

REPORT ON **2ND SLCC MEETING CUM HIGH LEVEL WORKSHOP**

at state level on the policy of FCTC Article 5.3

Date: 5th November, 2019.

Venue: Conference Hall, Main Secretariat, Shillong



Organized by:

NEIGRIHMS, Shillong & PGIMER Chandigarh

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International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)



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2ND SLCC MEETING CUM WORKSHOP ON WHO FCTC ARTICLE 5.3

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Guest / Facilitator
12:00 PM	Registration of Participants	
1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Welcome Address	Secretary Health & Family Welfare Cum Member Secretary SLCC
1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	Recap of Action Points of 1 st State Level Coordination Committee Meeting and achievements. Recap of Role and Responsibilities of State Level Coordination Committee	State Nodal Officer – NTCP
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Chairman's Address	Chief Secretary Cum Chairman SLCC
LUNCH BREAK		
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Ordinance on Prohibition of electronic cigarettes	State Nodal Officer – NTCP
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Recap of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003	Dr.Star Pala Associate Professor Dept. of Community Medicine NEIGRIHMS
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Article 5.3 – Policy to tackle tobacco industry interference	Dr.Star Pala Associate Professor Dept. of Community Medicine NEIGRIHMS
TEA BREAK		
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Best Practices in Implementation of National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP)	State Nodal Officer – NTCP
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Enforcement and Strict compliance of COTPA laws. Smoke-free Shillong campaign	Open Discussion
5:00 PM	Vote of Thanks	DHS (MCH&FW) cum Jt MD
TEA		

INTRODUCTION:

The states of Odisha, Telangana, Puducherry, and Meghalaya are in the initial stages of implementing National Tobacco Control Program, WHO MPOWER policies and other tobacco control measures. In this context, a project entitled “*Advancing tobacco control at national and sub-national level through Capacity building, MPOWER implementation, and support to National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP)*” has been sanctioned to School of Public Health, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh by International Union against TB and Lung Diseases (The Union) under Bloomberg Initiative (BI) grant. The project aims to assist these states in establishing an institutional framework for tobacco control in selected districts; building capacity of different stakeholders on technical and operational aspects of tobacco control and National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP); effective implementation of tobacco control policies under tobacco control legislation named Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA); establishment of effective tobacco control coalitions and networks; and developing and implementing an effective monitoring and evaluation plan for proposed project objectives and activities. Further, to ensure sustainability of efforts, the project will support drafting and adoption of FCTC Article 5.3 guidelines in these states to strengthen bottom-up approach for enacting a national policy in collaboration with other stakeholders in the country. The project is carried in the state of Meghalaya with North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, (NEIGRIHMS) being the partner.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE:

1. To sensitize the stakeholders on WHO FCTC Article 5.3.
2. Promote “Smoke-Free” Shillong campaign.
3. Deliberate on how to strictly implement tobacco control laws.

The 2nd SLCC Meeting cum High Level Workshop on WHO FCTC Article 5.3 was conducted at Conference Hall, Main Secretariat on the 5th of November 2019 which was Chaired by Shri. P.S. Thangkhiew IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya. The meeting cum workshop was attended by 34 participants.

Shri. P. Bakshi, IAS, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare cum Member Secretary, SLCC delivered the welcome address. He said that even though the state of Meghalaya has been lacking behind other states in regards to tobacco control, the past few months have seen numerous activities regarding tobacco control. He informed the members of the SLCC and the other participants that the Government have issued notifications regarding Section 4 & 6 of COTPA, Ban on ENDS and formed a Special Committee for WHO FCTC Article 5.3. He also said that tobacco control is not a one department problem but a community level issue and everyone must be involved in tobacco control.

Dr. Lana E Lyngdoh Nongbri, State Nodal Officer – NTCP provided a recap on the action points of the 1st SLCC meeting that was conducted on the 27th of March 2019 at Hotel Poinisuk. She informed the members of the SLCC about the action points of the 1st SLCC meeting and that many of the action points have been achieved. She informed the members of the SLCC and the participants that DLCC has been formed in all 11 districts of the state and 1st DLCC meetings have already been conducted in 4 districts. She also informed that a Special Committee on WHO FCTC Article 5.3 has been formed, ENDS has been banned in the state, Enforcement Squads has been formed at District and Block level, Challan and receipt books has been printed and provided to different departments, “Smoke-Free” Shillong campaign has been initiated, school children are sensitized on tobacco



control and a pledge is taken by the students after every awareness session. As per notification from Director of Health Services (MI), Civil Hospital Shillong and Directorate of Health Services are among the first to declare their premises tobacco free, with signage and boards installed. Head of account has been created for depositing challan money and fines collected due to violation of tobacco control law i.e. COTPA 2003.

