

Myanmar hosted the Regional Meeting of National Leprosy Programme Managers of South-East Asia Region

The Regional Meeting of National Leprosy Programme Managers was organized by WHO/SEARO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Myanmar at the Traders Hotel, Yangon, from 27 to 29 July 2011. In this meeting, National Leprosy Programme managers from Member States of South-East Asia Region (SEAR) and global and regional partners working for leprosy programmes in the South-East Asia Region have attended. The leprosy focal points from WHO country offices of SEAR countries have participated as secretariat, together with the concerned staff from Global Leprosy Programme (GLP) and SEARO. Altogether, 74 participants and observers joined the meeting.

Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region attended the inaugural session and made opening remarks. He also attended the first day of the meeting and the official reception hosted by the Ministry of Health. In addition, H.E. Minister for Social Affairs of Yangon Region and Directors-General from Ministry of Health, special invitees and government officials attended the inaugural session and the official reception in the evening of 27 July 2011.

The agenda of the meeting has covered important topics including the review of global, regional and country leprosy programmes, revisiting the global targets and rationale of setting these targets towards



Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region making his opening remarks at the meeting

reducing disability among new cases in the Region, reviewing the elements of enhanced global strategy for further reducing the disease burden due to leprosy (2011-2015) and operational guidelines, role of partners in leprosy control activities at country level, and draft country-specific road-maps towards implementation of the enhanced global strategy. The meeting participants also visited the central leprosy clinic at the Yangon General Hospital, where Regional collaborative research activities on leprosy and training programmes are ongoing in addition to diagnosis, treatment and care of leprosy affected persons. ■

WHO Myanmar Staff Retreat 2011

A team of forty-five participants from WHO country office, Myanmar joined the staff retreat 2011 at Popa Mountain Resort, from 26 to 27 August 2011. The programme has focused on the theme "WHO Ethical Principles and Conduct of Staff". With

the excellent facilitating skills of Prof Aung Tun Thet, a renowned professional expert in organizing such events for UN agencies and other organizations, all the participants had a chance to benefit a great deal on understanding and practices related to the theme, while building strong relationship and team spirit among the staff in an enjoyable atmosphere.

Staff retreat is one of the activities under the WHO Myanmar Staff Development and Learning (SDL) workplan for 2010-2011, funded by the South-East Asia Regional SDL funds. "Staff Retreat Organizing Team" formed with nine members from the WHO country office has played a crucial role in smoothly organizing the retreat. Most important factor for the success was enthusiastic participation of everyone who had joined all the sessions wholeheartedly. The staff members are now committed to make a positive difference in performance of all operations in the country office. ■



Regional Advocacy Meeting on Elimination of Trachoma in Bago, Bago Region



*Bago Regional Minister for Social Affairs,
H.E. Dr. Kyaw Oo, delivering the opening
speech*

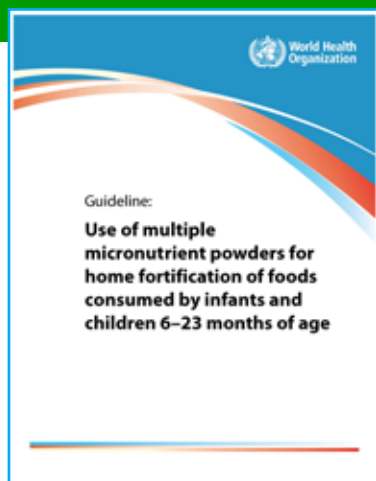
Regional Advocacy Meeting on Elimination of Trachoma in Bago Region was conducted in Bago on 27 June 2011 at the Bago Regional Hospital Meeting Room.

Opening Speech was delivered by Bago Regional Minister for Social Affairs, H.E. Dr. Kyaw Oo. The advocacy meeting was attended by Bago Regional Health Director, Dr Ngwe San, medical superintendant of Bago Regional Hospital, regional health committee members, township medical officers from Bago Region, representatives from NGOs and representatives from health related departments.

