

Regional meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases, including Mental Health and Neurological Disorders, Yangon, Myanmar



Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region delivering address at the inauguration of the Regional Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases, including Mental Health and Neurological Disorders at Sedona Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar.

The Regional Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases, including Mental Health and Neurological Disorders, was conducted at Sedona Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar, from 24-26 April 2012.

At the inauguration, the inaugural address was delivered by H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health followed by an address by Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region.

Dr. H.S.B. Tennakoon, WHO Representative to Myanmar delivered a welcome address to the participants.

Participants were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Partner agencies, Civil Society and WHO Collaborating Centers. WHO Secretariat comprises of staff members from Headquarters, Regional office for South-East Asia and from 11 country offices.

After the nomination of the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of the meeting, Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Deputy Regional Director, WHO-SEARO

presented an overview of "Prevention and control of Noncommunicable Diseases, including Mental Health and Neurological Disorders"

On the second day there were parallel sessions on Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health. The session for Noncommunicable Diseases was on "Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 while the session for Mental Health was "Strengthening the primary health care system to deliver mental health care".

On the third and final day there was a panel discussion on "Fostering partnerships to curb non communicable diseases in which it was moderated by Professor Tint Swe Latt from Myanmar and Dr, Tashi Wangdi from Bhutan.

At the concluding session, the rapporteur of the meeting presented the Draft Resolution on Noncommunicable Diseases including Mental Health and Neurological Disorders for the sixty-fifth Regional Committee in which the participants discussed in detail.

The closing remarks was delivered by Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Deputy Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region. ■

World Health Day 2012 in Nay Pyi Taw



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 2012 commemoration ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw.

The official commemoration of World Health Day 2012 was held in the main conference hall of the Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw on 7th April 2012. The ceremony was opened by H.E. Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Win Myint, who delivered an opening speech, and attended by Deputy Minister for Health, H.E. Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Deputy Minister of Education H.E. U Aye Kyu, 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. Dr Win Myint, Deputy Minister of 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 "Ageing and Health", 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.

WHO Myanmar also participated in the mini exhibition, displaying umbrellas and beige World Health Day environmental-friendly advocacy bags with World Health Day logos, which were distributed at the ceremony on the morning of World Health Day at the meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw. A WHO fact sheet on "Ageing and Health," in English was especially produced along with the regular WHO Myanmar quarterly newsletter and distributed. The fact sheet also featured the World Health Day message from Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director of WHO South East Asia Region. WHO Country Office produced four banners with different photos taken by WHO Myanmar along with messages featuring the World Health Day Theme. These banners were displayed at the entrance of main venue of the World Health Day 2012 ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw. They are now displayed in front of the library of WHO Country Office. ■

Book Reviews



Born Too Soon: The Global Action Report on Preterm Birth, 2012. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2012. 126p.

Overview

Addressing preterm birth is now an urgent priority for reaching Millennium Development Goal 4, calling for the reduction of child deaths by two-thirds by 2015. This report shows that rapid change is possible and identifies priority actions for everyone.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2012/9789241503433_eng.pdf



BUGS, DRUGS & SMOKE: stories from Public Health. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011. 160p.

Overview

The narratives told from many parts of the world explain in simple, non-technical language how individuals, communities, institutions and countries can improve people's health when they work together.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2012/9789241564366_eng.pdf

Protecting its future generations with measles vaccination

Myanmar conducted a nationwide National Measles follow up Campaign to immunize 6.4 million children aged between nine months to five years. This mass measles immunization campaign was spearheaded by the Ministry of Health with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UN Foundation, CDC and the American Red Cross. This Immunization campaign is part of Myanmar measles elimination efforts and intensification of Routine Immunization in 2012.

The highlight of this national immunization campaign was excellent coordination seen within various Ministries, UN agencies, International and local NGOs and other agencies which had a major impact on the implementation. Military helicopters flew to many township and sub townships to deliver vaccines and especially in hard to reach areas, inland water transportation, railways, and even guards using elephants made sure all villages and helmets got measles vaccine for their children. Electricity Power Enterprise supplied uninterrupted electrical power during the storage period of vaccine at township levels to maintain cold chain.

