

XXI TecMUN Jr.

**Commission on Crime
Prevention and Criminal
Justice**

XXI TecMUN Jr.
28, 29 y 30 de octubre



Delegados, jueces, embajadores, mesas y autoridades presentes;

Escribo ésta pequeña carta no como Secretario General del Modelo, sino como un estudiante y un ciudadano de nuestra nación. Si bien muchos de nosotros aún no cumplimos dieciocho años creo que no hay uno solo de nosotros que no mantenga un interés por lo que le depare a nuestro entorno y, más específicamente, a nuestro país.

Últimamente me he planteado el siguiente problema en mi cabeza, algo que resuena y espero algún día poder contestar con fidelidad, pero algo para lo cual yo en éste preciso momento no tengo respuesta. Todos escuchamos todos los días muchas frases que referencian al sistema social en que vivimos. “Yo soy mexicano” es lo más clásico a mi parecer. No solamente nos postramos como parte de un cuerpo sino que definimos parte de nuestra identidad. Es por ello que cuando una compañera mencionó: “Yo soy México” surgió mi gran predicamento.

¿Cómo se debe decir ésta pequeña frase? Por una parte México es esa riqueza y tan hermosa diversidad en culturas. Es una representación simbólica de la razón de ser de un mexicano. Trabajamos arduamente y poseemos factores que muchos otros países incluso aquellos considerados más desarrollados que México desearían poseer. Todo esto es el ser México, pero hay otra parte que asimismo tenemos que considerar. México también representa pobreza y hambruna, el dominio de los pocos sobre los intereses de los muchos, un vaivén de movimientos que pudiesen o no afectar al prójimo. Representa la corrupción de la cual tanto nos quejamos. Al pueblo carente de oportunidades y, no menos importante, a tantos movimientos sociales que embotellan nuestras calles.

Esto pues no se debe malinterpretar, no digo de forma alguna que México no posea sus aspectos buenos sino que también tomo en cuenta todo lo negativo de nuestra entidad. Mi problemática es entonces si los aspectos positivos son suficientes como para contrarrestar los negativos. ¿Qué tono de voz he de tomar al exclamar “Yo soy México”? Aquel de seguridad y firmeza o uno de humildad y derrota. La respuesta de mi parte es nula. Pues bien si soy firme en mi afán y

gusto de ser mexicano llegan puntos en lo que veo a mi alrededor y me pregunto cómo pudimos haber llegados a éste punto.

Es por esto creo yo que estamos reunidos aquí. Veo cientos de caras mirándome fijamente y en ellas veo potencial. Potencial que puede orientarse a personas muy diferentes. De ésta sala podrán salir excelsos líderes nacionales que pudiesen llevar a nuestro país a grandes desarrollos, pero también existe la posibilidad de desarrollarse en personas con fallas personales que desvíen nuestro camino. Es por esto que estos tres días no los veo únicamente como un evento. Si bien toma gran labor y esfuerzo confeccionar algo como esto, mayor es la fuerza necesitada para lograr algo magno en nuestro mundo contemporáneo.

Disfruten de éstos tres días y hagan de ellos lo más que puedan. No debatan sólo por debatir o el punto foco del evento se perderá. Debatan porque disfrutan de mejorarse y generar un cambio para que algún día no solo podamos decir ante personas de otras nacionalidades “Yo soy mexicano”, sino que podamos mirarnos a los ojos y decir sin trepidación:

“Yo soy México”

Aldo Adrian Acosta Medina
Secretario General XXI TecMUN Jr.

Delegados,

A decir verdad soy una mujer que siempre tiene algo que decir; pero hoy, les confieso que son tantas las cosas que invaden mi mente, que no sé por dónde empezar. Probablemente TecMUN sería el tema correcto del cual platicarles en este momento, pero quiero hablarles de algo más. Quiero hablarles de nosotros y la manera en que la vemos la vida. No les puedo describir la forma acertada de vivirla, pues aún sigo descubriéndola; pero lo que sí quiero contarles delegados, es lo que no deben hacer.

Nunca desperdicien una oportunidad de aprender; ya que todo tipo de aprendizaje es bueno. Uno tiene que aprender de historia, geografía, matemáticas, física y muchas otras materias; pero más que nada hay que aprender a divertirse, a llorar, a dejar ir, a levantarse, a alzar la voz, a escuchar, a perdonar, a entregarse, a amar, a perder, a ganar ; a vivir.

Delegados nunca se arrepientan de algo que hicieron, créanme que siempre se aprende; y si creen que se van a arrepentir de algo que están a punto de hacer, no lo hagan. Jamás hagan algo que no quieren, algo de lo que no están convencidos. Delegados las personas que hacen las cosas que no quieren hacer, son personas mediocres porque terminan haciéndolo a medias. Si deciden tomar un reto, no se venzan hasta alcanzarlo, nunca lo dejen inconcluso. Si tienen un sueño, busquen sus alas y vayan tras de él. Si las personas de su alrededor no los creen capaces; aléjense de ellas, pues sólo serán un tope en su camino al éxito. Los únicos que saben lo lejos que pueden llegar son ustedes mismos. Y no está mal cambiar de metas, objetivos y sueños; lo que está mal es dejarlos ir por miedo al éxito. Sí, miedo al éxito; porque el miedo al fracaso no existe. No se puede fracasar más que abandonando tus sueños.

No será fácil, ni rápido y muchas veces tampoco justo; pero al final todo habrá valido la pena. Aquellas personas que son exitosas no son las que tiene mucho

dinero, ni un trabajo muy importante; son las personas que se ponen una meta y la alcanzan. Son las personas que sobrepasan los obstáculos y nunca pierden el objetivo de vista. Son aquellos que están dispuestos a ir en contra de la corriente con tal de cambiar todo lo que no les agrada. Son las personas que se atreven a ser diferentes, y no les importa ser señalados. Son las personas que no se dejan llevar por lo que quieren ahora y se enfocan más en lo que quieren a largo plazo. Esas personas son las que sacan a este planeta adelante. Esas personas delegados, son ustedes, somos nosotros.

El día de hoy ustedes decidieron tomar un reto y estoy segura que darán lo mejor de ustedes mismos para alcanzarlo. Un reto donde la meta no es obtener un premio, sino mostrarle al mundo que aún hay esperanza. Mostrar que los problemas se asumen y se resuelven, que todo hablando se arregla. Enseñarle a todos los que nos rodean que no somos los que nos quejamos, somos los que hacemos.

Delegados, los invito a que vivan este TecMUN en todo sentido. Aprendan, discutan, ríanse, lloren, debatan, no duerman, no coman si es necesario, diviértanse, entréguese, apasionense; pero sobre todo, vívanlo. Pues delegados, la vida sólo es una y se requiere de mucho valor para estar sentado donde ustedes están; así es que ahora vayan y disfruten el juego que con mucho esfuerzo planeamos para ustedes y nunca se olviden de disfrutar del juego de la vida.

Paola Rodríguez Escobedo
Subsecretaria de ECOSOC

Dear Delegates:

Welcome to the XXI TecMUN Jr. For many, this is a simple event where students from elementary schools get together to debate. This is one way to see the model; but for me Tecmun Jr is an occasion where you can develop different types of skills that help you argument, express yourself, learn to listen, create and feel empathy for the world affairs. Tecmun Jr develops humanity itself inside your heart and your mind, if you decide so; you are the one who decides how to perceive this model; as a simple event, or as an opportunity to discover new skills, new friends and new experiences.

Delegate, thank you for participating in this project, which is prepared for you with a lot of effort. Take advantage of this experience using words. People think weapons and power are the best ways to solve conflicts, but the best weapon any human can use is arguments oriented to actions; the power of an argument is incomparable.

Delegate, being young doesn't mean being unable to discuss. It doesn't mean being unable to have a way and it doesn't mean being unable to express yourself when something is wrong. Being young is the opposite; use those energies! Enjoy the debate, and take advantage of this model.

The slogan of Tecmun is, "the destiny of humanity relies only on the hands of men". Delegate in some years, in your hands is going to rely our destiny. Be aware of the importance of your existence, the importance of your arguments, and the importance of your actions; because they are going to contribute to building of a better world for everyone.

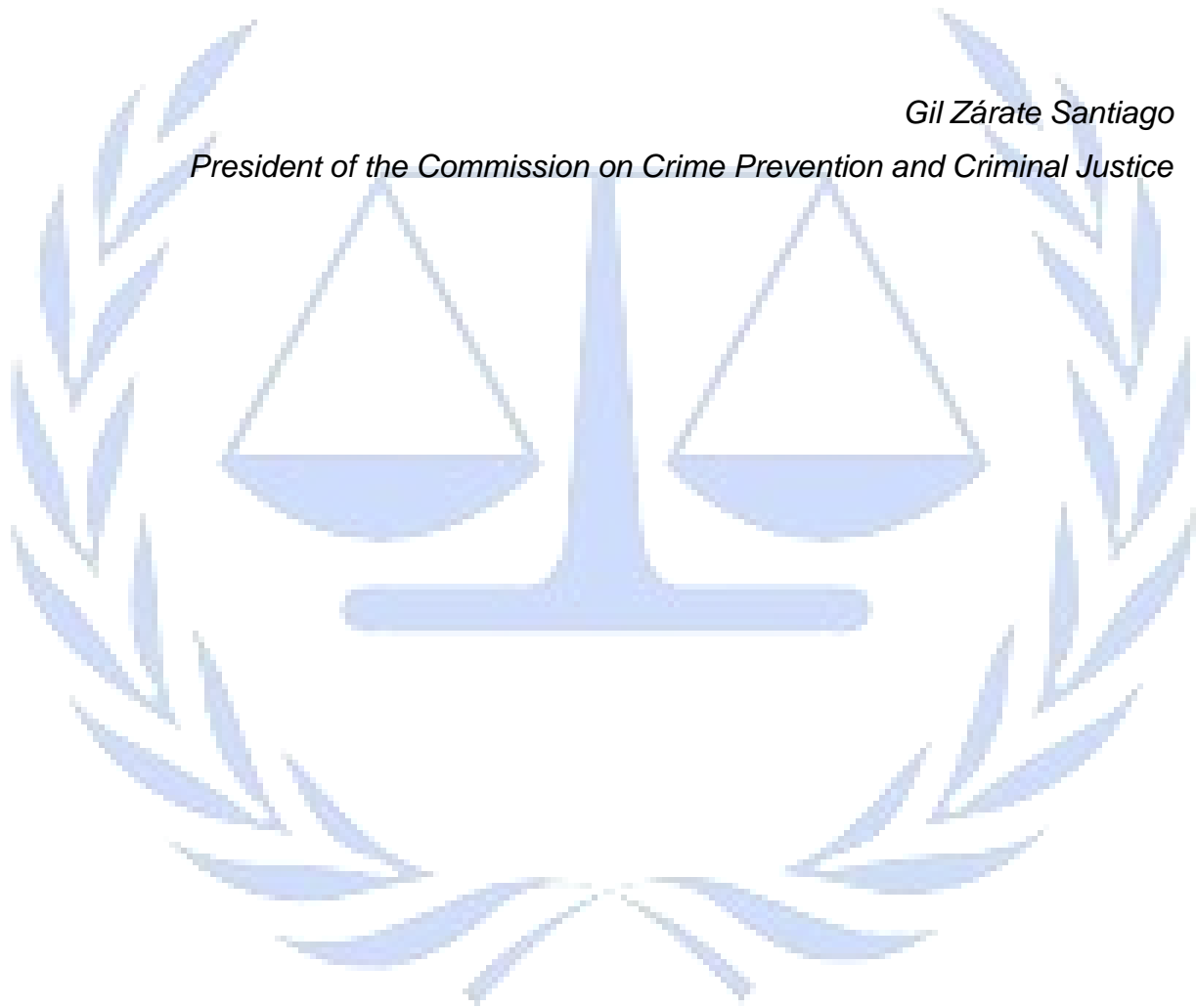
The best advice I can give you during these three days is to enjoy the experience itself and all the things that it includes: work, debate, and more and more work. I wish you for the rest of your life, lots of work and effort too, because these two

