



National Tobacco Control Cell Health Services Division Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Bangladesh

*E-Newsletter of National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) for the month of March'2019
Prepared by Dr. Md. Farhadur Reza, Program Officer, NTCC*

➤ *Inter-ministerial meeting on National Tobacco Control Policy:*

Inter-ministerial meeting for finalization of draft National Tobacco Control Policy was held on 19th March'19 at the conference room of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. On behalf of Secretary, HSD; Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (PH&WH), Health Services division chaired this meeting. Distinguished government officials from different ministries/departments, INGO/NGO and NTCC officials were present in the meeting. The draft NTCP was presented there and participants opined their valuable suggestion & recommendation on it.



➤ *Meeting on draft National Tobacco Control Program:*

On 11 March 2019, a meeting was held to update the draft of National Tobacco Control Program. The meeting was chaired by Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (PH & WH), Health Services Division. Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Head of Programs, Vital Strategy; Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Coordinator of NTCC; Md. Motaher Hossain, Deputy Secretary (WH-1) & Mr. Khandokar Zakir Hossain, DS (WH-2), Health Services Division; Adv. Syed Mahbulul Alam, Technical Advisor of The Union and other distinguished member from different NGO's were also present at the meeting. Activities part of NTCP was approved and workforce section was drafted.



➤ *Seminar on 'Necessity to raise tax on tobacco to control NCD & reduce tobacco related death and illness'.*

A seminar on 'Necessity to raise tax on tobacco to control NCD & reduce tobacco related death and illness' was held on 05.03.2019 at the conference room of Health Economics Unit (HEU). This seminar was jointly organized by NTCC, HEU and WBB trust. Dr. Mohd. Shahadt Hossain Mahmud, Director General (Adl. Secretary) of HEU chaired this seminar. Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Head of Programs, Vital Strategy; Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Coordinator of NTCC; Md. Motaher Hossain, Deputy Secretary (WH-1) and distinguished government officials from different ministry and NGO/INGO were also participated in this seminar.



➤ **Meeting on research findings about ‘Economics of Tobacco Taxation in Bangladesh’:**

NTCC organized a sharing meeting on research findings about ‘Economics of Tobacco Taxation in Bangladesh’ conduct by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University in collaboration with the Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) that was held on 07 March 2019 at the conference room of the Health Economics Unit. Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam, Secretary, Health Services Division chaired this meeting. Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Senior Fellow, BGID (former chairman of NBR) presented the research findings. Additional Secretary (PH & WH); DG of HEU; Coordinator, NTCC and other distinguished government officials were also present at this meeting.



➤ **Coordination meeting of NTCC:**

Coordination meeting of NTCC with different anti-tobacco organizations (INGOs, NGOs) was held on 21st March’19 at the conference room of Health Economics Unit. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (PH & WH), Health Services Division was the Chairperson of this meeting. Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Joint Secretary and Coordinator, National Tobacco Control Cell was also present as moderator. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Head of programs, Vital Strategies; Mr. Khandokar Zakir Hossain, Deputy Secretary (WH-2), Dr. Syed Mahfuzul Huq, NPO WHO; Syed Mahbubul Alam, Technical Advisor, The Union and member from other government, international and non-government organization were also present at the meeting and they present their works they have done in the month of January-February’19 regarding tobacco control and also present their future work plan for the month of March-April’19.



➤ **Training course on ‘Economics of Tobacco & Tobacco Taxation:**

The third batch of special training course on ‘Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Taxation: Public Health Perspective’ was held on 12 March and ended on 14 March 2019 at Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Bhabon, Milon Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Dhaka. This training was jointly organized by NTCC; Bureau of Economic Research (BER), University of Dhaka with the technical and financial assistance from The Union. Participants received a course ending certificate from the Bureau of Economic Research, University of Dhaka. A total of 25 participants from different Ministries, NGOs, Media and Students participated in the training event.

Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (Public Health & World Health), Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh, Prof Dr. Rumana Huque, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, and Advocate Syed Mahbulul Alam, Technical Adviser, the Union inaugurated the training while Md. Khalilur Rahman, Joint Secretary & Coordinator (NTCC), Health services division, MOHFW delivered his remarks in the concluding session.



➤ **Others:**

NTCC officials (coordinator and program officers) attended various meetings/events organized by different government and non-government organizations, including:

- Drafting committee meeting on tobacco control guideline for local government institutes at Local Government Division held on March 7, 2019.
- Coordinator, NTCC attended closing session at the dissemination workshop of TAPS study organized by the Work for a Better Bangladesh was held on 20 March 2019 at the Dhaka Club auditorium.
- NTCC Program Officer attended National Conference of NATAB and provided power point presentation on tobacco control law on 20th March 2019 at LGD conference room.
- NTCC Program Officer attended meeting on smoke free public transportation under BRTA on 25 March 2019 at BRTA head office, jointly organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.
- NTCC program officer attended BCCP research grants program on tobacco control.
- NTCC reviewed and give observation and recommendation on WHO report on Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2019 for Bangladesh on behalf of HSD, MoHFW.

*****THE END*****

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