

# THE UNION ASIA PACIFIC MONTHLY BULLETIN

The Union

International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

This bulletin highlights the key activities, focusing on Tobacco Control and TB, carried out in Nepal, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Timor-Leste during August 2022.

August 2022

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## NEPAL

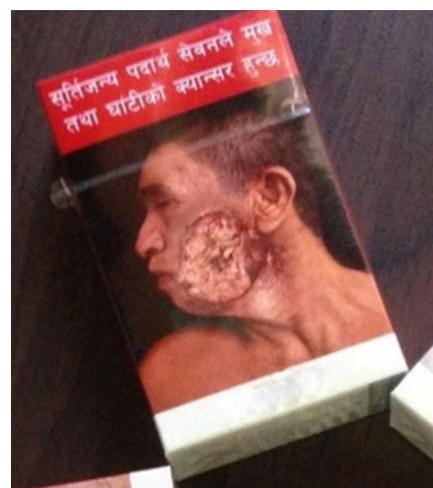
### HIGHLIGHTS

### Public Health Win: Supreme court of Nepal dismisses Industry challenge to 90% Pictorial Health Warning

On 28th of August, following 8 years of legal battle, the Nepal Supreme Court ruled in favour of the protection of public health; 90% pictorial health warnings (PHW) must be printed on all tobacco packs in Nepal .

Nepal had passed a directive to enlarge its PHWs to 90% in 2015, up from the previous 75%. However, Perfect Blend Pvt. Ltd., backed by tobacco giant Surya Nepal, Pvt. Ltd. filed a petition to the supreme court, requesting for an appeal of the directive .

The Union partner, Action Nepal filed a counter suit against the tobacco industry. After over 40 hearings, the Supreme Court dismissed the petition paving the way for immediate implementation of 90% PHW.



Tobacco Pack with 90% Pictorial Health Warnings

## INDONESIA

### Countering Tobacco Industry Interference

In response to Sampoerna's sponsorship of the B20- G20 meeting in Indonesia. 47 civil society and professional organisations sent a letter to the President of Indonesia to immediately remove Sampoerna as a sponsor and ensure no future sponsorship or collaboration with the tobacco industry.



Vice Minister of Health at the Multistakeholder Meeting

### Multistakeholder Meeting on Taxation

Vice Minister Ministry of Health has appealed to the Coordinating Ministry of Human and Cultural Development Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Communication and Informatics, Ministry of Development and Planning, and Ministry of Industry, to raise tax and prices on tobacco products. This meeting was organised by The Union and the University of Indonesia.



Meeting with Vice Minister of Manpower

## Vice Minister of Ministry of Manpower engaged in Tobacco Control

The Union, Indonesian Public Health Association, Tobacco Control Support Centre (TCSC) and Rumah Mediasi Indonesia (RMI) met with the Vice Minister of Manpower (MOM) to build policy awareness on tobacco control. The meeting concluded that many tobacco workers and farmers are not reaping the benefits of their trade. Evidence has showed that after farmers switch to other commodities their livelihoods improve significantly.

## Tobacco Control and Human Rights

The Union and Rumah Mediasi Indonesia (RMI) is working to bring to light the link between Human Rights and Tobacco Control. A workshop was held featuring prominent human rights activists, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign affairs as speakers. More than 40 participants consisting of civil society and leaders from the National Commission for Disabilities were present.



Workshop on Human Rights and Tobacco Control



Regent of Kulon Progo, Mr Trisaktiyana, removed the tobacco advertising banner

## With Mayor of Kulon Progo - Taking a lead on smoke free enforcement

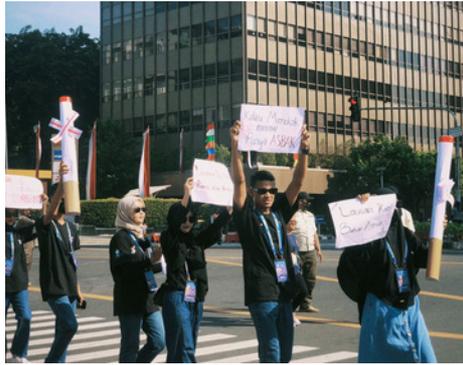
The Mayor of Kulon Progo, Indonesia, personally led the removal of 75 tobacco advertising banners that were disguised as coffee ads in 25 local retail shops. Kulon Progo has had a ban of tobacco advertising promotion and sponsorship since 2014. This enforcement activity is a demonstration of strong commitments from local leaders in Indonesia. The Union provides technical support to Kulon Progo.