are the key for your arguments to become actions. Life is not easy delegate; unfortunately the world in which we live is unfair; the question is: is it worth it? Does our work and effort really contribute to change the world? I hope you find the answer during this model, because I did.

Thanks a lot.

Gil Zárate Santiago

President of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Topic A: Fiscal and penal policies for banks to avoid labor relationship with delinquency.

Money is a resource that acts as a medium of exchanged in transactions but this definition has been changing as the time goes. Today unfortunately, money is the one of main reason for people to harm others; money is the main reason for corruption to exist and to develop. Banks are the institutions that manage money; they save, invest, and supply loans for creating developments. Lately banks have contributed to the development of delinquency, making easier to delinquency to save and invest their money.

Between \$1 trillion and \$1.6 trillion dollars are lost globally each year to illegal activities, according to World Bank estimates. The consequences of these labor relationship between banks and delinquency affect the entire world.

Transnational Banks have gained power enough to perform the activities they desire without being conscious if it is licit or not. Many governments cannot apply the correct sanctions to these institutions because of the bank's superior influence and power, and in many occasions governments are also involved in these illicit activities.

Many people still suffer continuously the consequences of the increasing delinquency such as drug dealing, illicit weaponry flow and so called "blood diamonds". These activities growth is partially responsibility of the facilities that banks provide to delinquents to increase their fortunes or even to support money laundry.

As institutions, banks should obey and respect law; governments must apply and legislate new laws and sanctions for avoiding these labor relationships that encourage corruption and illicit activities.

PRECEDENTS

Banks have existed since many years ago, through history, the first bank as we know it, was founded by the Medici family during the Renaissance, as the world changed, banks did as well. The Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution were ages that transformed the world as the world we know nowadays.

In the United States of America, the banking industry became the center of finances, and shaped the structure that others would formerly follow. After the Great Depression, banking industry enjoyed 40 years of good economy and regulated ages, in those years; banks were less in number than now, they worked with smaller transactions and were controlled by the governments.

During those years a great deal banks were not allowed to speculate upon their customer's financial savings and investment banks did not relate themselves with risky investments, in fact, they were more local and smaller.

In the 80's, governments gave more freedom to investment banks specially, those went public and started earning bigger amounts of capital. With all this liberty, banks started regulating the bank industry, and then they started to work and to invest bigger amounts of money. Crisis came and small banks and financial entities became property of larger banks, with greater amounts of money banks started to give more loans and could invest in bigger businesses.

Transnational expansion began and new strong groups with the same structure emerged in different places. Banks controlled stocks in many economic fields like retire insurance, industry, medicine and agriculture, leading banks getting involved in businesses that produced more money, even in those that were illegal.

Banks acted not only as an institution that managed money, sometimes they sponsored political causes in different countries, they established status, and constructed an influence that is difficult to fight against, yet not impossible.

PRINCIPAL BANKS RELATED WITH DELINQUENCY.

HSBC:

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) with its headquarters in London, is one of the biggest banks in the entire world. HSBC manage the second largest amount of finance stocks in the world, and have presence almost all over the world.

In the year 2003, United States ordered HSBC to strengthen its anti-money laundering practices, and did so again in 2010 after finding the bank had continued to ignore suspicious transactions. In December 2012, HSBC was accused for laundering money for South American and Mexican cartels. HSBC had laundered at least \$881 million in drugs. HSBC acknowledged that for years it had ignored warning signs that drug cartels in Mexico were using its branches to launder millions of dollars. Finally United States of America penalized HSBC for \$1.9 billion (US).

