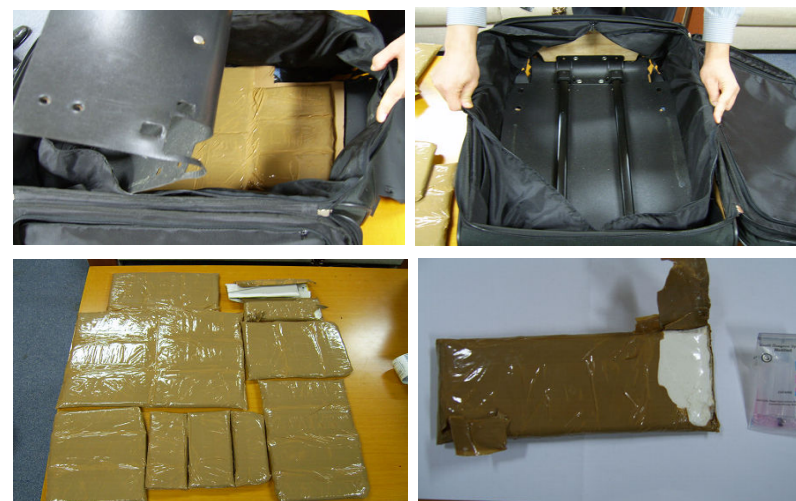
■ On 11 March 2006, during mail inspection using drug detector dog, Customs officers at Seoul International Post Office Customs seized 377g of herbal cannabis sent from Canada via EMS. The drugs were concealed inside of plastic boxes. A controlled delivery led to an arrest of a Canadian male.



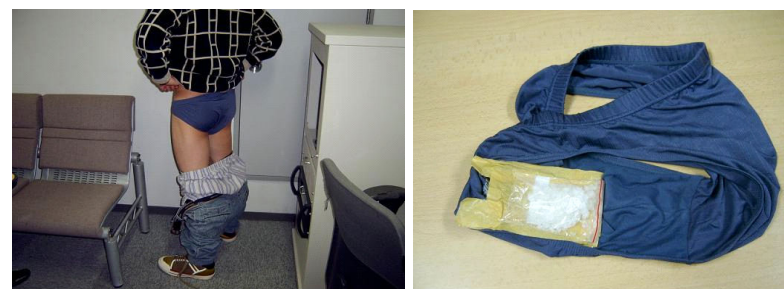
■ On 21 March 2006, Customs officers at Incheon Airport Customs, having received a tip-off, seized 19g of methamphetamine from a Korean male passenger arriving from Qingdao, China on the flight of KE842. The drugs were concealed inside underpants, being wrapped with sanitary napkin.

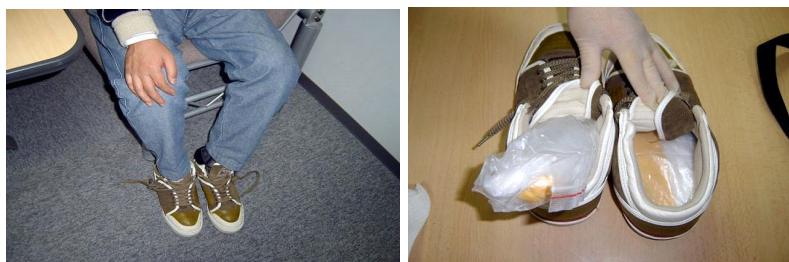


■ On 27 March 2006, on the information of unusual shape during a routine X-ray inspection by the security check team, Customs officer at Incheon Airport Customs, detected 4 kgs of cocaine concealed a suitcase, which was belonged to a Netherlands national female who was to depart for Luxemburg.



■ On 20 April 2006, Customs officers at Incheon Airport Customs, having received a tip-off, seized 1,198g of methamphetamine from a Korean male passenger arriving from Shenyang, China on the flight of KE834. The drugs were concealed in his underpants and shoes.





■ On 1 May 2006, during X-ray inspection, Customs officers at Seoul International Mail Customs seized 93g of methamphetamine dispatched from Vancouver, Canada via EMS. The drugs were concealed in packages of coffee, being wrapped with vinyl and silver papers.



■ On 3 June 2006, Customs officers at Incheon Airport Customs, by targeting on ex-convict involved in drug smuggling in the past, seized 40 tablets of MDMA and 13g of ketamine from a Korean male passenger arriving from Bangkok, Thailand on the flight of OZ742. The drugs were concealed on the body.



■ On 17 June 2006, acting on a tip-off, Customs officers at Incheon Customs seized 75g of methamphetamine from a Korean passenger arriving from Dalian, China at Incheon seaport on the ship of 'Daein'. The drugs were concealed in beer can-shaped toys. Two Koreans and a Chinese were arrested.



■ On 5 August 2006, acting on a tip-off, Customs officers at Incheon Seaport Customs seized 135g of methamphetamine from a Korean passenger arriving from Dalian, China. The drugs were concealed inside candies, being wrapped with plastics.



■ On 21 August 2006, customs officers at Incheon Seaport Customs, acting on a tip-off, seized 100g of methamphetamine from two Korean passengers arriving from Dandong, China. The drugs were concealed in the bottom of a Chinese tea set.



