

## The multisectoral meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases



*Dr Myint Shwe, Director (NCD) providing a brief overview of NCD activities in Myanmar.*

**T**he multisectoral meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) was conducted at the Minglarthiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, on 16 June 2015. At the inauguration ceremony, the opening speech was delivered by H.E. Dr. Daw Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Minister for Health followed by an address by Dr. Renu Garg, Regional Advisor for NCDs from SEARO.

The main objective of the meeting was to advocate and coordinate activities towards prevention and control of NCDs in a multi-sectoral effort consisting of the Ministry of Health, health related ministries INGOs, NGOs and various stakeholders.

The inauguration was also attended by Professor Thet Khaing Win, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. The participants included WHO technical staff, NCD programme managers from the Ministry of Health, representatives from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Attorney General's Office, Directorate of Medical Corps, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Medical Association, People's Health Foundation and Clinton Health Access Initiative.

The following recommendations were drafted as the outcome of the meeting:

- Promote high level political commitment to integrate NCD policies and programme into

the national development agenda and health-planning processes.

- Establish a high-level committee on NCDs, comprising of members from different sectors within the government.
- Proceed for endorsement of the national policy and strategic framework on NCDs as the guiding document for multi-sectoral actions.
- Update and finalize the national action plan on NCD prevention and control. The action plan should include mechanisms for planning, guiding, monitoring and evaluating multi-sectoral actions.
- Foster a technical working group to assist in the formation and implementation of national plans on NCDs.
- Support the formulation and enforcement of appropriate NCD-related legislations.
- Facilitate the incorporation of NCDs into Universal Health Coverage and essential package of health services.
- Facilitate effective coordination with private sector for successful implementation of multi-sectoral actions on NCDs, while avoiding conflict of interest
- Support and facilitate NCDs related research and its translation to enhance the knowledge base for ongoing and future actions.
- Create the NCD alliance to build a strong international partnership of institutions and investigators on NCDs. ■



## Commemoration ceremony of World Health Day 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw



*HE Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Minister for Health, Ministry of Health and Dr Jorge M. Luna, WHO Representative to Myanmar, along with other guests are seen here viewing the "Food Safety" mini exhibition in the Ministry of Health meeting room at Nay Pyi Taw after the commemoration ceremony.*

The Ministry of Health organized the official commemoration of World Health Day 2015 in the main conference hall of the Ministry of Health, in Nay Pyi Taw on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The commemorative ceremony was inaugurated by H.E. Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Minister for Health. The ceremony was attended by 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 Daw Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Minister for Health delivered a speech and WHO Representative to Myanmar, Dr Jorge M. Luna read out the message of the Regional Director of WHO South East Asia Region.

The guests were then invited to view a mini exhibition "Food Safety - From farm to plate, make food safe", in which photos of activities of the Ministry of Health and also information, education and communication materials such as World Health Day magazines, posters and photos were shown. The information materials highlighted the events and activities related to cooperation of all stakeholders.

WHO Myanmar also produced World Health Day advocacy bags, t-shirts, bookmarks 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 Myanmar quarterly newsletter on "Food Safety - from farm to plate, make food safe" in English was produced and distributed.

WHO Country Office produced three banners with different photos and captions taken by WHO Myanmar featuring the World Health Day Theme. These banners were displayed at the lobby of main venue of the World Health Day 2015 ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw. They are now displayed in front of the library of WHO Country Office. A video clip on "Food Safety" was shown at WHO Country Office booth up till the end of commemoration ceremony. The op-ed on World Health Day 2015 by Regional Director Dr Poonam Khretapal Singh was featured for the first time in the Myanmar's The Global New Light of Myanmar on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. ■

“ထုတ်လုပ်မှုသည် စားသောက်သည်ထိ  
အဆင့်ဆင့်သန့်ရှင်း ရောဂါကင်း၏”

## Tuberculosis among miners, families and communities in Myanmar

**T**uberculosis is one of the major public health problems in Myanmar. The estimated TB prevalence and incidence was 473 and 373 per 100,000 population, respectively in 2013 while the countrywide case notification rate (all forms) was 297/100,000. The National Tuberculosis Programme has been implementing different strategies to improve case detection. One of them is screening among higher risk groups. Miners were assumed to have higher TB incidence rates.

Mining areas are sometimes hard to reach and accessibility to quality health services can be challenging. Therefore mobile teams are conducting active case finding activities for TB in mines.

With financial support of the Ministry of Health and the 3MDG Fund, WHO facilitated mobile team visits to Badwin (Namptu), Yadana Theingi (Nyaungcho), Bawsai (Kalaw), Heinda and Hermyingyi (Dawei) mines between December 2014 and March 2015. Symptoms screening was done with proforma. People with broad symptoms compatible with TB were subjected to digital chest X-ray. Sputum was also checked for those whose X-ray was compatible with TB. Not only miners but also their families and communities were screened for TB.

