

# Harnessing efforts to establish an informal international platform advocating for drug abuse prevention among young people

**Organizer: Uganda Youth Development Link**

**Co-organizer: Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, Japan**

**Vienna International Centre Room M0E05 (Hybrid)**

**Teams meeting link**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ZDYwZmZiNTYtY2I2OC00MjJmLWE2NGEtMWFiMmMwZTQyNmQy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22540ee5b4-66fe-4ca3-9388-00ebbd43211d%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDYwZmZiNTYtY2I2OC00MjJmLWE2NGEtMWFiMmMwZTQyNmQy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22540ee5b4-66fe-4ca3-9388-00ebbd43211d%22%7d)



**19 March 2024 13:00~13:50 (CET)**

## **From Japan to the World:**

### **Towards achieving a world free of drug abuse among the youth**

Working in tandem with the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre (DAPC) of Japan, Uganda Youth Development Link is organizing this side event in an attempt to take an innovative step towards drug abuse prevention especially among the youth.

Since 1993, DAPC, a public interest incorporated foundation, has been playing a leading role in the nation-wide drug abuse prevention activities, focusing on grassroots education primarily for the youth as well as street-level awareness campaigns. The Centre has simultaneously carried out fundraising activities to support developing countries through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The collected funds have been donated annually to UNODC and have been used for 780 drug abuse prevention projects in a total of 649 developing countries.

In March 2023, during the 66th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Japan organized a side event entitled “Dame. Zettai.” (“Never. Ever.” “Value yourself.”) ~ A high-level side event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the DAPC Grants ~. The current side event serves as a direct follow-up to the proposal made at the 2023 event.

This year’s side event, planned in partnership with Uganda Youth Development Link as a key player representing Africa, is meant to promote and concretise the proposal made at the above-mentioned side event to form an "informal international platform" anchored on drug abuse prevention.

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Half a century ago, by amending article 38 of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the international community firmly stated its intention that the prevention of drug abuse is the first and most important step to address drug abuse issues and that, at the same time, all measures should be taken, beginning with primary prevention and continuing with early identification, treatment, education, rehabilitation, aftercare, and reintegration into society.

Uganda Youth Development Link  
Growth since 30 years.



It is essential that all of these measures be taken in unison, with no one element missing.

The purpose of the DAPC Grants programme through UNODC, which has continued for 30 years, is to send a firm message from Japan that the first priority is to take all possible measures to prevent drug abuse through provision of assistance to developing countries to achieve that goal.

The time has come to create a platform of regional networks for discussion on prevention perhaps on the lines of HONLEA (Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies), which has produced substantive results regarding drug control, with the private sector as the primary driving force.

This would enable countries to coordinate, at the executive level, demand reduction efforts and share experiences, knowledge and best practices.

In today's world, there are countries that urgently need to address the worsening drug abuse situation, and it is precisely in those countries that it is also essential to focus on primary prevention, followed by secondary prevention efforts.

We are about to take the first step in this direction. It is time for like-minded organizations to take this opportunity to come together and join forces to sow seeds towards building an international platform anchored on drug abuse prevention.

The informal international platform to be organized will begin on a small scale, with a few like-minded groups and organizations and with the aim of "planting the seeds" for further creativity in drug prevention efforts.

The next concrete step envisaged includes organizing a regional symposium as an annual forum as part of efforts of drug abuse prevention advocacy.

## Agenda

- 1. Introductions and welcome remarks by the Chair**
- 2. Presentation about the far-reaching idea "informal international platform" anchored on drug abuse prevention by Mr. Akira Fujino, President, Drug Abuse Prevention Centre (DAPC) of Japan**
  - a. Video clip "30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DAPC Grants through UNODC"**
  - b. Reflections on the programmes under DAPC Grants and proposals for a way forward: Today's aim and innovative modalities for drug prevention efforts**
  - c. Specific plans**
- 3. Presentation about youth drug abuse interventions in Uganda by Dr. Rogers Kasirye, Executive Director, Uganda Youth Development Link**
  - a. Reflections on the Uganda experiences: challenges and the way forward**
  - b. Proposals from Africa**
- 4. General discussion and other contributions: way forward and Q & A**
- 5. Closing**

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