Although the sanctions were applied to HSBC, this bank is still working with delinquency, and has money enough to pay economic sanctions. In 2013 a media outlet in India did an undercover expose where HSBC officers were caught on camera agreeing to launder "black money". HSBC has also been accused of laundering money for terrorist groups.

CITIBANK:

Citibank is an American bank that belongs to the financial group Citigroup; it is the third largest bank in United States of America after Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase. Citibank offers standard banking transactions and insurance. Citibank is present in many countries all around the world. This bank has bought different banks such as Banamex and its banking operations work in more than 160 countries.

In the 1990's, United States of America accused Citibank of laundering money and introducing that money into the American finance system, and was also suspected for working with internationally known people related with corruption such as Raul Salinas de Gortari brother of the former Mexican president, Carlos Salinas de Gortari. A senate-investigative committee said there was no evidence that the bank knowingly helped clients suspected of links to corruption and crime to conceal the true source of funds. Still it accused the bank of failing to implement procedures that would have weeded out money from illegal sources.

Citigroup chairman John Reed, who was also co-chairman of Citibank, admitted that the hearing that controls over Citibank's private banking unit, which deals with clients who have assets of \$3m or more, had been unsatisfactory. He said there had been "oversight lapses" in the early 1990s, but since then the bank had taken steps to rectify this. "Of course the changes did not occur overnight, and in retrospect one could take issue with whether they happened fast enough," he said.

The report cited in particular four sets of clients, from Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and Gabon, whose sources of income were dubious and who passed millions through Citigroup banks.

Raul Salinas, was imprisoned for 50 years in Mexico in January for masterminding the assassination of a top ruling-party official. He secretly transferred \$87million out of Mexico from 1992 to 1994 using Citigroup banks.

CREDIT SUISSE

Credit Suisse bank belongs to Credit Suisse Group that manage other finance services investments. Credit Suisse Group is a Switzerland multinational finance Service Company and has its headquarters in Zürich.

Credit Suisse was expected to pay a fine of \$536 million to settle accusations by the United States government and New York State authorities that it violated sanctions by helping Iran and other countries secretly funnel hundreds of millions of dollars through American banks.

Two of the organizations that Credit Suisse facilitated transactions for, were the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the Aerospace Industries Organization, both of which are designated as proliferators of weapons of mass destruction by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control. Both are barred from doing business with the United States. The Atomic Energy Organization is said to have ties with Iran's nuclear weapons program, while Aerospace Industries works with long-range missiles.

The authorities identified more than 7,000 illicit transactions that Credit Suisse facilitated, worth about \$700 million; investigators found an additional \$1.1 billion in transactions that had been manipulated. Not only did Credit Suisse employees strip the wire transfers, but they also advised the Iranian banks on how to format their transfers to avoid detection. As a result Iranian banks like Bank Saderat and Bank Mellì were able to use Credit Suisse to send more than a billion dollars through New York banks. Credit Suisse also facilitated smaller transactions for banks in other sanctioned countries, including Cuba, Sudan, Burma and Libya.

During the period between 2008 and 2012, Germany, Brazil and the United States began a series of investigations into the use of Credit Suisse accounts for tax evasion.

These are some of the most highlighted examples of bank corruption and the relation banks handle with delinquency, there are many important banks from national to transnational sphere such as JP Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch and Santander Group, which sustain a labor relationship with delinquency too. Sanctions are not strict enough for banks to stop investing in illicit deals, some governments enjoy the benefits of this phenomenon, economic and political interests have allowed these banks' behavior.

BANKS SECRECY

Bank secrecy or bank privacy is a legal principle in some jurisdictions under which banks are not allowed to provide to authorities personal and account information referring to their clients unless certain conditions apply for example, a criminal complaint and a juridical warrant. Many countries apply bank secrecy in their finance system such as Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Lebanon, and Cayman Islands among others. Although it is supposed that criminal complaint information is provided by Bank Secrecy Countries, the reality is another one, this information is almost never provided to authorities.

