



World Sight Day 2010 "Count Down to 2020"



WHO Representative to Myanmar Dr. Herbert S.B. Tennakoon delivering speech at World Sight Day 2010 commemoration ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

The commemoration ceremony for "World Sight day 2010" was conducted at the Ministry of Health in Nay-Pyi-Taw on 14 October 2010. It was attended by H.E. Professor Kyaw Myint, Minister, Ministry of Health, H.E. Professor Paing Soe, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Directors General from Departments under the Ministry of Health, officials from the Ministry of Health, representatives from Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, INGOs and other local NGOs.

The opening speech was delivered by H.E. Professor Kyaw Myint, Minister, Ministry of Health which was followed by an address by Dr. H.S.B. Tennakoon, WHO Representative to Myanmar. This was followed by viewing the exhibition on the activities of the prevention of blindness programme in Myanmar.

Prevention and treatment of vision loss are among the most cost effective and successful health interventions. These interventions include: cataract surgery to cure eye diseases related to ageing; prevention of trachoma; immunization against measles; provision of vitamin A supplements for the prevention of childhood blindness; and provision of eye glasses. The causes of avoidable blindness are frequently associated with lack of access to quality eye care service.

Key strategies of vision 2020 are : increasing awareness of the major public health issue; mobilizing additional resources, controlling major causes of avoidable blindness ; training ophthalmologists and other personnel in eye care ; and providing technology and infrastructure.

The theme of World Sight Day 2010 is - Count Down to 2020

Global Key Messages are:

- 4% of the world's population (314 million) is blind or vision impaired
- Imagine if it didn't have to stay that way-80% is avoidable
- Imagine if working together we could STOP the agony of trachoma and river blindness forever
- Imagine if eye exams and glasses could instantly transform the lives of 153 million people

All this is possible. The solutions are known and cost effective.

World Sight Day is designed to convey the following "calls to action"

1. Governments must mobilize political will and resources to support VISION 2020 in their own countries, and in developing countries around the world
2. Development agencies must move to support the highly effective and positive agenda, taking advantage of the united strength of private and non profit sector organizations
3. The eye care professions must play their part in working together to bring sustainable integrated eye care services to all

The World Sight Day is an annual event and has been held for eight consecutive years in Myanmar. ■

World AIDS Day 2010

This year the World AIDS Campaign is working to promote the Light for Rights campaign on 1st December 2010. Light for Rights events are taking place on every continent this World AIDS Day!

Lights for Rights, organised by amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research; UNAIDS; Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS; and World AIDS Campaign, is inspired by the concept "*Night without Light*" undertaken by Visual AIDS in 1990. The launch event was held in New York City on the 1st of December 2009 in Washington Square Park. To see photos of these events, visit: www.lightforrights.org/photos_video.php. This year there are plans for over 100 cities to be involved in Light for Rights events. ■

One health approach- Joint Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)



Field Epidemiology Training Programme moves forward

With an initial goal of building sustainable national epidemiologic capacity among field epidemiologists, Myanmar started Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) since August, 2007. Initial priorities were to develop capacity to identify and respond to epidemiological emergencies, conduct applied epidemiological research, and support state/divisional and local health authorities in conducting these activities and developing their own epidemiology programmes. The first workshop was organized by international experts from WHO Regional Office, WHO Department of Communicable Disease, Surveillance and Response (CSR) sub unit, Bangkok, Australian University, Canberra, Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Thailand, WHO China, USAID, Bangkok, AusAID, Embassy of Australia, Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, Representative and expert team of WHO Myanmar and experts from Department of Health, Myanmar in 2007. Objectives of this workshop were to strengthen capacity in field epidemiology in accordance with shared international experiences on FETP and to plan the future development of Field Epidemiology Training Programme in Myanmar. FETP trainings are being jointly organized with Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in collaboration with WHO since 2008 for the public health and veterinary professionals' competency in field epidemiology, including surveillance and response activities for emerging and re-emerging infectious

diseases. The training is competency based with defined skills to be acquired by the participants at the end of the course, using learning by doing approach.

The lack of personnel trained in applied infectious disease epidemiology made long and short term training programmes a critical priority. Several FETP programmes were conducted since 2008 and first two weeks local training programme was held on 10-19 November 2008 and second three weeks FETP training was conducted on 31 October-20 November 2009. Another 2-weeks FETP training programme was conducted for post graduate medical students in February 2010.

On August-September 2010, field epidemiology training workshop has been conducted at Sin-ywar-gyi training centre at Patheingyi Township, in Mandalay division. Participants were the team leaders of special disease control unit at states/divisions, township medical officers, township health assistants from Human Health sector and Regional Veterinary Officers, State/Division and District level veterinary officers from the animal health sector. Total of 93 epidemiologist have been trained since 2008 (70 Human Health + 23 Animal Health participants).

Facilitators of the programme were Epidemiologists from Central Epidemiology Unit, Nay Pyi Taw, and Professors/Lecturers from Preventive and Social Medicine Department of Medical Universities.

