

Interaction titled "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory"

Program Report
(28 April, 2018)



“जनस्वास्थ्य प्रवर्द्धन : सूर्तिजन्य पदार्थ नियन्त्रण र नियमन”

विषयक

बृहत अन्तरक्रिया कार्यक्रम

स्थान: होटल हिमालय, कुपण्डोल
मिति: २०७५।०१।१५

आयोजक:



स्वास्थ्य तथा जनसंख्या मन्त्रालय



स्वास्थ्य पत्रकार मञ्च नेपाल



एक्सन नेपाल



द युनियन
International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
Health solutions for the poor

Activity: A round table interaction program based on "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory" was successfully conducted.

Program title: Interaction program on "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory".

Aim of program: This interaction program is mainly conducted to support and encourage concern bodies to strictly enforce and implement the provision of incorporating 90 PHW and an urgent need to raise of tax on tobacco products.

Venue: Hotel Himalaya, Kupondol

Time: 9:00 AM – 1:00PM

Organized by: Jointly organized by Ministry of Health & Population, Health Journalist Forum, Action Nepal and The Union

Attended personnel's:

Almost 51 Attendees from high level Policymakers, civil society and health media journalists attended the program, which are listed below;

S.N.	Name of participants	Designation/Organization
1.	Hon. Padma Kumari Aryal	Minister of State for Health, MoHP
2.	Bidhya Sundar Shakya	Mayor, Kathmandu Metropolitan City
3.	Hon. Khagraj Adhikari	Ex-Health Minister and Chief Whip of CPN-UML

Report of interaction program titled "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory"

4.	Hon. Lekh Raj Bhatta	MP, CPN Make
5.	Hon. Ram Kumari Jhakri	MP, CPN-UML
6.	Hon. Niru Devi Pal	MP, CPN-UML
7.	Hon. Anjana Bisankhe	Chief of Health Department, CPN MA.KE
8.	Brijesh Chandra Lal	Parliamentarian of National Assembly & Vice-President of Rastriya Janata Party
9.	Lal Bahadur Thapa	CPN-UML - Pratinidhi Sabha Sadasthye
10.	Prakash Rashailee Snehee	Nepali Congress – Pratinidhi Sabha Sadasthye
11.	Hon. Mahesh Basnet	
12.	Dr. Deepak Prakash Bhatta	
13.	Mahendra Prasad Shrestha	Deputy Secretary – MoHP
14.	Dr. Rajendra Pant	NTC – Director
15.	Sunil Raj Sharma	NHEICC – Director
16.	Dr. Radhika Thapaliya	NHEICC – Chief Health Administrator
17.	Bhim Prasad Sapkota	MoHP – PHA
18.	Khimananda Bhusal	Participants from Ministry of Agriculture
19.	Dr. Niraj Bam	Sr. Chest Disease Specialist – TUTH
20.	Dr. Ratna Mani Gajurel	Sr. Heart Disease Specialist – TUTH
21.	Dr. Lonim Dixit	WHO
22.	Dr. Prakash Raj Regmi	NCD Alliance
23.	Lalit Kumar Basnet	DAO, Kathmandu
24.	Hari Kumar Shrestha	Sr. officer – KMC
25.	Shanta Lal Mulmi	RECPHEC – E.D.
26.	Ram Chandra Sharma	Advocate
27.	Madhukar Kushmi	
28.	Anand Bahadur Chand	President, Action Nepal
29.	Dr. Tara Singh Bam	Deputy Regional Director – The Union
Journalists		
30.	Roshani Katnet	AP 1 tv- Reporter
31.	Fatima Banu	Kantipur Daily – Reporter
32.	Kamal Gurung	Radio Kantipur – Reporter
33.	Yasima Mahat	Sourya daily – Reporter
34.	DB Khadka	Swasthaya khabar – Reporter
35.	Riya Bhandari	News 24 tv – Reporter
36.	Reecha Aryal	onlinekhabar.com – Reporter
37.	Bhagabati Timilsina	NSP – Asst. Editor
38.	Kalpana Poudel	RSS – Reporter
39.	Tejana Pandit	Mountain TV – Reporter
40.	Prabin Dhakal	Swasthya khabar – Reporter
41.	Arjun Adhikari	Naya Patrika – Reporter
42.	Sabina Khanal	thahakhabar.com – Reporter
43.	Bindu Sharma	Deshsanchar – Reporter
44.	Kanta Giri	news today nepal – Editor
45.	Gyanendra Karki	Nayapatrika – photo journalist
46.	Kedar Thapaliya	Change for Citizen Network

