

World Health Day 2007: Invest in Health – Build a Safer Future

The official ceremony for World Health Day 2007 was organized by the Government of Union of Myanmar, on 7 April 2007, Saturday, at Nay Pyi Taw. The ceremony was inaugurated by the Secretary 1 of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt Gen Thein Sein, who delivered a key note address. It was also attended by Major General Wai Lwin, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Ministers and Members of the National Health Committee, Representatives from UN Agencies, National and International NGOs and officials from the Ministry of Health.

According to the agenda, Prof Adik Wibowo, WHO Representative to Myanmar read out the Message from Dr Samlee



Secretary 1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers a speech at the World Health Day 2007 opening ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw.

Plianbangchang, the WHO Regional Director for the South-East Asia Region, for the World Health Day 2007. Following the inaugural ceremony, the invited guests viewed the World Health Day Mini-Exhibition displayed by the Ministry of Health and WHO Country Office, Myanmar.

After the official ceremony a Technical Seminar on "Invest in Health, Build a Safer Future" was organized by WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The seminar was moderated by Prof Adik Wibowo, WR-Myanmar, Prof Than Myint, Director General of Department of Medical Sciences and Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein, Deputy Director General of Department of

Health. Four speakers from various departments under the Ministry of Health, namely; Dr Phone Myint, Director, Department of Planning, Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, Deputy Director, Department of Health, Dr Than Zaw Myint, Director, Department of Medical Sciences and Dr Myo Khin, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research, central Myanmar, gave presentations related to global health security and investment in health. Later participants made questions, comments and discussions. WHO Country Office, Myanmar hosted a luncheon to mark the successful conclusion of World Health Day 2007 ceremony and technical seminar. ■



The panel of moderators for the Technical Seminar.

Workshop on "Evidence based approach to Cancer Management"

A Workshop on "Evidence based approach to Cancer Management" was conducted at the Department of Medical Research, Lower Myanmar from 14 to 15 June 2007.

Dr. Kyaw Min, Director General, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) delivered the opening speech.

Dr. Nihal Singh on behalf of Professor Adik Wibowo, WHO Representative to Myanmar delivered a speech.

Participants were from various specialties such as medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgery, gynecology, maxillo-facial surgery, ENT, pathology and chest medicine.

Highlights of the workshop for the first day were the presentations by Associate Professor Dr. Soe Aung, Associate Professor Dr. Soe Oo Maung and Professor Han Win on medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical management of common malignancies respectively.

Highlights of the workshop for the second day were the presentations by Professor Than Than Tin, Professor Khin Maung Lwin, Professor Thein Tun and Professor Khin Maung Aye on the management of gynecological malignancies, maxillo-facial malignancies, ENT malignancies and lung malignancies respectively.

There was also group work in which the participants discussed and presented on the updates, current and latest trends for prevention and management of five most



Dr Kyaw Min, Director General, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), delivering the opening speech.



Presentation by Prof Han Win on surgical management of common malignancies.

common cancers namely cervical, breast, lung, ENT and gastrointestinal cancers. The discussion also highlighted on issues relating to prevention and provision of effective medical treatment for cancer patients.

Recommendations of the workshop were drafted and finalized, after which the workshop concluded on the evening of the second day. ■

National workshop on low-cost water supply, sanitation and hygiene intervention



Presentation on low-cost water supply, sanitation and hygiene intervention

The national workshop on low-cost water supply, sanitation and hygiene intervention was conducted from 17-18 May 2007 at Royal Kumudra Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. The opening speech was delivered by Dr. Tin Min, Deputy Director General (Medical care), on behalf of the Director General, Department of Health.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- 1) To promote awareness on low-cost water supply, environmental sanitation and personal hygiene
- 2) To develop sustainable low-cost interventions.

After the opening session, U Myint Kyi, WHO National Consultant, moderated the

morning session of the workshop and provided a brief overview on the concepts of low-cost intervention, achievements of the past decade, gaps and constraints, country issues and challenges and verifiable indicators.

