



PRESS RELEASE

ANNEX

Virtual Side Event “Preventive Drug Education: Adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic” at the 65th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Singapore organised a virtual side event on 15 March 2022 at the 65th session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). The virtual side event, titled “*Preventive Drug Education: Adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic*”, aimed to provide a platform for the sharing of best practices and experiences in implementing preventive education initiatives amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The event was attended by 90 participants from various countries. Ms. Goh Kiat Teng, Manager (Planning & Development), CNB shared about CNB’s PDE strategies and the local drug situation while Ms Lydia Kung from the NCADA Secretariat shared about leveraging technology and social media tools for PDE campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Dr Clara Fuderanan from the ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education (ATCPDE) briefly shared on the various approaches undertaken by ASEAN countries to continue with PDE efforts despite the pandemic. The final speaker, Ms Giovanna Campello from the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section shared her experience delivering PDE in schools and family settings during the pandemic.
4. The side event highlighted the importance of effective preventive education in fostering a drug-free society. Our sustained prevention efforts have helped foster a society keenly attuned to the harms of drugs, and where drug abuse is not mainstreamed nor the norm.