Knowledge Hub Info – 7 May 2018

Information for Parties on the work of the WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hubs

This is the fourth issue of the Convention Secretariat’s newsletter on updates on the work of its Knowledge Hubs (KHs). This issue covers the period from January to April 2018.

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Third meeting of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs,
University of Cape Town, South Africa, 10 March 2018

Representatives of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs met in March 2018, on the sidelines of the WCTOH, to discuss matters related to implementation of Articles 5.3 (tobacco industry interference) and Article 20 (research, surveillance and exchange of information) of the Convention. The KHs reviewed on how these articles cut across the work of the different hubs and how to facilitate implementation of these articles by the FCTC Parties.

The meeting was kindly hosted by the WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Taxation, at the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town.
At the meeting, the KHS adopted a statement on the Foundation for a Smoke-free World and expressed their commitment on not to partner or accept funding from the Foundation, and to act in the spirit of Article 5.3 and its guidelines in carrying out their activities. Read the statement here: https://goo.gl/tqTZp3

The Convention Secretariat updated, on its website, the pages relevant to the Knowledge Hubs and has established a special page for the Knowledge Hubs’ newsletter: http://www.who.int/fctc/implementation/knowledge-management/secretariat-knowledge-hubs-newsletters/.

A new landing page was developed for the knowledge platforms operated by the Convention Secretariat; the websites of the Knowledge Hubs can also be accessed from this landing page: http://untobaccocontrol.org/intro/.
The WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges, hosted by the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer (Australia), presented in the following sessions at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 6 to 8 March 2018.

- Symposium: ‘The WHO FCTC Impact Assessment: Methodology, Findings and Lessons Learned’
- Symposium: ‘International Trade and Tobacco Control: Developing a Long Term Approach in the Light of Recent Rulings’
- Symposium: ‘Legal Challenges: A Global Perspective’
- Poster: ‘Intellectual property arguments in tobacco industry legal challenges: lessons from recently concluded cases’

The Knowledge Hub on Taxation at the University of Cape Town and the Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges also ran a shared exhibition booth at WCTOH 2018 providing information on their work.

**Next Intensive Legal Training Programme on Law and Noncommunicable Diseases**

The Knowledge Hub’s next Intensive Legal Training Programme on Law and Noncommunicable Diseases (http://www.mccabecentre.org/events/intensivelegaltrainingprogram) starts on 30 April 2018. The McCabe Centre is pleased to welcome participants from 13 WHO FCTC parties to Melbourne for its workshop on law and noncommunicable disease prevention, including WHO FCTC implementation, in the context of ensuring coherence between health, sustainable development, human rights, trade and investment law.

The course is held with principal funding support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Parties interested in nominating participants to future courses should contact the Convention Secretariat at fctcsecretariat@who.int.

**Web updates**

The Knowledge Hub has recently updated its website to include information on legal challenges to tobacco vending machine bans:


You can view all its resources on legal challenges in domestic courts at: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/domestic-courts/.

The Knowledge Hub has also recently updated its page to describe the type of support available to WHO FCTC Parties. Please see the information at: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/support-available-fctc-parties/.
The Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco, run by the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research in Noida (India), launched a global status report on smokeless tobacco control policies on 25 April 2018. Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research and Secretary of the Department of Health Research of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, launched the book.


There was very good media coverage of the launching ceremony.

- The Times of India: ‘Medical colleges should set up tobacco clinics’
- The Indian Express: Need to scale up tobacco control fight, says ICMR head
  http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/need-to-scale-up-tobacco-control-fight-says-icmr-head-5152039/
- DNA: Ban manufacture, sale and import of SLT products
- News18: India to Set Up South Asia's 1st Tobacco Testing Labs in Noida, Mumbai, Guwahati
  https://www.news18.com/news/india/soon-south-asias-1st-tobacco-testing-labs-to-come-
• The Statesman: Govt urged to impose total ban on smokeless tobacco [https://www.thestatesman.com/india/govt-urged-impose-total-ban-smokeless-tobacco-1502627496.html]

More news related to the work of the Knowledge Hub is available at: [http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/knowledge-hub-news/].

The Knowledge Hub also participated at WCTOH 2018, where Dr Ravi Mehrotra, director and Dr Tibor Szilagyi co-chaired a session on smokeless tobacco policies.
The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Water Pipe Tobacco Smoking hosted by the American University of Beirut (Lebanon), developed an educational video/animation on water pipe tobacco smoking (WTS) in English, French, and Arabic. The video is available on the WTS KH’s YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuc1zwPfwV1mD-LY0mr-wOA

The WTS KH participated in and contributed to the “Regional training on the implementation of the WHO FCTC article 5.3 in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region”, held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 26 – 28 February 2018. The meeting was co-organized by the FCTC Secretariat, WHO EMRO and the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3.

