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

This is the second issue of the Convention Secretariat’s newsletter with updates on the work of the its Knowledge Hubs (KHs), that informs on activities carried out in October/November 2017.

The WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges, hosted by the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, Melbourne (Australia) completed its 7th Intensive Legal Training Course on law and noncommunicable disease (NCDs) prevention with 17 participants from 14 WHO FCTC Parties. The course intended to build capacity in the use of law to prevent cancer and other NCDs, in the context of ensuring coherence across health, sustainable development, human rights, trade, and investment laws and sectors.

It also covered obligations under and implementation of the WHO FCTC, legal challenges to tobacco control measures under trade, investment, and domestic law, and lessons learned from international legal challenges.

The KH reported that representatives of the Australian Department of Health also joined the training to share Australia’s experience in implementing the WHO FCTC, particularly in developing and defending tobacco plain packaging, and in applying Article 5.3. Participants from 61 countries had participated in the KH’s training programmes since the program started in 2014.

On 24-27 October 2017, the KH also conducted a subregional training on law and NCDs in cooperation with PAHO/WHO and the WHO FCTC Secretariat in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop covered international, regional, and subregional frameworks on NCD, including an overview of tobacco control status, legislation updates and status of litigation on NCD-related matters, including WHO FCTC implementation.

More information about the work of the KH, including resources related to legal challenges to WHO FCTC implementation are available at: [http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/](http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/)

The **Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco**, run by the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research in Noida (India) is conducting a workshop on "Priorities in Smokeless Tobacco Control – Research & Training Needs" these days (27-28 November 2017).

According to Prof. Ravi Mehrotra, MD, Ph.D., FRCPath, Director for NICPR, the workshop embraces different aspects of smokeless tobacco, research gaps, and needs in these areas.

The event is bringing together experts in various fields related to tobacco control, research scientists, clinicians, and bio-informaticians to stimulate meaningful interactions and provide future guidance for the efficient functioning of the Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco.

There are a number of new items on the website of the KH: these include relevant news items (such as [http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/rules-tilted-beat-ban-chew-tobacco/](http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/rules-tilted-beat-ban-chew-tobacco/)). The KH also published the presentations of the August 2017 international smokeless tobacco meeting ([http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/background-documents/#resources](http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/background-documents/#resources)) as well as the factsheets prepared for the occasion of that meeting.
The American University of Beirut (Lebanon) that hosts the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Water Pipe Tobacco Smoking conducted the 3rd International Conference Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking Research on 9-11 November 2017. The event aimed at translating waterpipe tobacco smoking research and evidence into practice, policy development and regulation.

The Knowledge Hub was officially launched during the conference. "The knowledge hub here is for assessing the situation, sharing knowledge, creating platforms for exchange of this information, holding workshops for regulators – we need to translate this – taking it from one level of knowledge to bring in effective regulations that will ultimately serve humanity," stated Dr. Zaatari, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at AUB’s Faculty of Medicine at the launching ceremony.

The KH also posted some fact sheets and posters that could be used by the Parties to the Convention for their awareness campaigns http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/waterpipes/health-impacts/.

The KH also established itself on various communication and social media platforms, and published news about the conference as follows:

- 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
- The Conference https://cms.aub.edu.lb/fhs/publicprofile/Pages/wts.aspx

The new factsheets and news about the Conference are also available on the KH’s twitter account at https://twitter.com/StopWaterpipe.

The Knowledge Hub on Taxation at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) continues to organize different events aimed at technical assistance support and capacity building in the field of tobacco taxation. Thus, during last two months the KH:

- Provided an expert help at the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Workshop for Technical Assistance on Enhanced Tobacco Taxation in Manila, Philippines;
- Organized and conducted a Capacity Building Program on Tobacco Taxation for Ministry of Health Officials and a tobacco taxation workshop for civil society in Jakarta, Indonesia;
- Participated in the meeting of the Expert Panel on the Illicit Trade Protocol in Geneva, Switzerland;
- Provided technical assistance on the design of a questionnaire to be used in a study on illicit trade in Banjul, Gambia.

The KH also continues to publish a series of blogs referring to the topic of tobacco taxation. Among blogs about tobacco taxes and earmarking, and about the use of specific terminology on illicit tobacco. The KH updated the resources section of their website with several new publications by members of the World Bank Group on the issue of tobacco taxation http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/taxation/several-new-resources-uploaded/.

Parties that wish to receive assistance in tobacco taxation or research related 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: szilagyi@who.int

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**The Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation** at the Center for International Cooperation on Tobacco Control (Uruguay) welcomed Dr Tibor Szilagyi of the Convention Secretariat, who undertook a visit to the Knowledge Hub on the sidelines of the WHO Ministerial Conference on NCDs in Montevideo, Uruguay. The meeting held on 17 October 2017 brought together, in addition to the representatives of the KH, experts working in tobacco control in Uruguay.

The KH organized a training on tobacco cessation in early October 2017, for the group of Parties that are involved in the relevant south-south and triangular cooperation project of the Convention Secretariat.

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**The Knowledge Hub on Surveillance**, hosted by the National Institute of Health and Welfare, Helsinki (Finland) will organize an expert meeting on tobacco surveillance with primary objective to discuss how to strengthen implementation of Article 20 of the Convention globally.
and what should be the KH’s contribution to that work. The meeting will be held on 11–13 December 2017 in Helsinki.

More details about the KH can be found at: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/

On 2 November, The Knowledge Hub on Article 5.3 was officially launched by the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC) at the Thammasat University in cooperation with Convention Secretariat.

The launching ceremony took place during the first event of the Knowledge Hub – an international meeting on Good Governance in Tobacco Control that took place on 2-3 November in Bangkok, Thailand. Government officials from 20 countries all over the world, partners from World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and civil society gathered together to discuss how to further strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 by integrating this in good governance policies.

As mandated by COP decision FCTC/COP7(8), the KH for Article 5.3 will coordinate the work of experts on Article 5.3 to support international cooperation, including cooperation with other Knowledge Hubs, as appropriate, assist Parties upon request in developing strategies to counter tobacco industry interference and promote tools to assist country-level implementation of Article 5.3. Detailed scope of work of the newly established Knowledge Hub is available at the knowledge hub platform http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/article-53/

The hub will also coordinate the work of tobacco industry monitoring centres (observatories) that are operational in three FCTC Parties (Brazil, South Africa, and Sri Lanka), as well as other upcoming observatories.
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 KHzs, please contact Andrii Skipalskyi at skipalskyia@who.int or Dr Tibor Szilagyi at szilagyit@who.int.