



Daniel K. Inouye
Asia-Pacific Center for
Security Studies

Senior Security Studies Course

Pattaya, Chonburi

May 17-21, 2021



Strategic Studies Center,
National Defence Studies
Institute

Topic Overview

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (TOC) IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

Overview

While Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) affects every country in the world, the nature of illicit markets and their impact differs from region to region. The Indo-Pacific is no exception, and while it is prosperous – in part due to expanding social exchanges, trade and investment in infrastructure – the region is also challenged by increasingly aggressive organized crime networks and syndicates. Like any business, transnational criminal enterprises seek out conditions that are good for the bottom line, and in the Indo-Pacific conditions have been favourable. Covid-19 has further exacerbated the situation. The fact is that while law enforcement and border management in the region are robust in some jurisdictions, they are effectively not functioning in others, and limited cross-border cooperation and corruption are serious problems. Key enabling factors for TOC are unfortunately in-place. This presentation will identify and candidly present challenges, and facilitate discussion on potential responses as we look ahead.

Objectives

- Highlight the spectrum of TOC in the Indo-Pacific while focusing on several of the more harmful and effective criminal enterprises.
- Discuss the effects of Covid-19 on TOC
- Understand the nexus between various criminal, terrorist, and even government organizations.
- Examine areas for greater cooperation in countering TOC in the region.

Recommended Readings

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2021), RESEARCH BRIEF The impact of COVID-19 on organized crime. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/RB_COVID_organized_crime_july13_web.pdf