World Diabetes Day 2010

H.E. Minister for Health, Professor Kyaw Myint and invited guests viewed the mini-exhibition booths of World Diabetes Day.



The opening ceremony for Celebration of World Diabetes Day was held at 9:00 AM at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 November 2010. It was attended by H.E. Minister for Health, Professor Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers for Health, H.E. Professor Mya Oo, H.E. Professor Paing Soe, Ms Margarita Skold, Ag WHO Representative, Directors General, officials from the Ministry of Health and representatives from Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation.

H.E. Professor Kyaw Myint, Minister, Ministry of Health inaugurated the ceremony. In his inaugural speech, he welcomed all invitees, highlighted the growing problem of diabetes mellitus and emphasized the need to raise public awareness. After expressing gratitude to all those who organized the ceremony, participants and invited guests, he concluded his speech.

After the ceremony, the Minister, Deputy Ministers, Ag WR and guests viewed the mini-exhibition booths of World Diabetes Day.

World Diabetes day takes place on 14 November every year. The date was chosen because it marks the birthday of Frederick Banting, who along with Charles Best, is credited with the discovery of insulin. While many events take place on or around the day itself, a themed campaign runs through out the

year, with actions planned to influence political opinion and support the goals of the campaign.

World Diabetes day was introduced by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1991, in response to concern over the escalating incidence of diabetes around the world. Since then, the event has grown in popularity every year.

Each year World Diabetes Day highlights a theme related to diabetes. A broad theme covers the five year period from 2009-2013:

2009-2013: "Diabetes Education and Prevention"

The second part of World Diabetes day 2010 ceremony continued with health education talks on World Diabetes day. Dr. Kyee Myint, Deputy Director General, Department of Health took the chair.

During the health education talks, IEC materials (including pamphlets and poster on World Diabetes Day, T shirt and key chains with World Diabetes day logo and theme) were distributed to the audience.

As the last agenda, free blood testing for glucose and measuring of blood pressure were done for persons from the audience who were interested.

The ceremony came to a successful conclusion at 11:30 AM. ■



Country Consultation on draft WHO Global strategy on HIV/ AIDS 2011-15

The 63rd session of World Health assembly adopted the resolution sponsored by Brazil that requested WHO to develop HIV/AIDS strategy 2011-15, through a consultative process. On 15 September 2010, a country level consultation was conducted at Nay Pyi Taw by WHO along with National AIDS Programme on the draft WHO global strategy on HIV/AIDS 2011-15.

The consultation was attended by 37 participants including people from government, non government agencies, UN partners and the affected communities.

The Global Health Sector Strategy for HIV/AIDS 2011-2015 aims to:

1. Set global goals for the health sector response to HIV/AIDS;
2. Guide national HIV responses; and
3. Provide a framework for concerted WHO action at global, regional and country levels

The strategy builds on the achievements and experiences of the "3 by 5" initiative and the WHO HIV/AIDS Universal Access Plan 2006-2010 and aims to align with broader strategic frameworks, including the Millennium Development Goals, primary health care renewal, Universal Access commitments and the UNAIDS Strategy for 2011-2015. It takes into consideration the changing public health architecture and aims to incorporate the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

The draft strategy was presented to the participants who worked in smaller group, had discussions and gave their observations, feedback and recommendation on the draft outline of the strategy that was shared with all of them. Towards the end, a final compilation of all the feedback and recommendations were presented to the group, and approved by all as feedback from the consultation.

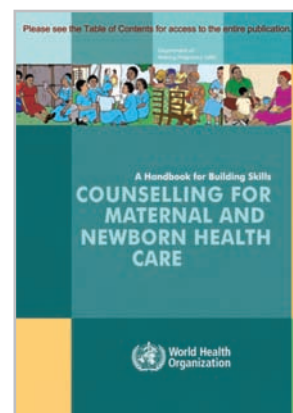
important dates

17-25 January 2011	EXECUTIVE BOARD 128th Session, Geneva
4 February 2011	World Cancer Day
22 March 2011	World Water Day
24 March 2011	World TB Day

Book Reviews

Counselling for maternal and newborn health care : a handbook for building skills

Geneva: World Health Organization. Dept. of Making Pregnancy Safer, 2010. 232p.

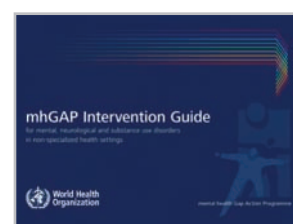


The main aim of this practical Handbook is to strengthen counselling and communication skills of skilled attendants (SAs) and other health providers, helping them to effectively discuss with women, families and communities the key issues surrounding pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, postnatal and post-abortion care.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241547628_eng.pdf (file size: 1.29 MB)

mhGAP intervention guide for mental, neurological and substance use disorders in non-specialized health settings: mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)

Geneva: World Health Organization, 2010. 83p.



About four out of five people in low- and middle-income countries who need services for mental, neurological and substance-use conditions do not receive them. Even when available, the interventions often are neither evidence-based nor of high quality.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241548069_eng.pdf (file size: 2.80 MB)