

### Tobacco Health Risk Factor Control Measures<sup>1</sup>

#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Health Assembly

Having considered the report on the Tobacco Health Risk Factor Control Measures;

- **Aware of:** (1) Health risks caused by tobacco consumption, (2) The attempt of the tobacco industry to intervene in government policies, (3) The inability to investigate prices of international cigarettes reported at very low prices, (4) No excise tax adjustments higher than inflation resulting in cheaper cigarette prices, and (5) New tobacco industry's tactics targeting adolescents and women;
- **Recognizing that:** (1) Tobacco consumption situation in the Thai population includes smoking in adolescents, (2) Tobacco health impacts and (3) Tobacco economic costs (which are likely to rise in the adolescent group);
- **Understanding that:** (1) Control of tobacco consumption requires several measures, especially the reduction of tobacco demand by price and tax control measures and the reduction of tobacco supply by controlling tobacco market strategies, (2) Non-smoker health protection, and (3) Smoking cessation;
- **Admiring that:** The previous development of tobacco control measures in Thailand was led by the National Committee for the Control of Tobacco Use (NCCTU), which is the central government agency responsible for policy making, guideline planning, and cooperation, monitoring and evaluating for tobacco control performance;
- **Realizing that:** The need of social cooperation to control tobacco consumption, especially utilization of the National Tobacco Control Strategy Plan.

#### Decides to:

1. The National Health Assembly and relevant sectors encourage, operate and participate in tobacco control compliance consistent with the National Tobacco Control Strategy Plan 2010-2014.<sup>2</sup>
2. Request the National Health Commission to: (1) propose the Resolution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Health Assembly: Tobacco Health Risk Factor<sup>1</sup>Control Measures to the Cabinet for consideration and (2) assign relevant departments to do the following:
  - 2.1 Request all government offices to comply with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC),<sup>3</sup> especially Article 5.3 – the protection of public health policies with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry – by aligning internal policies and regulations consistent with Article 5.3 requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> Health Assembly 3 / Resolution No. 6

<sup>2</sup> Health Assembly 3 / Resolution No. 6 / Appendix 1

<sup>3</sup> WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: FCTC

- 2.2 Request the Ministry of Finance to:
- 2.2.1 Adjust the tobacco tax structure according to current situations aiming to increase the tax on the average tobacco retail price, to request tobacco entrepreneurs to attach a tobacco stamp duty on local shredded tobacco packages, and slightly increase the tobacco tax on shredded tobacco and other tobacco products.
- 2.2.2 Prohibit tobacco companies to implement activities as “Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)”.
- 2.3 Request the National Health Security Office, Social Security Office, Comptroller General’s Department and Ministry of Public Health to: (1) grant greater access to nicotine addictive therapy including medical treatment, herbal treatment, traditional medicine treatment and effective alternative medicine services and (2) encourage people to participate in smoking cessation activities in their local community.
- 2.4 Request the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to: (1) revise legislation to prohibit tobacco product advertisement and promotion, (2) prohibit nationally and internationally computer media of any sponsorship activity from the tobacco industry, and (3) issue legislation regarding appropriate time scheduling for the widespread dissemination of information about tobacco use dangers on/over all media channels.
- 2.5 Request the Ministry of Culture, Government Public Relations Department, and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology for Legislation Development to: (1) prohibit smoking scenes and tobacco product promotion via “Corporate Social Responsibility” (CSR) presented in films, television and other mass media and (4) promote stars and singers’ behaviors of non-smoking in public places as a good model for communities.
- 2.6 Request the Ministry of Tourism & Sport and Ministry of Culture to control and monitor all organizations and networks not accepting any support from national and international tobacco company in compliance with tobacco control legislation.
- 2.7 Request the Ministry of Education to: (1) include information on tobacco-related diseases in the school curriculum and (2) request departments having their own public and private educational places to prevent and sort out smoking problems in their schools and also advise all educational places to:
- Post signs banning smoking in educational places and also prohibit smoking in educational places in compliance with legislation
  - Prohibit smoking while wearing educational or school uniforms.
  - Request educational staff such as teachers, professors, janitors and leaders of religions to be good models of non-smoking for students.
  - Support budget to create innovative learning media relevant to cigarette dangers and research of knowledge activities for health behavior change.
- 2.8 Request the Ministry of Public Health and National Committee for Tobacco Consumption Control (NCTCC) to act as headquarters in coordinating relevant departments such as the Ministry of Interior, Royal Thai Police, the Ministry of Finance, and local government agencies to effectively maximize law enforcement for tobacco control.
- 2.9 Request all levels of local government to play an increasing role in controlling tobacco crop and tobacco producing in local area as well as providing law enforcement strictly.
3. National Health Assembly members will support Tobacco Health Risk Factor Control Measures as below:

- 3.1 Encourage and promote civil society to continually monitor and provide surveillance of tobacco related information and use social measures to place pressure on the tobacco industry to prevent any tobacco industry attempts to promote new methods of tobacco use or its funding support.
  - 3.2 Widely support and protect non-smokers' health by enforcing non-smoking laws in public, office, and educational places, in organizations, shopping malls, and especially in government offices and through promoting "Smoke-Free Villages".
  - 3.3 Request the Ministry of Public Health to establish provincial committees to locally drive this resolution for compliance with the National Tobacco Control Strategy Plan 2010-2014.
4. Request the National Committee for Tobacco Consumption Control (NCTCC) to act as a headquarters of cooperation with all allied networks to monitor performance according to this resolution.
  5. Request the Secretary General of the National Health Commission Office of Thailand to report working progress at the 5<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly.