

Meeting Report
5th APCAT Summit Review and 100 % Smoke-Free Law
Enforcement in Bharatpur Metropolitan City

Prepared By

Action Nepal

www.actionnepal.com

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Background

We had already carried out compliance study to ensure 100 % smoke-free Bharatpur city by selecting 565 work and public places in Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan. The findings of the study had been disseminated to the office of Mayor, Bharatpur Metropolitan City, other concerned authorities and stakeholders. To make a Bharatpur a smoke free city, Mayor leading standing committee had been formed. The committee had already issued letter to its all 29 ward offices for making their offices smoke free by placing no smoking hoarding board (size; 4'x6') at the main entrance. Furthermore, Chitwan Chamber of Commerce and Chitwan Industry Association had agreed to make their industries and related organizations smoke free at their own expenses. Apart from that, the metropolitan city had penalized those who disobeyed the smoke free laws and had collected NRS 95000 as a fine. The mayor's office had also announced ban on all the hookah bars during COVID-19 pandemic. The Mayor, RenuDahal had shown strong commitment to make Bharatpur a smoke free city before 5th APCAT Summit that was supposed to be held in December 2020. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic the 5th **APCAT: The Asia Pacific Summit of Mayors**, under the theme “*COVID-19: Mayors’ response to NCDs, lung health and Tobacco Use*” held virtually on 17th of December 2020.

Objective of the meeting:

The major objectives of conducting the program are as follows:

- 1- Reinforcement of previously made commitments, and activities to ensure continuity of smoke free laws.
- 2- Review of 5th APCAT Summit.

Interaction and Discussion:

Menaka Pandit, Information Officer, Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Office of Municipal Executive, Bharatpur formally started the program by highlighting the objective of the program followed by introduction session. She requested **Anand Bahadur Chand** to explain the relevancy of the program at the current moment. **Mr. Ananda Bahadur Chand, Chairperson of Action Nepal**, detailed about background of APCAT, and its main theme. He also highlighted and appreciated the efforts and activities carried out by office of Bharatpur Metropolitan City for

creating Bharatpur a smoke free city. Mr. **Mohit Singh Thagunna, R & E Officer, Action Nepal**, presented the findings of compliance study and basically made two major recommendations based on the survey. First one was that there were still in many places where no smoking signage was to be placed such as at petrol pumps, bus terminals, government offices, school and colleges, etc. Hence, no smoking signage has to be placed as soon as possible in all designated places. Second recommendation was that there is an urgent need to build awareness and educate all venue owners, policy makers and general public about the existing smoke free law to increase compliance rate. Likewise, **Mr. Ram Bahadur Shahi, Assistant CDO, Chitwan** said that the continuous and collaborative effort from all stakeholders was important. We have strong tobacco control law. Law has no meaning until it is implemented. Tobacco is habit and it takes continuous and persistent effort is required to change the habit, he added. He made a strong commitment to take further step to make 100 percent implementation of tobacco control law not only in Bharatpur city but in whole Chitwan.

After a few minutes of discussion among the guests and participants, Mayor, Renu Dahal, Bharatpur Metropolitan City concluded the meeting with following summarizing points;

