have made drug enforcement a priority and heroin seizures have risen sharply, climbing to over one metric ton in 1993.

Taiwan is not a party to the 1988 UN Convention, but the vigorous drug enforcement campaign mounted by the Taiwan authorities demonstrates substantial progress toward meeting some of the goals of the Convention, and shows Taiwan is taking adequate steps on its own to address the problem of heroin trafficking. However, legislation and agreements do not yet exist to implement the provisions of the Convention regarding asset forfeiture, controlled delivery, extradition, mutual legal assistance and illicit traffic by sea. Taiwan authorities have expressed an interest in developing agreements in some of these areas. There were no reported incidents of police corruption involving drugs. There is no evidence of senior Taiwan officials being involved with the illegal drug trade.

Working cooperation between the Drug Enforcement Administration and both the Taiwan National Police and the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau has been good. Efforts are being made to enhance enforcement cooperation and Taiwan authorities have expressed interest in entering into a bilateral counternarcotics agreement under the auspices of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States and the American Institute in Taiwan.

Thailand

Thailand is the main transit route for the illicit drug production from the Golden Triangle. Successful eradication and development efforts have reduced opium cultivation far below the amounts grown in the neighboring countries of Burma and Laos. Due to the efforts of the Thai Government authorities, 1994 cultivation of illicit opium was only 2,110 hectares, yielding 17 metric tons of opium.

Drug enforcement cooperation is very good and improved even further in 1994. In a precedent-setting cooperative law enforcement operation, the Royal Thai government in November 1994 arrested ten major traffickers under indictment in the United States who form part of drug lord Khun Sa's Shan United Army (SUA) infrastructure and proceedings to extradite the fugitives to the United States are now pending in Thai courts. During 1994, Thailand also took action to close off its northern border, reducing the flow of supplies and other logistical support to the SUA in Burma. Efforts continue to enhance judicial cooperation and the Thai Cabinet has just moved to permit the courts to consider the extradition of a former Thai Member of Parliament under indictment in the United States on large-scale marijuana smuggling charges.

Thailand is a leader in regional drug control programs and shares its expertise through agreements with neighboring countries and the United Nations and through training and cooperative enforcement activities.

Thailand remains vulnerable to money laundering due to the relatively low level of sophistication of the Thai banking system and the presence of an active quasi-legal non-bank financial system. Thailand is now in the process of drafting money laundering legislation. Drug-related corruption of some politicians and police officials remains a problem.

A bilateral agreement with the United States supports law enforcement cooperation and crop control, including eradication of opium poppies and Thailand has performed well under that agreement. Thailand is not a party to the 1988 UN Convention, but is a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, its 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

Venezuela

Venezuela is a major drug transit country. Traffickers ship an estimated 100–200 metric tons (mt) of cocaine annually through Venezuela. Precursor and essential chemical trafficking and money laundering are also serious problems in Venezuela. The Venezuelan judiciary's marginal ability to resist