■ On 24 August 2006, acting on a tip-off, Customs officers at Incheon Seaport Customs, seized 532g of methamphetamine from a Korean passenger departing Korea for Guam at Incheon Airport, which had been smuggled from Qingdao, China. The drugs were concealed in the side of a suitcase.



A subsequent investigation led to the arrest of three Koreans by a joint international controlled delivery with DEA of the U.S.A, Guam Customs, and domestic agencies from Korea to Guam.



■ On 3 September 2006, acting on a tip-off, Customs officers at Sokcho Customs seized 9.4g of methamphetamine from a Korean passenger arriving from Hunchun, China via Russia on the ship of 'New Dong Chun'. The drugs were concealed in the honey bottle with ginseng.



■ On 5 November 2006, Customs officers at Sokcho Customs, based on a risk indicator, seized 589g of methamphetamine from a Korean

passenger arriving from Hunchun, China on the ship of 'New Dong Choon'. He was subject to an inspection because he carried a box on which had a different name and an address. The drugs were concealed in tiles and packages of mushrooms.



■ On 30 November 2006, based on a risk indicator, Customs officers at Sokcho Customs seized 30g of methamphetamine from a Korean passenger arriving from Hunchun, China on the ship of 'New Dong Choon'. He was subject to an intensive inspection because he sweated in cold weather and was embarrassed when customs officers asked routine questions. The drugs were concealed in hairy crabs.



■ On 2 December 2006, acting on a drug detector dog's positive reaction, Customs officers at Seoul International Post Office Customs seized 30g of methamphetamine dispatched from Weihai, China via EMS. The drugs were concealed in a floppy disk and a case of camera film. A controlled delivery led to an arrest of two Koreans.



■ On 27 December 2006, during a routine inspection, Customs officers at Busan International Post Office Customs seized 201g of methamphetamine from express mail dispatched from Yanji, China. The drug was concealed in capsules, being stuffed in glass bottles. A controlled delivery led to an arrest of a Korean.



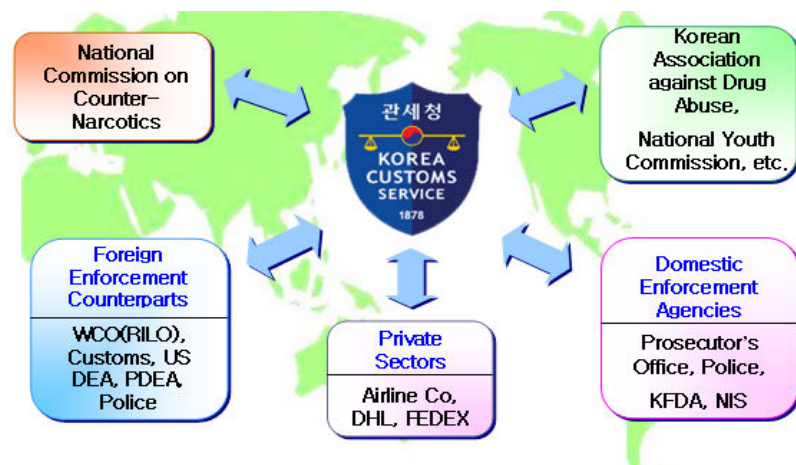
V. COOPERATION IN ENFORCEMENT

1. Domestic Cooperation

For domestic cooperation, KCS regularly participates in the National Inter-Agency Anti-Drug Committee under the Prime Minister's Office, comprised of 13 vice ministers from related government agencies. The committee, which serves as a center for all counter drug policy agencies, has worked well in controlling illegal drugs effectively.

To combine expertise and to share intelligence, KCS and Supreme Prosecutor's Office set up "Joint Drug Intelligence Analysis Team" in 2002.

KCS has also maintained close cooperative relations with National Intelligence Service which provides customs with relevant intelligence. It has also cooperated with the Police on a case-by-case basis and has had regular meetings to exchange drug smuggling intelligence. In addition, it has signed MOUs with 7 parties in the private sector including airline companies and warehouse associations to obtain their voluntary cooperation.



2. International Cooperation

Since illicit drug trafficking is getting increasingly sophisticated, systematic and globalized, it is necessary for KCS to construct and maintain close cooperation with foreign customs and international organizations as well as foreign enforcement agencies in order to crack down on drug organizations.

For obtaining latest drug-related information and building up close relationships with foreign counterparts, KCS has been participating actively in the international drug conferences and seminars such as UNCND, HONLEA and WCO/RILO Contact Points Meeting.



WCO/RILO AP's National Contact Point Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan (Nov. 2006)

KCS has also dispatched one Customs officer specialized in intelligence analysis to WCO/RILO Asia and the Pacific, currently located in Beijing, China, to vigorously participate in the World Customs Organization drug enforcement activities since January 2002.

KCS has also dispatched 6 Customs attaches to U.S.A., Japan, China, Thailand, and Hong Kong and signed Mutual Customs Assistance Agreements with 23 countries.

