

In November 2014, scams officially became the number 1 crime concern of the NCPC as it launched its first nation-wide anti-scam campaign with the police. The www.scamalert.sg website was also created to allow members of the public to share their personal experiences with scam artists. As it gained popularity, it was revamped in 2016 to showcase information on the latest scams and to allow members of the public to conduct keyword searches to look for certain usernames, mobile phone numbers and bank account numbers that might have been used in previous scams. This feature allows potential victims to verify possible fraud before committing to any payments. Many stories posted on the site now contain the lament that the writer might not have become a victim if he or she had first checked the Scam Alert! website. The site has since seen the number of visitors double from 154,000 in 2015 to more than 321,000 in 2016.

With this new publicity blitz, a series of scam prevention commercials and animated videos were also rolled out on both Facebook and YouTube over the next two years as educational resources for members of the public to learn how scams work.



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NEWS FROM VIETNAM :POLICE TO FOCUS ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS, SMUGGLING



Lieutenant General Đỗ Kim Tuyền

Lieutenant General Đỗ Kim Tuyền, Deputy Director of Vietnam's General Police Department, recently told the media that the community played a central role in reducing the number of drug addicts.

He said that the biggest challenge was the huge number of drug addicts across the country - upwards of 210,000 known addicts and likely an unknown number of other addicts who had dodged official surveys. Another challenge was the rampant use of synthetic drugs in Việt Nam. The United Nations had warned that synthetic drugs were hard to control and this was known from first-hand experience of the police.

Drug-related crimes were getting increasingly sophisticated, more organised, and more audacious – criminals were ready to use violence against law enforcement officers.

The work of the police, as high risk as it already was, had been getting more and more dangerous, bloodshed was no longer a rare occurrence. The best example was the recent busting of a drug ring with police being forced to use guns against the criminals who had violently resisted.

Reducing demand was one of three “reductions” contained in Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc’s directive regarding drug control, the other two being “reducing supply” and “reducing consequences.”

Reducing demand was achieved by combined efforts to prevent new drug use, detoxification and rehabilitation of drug addicts, as well as disrupting supply. Over time, the police had gained a lot of experience and lessons in drug detoxification, namely that the involvement of local authorities and the community held the key to success. No matter what methods or measures were used to help addicts overcome their drug dependency, they would return home, and this was where it was determined whether they would relapse. The community had to be