In March 2018, the WTS KH participated at the WCTOH 2018, and also participated in the annual planning workshop for the FCTC 2030 Parties that was organized on the sidelines of the WCTOH.

Various communication and social media platforms of the KH are regularly updated at:

- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/stopwaterpipe/
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/stopwaterpipe/?hl=en
- YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuc1zwPfwV1mD-LY0mr-wOA
- Twitter https://twitter.com/StopWaterpipe
- Conference https://cms.aub.edu.lb/fhs/publicprofile/Pages/wts.aspx

The Knowledge Hub on Taxation at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) published a series of resources on their website: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/taxation/public-resources/.

The Knowledge Hub on Taxation carried out the following activities in the past two months:
- The World Conference on Tobacco or Health took place in Cape Town on 7-9 March 2018. Members of the project were attending the conference and were involved in multiple events.

- An information booth was set up during the conference to increase the visibility of the work and availability of the services under the KH. The booth was shared with the McCabe Centre – KH on legal-challenges based in Australia (see above).

- The Knowledge Hub was officially launched during a pre-conference side event on 6 March 2018. At the same time the African Tobacco Industry Monitoring Observatory (ATIM), based at the Sefako Makgatho Medical University in Pretoria was launched. The launch was attended by about 80 people and was officiated by the South African Minister of Health, the Director of SALDRU (in which the ETC Project and the Knowledge Hub is based) of the University of Cape Town, the Vice Chancellor of the SMU, and the Head of the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat.

- On the same day the KH hosted a joint workshop with the Tobacconomics Research Group based at University of Illinois in Chicago. The workshop was on the basics of the economics of tobacco control, attracted a broad array of participants from civil society, NGOs and government.
A new promotional video was prepared by the Knowledge Hub to present its activities.

http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/taxation/watch-latest-video/

The Hub also published a series of policy briefs related to its areas of work. The policy briefs are available at:

http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/taxation/public-resources/

There is a substantial demand for the KH’s work. The KH received several requests for in-country needs assessment missions. Several FCTC2030 countries will receive assistance from the KH in the coming months.

Parties that wish to receive assistance in tobacco taxation or research relating to illicit trade should write to Prof van Walbeek through the KH website's platform at http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/taxation/contact-us/ or to the Convention Secretariat at: fctcsecretariat@who.int.

The Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation at the Center for International Cooperation on Tobacco Control (Uruguay) is part of South-South and Triangular cooperation projects on cessation and enforcement, and they are working with the Parties participating in this exercise. Follow up with the relevant Parties are done via skype or email to discuss the progress made in their respective countries. The objective of the project is to have the recipient countries complete their action plans on cessation and enforcement.
The Knowledge Hub has also supported the development of a project on alternative livelihoods to tobacco growing. As part of this project some Uruguayan tobacco growers and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Municipality and the Ministry of Health are travelling to Brazil, to get in touch with former tobacco growers in Brazil so they can share their experiences in diversifying.

With the financial support of the Ministry of Health of Panama the Knowledge Hub will be organizing a meeting in June 2018. Nine countries of the Americas are expected to participate to discuss matters related to "Maximizing transparency of delegations from Parties and observers to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and other WHO FCTC meetings".

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**The Knowledge Hub on Surveillance**, hosted by the National Institute of Health and Welfare, Helsinki (Finland), published new resources on its website.

The documentation of the expert meeting on tobacco surveillance that took place in December 2017 in Helsinki are now available at:

http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/fctc-article-20-focus-international-experts/

The presentations made at the meeting are also available in the same page.

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![Image of a group of people standing in a room]
The Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3 that was officially launched by the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC) at the Thammasat University in November 2017 continues to be engaged in raising awareness on implementation of Article 5.3 globally.

The Knowledge Hub, in collaboration with the Convention Secretariat and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, organized a regional training on the implementation of the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 in Beirut, Lebanon, from 26 to 28 February 2018. Representatives from Parties in the region benefited from the expertise of the Hub and other invited experts. The training focused on best practices on implementation of Article 5.3 of the Convention.

New resources published by the KH are available at:

http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/article-53/new-resources/

These include best practices on Article 5.3 implementation, please read them at:


The Secretariat will continue to inform Parties regularly on the work of its Knowledge Hubs.

Should you wish to receive assistance on any of the areas of work of the KHz, please contact the Hubs directly or Dr Tibor Szilagyi at the Convention Secretariat at szilagyit@who.int.