Report of interaction program titled "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory"

47.	Nabin Rana	Mountain TV – Camera person
48.	Sanjita Khanal	baharkhari.com – Reporter
49.	Bunu Tharu	nepalkhabar.com – Reporter
50.	Saroj Dhungel	Gorkha Patra – Reporter
51.	Bhisha Kafle	Kantipur Saptahik – Editor



Report of interaction program titled "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory"



Agenda sharing: Speech and ppt. presentation along with round table interaction

Summary and Conclusion:

Policymakers, civil society and health media journalists attended a day **interaction titled "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory"** program in Kathmandu, Nepal, designed to support and encourage concern bodies to strictly enforce and implement the provision of incorporating 90 PHW and an urgent need to raise of tax on tobacco products. Action Nepal organized the program in collaboration with The Union Singapore office, Nepal's Ministry of Health & Population and Health Journalist Forum. The interaction program was successfully conducted on 28 April, 2018 at Hotel Himalaya, Kupondol.

Attendees were from members of parliament, senior government officials, civil society, professional organizations and health media journalists from print media, online media, television, radio and social media attended the program.

About 51 participants boost evidence-based policy implementation and communication to advance tobacco control.

In the program, the focus point was increasing tax is one of the best measures in tobacco control on tobacco products as it encourages smokers to give up and discourages potential smokers. Governments need to tax all tobacco products in a manner that people do not opt out of one expensive product to a less expensive one. Nepal has excellent acts and regulations and is ahead of many countries in terms of policy formulation on tobacco. But the tax rate on tobacco products in Nepal is quite low compared to other countries. So, it is time to think about hiking taxes on tobacco to safeguard public health. Tobacco tax increase is the single most effective policy to reduce tobacco use.

In 2015 Nepal was presented with the Bloomberg Award for Global Tobacco Control in recognition of its new law on graphic health warnings for tobacco packaging. Covering 90 % of the surface area of tobacco packs, it has the largest warning labels in the world.

Report of interaction program titled "Public Health Promotion; Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory"

However, effective implementation of 90 % pictorial health warning messages and pictures in packets, parcels and wrappers of tobacco products in Nepal is weak despite making best law for controlling tobacco products.

Speaking during the interaction program, the Minister of State for Health Hon'ble Padma Aryal directed the tobacco manufacturers to enforce standard prescribed by the government that all people should comply with the law. Surya Nepal has been procrastinating to implement despite it has been passed four years that Government of Nepal had enforced mandatory law for labeling of 90% warning message in the Boxes, Packets, Wrappers, Cartons, Parcels and Packaging of tobacco products. Despite Ministry has repeatedly informed Surya Nepal but the Surya Nepal tobacco products has not complied the law yet. She further stated that the Ministry will commence the process of action within one week. She extended warning that the Ministry will bring the tobacco industry's under scrutiny of the law who are procrastinating to label 90% pictorial health warning message in the packets of tobacco products. "I have heard that Surya Tobacco Company is procrastinating to implement law. Why it's doing so? It will be inquired since tomorrow and I would like to express commitment to find out the reason and bring them under implementation phase. All should comply with the law on tobacco controlling as amended by the Government before three years", she stressed.

She further stated that she has taken the Tobacco Control Act into implementation phase by declaring the Ministry of Health as tobacco-free zone after immediately assuming the post in the Ministry and informed that she would strictly enforce within premises of Singhdarbar. She stated that the Ministry has precede the proposal in up-coming year's policy and programme to raise rate of tax up to 70% to be levied in the tobacco products. However, the Government has been levying 28% tax in cigarette and tobacco products which is lowest in South Asia.

