



Myanmar launched the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020

The ceremony for "Launching the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020" was organized by the Ministry of Health, at the main conference hall of the Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw on 11 May 2011. It was attended by H.E. Union Minister for Health, Prof Pe Thet Khin, H.E. Deputy Ministers for Health, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Dr Win Myint, Directors-General from various departments under Ministry of Health and other related ministries such as home affairs, transport, construction and information, representatives from non-governmental organizations, diplomatic community, United Nations system agencies, senior officials from various government departments and about 400 invited guests, including community and civil society organizations.

At the ceremony, H.E. Union Minister for Health made the opening remarks, highlighting importance of road safety and impact of road traffic injuries on the health system, as well as socio-economic loss for the community and the country. He also recalled the history how WHO and health sectors of the Member States played leading role in dealing this important issue and putting it forward to various high-level forums as global agenda. Later, WHO Representative to Myanmar Dr H.S.B. Tennakoon read out the message from Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, on the occasion of the Launch of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. The message clearly explained that in response to the resolution A/RES/64/255, WHO prepared a Plan



Exhibition on Road Safety viewed by H.E. Union Minister for Health and other dignitaries, high-level officials, media and the public.

of Action for the Decade through wide consultation with stakeholders. The message also indicated that the plan would serve as a guide for governments to develop national plans. It also highlighted the role of non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The participants highly appreciated the commitment of the Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region that WHO would play a key role through out the decade and the fact that WHO will provide overall coordination and host a small secretariat to monitor progress on implementation of the global plan.

After the ceremony the dignitaries visited the exhibition displayed by various departments and WHO featuring the importance of road safety and ongoing activities being implemented in the country. ■

Nationwide survey of the prevalence of TB disease successfully completed

With technical and financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Population Services International, Research Institute of Tuberculosis of Japan, Three Diseases Fund, United States Agency for International Development and the World Health Organization, the national TB prevalence survey was initiated in June 2009. The National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) screened 51,367 people for TB in 70 geographical areas of the country and the challenging field operations were accomplished on time in April 2010. At the end of 2010, the analysis of the data was completed and the findings of the high-quality survey were disseminated at workshops in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. The data show that the prevalence of TB is more than three times higher than the estimates used by the NTP (and according to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Control Report of 2008). Based on the outcomes of

the survey, WHO estimates that the prevalence of TB in Myanmar is 597 cases per 100,000 population. The data show that i) the majority of TB sufferers are young males, ii) the prevalence is almost two times higher in urban than in rural areas and iii) that the TB rates are significantly higher in States than in Regions. The survey also confirms that the vast majority of TB cases remain undetected. Further analysis is now undertaken to interpret the socio-economic, risk factor and health seeking behavior information gathered during the survey. The results of the survey are of major importance for gaining a better understanding of the TB burden and the impact of TB control in the past decade. With the results, the NTP will be able to revise control strategies and funding requirements and thus be better equipped to reach the Millennium Development Goals and eventually universal access to TB diagnosis, treatment and care. ■

Commemoration ceremony of World Health Day 2011

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



World Health Organization Representative to Myanmar, Dr H.S.B. Tennakoon reads out the message of the Regional Director of WHO SEAR at the World Health Day 2011 commemoration ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw.

The Ministry of Health organized the official commemoration of World Health Day 2011 at the main conference hall of the Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw on 7th April 2011. The commemorative ceremony was opened by H.E. Union Minister for Health, Professor Pe Thet Khin, who delivered an opening speech. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Ministers for Health, H.E. Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and H.E. Dr Win Myint, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and officials from the Ministry of Health, and other ministries, representatives of various international organizations, United Nations Agencies, non-Governmental Organizations, local press and other invited guests.

H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health, delivered a speech and WHO Representative to Myanmar, Dr H.S.B. Tennakoon read out the message of the Regional Director of WHO South East Asia Region. The guests were then invited to view a mini exhibition

"Use Antibiotics Rationally", in which photos of activities of the Ministry of Health and also information, education and communication materials such as World Health Day magazines, posters were shown. The information materials highlighted the events and activities related to cooperation of all stakeholders, not only from the health sector but also from agricultural and animal husbandry sectors.

IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials from the Ministry of Health and WHO Country Office in the theme of "Use antibiotics rationally", were distributed to the guests during the ceremony. WHO Country Office produced five banners with different photos and captions taken by WHO Myanmar featuring the World Health Day Theme.

This year the Ministry of Health produced a big billboard emphasizing "Use of Antibiotics Rationally"; It was erected at the entrance of the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw. ■

Book Reviews



Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011. 162p.