The workshop started with three working groups doing exercises and brainstorming on identification of problems and actions needed to address these issues regarding water supply, sanitation and hygiene interventions. Group discussions and presentations reflected the true situation for which follow up actions were recommended.

The second day of the workshop continued with the same groups working on preparation of a frame work on low-cost water supply, sanitation and hygiene interventions at the township and rural level. After presentation and plenary discussion on township and rural planning, consensus was reached regarding the follow up actions to be taken.

The outcome of the workshop were the following recommendations:

1. To organize the community in line with their needs and provide necessary training, support and field supervision for sustaining the activities for water supply, sanitation and hygiene.
2. To use integrated approach in the implementation of activities for water

supply, sanitation and for change towards healthy behavior.

3. To acquire more specific and reliable data with regard to water supply, sanitation and hygiene.
4. To include sanitary disposal of refuse and garbage in the environmental sanitation programme in addition to use of sanitary latrines.
5. In the township and rural level, planning, not only for increase in coverage but also to strengthen and develop healthy behavior to be included and implemented.
6. In project planning, focus should be towards interventions which are effective and easily implemented by the community itself.

The workshop was attended by (25) participants from respective government departments which include Environmental Sanitation Division (ESD) of DOH, Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) of DOH, School Health (Department of Health), Department of Development Affairs (DDA), General Administrative Department (GAD), Department of Education Planning and Training (DEPT), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), WHO, UNICEF, Township Health Department (Pyinmarnar), Township Health Department (Laiwai), Swa Station Hospital and National and International NGOs. ■

HINARI and HELLIS training workshop

With the support of WHO, the Department of Medical Sciences conducted the HINARI (Health Internetnetwork Access to Research Initiative) and HELLIS (Health Literature, Library and Information Services) training workshop from 25th June to 29th June 2007 in Yangon at the Medical Education Centre conference hall. The workshop was targeted to build capacity in HELLIS libraries who have not yet integrated the HINARI into their library services.



Participants at the HINARI and HELLIS training workshop.

The HINARI program, set up by WHO together with major publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to one to the world's largest collections of biomedical and health literature. Over 3750 journal titles are now available to health institutions in 113 countries, benefiting many thousands of health workers and researchers, in turn, contributing to improved world health. The HINARI website can be found at www.who.int/hinari.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr Steven Glover, Librarian, Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, UK and assisted by Ms Marla Win, Librarian from WHO country office, Myanmar. Based on this background during one week 17 librarians from national institutes of different parts of Myanmar, an information assistant from WHO country office, Myanmar and 6 research officers/scientists from Department of Medical Research were trained on-line. As part of the training, participants and observers had the chance to observe demonstrations and practice in accessing and retrieving full text articles from HINARI website using Pubmed and MyNCBI. They also had the opportunity to



Mr Steven Glover giving the training to the participants and research scientists at the HINARI and HELLIS training workshop at the Medical Education Centre.

register for their institutes. Additional presentations include how to run a training workshop and how to manage references using Bibloscape Express 3.

The workshop concluded with the key resource person discussing on how to take forward the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop. Focusing on advocacy strategies such as promotion, marketing, advertising, disseminating the username and password to eligible institution members, training, and communication. ■

Responding the outbreak of Poliomyelitis - Maungdaw township

In April 2007, after a polio-free period of over seven years, polio outbreak has been reported from Maungdaw Township of North Rakhine State. As on 12 June, eight cases have been diagnosed as virologically confirmed polio cases as P1W (Polio type 1) have been isolated from the specimens of these cases.

A national team conducted an immediate active search and ORI. An international rapid response team (RRT) was invited to Myanmar and visited Maungdaw from 1 to 4 May. The team concluded that several factors have contributed to this polio outbreak, including:

- The re-introduction of wild poliovirus into neighbouring Bangladesh in 2006.
- Decline in national routine immunization coverage for all antigens in Myanmar in 2006 compared to 2005.
- A gap of two years since the last polio Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIA) in North Rakhine State in 2005.