Ex-Health Minister and Chief Whip of CPN UML Khag Raj Adhikari stated that though Government constituted best Act but it is matter of sad for failing to fully implement and he stressed for immediately implementation. He indicated name of the Company that the Government should immediately take action against Surya Nepal Tobacco Company who is procrastinating the law. He accused that the Government couldn't be sensible despite more than 25 thousand people are dying due to consumption of tobacco products per year. "However, death of 17 thousand people in 10-year long armed conflict is declared as international case but the state fears to regulate tobacco products which killing 25 thousand people in a year. What may be ridicule than this fact?", he counter-questioned. Whip Adhikari expressed his intention that he was ready to stage fasting in the Ministry of Finance advising to raise tax of tobacco up-to 70%.

Speaking in the programmed, Brishesh Chandra Lal, Parliamentarian of National Assembly and Vice-President of Rastriya Janata Party, stated that youths involve in consuming tobacco to hint and they will fall into addiction, so, student centered programmes should be introduced. He further informed that he will fully take initiative to raise taxation on tobacco products.

Parliamentarian of Nepali Congress Prakash Snehi stated that health is the biggest principle for the prosperity. He stressed that all stakeholders should be committed for implementation of law and the Ministry of Health should play coordinating role with other ministries.

Parliamentarian of CPN UML Ram Kumari Jhankri stated that through there are best Policies and Rules but non-implementing attitude is dominating and procrastination seen in implementation of Tobacco Act is the example thereof. She stated that law constituted by the Government is mandatory and stressed for its effective implementation.

Parliamentarian of Maoist Center Anjana Bisankhe stressed that there should be coordination between Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Health & Population for controlling of tobacco products.

Bidhya Sundar Shakya, Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, informed that Metropolitan has already started campaign on tobacco controlling and its solid result shall be seen after few times.

By expressing own opinions international speaker Dr. Tara Singh Bam, Deputy Regional Director of The Union, got paid attention of the Government stating that tobacco products should be controlled to control the poverty. He requested to strictly engage citing that implementation part is extremely weak despite making best law on tobacco products controlling by the Government of Nepal. He stressed to raise tax to minimize tobacco products users' rate and stated that political commitment for that is so important. He stated that leadership level officials should pay attention on to raise tax on tobacco products and to strictly enforce and implement the provision of incorporating 90 PHW. "However, people with low incomes are using more quantity of tobacco products and they expend money on cigarettes and tobacco rather than fulfilling their primary needs and when price of cigarette should be hiked, then, they would fulfil their needs at first and minimize addiction thereto", he told. He stated that as cigarette can be purchased in the lowest price in Asia, one should be cautious thereof.

Anand Bahadur Chand, President of Action Nepal, expressed grievance that Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Inland Revenue never heard despite making frequent reminders to implement Directive to control and regulate tobacco products. He accused that tobacco industries and staffs had complicity when Department of Inland Revenue had corresponded the letter before three years to print 90% graphics in packet of tobacco products which was disappeared on the way. Mr. Chand, President of Action Nepal, stated that implementation part is weak despite making best law by Nepal for controlling tobacco products.

Dr. Rajendra Pant, Dr. Niraj Bom, Dr. Ratna Mani Gajurel, Dr. Prakash Raj Regmi informed amid a programme about affects by the use of tobacco products in health.

Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Speaker of Ministry of Health and Dr. Radhika Thapaliya, Chief Health Administrator, informed amid a programme about efforts and activities made by the Ministry on tobacco controlling.

The interaction program activity was published in 5 different national daily newspapers and 20 online news regarding an urgent need to raise of tax on tobacco products and to strictly enforce and implement the provision of incorporating 90 PHW their strong commitments .The summary of particular workshop was also broad-casted in various TV channels and FM radios. The whole summary documentary has been developed.