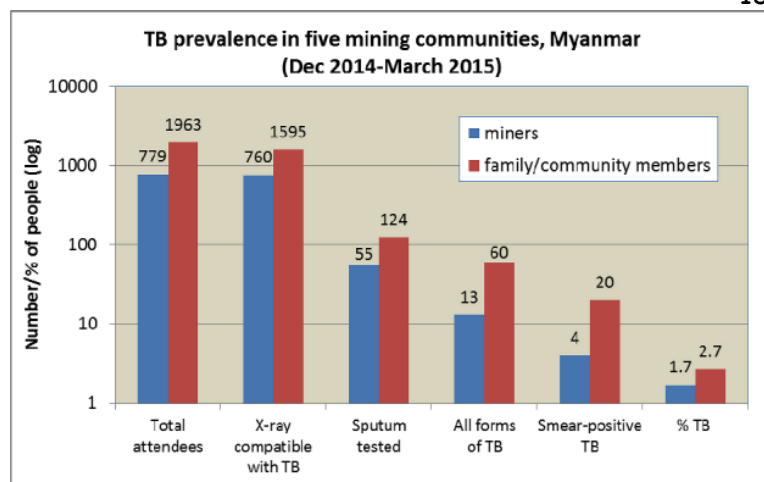
In total, 2742 people including 779 miners attended the screening campaigns. Nearly 40% of the attendees had only primary level education. Apart from the mining business, some families are involved in agricultural work. Nearly 90% of miners did not know their HIV status. Thirty seven miners (4.7%) had history of TB treatment. Cough was the



*Mobile team leader giving health talk at Bawsai Mine*

most common (though not universal) symptom among symptomatic people (41.8%). X-ray was taken from 2355 individuals (including 760 miners). Of them, 1900 (81%) were considered as normal, 52 (2.2%) active TB, 91 (3.9%) healed lesions, 127 (5.4%) presumed TB and 185 (7.9%) other pulmonary disease. Sputum was examined from active and presumed TB (179 persons). Sputum was positive in 24 cases (13.5%). In total, 73 people (including 13 miners) were diagnosed with TB. This means an overall prevalence of 2.7% and a prevalence of 1.7% among miners.

Multi-sectorial coordination and collaboration was very important for undertaking mobile team visits. TB prevalence in mining communities was significantly higher than the rest of the country. Moreover, mobile teams could identify the hidden TB cases in this risk group residing in these hard-to-reach areas. TB screening in mining areas should target the entire mining population and not merely miners.







World Health  
Organization

## World No-Tobacco Day 2015 Ceremonies

### Commemorated

The central-level commemorative ceremony for World No Tobacco Day 2015 was jointly conducted by WHO country office Myanmar and the Ministry of Health, at the conference hall of office number (4) of Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw on 25 June 2015. The ceremony was inaugurated by H.E. Dr Than Aung, Union Minister, Ministry of Health who gave an opening speech, in which he highlighted the dangers of tobacco use and the extent of the global problem of illicit trade in tobacco products and its consequences. He also mentioned the efforts of the Ministry of Health in overall tobacco control activities in Myanmar along with various partners. The ceremony was attended by H.E Dr Win Myint and H.E. Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Ministers for Health, Directors-General and senior officials from Departments under the Ministry of Health and other ministries, representatives from international organizations, national and international NGOs.

After the speech of H.E the union minister, the dignitaries and invited guests viewed the mini-exhibition displaying national tobacco control efforts being implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Health. At the exhibition a variety of photos, posters and factsheets featured the theme of this year's World No-Tobacco Day i.e. "Stop Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products", along with other information materials related to tobacco control in the country.

This year World No-Tobacco Day ceremonies were also organized jointly by WHO and two other partners: the People's Health Foundation, Myanmar and the University of



*H.E. Dr Than Aung, Union Minister, Ministry of Health, and H.E. Dr Win Myint and H.E. Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Ministers for Health, Ministry of Health, along with other guests viewing the "mini exhibition in the Ministry of Health after the commemoration ceremony.*

Public Health, Yangon, on 29 May 2015 and 4 June 2015 respectively.

In connection with the theme of this year World No-Tobacco Day, i.e. "Stop Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products", technical activities were also conducted to enhance advocacy, community awareness and Intersectoral coordination for implementation, such as: launching of the Myanmar language version of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (draft) by People's Health Foundation, community talks on dangers of tobacco use among the youth, and the problem and consequences of illicit trade of tobacco products by the University of Public Health, Yangon, and the Seminar on Elimination of Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products hosted by Ministry of Health at Nay Pyi Taw, with participation of various relevant sectors. The op-ed on World No-Tobacco Day 2015 by Regional Director Dr Poonam Khretapal Singh was featured in the Myanmar's The Global New Light of Myanmar on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015. ■

#### important dates

28 July 2015	World Hepatitis Day
1-7 August 2015	World Breastfeeding Week
28 September 2015	World Rabies Day
29 September 2015	World Heart Day

“ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက်ကြီးအန္တရာယ်လျှော့ချဖို့၊  
တရားမဝင်ကုန်သွယ်မှုကို တားဆီးလို့၊  
ပိုင်းဝန်းကြိုးပမ်းဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။”