Switzerland:

Banking in Switzerland is regulated by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA), which derives its authority from a series of federal statutes. The country's tradition of bank secrecy, which dates to the Middle Ages, was first codified in a 1934 law.

Swiss bank secrecy protects the privacy of bank clients; the protections afforded under Swiss law are similar to confidentiality protections between doctors and patients or lawyers and their clients. The Swiss government views the right to

privacy as a fundamental principle that should be protected by all democratic countries. While privacy is protected, in practice all bank accounts are linked to an identified individual. Moreover, bank secrecy is not absolute: a prosecutor or judge may issue a "lifting order" in order to grant law enforcement access to information relevant to a criminal investigation.

Number accounts: Some bank accounts are afforded an extra degree of privacy. Information concerning such accounts, known as numbered accounts, is restricted to senior bank officers, rather than being accessible to all the employees of a bank. However, the information required to open such an account is no different from that of an ordinary account; the Swiss law does not allow completely anonymous accounts.

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE REGARDING BANK SECRECY

The European Union and the United States of America apply pressure over countries that practice bank secrecy. Pressure on Switzerland has been applied by several states and international organizations attempting to alter Swiss privacy policy. The European Union, whose member countries geographically surround Switzerland, has complained about member states nationals using Swiss banks to avoid taxation in their home countries. The EU has long sought a harmonized tax regime among its member states, although many Swiss banking officials (and, according to some polls, the public) are resisting any such changes.

United States of America practice Bank Secrecy partially and in a controlled way, although its partial practice of Bank Secrecy, United States of America applies pressure over countries such as Switzerland, Panama and Cayman Islands. However the reason of the pressure appliance over these bank secrecy countries is the same as the European Union, avoiding flight of capital and tax evasion.

CONCLUSION

Economic and Political interest in collaboration with bank secrecy and corruption make banks a perfect target for delinquency to invest and make their money grow, banks as institutions have the potential to provide human kind a good and peaceful development; unfortunately the reality is other. Human beings are capable of changing this situation, so lets take the future in our hands.

The relation between Banking Organizations and delinquency is a very important issue that must be solved as soon as possible, given that most of these Organizations have presence in many countries and the have the needed funds to support any cause. In this way, delinquency is spread all over the world and is harder to be controlled. The International Community must work together in order to find a solution to this problem that already represents a threat to International Peace and stability.

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Topic B: Strategies to stop deceptive medicine traffic and its prevention through penal initiatives.

Health is the most important asset in life, without health, countries, societies, and human beings themselves cannot function in a complete way. Thanks to technological improvement through history course, we have been able to give a service to ourselves, a service that preserves life through medicines.

Medicines are part of each culture development around the world; since ancient times nature appliance has been used as medicines. This knowledge contributed to science and as a consequence, the global mortality rate decreased and the global birth rate increased. These conditions gave the humanity the opportunity to increase its population.

Today medicine industry is one of the most important financial activities, it plays an important role in economy and in science. Many of these medical advances have allowed humans to live in excellent conditions, where life is preserved.

Unfortunately medicine industry also plays an important role in delinquency; this scientific knowledge is being misused for the creation of deceptive medicines, which represent the corruption of recognized laboratories and governments. These medicines are cheaper to produce and are almost the same as original

medicines, the difference is that deceptive medicines contain smaller portions of active substance than original medicines.

This illicit industry produces not only medicines that work halfway; they produce medicines that can affect health and even end the lives of someone else. People, who are part of the whole process of deceptive medicines traffic, should assume their enormous responsibility over the effects these products produce.

“When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest, strength cannot fight, wealth becomes useless, and intelligence cannot be applied.” –Herophilus.

PRECEDENTS

Definition:

Deceptive medicine is a term that has different synonyms, this type of medicines are also called counterfeit medicines, fraudulent medicines, quack medicines or deceptive medicines.