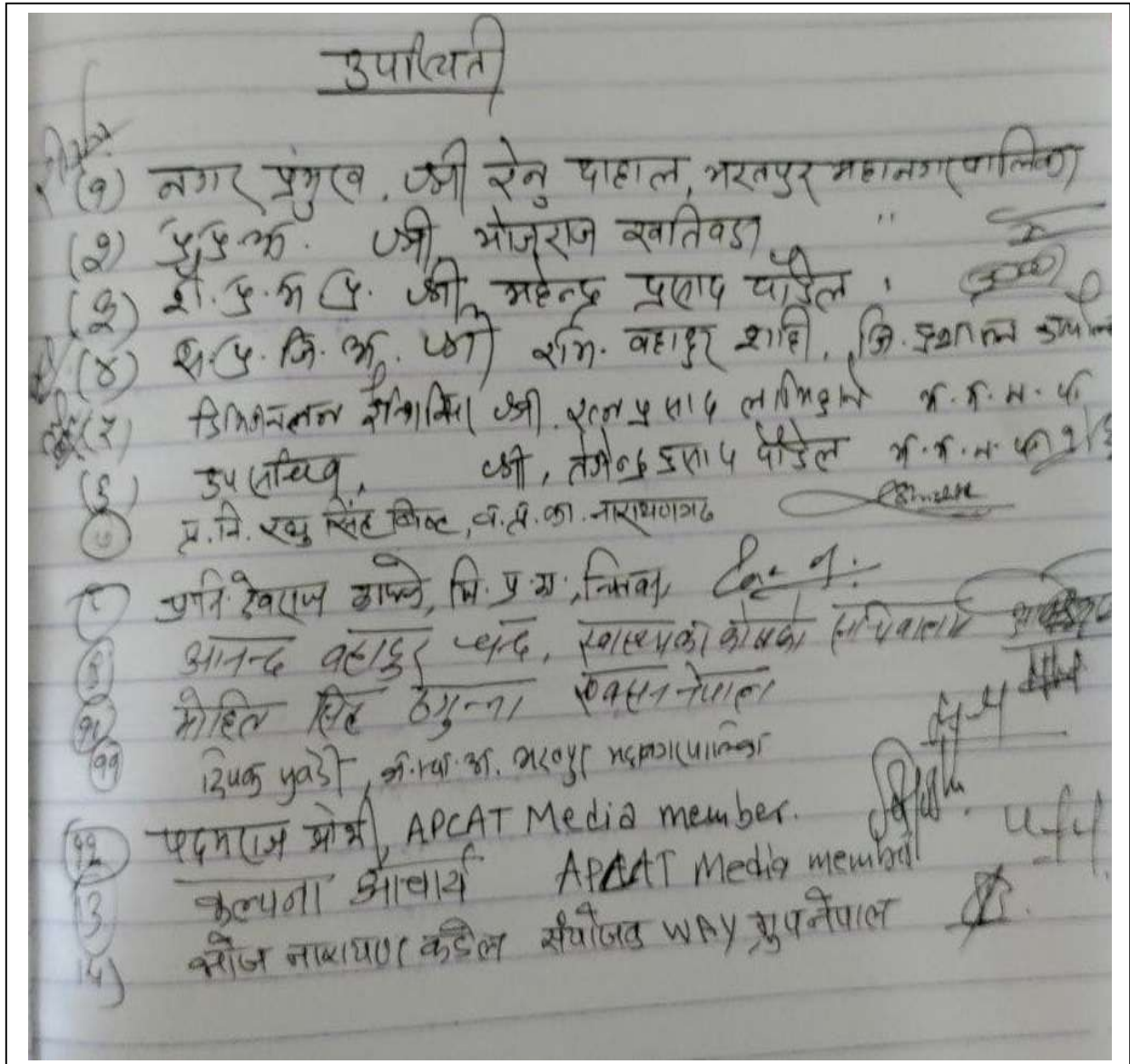
1. To continue meeting of Mayor leading standing committee every month (on 8th of each Nepali month)
2. To reissue the letter from office of Bharatpur metropolitan city to all 29 ward offices for making their offices smoke free by placing no smoking hoarding board (size; 4'x6') at the main entrance.
3. Tobacco focal person to be appointed at the office of Bharatpur Metropolitan City to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration among the stakeholders.
4. Make all necessary arrangement required for conducting 6th APCAT summit in Bharatpur, Chitwan.
5. Ensure the implementation of tobacco control law not only in Bharatpur City, but also in whole Chitwan district.
6. Conduct awareness and capacity building programs to make people aware of tobacco control laws and regulation.

Online New Releases

1. २१प्रतिसत सरकारी कार्यालयमा मात्र 'धूम्रपान निषेध' साइनबोर्ड
<http://healthtodaynepal.com/2021/04/20/%e0%a5%a8%e0%a5%a7>
2. स्वास्थ्य संस्थामै छैनन् 'धूम्रपान निषेध' लेखिएका स्टिकर
<https://healthvonline.com/healthnews/2021/04/35162/?fbclid=IwAR3tF25a04Tz5FmBkaGveJn ttvqAdZsBPI855Jgp4lhMwgmajoZ1XTU175A>

The Participants

The Mayor, Bharatpur Metropolitan City (BMC), Chief Administrative Officer (BMC), Assistant Chief District Officer, Under Secretary (BMC), Policy Inspector (Narayanghat), health journalist and other staffs of Bharatpur Metropolitan City participated in the meeting.



Meeting Photos

