

Shanaka Jayasekara

Shanaka Jayasekara is the Programme Coordinator (South East Asia and the Pacific) for the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Shanaka has been with UNODC since 2013 and served in several field offices. Prior to his posting in Bangkok, Shanaka served as the Programme Coordinator (Indian Ocean Region) heading the Indian Ocean team of the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Indian Ocean team supported maritime law enforcement agencies of littoral states counter illicit activity at sea with engagement in 11 Indian Ocean states. The Southern Route Partnership (SRP) and the Trilateral Strategy were key initiatives established in the region to counter heroin trafficking on the Southern Route.

Shanaka also served as Programme Officer (Maritime Crime) in Nairobi, Kenya from 2015-2017 strengthening regional coordination of maritime law enforcement agencies counter heroin trafficking on the Southern Route.

Shanaka served as Programme Officer (Counter Piracy) in Seychelles from 2013-2015, supporting the Seychelles criminal justice system provide a fair and efficient juridical process for the prosecution of maritime pirates detained by foreign navies off the coast of Somalia.

Prior to joining UNODC, Shanaka was a Lecturer at the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

Shanaka is a Chevening Scholar and has a Masters in International Security Studies from St. Andrew's University in Scotland, and a BCom (Politics and International Relations) from Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. Shanaka is married to Dilani and they have two sons, Rajiv and Sanjiv.