**Description of *Sam Gor* / *The Company***

**Sam Gor** (三哥, “Brother Number Three”), also known as **The Company**, is not a single crime family but a **catch-all term for a loose confederation of organised crime syndicates** operating across East and Southeast Asia. It functions as a **superordinate structure** in which multiple triad groups and diaspora criminal organisations cooperate in drug production, trafficking, money laundering, and ancillary criminal enterprises. The name is largely shorthand — “Sam Gor” is less a single cartel than an umbrella for a shifting, **amorphous coalition** of triads and syndicates

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**Origins and Structure**

* The syndicate emerged in the **early 2010s**, consolidating several major triads: **14K, Sun Yee On, Wo Shing Wo, Bamboo Union**, and elements of the **Big Circle Gang**

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* It has been described as operating more like a **corporation** than a traditional mafia, with **role specialisation, global logistics, and decentralised management**, rather than ritualised hierarchy

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* Leadership is attributed to **Tse Chi Lop**, a Canadian citizen of Chinese origin with prior heroin trafficking convictions in the US

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* Secondary leadership has included figures such as **Lee Chung Chak**, a Macau-based junket operator and money launderer tied to Australian casinos

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**Geography**

* **Core hub:** The **Golden Triangle region** (Myanmar’s Shan State, northern Thailand, Laos) — the world’s leading methamphetamine production zone

Golden Triangle britanica

myanma super drug labs

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* **Regional strongholds:** Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and southern China.
* **Expansion:** Extensive operations in **Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia**, with transnational ties to **Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Europe, and North America**

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**Activities**

* **Primary trade:** Industrial-scale **methamphetamine production and trafficking**, with the UNODC estimating Sam Gor’s revenues at **US$8–17.7 billion annually** by 2018

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* **Other drugs:** Ketamine, heroin, MDMA, yaba pills.
* **Ancillary crimes:** Illegal gambling, human trafficking, wildlife trade, counterfeit goods, cyber scams (post-COVID shift)

Scamland-Myanmar

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* **Money laundering:** Deeply embedded in the **casino sector** across Macau, Cambodia, Laos, and Australia. Junket operators were used to launder drug profits through VIP rooms and cross-border financial flows

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* **Financial mechanisms:** Real estate, hotels, restaurants, car dealerships, gold shops, and increasingly **cryptocurrency** are used to launder proceeds

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**Adaptability**

* The group demonstrates **resilience and continuity despite leadership arrests**. Tse’s arrest in 2021 and extradition in 2022 disrupted but did not dismantle operations; sub-groups splinter and reconnect, reflecting the broader **stability dynamics of criminal networks**

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* **Evolutionary trajectory:**
  + Mid-20th century: Triad focus on **opium/heroin trade**.
  + 2000s–2010s: Shift to **methamphetamine super-labs** in the Golden Triangle (Sam Gor era).
  + 2020s: Diversification into **industrial cyber-fraud and scam compounds** in Myanmar, backed by the same Chinese syndicate–militia nexus

Scamland-Myanmar

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**Concise Characterisation**

In essence, **Sam Gor / The Company is an amorphous label** for the **collective operations of multiple Chinese and Southeast Asian triad groups**, whose cooperation has created a **transnational drug-trafficking and money-laundering empire** centred on the Golden Triangle. Its reach extends globally, supported by **casino-based laundering networks** and resilient social ties among triads, diaspora communities, and local militias.