

Measures on Health Risk Factors Particular on Tobacco Control

The Third National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on the Measures on Health Risk Factors Particular on Tobacco Control;

Realizing that health risks are caused by tobacco consumption; however there is attempt of the tobacco industry to intervene in government policies and prices of imported international cigarettes, which are not able to investigate, are reported at very low; in addition excise tax adjustments are not higher than inflation resulting in cheaper cigarette prices, and new tobacco industry's tactics are targeting on adolescents and women,

Recognizing that tobacco consumption in the Thai population includes the consumption of adolescents, which could lead to impacts on health and economic costs of the adolescent group,

Understanding that control of tobacco consumption requires several measures, especially the reduction of tobacco demand by price and tax control measures, the reduction of tobacco supply by controlling tobacco market strategies, as well as health protection of non-smokers and tobacco 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 the need of social cooperation to control tobacco consumption, especially utilization of the National Tobacco Control Strategy Plan,

Hereby issues the following resolutions:

1. All parties are urged to support and participate in tobacco control of the National Tobacco Control Strategy Plan 2010-2014.

2. The Cabinet is requested to adopt the resolution proposed by the 3rd National Health Assembly regarding the Measures on Health Risk Factors particular on Tobacco Control and designate relevant government departments to perform the following actions:

2.1 Requesting all government offices to comply with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), 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.

2.2 Requesting 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 with a lower bound, amend a law to enforce 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 review the corporate marketing policies of the Tobacco Monopoly including review activities under “Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)” aiming to prevent promotion of tobacco products.

2.3 Requesting the National Health Security Office, Social Security Office, The Comptroller General's Department and Ministry of Public Health to grant greater access to smoking cessation services including medical treatment, herbal treatment, traditional medicine treatment and effective alternative medicine services.

2.4 Requesting the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to prohibit tobacco product advertisement, promotion and sponsorship via computer media nationally and internationally from the tobacco industry.

2.5 Requesting the Ministry of Culture Thailand and The Government Public Relations Department for Legislation Development to: (1) prohibit smoking scenes presented in films, television and other mass media. and (2) forbid any scenes regarding "Corporate Social Responsibility" (CSR) activities of tobacco industry through films, television and other mass media

2.6 Requesting all departments that have educational places under their responsibility to prevent and solve tobacco problems in their educational places.

3 Parties are called upon to support Measures on Health Risk Factors particular on Tobacco Control 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 providing non-smoking areas in public and work places.

4. The National Committee for the Control of Tobacco Use (NCCTU) is requested to act as a headquarters of cooperation with all allied networks to monitor performance according to this resolution.

5. The Secretary-General of the National Health Commission is requested to present a progress report on this matter to the 5th National Health Assembly.