The first Global Forum of the Noncommunicable Disease Network (NCDnet) was held in Geneva on 24 February 2010. It marked the first time that WHO convened broad-based multi-stakeholder groups to address the large-scale and increasing global health and development burden posed by four types of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – heart disease and stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease – which make the largest contribution to morality in the majority of low- and middle-income countries. These diseases are largely preventable by means of effective interventions that tackle shared risk factors, namely: tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol.

More than 150 high ranking representatives from Member States, the World Bank, United Nations agencies, other international institutions, academia, research centres, nongovernmental organizations, consumer groups and the business community, including HRH Princess Haya Al Hussein of Jordan and HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium, Duchess of Brabant, met to identify ways in which the noncommunicable disease gap in the development agenda could be addressed, and mobilize support from international development agencies, international financial institutions, philanthropic foundations, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

In her keynote address, HRH Princess Haya highlighted that there is now clear evidence that we are dealing with a preventable epidemic and that there are workable solutions to the noncommunicable disease problem in developing countries. She underscored that developing countries have pledged to establish national policies and plans to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases and called attention to international partners to support them, through aid and expertise.

HRH Princess Mathilde emphasized that while the international community should double its efforts to provide ARV to millions of children and adults, it should also start raising awareness that an additional 8 to 14 million premature deaths from cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes could be prevented each year in developing countries. She called for a comparable leadership and engagement in addressing noncommunicable diseases in developing countries.
The Forum was opened by WHO’s Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, who underlined that diseases once associated with abundance, are now heavily concentrated in poor and disadvantaged groups. She underscored that developing countries have the greatest vulnerability and the least resilience. She pointed out that many developing countries are where affluent countries were some decades ago, and stressed that many of these affluent countries had mounted successful campaigns against heart disease and cancers. She called on countries to share experiences through an initiative such as NCDnet.

NCDnet is a voluntary collaborative network comprised of Member States, donors, philanthropic foundations, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector. This first NCDnet Global Forum was organized to mobilize a broad base of stakeholders in support of the implementation of the 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, and to enable these stakeholders to share knowledge and experience, and to begin to work together in concrete ways to achieve the three NCDnet goals of increasing focus on NCDs through collective advocacy, increasing resource availability (both financial and human capital) and catalysing country-level action.

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Link: www.who.int/ncdnet/events/global_forum

CARICOM BRIEFING ON NCDs (NEW YORK, 5 FEBRUARY 2010)

Chaired by Dr Donatus St. Aimee, Permanent Representative of the New York-based Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia, CARICOM organized a meeting in New York on 5 February 2010 to brief Member States of the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution on Noncommunicable Diseases’ (NCDs), calling on international development agencies to raise the priority accorded to NCDs in development work at global and national levels and to organize a special session of the General Assembly on NCDs. Dr Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General addressed the participants. During the briefing, a number of representatives from low- and middle-income countries took the floor and stressed how NCDs had started to dominate health care needs in most of their countries, and that technical support was needed, through aid and expertise, to halt and begin to reverse the incidence of premature deaths from NCDs in developing countries. They described how NCDs need a multi-sectoral approach – an “all society response”, as described by some Member States – based on successful approaches and lessons learnt in affluent countries. They emphasized that global development initiatives must take into account the prevention and control of NCDs.

The draft UN General Assembly resolution, sponsored by Member States of CARICOM, is proposing to convene a United Nations Summit on Non-communicable Diseases in September 2011 and calls upon Member States to include in their discussions in the UN Summit on MDGs, the impact of the rising prevalence of NCDs.

The discussions in New York were built on the discussions during the ECOSOC High-level Segment in July 2009, the General Debate of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly, as well as the discussions at the recent WHO Executive Board in January 2010.

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With chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes responsible for 60 per cent of all annual deaths worldwide, tackling the global burden of such noncommunicable diseases had become one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century. Dr. Gauden Galea told a UN press conference in New York on 13 April 2010.

Urging a “whole-of-Government” and “whole of society” approach to combat noncommunicable diseases, Gauden Galea, WHO’s Coordinator of Health Promotion, said that prevention throughout life, supported by broad, inclusive policies that extended beyond the health sphere, was effective and should be regarded as an investment in health and sustainable development, two critical target areas of the Millennium Development Goals. He said that while the industrialized world was struggling to deal with the effects of cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, low- and middle-income countries were the worst affected by these diseases, which were largely preventable by modifying four common risk factors: tobacco use; unhealthy diet; physical inactivity; and harmful use of alcohol.

Dr. Galea was joined at the press conference by Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Edward Bos, Lead Population Specialist for the World Bank. The Officials were speaking to reporters in connection with the Commission on Population and Development, which opened its forty-third session yesterday under the theme of «Health, morbidity, mortality and development».

