



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 February'2019
Prepared by Dr. Md. Farhadur Reza, Program Officer, NTCC*

➤ **Health development surcharge (HDS) management committee meeting:**

'Health Development Surcharge Management Committee' meeting was held on 6th February'19 at the conference room of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Honorable Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP presided this meeting. Dr. Murad Hassan, MP & State Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Prof. Dr. Pran Gopal Datta, Ex-Vice Chancellor of BSMMU, Prof. Dr. ArupRatan Choudhury, Senior consultant, Dept. of Dentistry, BIRDEM; Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (PH & WH), Health Services division and other distinguished government officials from different ministries and other members of this committee were present in this meeting. The committee decided to approve around 70 million BDT from government revenue for use in tobacco control.



➤ **DO letters to different ministry by Secretary, HSD:**

Three demi-official (DO) letters signed by Secretary, Health Services Division, MoHFW highlighting to ensure 100% smoke free environment in educational institutes and display no-smoking signages as per tobacco control law & removal of point of sales of tobacco products from entry points of educational institutes. These letters were sent to:

- ✚ Senior Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division;
- ✚ Secretary, Technical and Madrasah Education Division and
- ✚ Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education on Sunday, 10th February 2019.

➤ **Meeting on progress of activities of NTCC:**

A meeting on progress of activities of NTCC was held on 14th February 2019. Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Coordinator of NTCC; Mr. Syed Mahbubul Alam, Technical Advisor, The Union and all three program officers of NTCC and accounts & logistic assistant participate in this meeting. The various activities undertaken by NTCC and their progresses were discussed. Necessary guidance and suggestions were given by NTCC coordinator and The Union technical advisor regarding ongoing and upcoming activities of NTCC.

➤ **Updating data-base of 'Authorized Officer':**

According to ‘Smoking and Tobacco Product Usage (Control)’ Act & Rules; ‘Authorized Officers’ play a significant role for proper implementation of TC laws in our country. For this purpose a complete database containing all the information of these ‘Authorized Officers’ is important for effective implementation of TC law. Mapping of all authorized officers from all the districts and upazilas is ongoing and letter requesting for sending necessary information has been distributed to appropriate ministries/departments. Information from Primary Health Care of DGHS; Department of Narcotics Control and Bureau of Health Education, DGHS has been received in till now.

➤ **Co-organized inauguration of mass media campaign:**

NTCC, Vital Strategies & Non-communicable diseases control (NCDC) of DGHS jointly organize an inauguration/launching ceremony of a powerful TV spot ‘Atma Jiggasa (What Damage will this Cigarette or Bidi Do?)’ that warns people against the deadly harms of smoking; at the conference room of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 19th February 2019. On behalf of Honorable Health Minister, Mr. Zahid Malek, MP, Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (Public Health and World Health), Health Services Division readout minister’s written speech and launched this campaign. He said that a massive campaign of the TV spot ‘Atma Jiggasa’ will amplify the people’s awareness on the harms of smoking and the second-hand smoking that would play supplementary roles to reduce the prevalence of smoking as a whole. Mr. Shafiqul Islam, the Head of Programs, Vital Strategies urged for the yearlong awareness campaign on mass media on the multidimensional harms of tobacco and the tobacco control law. It will accelerate the implementation of acts and reduce the tendency of smoking among people. For that, it needs to be incorporated into the government’s long-term plan under the Health Development Surcharge. Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Coordinator (Joint Secretary) of NTCC and Dr. Nur Mohammad, Line Director (Non-Communicable Disease Control), DGHS also talked in this event. Other high officials and the representatives of different local and international organizations & media personnel from various TV, web & news were also present at the event.



➤ **Meeting on Draft of National Tobacco Control Program updating:**

A Draft of National Tobacco Control Program was updated. A committee meeting was held on 24 February 2019 chaired by Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (PH & WH), Health Services Division. Recommendations were made to details the work plan, so that workforce and budget section may develop by March 2019.

➤ **Others:**

- NTCC supported Bangladesh Cancer Society to organize a research finding dissemination workshops on health cost study in relation to tobacco use held on 23 February 2019 at Dhaka Club auditorium. This research was conducted by Bangladesh Cancer Society in collaboration with American Cancer Society, Cancer Research UK and Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. Honourable State Minister for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was the chief guest, Secretary of Health Services Division and Coordinator of NTCC also attended as guest in this event.
- NTCC supported Bureau of Economic Research to organize third batch training course on ‘Economics of tobacco and tobacco taxation: public health perspective’ to be held in March 2019. NTCC sent letters and communicated to get nominations from various ministries and other organizations for ensuring participation.

- 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;
 - PROGGA meeting on mass dissemination of GATS 2017 data at National Press Club;
 - Bangladesh Centre for Communication Program (BCCP) meeting on research grant proposal review held at BCCP.
 - Meeting on economic cost of tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh held at Bureau of Economic Research, University of Dhaka.

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

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