It is extremely important to understand what the definition of deceptive medicines is, unfortunately the absence of a universal accepted definition not only makes information exchange between countries very difficult but it also limits the ability to understand the true extent of the problem a global level. In order to address this problem, the following definition has been developed by the World Health Organization:

"A counterfeit medicine is one which is deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source. Counterfeiting can apply to both branded and generic products and counterfeit products may include products with the correct ingredients or with the wrong ingredients, without active ingredients, with

insufficient active ingredients or with fake packaging.”

The crime of fraud is committed when a product is sold deceptively. For example, a vendor selling bags of sand labeled as “sugar” would be guilty of fraud. This is as true with medication as it is with other products, except the consequences are far graver – rather than simply losing their money, the defrauded people could lose their lives. Pharmaceuticals are considered fraudulent if they differ substantially from what is indicated on the packaging.

A deceptive medicine may contain inappropriate quantities of active ingredients or none, may be improperly processed within the body, may contain ingredients that are not on the label which may or may not be harmful, or may be supplied with inaccurate or fake packaging and labeling.

History:

The production of deceptive medicines is part of a whole historical movement. This industry was prevalent during the British Empire for centuries, including the British colonies in America. With the American independence and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, American products began to domain the domestic market, these includes medicines. Americans sold deceptive medicines with the brand of Exoticness. At first, these medicines were just alternative medicines that claimed to have exotic ingredients, however they were just a mixture of chemicals that might cure, but most of the times harmed people, for example the German immigrant William Radam started selling "Microbe Killer" throughout the United States, his project claimed to "Cure All Diseases," in fact, Radam's medicine was a therapeutically useless and in large quantities actively poisonous. This medicine was a dilute solution of sulfuric acid colored with red wine.

The production of these exotic medicines was affected by newer regulations,

which required the removal of the most dangerous contents from patent and proprietary medicines, and forced deceptive medicine proprietors to stop making some of their more blatantly dishonest claims. America and other industrialized countries started to legislate new laws that complicated the production of these medicines, and this industry decreased but was not eradicated at all. From then on, deceptive medicines started to be produced as the imitations with none or almost none active component.

With globalization and the economical expansion of industrialized countries, this industry arrived to developing countries, and it was there where this industry started to grow. Many factors set the perfect conditions for the production and traffic growth.

This industry grew almost without complications and out of the international attention until 1985, when the appearance of deceptive medicines in International Commerce was first mentioned as a problem at the WHO Conference of Experts on Rational Drug Use in Nairobi, Kenya. Since then, public awareness of the problem of deceptive medicines has grown.

PRINCIPAL DECEPTIVE MEDICINES

Between January 1999 and October 2000 alone, the World Health Organization received from 20 countries 46 confidential reports related to deceptive medicines. The drugs counterfeited included antibiotics, hormones, analgesics, steroids, and antihistamines. In terms of types of counterfeits and their magnitude, the products reported can be grouped into six categories:

- 1 Products without active ingredients, 32.1%;
- 2 Products with incorrect quantities of active ingredients, 20.2%;
- 3 Products with wrong ingredients, 21.4%,
- 4 Products with correct quantities of active ingredients but with fake packaging, 15.6%;
- 5 Copies of an original product, 1%; and

6 Products with high levels of impurities and contaminants, 8.5%.

Antibiotics:

Tuberculosis is a disease that is commonly present in many countries, for its treatment this disease requires antibiotics; the active component is very strong and is the molecule that destroys tuberculosis bacteria. More than eight million people are affected with tuberculosis every year, according to the World Health Organization. Fake and poorly made antibiotics are being widely used to treat tuberculosis. These substandard drugs are almost certainly making the disease more resistant to drugs, posing a grave health threat to communities around the world.

The World Health Organization recommends that tuberculosis patients receive supervised treatment and quality medicines provided by public health departments. But traveling to the clinics where this treatment is dispensed can be very expensive, especially for economically disabled patients.