As a response to this outbreak, polio mop up immunization campaigns are being conducted as per the schedule mentioned below:

- An initial house to house mop-up with monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine - type1 (mOPV1) in 18 townships of Rakhine and Chin between 14 and 18 May.
- A second house to house sub National Immunization Day (SNID) round with mOPV1 to include Rakhine, Chin, Ayeyarwady, Magway, West Bago; covering a total of 83 townships, targeting 2.5 million children commencing immediately after the measles round, in the second week of June.
- A third house to house SNID round with mOPV1 to include the same 83 townships, commencing in early July with a 3 week interval after the second round.
- Synchronize Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) with Bangladesh as far as possible, especially border transit points.

Considering the potential rapid spread of wild poliovirus to other areas in Myanmar;

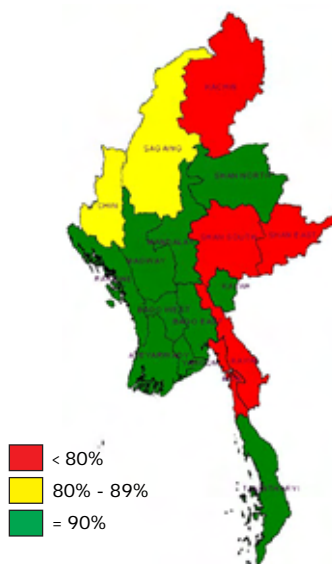


it is recommended that all township medical officers and their staff should be alerted to the current polio outbreak. All Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases should be reported immediately by telephone to the state health director and the Regional Surveillance Officer (RSO). Reporting and investigating even doubtful AFP cases without awaiting confirmation from the RSO. Provide weekly zero reports by telephone to the RSO. Inform NGOs and community leaders to advise the public to bring all newly paralyzed children to the health services without delay.

Mass Measles Campaigns (MMC) 2007 successfully completed

Mass Measles campaign covering the whole country has been completed between January to May 2007 in three phases targeting all children in 9 months to 5 years age group. The coverage has been satisfactory in most of townships but rapid convenient assessment done by the nationals and internationals monitoring teams suggested that there may be pockets with poor coverage which should be revisited by special teams to reach high coverage in those areas.

Mass Measles Campaign coverage 2007



Avian Influenza

On February 28, 2007 a second wave of avian influenza outbreaks in poultry was reported in Myanmar (following the successful control of the first ever reported outbreaks in 2006). Whereas last year poultry outbreaks occurred in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, on this occasion a total of 7 outbreaks were reported in 5 townships in Yangon Division between 28 February and 31 March, followed by occurrences of the disease in Insein, Yangon Division on May 22 and then in Bago Township on 02 June. On each occasion, the Ministry of Health reacted quickly to identify individuals at risk of contact with infected poultry and institute appropriate follow-up, no human cases were reported.

Because Avian Influenza primarily affects poultry and waterfowl but also poses a risk to humans, WHO works closely with its sister agencies FAO and UNICEF, NGOs and donors in supporting the Ministry of Health and the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. In response to the outbreaks, regular meetings were arranged to ensure a coordinated response. Support was also provided by WHO to the National Health Laboratory, Yangon for the shipment

of clinical specimens for external verification.

Other related activities have included WHO supported training of Rapid Response Teams (including clinical, laboratory and veterinary staff) from 24 - 26 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

As part of Avian Influenza and Influenza Pandemic preparedness, support has also been provided through WHO to improve the facilities of hospitals in Taunggyi, Monywa, Myitkyina, Magwe, Lashio, Kyaingtong and Myeik, including upgrading isolation wards and the purchase of equipment for Intensive Care Units. To facilitate the process, a hospital assessment team including the WHO Avian Influenza staff members visited all the selected hospitals between 8 May and 7 June 2007.

A landmark event for WHO was the passing into effect of the revised International Health Regulations (2005) on 15 June 2007. The new IHR places a number of obligations on WHO and Member States, but provides a framework for improving the control of infectious diseases with potential for international spread such as SARS and pandemic influenza and thus enhancing Global Health Security.



