

UPDATE ON WHO FCTC AND MPOWER

Date: 18 March 2015

Time: 14:00-15:30

Room: Conference Hall A

Tri-plenary 1 Title: Tobacco taxation: Overview, current challenges and country best practices

Description: The World Health Organization (WHO) has so far engaged with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials from 73 countries around the world to provide technical assistance to Member States on tobacco taxation. The objectives of these engagements are to:

- Raise taxes to increase the price of tobacco products, as it is proven to reduce tobacco consumption and help the governments achieve their public health objectives;
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of tax systems to improve the sustainability of tax revenue, and ensure that the governments collect expected tax revenues without any tax leakages; and
- Increase the technical and administrative capacity of MoF officials to monitor the tobacco market and improve tax compliance, so that the risks of tax evasion and avoidance are reduced.

This plenary session will focus on country specific experience of tobacco taxation presented by the representatives from the MoF of the participating countries (Bangladesh, Jordan and the Philippines). This session will highlight the political difficulties and how the governments overcome such hurdles to implement better tax policies.

Objectives of the tri-plenary:

- Objective 1: To raise awareness regarding the cooperation between WHO and Member States on tobacco taxation and on the guidelines for implementation of Article 6 of the WHO FCTC adopted in 2014;
- Objective 2: To examine the impact of policy changes in tobacco taxation on tobacco consumption and government revenue;
- Objective 3: To explore the challenges in implementing the desirable tax policy changes;
- Objective 4: To share the experiences of best practices; and
- Objective 5: To promote a multi-sectoral approach in addressing tobacco control.

Chair 1: Dr Nyo Nyo Kyiang, Regional Advisor, WHO Tobacco Free Initiative, India

Chair 2: Patricio Marquez, World Bank, USA

14:00-14:15

Presentation 1: Global tobacco taxes: What have we learned?

Speaker 1: Dr Ayda Yurekli, World Health Organisation Tobacco Free Initiative, Switzerland

14:15-14:30

Presentation 2: Guidelines for implementation of Article 6 of the WHO FCTC

Speaker 2: Dr Tibor Szilagyi, WHO FCTC Secretariat, Switzerland

14:30-14:45

Presentation 3: Experience of tobacco taxation in Bangladesh

Speaker 3: Mr Ghulam Hussain, Chairman, National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh

14:45-15:00

Presentation 4: Experience of tobacco taxation in Jordan

Speaker 4: Mr Eyad Kodah, Director of Tax Administration, Jordan

15:00-15:15

Presentation 5: Experience of tobacco taxation in Philippines

Speaker 5: Mr Jeremias Paul, Under Secretary, Department of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Philippines

15:15-15:30

Presentation 6: Experience of tobacco taxation in Gambia

Speaker 6: Mr Mod K. Ceasay, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, The Gambia