In United States of America fake drugs with names that resemble children antibiotics are being sold in Texan pharmacies, mainly to Spanish speakers, and have caused several hospitalizations, according to US officials. The US Food and Drug Administration issued a warning to consumers urging them not to use these "illegal products," after the Texas state health department confirmed the relation with health issues. These illegal products are falsely promoted with claims to treat illnesses such as upper respiratory infections, sinusitis, pneumonia, bronchitis and the common cold.

Analgesics:

Analgesics are used in the entire world, and as many other medicines, these have also been fraudfully manufactured, for example in Myanmar the sham medical tablets known as fake analgesics, which are on sale in shops and stores, are harmful. They damage the human body's internal structure and cause

hemorrhages. Fake analgesic stamped with the sham trademark of MPF (Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory) in Mandalay, the second largest city in Myanmar. There were a few black spots on the surfaces of tablets and the tablets are thinner than the real ones. Experiments with the tablets were done and the results showed that paracetamol chemical powder reacted in 80% of the cases. By ingesting the tablet, it will relief the pain, but it damages health in a long term.

PRINCIPAL INVOLVED COUNTRIES

The issue of deceptive medicines is known to exist in both developed and developing countries. The World Health Organization has received reports related to deceptive medicines from some of its member states on a voluntary basis. According to this information, the problem is known to involve both developed and developing countries.

46 confidential reports relating to deceptive medicines (previously mentioned) were received by WHO from 20 countries. About 60% of these reports came from developing countries, whereas developed countries reported the remaining 40%. The data also reflects that only limited number countries are willing to provide information about cases detected.

West Africa:

This region is suffering the consequences of this fraudulent industry; the population of this region has one of the highest rates of malaria in the world, but many people die because of the flow of fraudulent anti-malaria medication. The medication of West Africa is not only imported, West Africans also produce fraudulent medication, which is used in their countries and harms their own population, but also contributes to the world wide traffic of deceptive medicines.

China and India:

China and India are also the two most frequently identified sources of fraudulent medicines globally. A recent forensic study of fraudulent medicines detected in Africa confirmed an Asian origin for these drugs. Linkages are just part of the increasing integration of the Chinese and African Economies. As Chinese investment in Africa has grown, so have Chinese expatriate populations in Africa. Both Chinese and Indian pharmaceutical manufacturing firms have also opened factories in the region. And as Chinese economy has opened, the West African diaspora in China has also expanded. These links provide a platform for both cooperative development and transnational organized crime.

TRAFFIC

Investigations have revealed a wide range of participants in fraudulent medicines manufacturing and distribution. From former high-level executives in the pharmaceutical industry right down to so called “mom-and-pop shops”, the trade has proven attractive to all manner of opportunists. These drugs proceed to their destination through the mainstream channels of international commerce. Containerized shipment is used for larger volumes, while air or postal shipment suffices for smaller amounts. Fraudulent medicines have even been exported using commercial air couriers, a number of these have been apprehended in China in route to African countries.

FACTORS ENCOURAGING COUNTERFEITING OF MEDICINES

Medicines are high value items in relation to their bulk and the demand for them is infinite. Furthermore, for the counterfeiter, ingredient costs can be very low if cheap substitutes are used or if these are omitted altogether, as it is often the case. Producing counterfeit drugs may not require building huge infrastructure or facilities. Other factors that encourage counterfeiting of medicines are:

- Lack of political will and commitment.

- Weak enforcement and penal sanctions.
- Corruption and conflict of interests.
- Demand exceeding supply.
- High prices of medicines.

CONCLUSION

Medicines should be a tool for humanity to preserve life; unfortunately humans are using medicines to acquire wealth, instead of pursuing a commonwealth. In their process of becoming wealthy, counterfeiters are affecting economies and most importantly are damaging health, without life is not complete. Only with stronger legislation of laws and penal initiatives will end this problem.

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