World Health Organization

World No-Tobacco Day 2007: Smoke Free Environments

This year's World No-Tobacco Day was on 31 May 2007. The official commemoration ceremony of World No-Tobacco Day 2007 was organized by the Ministry of Health at Nay Pyi Taw on 1 June 2007. The ceremony was attended by the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Minister for Health and two Deputy Ministers for Health, representatives from United Nations Agencies, senior officials from the Ministry of Health and other ministries, vice-president of Myanmar



Women Affairs Federation, vice-president of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, representatives from national and international NGOs.

The ceremony was opened by the commander of Nay Pyi Taw command, Major-General Wai Lwin, who made an opening speech. According to the agenda, Prof. Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health delivered an address. Later, Prof. Adik Wibowo, WHO Representative to Myanmar, read out the message from WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, Dr Samlee

Prof. Adik Wibowo, WHO Representative to Myanmar, read out the message from WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, Dr Samlee Plianbangchang at the opening ceremony of the World No Tobacco Day 2007 in Nay Pyi Taw.



Major General Wai Lwin, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, made an opening address at the official commemoration of World No-Tobacco Day 2007 at Nay Pyi Taw.

Plianbangchang. After the ceremony, the dignitaries and invited guests viewed the mini-exhibition, displayed by the Ministry of Health. The exhibition featured activities and successful events carried out by the national tobacco control programme in the past years and activities related to this year's theme "Smoke Free Environments". ■

Training workshop on information management and retrieval for HeLLIS network

libraries

The HeLLIS - "Health Literature, Library and Information Services or (HELLIS)" Network of the South-East Asia Region was born in August 1979. Since then, the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office has been supporting various activities aimed at achieving the objectives of the HELLIS Network. The Department of Medical Research Library (Lower Myanmar) is the focal point for HeLLIS libraries in Myanmar.

The training of trainers workshop on information management and retrieval for HeLLIS network libraries was conducted at the Medical Education Centre from 20 to 22 June 2007, hosted by the Department of Medical Science and WHO Country Office in Myanmar.

The workshop was attended by leading librarians from medical libraries across

Myanmar. The participants were drawn from HeLLIS libraries, such as Universities of Medicine and Department of Medical Research. Ms Anchalee Chamchuklin, IMD, WHO SEARO and Ms Kanpirom Wiboonpanich, WHO Thailand facilitated the workshop. Ms Marla Win, Librarian and Mr Tin Htoo Khaing, IT specialist from WHO Myanmar were the two national key resource persons.

The objective of the workshop was to train the librarians in information management following international standards by using PhpMyLibrary software. This software is a PHP MySQL Library automation application. The program consist of cataloguing, circulation, and webpac module. The programs has and import - export feature and it strictly follow the USMARC standard for adding materials. PhpMyLibrary is a free software (open source) developed by Philippines and customized by U Aung Myint with an initiative and support from Ms Anchalee Chamchuklin, IMD, WHO SEARO.

Group photo of facilitators and participants of the training workshop on information management and retrieval for HeLLIS network libraries.



Possible follow up of this workshop would be to conduct similar workshop for medical/health librarians. ■

Visit of DAF/SEARO to Myanmar



Mr Jeffery Kobza, Director, Administration and Finance, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi, visited Myanmar during the period of 10 to 13 June 2007 in order to familiarize himself with the implementation of the 3DF/Bridge Fund strategies. He also visited Patheingyi in Ayeyarwaddy division to have first hand knowledge of the Bridge Fund activities at the township level. The Myanmar Country Office benefited from the visit of Mr Kobza to focus on administrative aspects.

important dates

30 June - 6 July 2007	WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control - second session of Conference of the Parties, Bangkok, Thailand.
2 - 6 July 2007	Joint meeting of Health Secretaries of Countries of WHO SEA Region and Consultative Committee for Programme Development and Management, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi, India.
15 - 18 July 2007	Dr Samlee Plianbangchang WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Region and Dr Myint Htwe, Director of Programme Management visit to Yangon in accepting invitation of H.E. Professor Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health, for launching the University of Public Health in Yangon, on 16 July 2007.
20-23 July 2007	Inter-Country training on Malaria country database, Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon.
1 - 2 August 2007	Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) workshop, Yangon.