## No Smoking Signage Campaign Conducted in Banda Aceh City



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Youth: Protect our health and environment from Tobacco



The Union and ASPEKSINDO (an organization of cooperation and partnership between the Islands and Coastal Regional Governments) engaged youth ambassadors to hold an event in Jakarta calling for stronger public participation and awareness for tobacco control. Smoking has an adverse effect on the welfare of coastal communities due to pollution.



Representatives from the Indonesian Maritime Ambassador School (SDMI) Aspectsindo organized the campaign to legalize the draft law on tobacco-free maritime tourism areas

## CAMBODIA

### Tobacco Cessation Counseling Trainings in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom

Capacity building training on Tobacco Cessation and counseling services in the context of COVID-19 for health professionals were conducted at health centres of two provinces (Siem Reap and Kampong Thom). Total 52 healthcare providers from 26 health centres and district referral hospitals were present.



Capacity building training in Siem Reap Province



Capacity building training in Kampong Thom Province



## Capacity Building Training for Countering Tobacco Industry Interference

The Union, CTFK, Gerry Roxas Foundation and the Department of Health organized a two-day capacity building program from August 8-9, 2022, to equip 14 national and subnational WHO-FCTC implementers with the knowledge to promote, protect and defend local tobacco control policies from the attacks of the tobacco industry.

Two-day capacity building program for countering attacks of tobacco industry

## MPOWER & Smoke-Free Deputization Training

The Union grantee, Transcending Institution and Communities, Inc. (Transcend), conducted an MPOWER and Smoke-Free Deputization Training with Kibungan Local Government on July 7. The training discussed tobacco control policy enforcement (proper apprehension of violators), guidelines in apprehension with effective communications, and implementing guidelines, in relation to the implementation of the Municipal Ordinance. It was attended by 36 participants, including barangay (village) chiefs, nurses, midwives, and personnel from the Philippine National Police, Department of Education, and Bureau of Fire Protection.



MPOWER and Smoke-Free Deputization Training in Kibungan



## Tobacco Intervention/Cessation Trainings

ASH Philippines provided support to Regional Tobacco Control Networks through the conduct of two Tobacco Intervention/Cessation Trainings: 1) Intensive Smoking Cessation for Region 8 (July 13-15), and 2) Cessation with MPOWER for Region 12 (July 26-29). The trainings were attended by a total of 50 and 17 participants from Region 12 and Region 8 respectively.

Tobacco Intervention/Cessation Training in Region 8

# BANGLADESH

## Conducting Digital Survey Activities for Tobacco Vendor Licensing

The Union, Rajshahi City Corporation and AID Foundation conducted digital survey activities in 1 city corporation and 9 Sadar municipalities of Khulna division with the aim of bringing the tobacco point-of-sale under licensing and determining the current status of illegal advertising campaigns. The number of tobacco POS and the list of illegal advertisement campaigns were officially handed over to the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, Mr. Dr. ABM Sharif Uddin. By applying the list included in the survey, tobacco POS will be brought under individual license.



Handed over the Survey Report to the CEO, RCC



Discussion Meeting on the Survey Report

# VIETNAM

## Consultation Meeting on National Tobacco Control Strategy 2022-2023

A consultation meeting was organized by the Ministry of Health to get comments/feedback to the National Tobacco Control Strategy 2022-2030 (NTCS). The meeting was chaired by MoH Vice Minister and attended by representatives from different ministries. The draft NTCS is expected to be approved this year to guide tobacco control work over the next 8 years. Union has been providing technical support to MoH during evaluation of the previous NTCS as well the development of the new one.



Vice Minister of Health attending the consultation meeting on NTCS



Random Monitoring of a Cafe in Ha Noi

## Piloting Mobile App to Monitor Violations to Tobacco Control Law

The Union supported the Viet Nam Tobacco Control Fund to pilot the use of a mobile App in which the public can report violations of the tobacco control policies. A multi-sectoral inspection and monitoring mission was conducted in two districts of Ha Noi. The inspection team consists of Food Safety Inspectors, Police and Health Department staff. The team visited 125 public places, including cafés, restaurants and hotels, which are places with highest exposure to second-hand smoking. The inspection team monitored the compliance with indicators such as presence of no-smoking signs, presence of people smoking, ashtrays provided and etc.



## Meeting with Cabinet of Vice Prime Minister

The Union grantee, National Alliance for tobacco control Timor-Leste (ANCT) along with civil society partners held a meeting with Cabinet of Vice Prime Minister to present a policy brief entitled "Enforce prevention and treatment for Non-Communicable Diseases" to provide evidence for stronger tobacco control in the Timor-Leste National Strategic Plan. The recommendation includes enforcing policy to ban Tobacco products, which is not involved in the current national strategic plan.

Meeting with Cabinet of Vice Prime Minister



Meeting with Director of NCD



Random Inspection and Seizing of Illicit Cigarettes

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