■ Active participation in International Conferences

- The 16th Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (Jun.13 ~ 15, 2007, Jeju, Korea)
- The 25th International Drug Enforcement Conference (May 8 ~ 10, 2007, Madrid, Spain)
- The 12th Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (Jan.30 ~ Feb.2, 2007, Tokyo, Japan)
- The 30th Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (Nov.14~17, 2006, Bangkok, Thailand)
- The 18th Administrative Meeting of Contact Points of WCO/RILO for Aisa and the Pacific (Oct.30 ~ Nov.1, 2006, Islamabad, Pakistan)
- The 1st Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control (Oct. 17~19, 2006, Gold Coast, Australia)



International Drug Enforcement Conference in Madrid, Spain (May 2007)

■ Bilateral Exchange Training Program

As agreed at the 3rd bilateral Customs Cooperation Conference between Korea and Thailand held in 2002, customs of the two countries annually exchange selected officials for training on drug smuggling enforcement.

The training has been conducted once a year at both sides since 2003 and this program has helped customs officers of both countries further develop their capabilities of drug interdiction.

V. STATISTICS OF DRUG SEIZURES

1. Breakdown by Year

(Unit: gram)

Year Drugs	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Case	Quantity	Case	Quantity	Case	Quantity	Case	Quantity	Case	Quantity
Raw Opium	2	9	4	23,150	2	8	-	-	1	95
Cocaine	2	1,170	1	3	4	8	-	-	6	4,013
Heroin	2	1,077	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18
Cannabis Herb	22	137,998	20	14,557	19	10,777	33	13,453	33	7,409
Cannabis Resin	2	410	2	92	2	11,300	6	1,467	3	54
Cannabis Oil	-	-	-	-	1	19	-	-	1	100
Methamphetamine	17	17,339	39	60,753	32	8,305	55	11,402	109	9,977
Yaba	-	-	1	380tab			1	18tab	-	-
MDMA	4	39,000tab	5	224tab	9	20,261tab	11	954tab	6	3,177
Total	51	158,003 39,000tab	72	98,555 604tab	69	30,417 20,261tab	106	26,322 972tab	160	21,667 gr 3,177 tab

⚠ The numbers in () are assorted case with other drugs

2. Breakdown by Occupation

(Unit: Person)

Occupation	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Unemployed	13	27	49	44	109
Businessman	4	9	10	12	16
Salaried man	10	6	10	20	3
English teacher	4	10	5	19	11
Student	1	-	7	3	3
Laborer	3	-	4	7	18
Peddler	-	-	-	-	4
Others	17	44	12	22	38
Total	52	96	97	127	202

3. Detection by Source Country

(Unit : Case)

Year & Country	Drugs	RO	HE	CH	CR	CO	ME	CO	M	Y	T
		a p w i u m	er oi in	er n b a b is	es n n a b is	ai n l n a b b is	et h a m p.	ca ine	D M A	a b a	o t a l
2004	China	1		2			13				16
	USA			10			2	4	5		21
	Philippines						15				15
	Thailand			2					2		4
	Russia			3	2		1				6
	Nigeria			2							2
	Others						1				1
	Unidentified	1			1				2		4
	Total	2		19	3		32	4	9		69
	Total	4		19	2		40	1	5	1	72
2005	China						41		2		43
	USA			17	1				4		22
	Thailand			1			2			1	4
	Canada			11	1				2		14
	Philippines						10				10
	France			1	1						2
	Hong Kong				1				1		2
	Others			2	2		2				6
	Unidentified			1					2		3
	Total	2		33	6		55		11		106
2006	China						96		2		98
	USA			22				4	2		28
	Thailand						1		1		2
	Canada			8	1						9
	Philippines						7				7
	France				1						1
	Hong Kong	1	1								2
	Nigeria								1		
	Australia							1			
	Others			2	1	1					5
Unidentified			1			5	1			8	
Total	1	1	33	3	1	109	6	6		160	

4. Courier's Nationality

(Unit: Person)

Year \ Nationality	Korea	USA	China	Philippines	Canada	Nigeria	Thailand	Russia	Others	Total
2004	61	12	-	10	2	3	-	3	6	97
2005	88	21	1	4	7	2	1	-	3	127
2006	160	15	9	4	4	3	-	-	7	202

☞ Above figures are numbers of principal offenders

5. Detection by Clue

(Unit : Case)

Detection Source \ Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Baggage/Cargo Inspection	7	23	16	25	55
Intelligence	21	37	36	45	68
X-ray Monitor	11	1	6	18	20
Drug Detector Dog	12	11	11	18	17
Total	51	72	69	106	160

6. Detection by Transport Method (in 2006)

(Unit : Case)

Transportation \ Year	2004	2005	2006
Air Passenger	18	22	23
Sea Passenger	11	6	22
Express Cargo	16	25	36
Mail	14	42	73
Importing Cargo	1	1	-
Unknown	9	10	6
Total	69	106	160



If so, please contact us at:

Narcotics Investigation Division
Investigation and Surveillance Bureau
Korea Customs Service

- TEL : 82-2-512-2316
- FAX : 82-2-512-7539
- E-mail : kcsnid@customs.go.kr

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