Dr Kyaw Hla Myint [WHO Technical Officer NTD] presented the global trachoma situation and Global Trachoma Elimination 2020 [GET 2020]. Dr Khin Nyein Lin, Project Manager - Prevention of Blindness Programme PBL, Department of Health, presented Myanmar and Bago region Trachoma situation and control activities.

The Regional Minister for Social Affairs of Bago in his concluding remarks highlighted the commitment of the local administrative authorities and the community in supporting the activities of the Regional Health Department to conduct trachoma elimination activities and to achieve the elimination goal. ■

Book Reviews



Guideline: Use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by infants and children 6-23 months of age. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011. 30p.

Overview

This guideline provides global, evidence-informed recommendations on the use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by infants and young children 6-23 months of age.

The guideline will help Member States and their partners in their efforts to make informed decisions on the appropriate nutrition actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1) and reduction of child mortality (MDG 4). This document is intended for a wide audience including governments and scientists involved in the design and implementation of micronutrient programmes as public health interventions.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502047_eng.pdf

Nutrition Promotion Weeks and World Breast Feeding Week

Week

Dr. H.S.B. Tennakoon, WHO Representative to Myanmar read out the key note address at the launching ceremony for Nutrition Promotion Weeks and World Breast Feeding Week.



The launching ceremony for "Nutrition Promotion Weeks and World Breast Feeding Week" was conducted in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 August 2011.

The opening speech was delivered by H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health followed by key note addresses by Dr. H.S.B. Tennakoon, WHO Representative to Myanmar and Mr. Ramesh Shrestha, UNICEF Representative to Myanmar. This was followed by presentation of certificates to outstanding hospitals and townships for promotion of breast feeding.

Nutrition promotion weeks have now been conducted for successive years continuously, since 2003 which takes place in the first week of August/September every year.

Nutrition promotion week 2011 has been conducted as follows :

- Week one focuses on promoting breast feeding
- Week two focuses on nutrition promotion of under 5 children which includes vitamin A supplementation and deworming
- Week three focuses on nutrition promotion of pregnant and lactating mothers which includes supplementation of iron and vitamin B1 among pregnant women and lactating mothers

- Week four focuses on Iodine Deficiency Disorders Elimination

These activities were conducted not only at central, but also at state-regional, township and community levels.

World breast feeding week is celebrated every year from 1-7 August in more than 120 countries to encourage breast feeding and to improve the health of babies around the world. It commemorates the Innocenti Declaration made by WHO and UNICEF policy makers in August 1990 to protect, promote and support breast feeding.

Breast feeding is the best way to provide newborns with the nutrients they need. WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding until the baby is six months old and continued breastfeeding with the addition of nutritious complementary foods for up to two years or beyond.

This year's theme "Talk to me ! Breast Feeding - a 3 D experience" highlights the opportunity of new communication strategies for making qualified support accessible to health care providers, mothers and families. The World Health Organization is working towards a broader use of various technologies for capacity building and access to updated information in many health related areas including nutrition. ■



World Health
Organization

Multisectoral meeting on Non Communicable Diseases



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

The multi-sectoral meeting on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) was conducted at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 August 2011.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health, Dr. Tun Naing Oo, Director General of Department of Health, / Director General, Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar), Ag Director General, Department of Health Planning, all project managers related to NCDs and Health Promotion including representatives from Department of Medical Science, faculty members from Universities of Medicine, representative from Department of Health Planning, representatives from Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, WHO and Representatives from the media which includes representatives from two main newspapers and representatives from 11 journals.

The opening speech was delivered by H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health in which he focused on the need of a multi-sectoral approach in addressing the increasing problem of NCDs in Myanmar.

The objectives of the workshop were :

- To advocate / create awareness on the role of health related ministries / NGOs / stakeholders / media in implementing activities related to prevention & control of NCDs
- To facilitate a multi-sectoral approach among various ministries / NGOs / stakeholders in the prevention and control of NCDs

The main highlight of the meeting was mainly on the presentation of draft National Policy on NCDs to the participants and gain consensus on the main points / issues to be included in the draft National Policy on NCDs. ■

important dates

10 October 2011	World Mental Health Day
13 October 2011	World Sight Day
14 November 2011	World Diabetes Day
1 December 2011	World AIDS Day