Dr. Lana also briefed the members of the SLCC regarding their roles and responsibilities towards tobacco control.



The Chairman of State Level Coordination Committee, Shri. P.S. Thangkhiew IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya delivered a speech to the participants of the meeting. He stress the need for mass involvement in tobacco control, especially community

leaders. He stated that the menace of tobacco, although it does not show early has tremendous impact on the health and economy of the general population. This impact of tobacco use allows poverty to continue its grip on the state population. He wishes the very best to all the departments to take strict actions against tobacco use and ensure compliance to tobacco control laws. He was also happy to learn that much has been achieved in a short span of time, however he stated that much remains to be achieved. He stressed on the importance of making the people aware of the ill-effects of tobacco use and the importance of collaboration between different stakeholder departments. He advised the State Tobacco Control Cell to focus on certain sections of COTPA in order to yield maximum results. He also stressed on the need to have targets and be guided by those targets.

Dr. Star Pala, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, NEIGRIHMS cum Co-PI of tobacco control project gave an introduction of the project that has been assisting the STCC and SNO in implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme in the State of Meghalaya. He sensitized the participants on WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Article 5.3. He informed the members of the SLCC and other participants about the guiding principles and recommendations of WHO FCTC Article 5.3 and the importance of the newly constituted Special Committee to tackle tobacco industry interference. He stress the importance of following the protocols and code of conduct that have been laid down during the formation of the Special Committee on WHO FCTC Article 5.3. Dr. Pala informed the participants on how the tobacco industry tried to derail the efforts of tobacco control. He also sensitized the participants on WHO MPOWER strategy and its importance towards implementation of tobacco control policies in that state. Dr. Pala stress on the need and importance of raising taxed on all tobacco products.



After a short tea break, Dr. Lana walked the participants through a short presentation on the best practices in implementation of National Tobacco Control in other parts of the country. She provoked the interest of the participants in regards to what practice towards tobacco control would be applicable for the state of Meghalaya and how and when to start the implementation.

An open discussion session on “Enforcement and Strict compliance of COTPA & Smoke-free Shillong campaign”. All members participated in the discussion, especially from the Rongba Shongs. They shared their opinions and ideas on how to strictly implement tobacco control laws. It was everyone’s opinion that the public must be provided with more awareness on ill effects of tobacco use and the concerning laws. Awareness campaigns and meeting at a mass scale must be conducted in order to

reach every nook and corner of the state and only through awareness, tobacco control can be effectively implemented and enforced.

The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks for Dr. L.M. Pdah DHS (MCH&FW) cum Jt. Mission Director NHM.

Action Points

1. Enforcement of COTPA Sec 4 in Police Bazar as Pilot Project. The Headman of Police Bazar to help in enforcement of smoke-free laws.
2. Implementation of Section 6(a) of COTPA; All vendors must display signage of Sec 6(a)
 - (a) CEO of Shillong Municipal Board must incorporate tobacco control laws into their terms and conditions of giving licence to shops and vendors.
 - (b) Enforcement of Sec 6(a) by local headman and enforcement squad.
3. Implementation of Section 6(b) of COTPA; All educational institutions must display signage of Sec 6(b).
 - (a) Letter to Principal Secretary-Education for enforcement of Section 6(b).
 - (b) Enforcement of Sec 6(b) by Head of Institutions, Local Headman and enforcement squad.
4. Organize meeting and awareness campaign at local level in collaboration with Rongba Shnongs.
5. Provide IEC / Pamphlets to Rongba Shnongs so that they can distribute it to all households in their areas.
6. Food Safety must check Hookah Bars / Serving of Hookahs in restaurant's menu.
 - (a) Letter to Commissioner of Food Safety for issue of notification regarding banning of Hookah bars and putting up "No Smoking" signage in all Hotels and Restaurants.
 - (b) Strict enforcement by Food Safety and Enforcement squads.
7. Start Yellow line campaign in Educational Institutions.
 - (a) Dorbar Shnongs to help with yellow line campaign in their respective locality.
8. Create tobacco free village(s).