



Press Release
United Nations Regional Seminar in South and Central Asia
To promote International and Regional Cooperation in Combating Illicit Brokering in Small Arms

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) located in Nepal, is organizing a regional seminar entitled “Enhancing International and Regional Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons in South Asia and Central Asia” in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 17 -18 June 2009. This UN initiative has received financial support from the Governments of Austria, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

This seminar is the first of a series of three sub-regional seminars on the topic of “Illicit Brokering of Small Arms and Light Weapons” in Asia and the Pacific. Its main purpose is to raise the awareness of the importance and urgency of addressing the issue of illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons as well as to enhance cooperation on this issue among states in Asia and the Pacific. This seminar also aims at identifying areas of assistance which States could benefit from, including capacity-building in drafting and strengthening national legislation and regulations; strengthening national arms transfers licensing control systems, and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies in combating illicit brokering activities.

Representatives from 13 countries in South Asia and Central Asia, international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, INTERPOL and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), as well as civil society organizations will gather in Kathmandu to discuss ways and means to tackle this issue.

For further information on the seminar, please contact: Mr. Taijiro Kimura, Director, or Mr. Roman Hunger, Special Coordinator for Peace and Disarmament Programs at the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific :

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