The Global Status Report on Noncommunicable Diseases 2010 is the first report on the worldwide epidemic of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, along with their risk factors and determinants.

Noncommunicable diseases killed tens of millions of people in 2008, and a large proportion of these deaths occurred before the age of 60, so during the most productive period of life. The magnitude of these diseases continues to rise, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789240686458_eng.pdf

Myanmar commemorated World No-Tobacco Day 2011



H.E. Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and invited guests viewing the World No-Tobacco Day 2011 Exhibition

On 31 May 2011, the Ministry of Health, Myanmar, in close collaboration with WHO, organized the official commemoration ceremony of the World No-Tobacco Day, 2011 at the conference hall of the Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw. The ceremony was attended by the H.E. Union Minister for Health, Prof. Pe Thet Khin, H.E. Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, H.E. Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Than, H.E. Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Directors-General and senior officials from the Ministry of Health and other ministries, representatives from the Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and other non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies.

First, H.E. Union Minister for Health, Prof Pe Thet Khin gave a speech highlighting the progress of tobacco control programme in Myanmar being carried out by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO. He gave special emphasis to the activities related to historical background on active involvement of Myanmar at various stages for development of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). He also recalled the key successes in the area of tobacco control in Myanmar, including the formulation and passing of the Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law. He stressed the needs for wide dissemination of the Law and called for cooperation of

various departments. Later, Dr Krongthong Thimasarn, Ag WHO Representative to Myanmar, read out the message from Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, the Regional Director for WHO South East Asia Region on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2011. In the message, importance of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, prevalence of tobacco use in the South-East Asia Region, activities being carried out by Member States concerning the implementation of the provisions of WHO FCTC and some innovative steps taken by a few Member countries of the Region related to national legislations on tobacco control were highlighted. After the ceremony, the dignitaries and invited guests viewed the mini-exhibition displayed by the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI) Programme of the Ministry of Health featuring various tobacco control activities that took place in the recent years.

The National Workshop on WHO FCTC was organized by the Ministry of Health at the meeting hall of the Department of Health. It was attended by directors and senior officials from various ministries including finance and revenue, home affairs, commerce, transport and attorney general's office and representatives from national non-governmental organizations. Presentations on different perspectives of WHO FCTC and implementation of its provision in Myanmar were made by various resource persons. Participants openly discussed the key issues and made recommendations. ■



World Health
Organization

Myanmar to start neonatal-perinatal database networking

Union Minister for Health, H.E. Prof Pe Thet Khin delivering the opening speech.



The "National Advocacy and Coordination Meeting on Neonatal Database Networking", was held at the Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 29 April 2011. The Union Minister for Health, H.E. Prof. Pe Thet Khin delivered the opening speech.

WHO Country Office was supported by WHO-SEARO to establish a Neonatal-Perinatal Database Network for generating prospective information on Neonatal-Perinatal morbidity and mortality in the Region. Following Neonatologist Prof. Aye Aye Thein and Programme Manager Dr Myint Myint Than's attendance at the "Regional Meeting on Newborn Health care, Education and Training" on 22-25 March 2011 at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, this National Level Advocacy meeting was conducted to develop a collaborative approach on neonatal-perinatal data base network to strengthen and improve newborn health and survival towards accelerating progress to achieve MDG 4.

Myanmar will also join to the existing neonatal-perinatal networks from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. This will provide new insights into profile of Neonatal-Perinatal epidemiology useful for research, publications in journals of repute, making partners with other neonatal centres, and to develop standard treatment protocols for newborn management.

The network will start with tertiary hospitals and few regional hospitals, later expansion to national level in collaboration with the HMIS. Establishment of network will be in seven neonatal units of tertiary hospitals (Central Women's Hospital, Yangon and Mandalay), North Okkalapa General Hospital, Yankin Children's Hospital, Women and Children's Hospital, Taunggyi, Children's Hospital Mandalay and seven regional hospitals in Naypyitaw, Magwe, Monywa, South Okkalapa, Insein, Thingankyun and Pyinmana. Standard software will be used. Myanmar would develop a national level database network in the subsequent phase aligned with the HMIS.

The data generated will be used for quality improvement of newborn care and prospectively collected data on neonatal-perinatal morbidity and mortality will be shared for better management of newborns among the hospitals identified. ■

important dates

28 July 2011	World Hepatitis Day
1-7 August 2011	World Breastfeeding Week
28 September 2011	World Rabies Day
29 September 2011	World Heart Day