Print and broadcast media departments helped to spread the campaign message to the public. Village heads were also heavily involved and supported by local health workers and volunteers distributed individual family invitation cards to all 6.4 million children prior to the immunization dates.

WHO country office coordinated an



Vaccine being airlifted to remote areas.

international monitoring team to monitor and supervise the activity.

International monitors from WHO SEARO, WHO Country Office India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and partner agencies like UN Foundation, Measles Initiative and GAVI took part in the monitoring process. The monitors' feedback was very encouraging and reported good micro planning, trained health workers, and enthusiastic community participation. Monitors found very few children missed in house to house verification surveys. The overall achievement of nation wide mass measles campaign 2012 is 97%. The country is introducing Pentavalent and Measles second dose vaccine in July 2012. ■

"Stop Tobacco Industry Interference: the slogan for the World No-Tobacco Day 2012"

The Ministry of Health, Myanmar, in close collaboration with WHO, organized the official commemoration ceremony of the World No-Tobacco Day, 2012 at the conference hall of the Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw on 31 May 2012. The ceremony was attended by the H.E. Minister for Health, Prof. Pe Thet Khin, H.E. Deputy Ministers for Health, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Dr Win Myint, H.E. Deputy Minister for Commerce and Trade Dr Pwint Hsan, Members of National Tobacco Control Committee, 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.

First, Prof Pe Thet Khin, H.E. the Minister 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 mentioned some key facts and figures concerning tobacco epidemic and related morbidity and mortality due to use of tobacco. He gave special emphasis to the need to be aware of various tactics of tobacco industry interference, with both global and local examples. He also quoted the clear guidance made by the President of the Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar for strictly prohibiting tobacco consumption in public areas. He called for cooperation of various departments, non-governmental organizations in national tobacco control efforts.

Later, Dr H.S.B Tennakoon, 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 2012. In the message, conflicts of interests between tobacco industry on one side and the governments of the Member States and WHO on the other side, in the context of public health were highlighted. And various strategies being used by tobacco industry to undermine the effectiveness of tobacco control programmes implemented by governments were also mentioned. He also described some examples in a few Member countries of the Region related to legal cases filed by the tobacco industry against central and local governments. 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. ■ ■ ■



World Health
Organization

World TB Day 2012 ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw,

Myanmar

On 7 March 2012, the UN Secretary-General sent a letter to the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. U Thein Sein, asking for support in achieving "a world without tuberculosis" and personal commitment in mobilizing and sustaining resources needed to reverse the tragedy of people who are dying from TB in Myanmar. The Secretary-General also informed about the excellent opportunity to make a statement on World TB Day.



H.E. Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, Minister for Health along with other guests are seen here viewing the booth of National TB Programme at World TB Day ceremony.

As a result of this letter, a high-level event was organized on 24 March 2012 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. Present at the event were the Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the Minister for Health, H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, deputy ministers, departmental heads, resident representatives from UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and officials of the departments under the health ministry.

The ceremony started with an address by the Vice-President, H.E. Dr Sai Mauk Kham. Thereafter, the Minister of Health, Professor H.E. Pe Thet Khin, read out the message from the President, H.E. U Thein Sein. The WHO Representative, Dr H.S.B. Tennakoon, delivered the message of the WHO South-



The Minister of Health, H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, read out the message by President U Thein Sein at World TB Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

East Asia Regional Director. Following the ceremony, the participants visited commemorative booths by the National TB Programme and partner organizations. This year's slogan of World TB Day is 'Stop TB in my life time'. The TB elimination tasks are: To ensure that every person is free from TB since their childhood, that infected people are cured with DOTS or other quick and cost-effective remedies.

At the occasion of World TB Day, the National TB Programme launched the report of the successful and high-quality 2009-2010 Nationwide TB Prevalence Survey. In addition, WHO launched the report of the Review of the National TB Programme, which took place from 7-15 November 2011. ■

important dates

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| 28 July 2012 | World Hepatitis Day |
| 1 - 7 August 2012 | World Breastfeeding Week |
| 28 September 2012 | World Rabies Day |
| 29 September 2012 | World Heart Day |