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Link: www.who.int/nmh/events/2010/uncpd

Regional consultations
Regional consultations with Member States on the development of a set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children were held between June and August 2009. This is part of the process to report back to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly on resolution WHA60.23 adopted in 2007 which requested the WHO Director-General to develop a set of recommendations on marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children. The aim of the regional consultations was to provide the Secretariat with the views of Member States on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children with a special focus on policy objectives, policy options and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms presented in the Working Paper. By the end of the consultation process, 66 Member States had responded.

A set of recommendations was presented to the Executive Board at its 126th session in January 2010 under item 4.9 Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy. The recommendations will be discussed at the 63rd World Health Assembly.

Contact: Armstrongt@who.int
FORUM AND TECHNICAL MEETING ON POPULATION-BASED PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR CHILDHOOD OBESITY

On 15 - 17 December 2009, a Forum and Technical Meeting took place in Geneva, bringing together academics and government officials from across all WHO regions, in order to identify priorities for population-based strategies to prevent childhood obesity.

The meeting was a first step in a process to develop recommendations on population-based strategies to prevent childhood obesity. WHO organized the event in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports, France.

A meeting report will be posted on the following website in May 2010: www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR HEALTH

WHO is developing the Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health in order to provide guidance to Member States on the dose-response between physical activity level for health enhancement and prevention of non communicable diseases.

Primary prevention of NCD through physical activity, at the population level, is the focus of these upcoming recommendations. The recommendations will not provide guidance for clinical control and management of disease through physical activity.

Policy Makers at the national level are the main target audience of these recommendations. By revising the current evidence and compiling it in the format of recommendations on the frequency, duration, intensity and the type of physical activity to be achieved at the population level, this document aims to assist policy makers in the development of public health policies.

A guideline group has been established for the development of the WHO recommendations on physical activity for health and met in October 2009, with the support of the UK government. The Secretariat has prepared a final draft of the recommendations and circulated it for peer review with experts from all WHO Regions in January 2010. The publication of the «Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health» is planned for the second half of 2010.

Contact: Armstrongt@who.int
NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY 2011-2020 PROCLAIMED BY GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD

On 2 March 2010, governments around the world took the historic decision to increase action to address the road safety crisis over the next ten years. The UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming a Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 (A/64/L.44/Rev.1) was tabled by the Government of the Russian Federation and cosponsored by more than 90 countries. WHO welcomes this proclamation which seeks to save lives by halting the increasing trends in road traffic deaths and injuries worldwide.

Through the Decade, Member States, with the support of the international community, commit to actions in areas such as developing and enforcing legislation on key risk factors: limiting speed, reducing drink-driving, and increasing the use of seatbelts, child restraints and motorcycle helmets. Efforts will also be undertaken to improve emergency trauma care, upgrade road and vehicle safety standards, promote road safety education and enhance road safety management generally.

This recent initiative comes on the heels of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in November 2009. The «Moscow Declaration» issued by ministers and senior officials from 150 countries underlines the importance of protecting all road users, in particular those who are most vulnerable such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

A draft Plan for the Decade, which was prepared by WHO with support from members of the UN Road Safety Collaboration, is now open to all stakeholders for comments. Visit the Collaboration’s web site at www.who.int/roadsafety

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Links: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_traffic

RS10 - A MAJOR NEW ROAD SAFETY PROJECT KICKS OFF IN 10 COUNTRIES

WHO and partners have kicked off planning for the initial phase of the Bloomberg Philanthropies funded Road Safety in 10 Countries Project (RS10 Project). The ten target countries - Brazil, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Kenya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Turkey and Viet Nam - together account for nearly 50% of all road deaths. Partners have begun to prepare detailed work plans outlining the scope of the project in each country. In particular government ministries of health and transport and the RS10 Project partners are determining in which areas of the country to target interventions and
on which particular risk factors to focus. Some draft work plans call for initiatives in particular provinces, while others call for initiatives in one or more municipalities of the country. The risk factors to be addressed may include reducing drink-driving; increasing the use of seatbelts, child restraints and motorcycle helmets; limiting speed; and strengthening trauma care. The group of international consortium partners, led by WHO, includes the Association for Safe International Road Travel, EMBARQ, the Global Road Safety Partnership, Johns Hopkins University and the World Bank. In November 2009, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced a contribution of US$ 125 million - the largest single donation to global road safety to date - to support road safety projects in ten countries and monitor progress at global level. RS10 will be implemented over the next five years (2010-2014).

For further information, please contact Dr Margie Peden
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Link: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_traffic

The course curriculum was based on the proposed actions for Member States included in the NCD Global Strategy Action Plan.

A second international seminar is envisaged to take place between 10-18 August 2010. A third seminar is scheduled to take place later in 2010 or early 2011.

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Link: whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241597418_eng.pdf

INTERATIONAL SEMINAR FOR TOMORROW’S HEALTH LEADERS (LAUSANNE, 5-12 JANUARY 2010)

WHO and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in conjunction with a number of international partners, held the first annual International Seminar on the Epidemiology and Public Health Aspects of Noncommunicable Diseases between 5-12 January 2010.

The seminar focused on establishing and strengthening national policies and plans for the prevention and control of NCDs in developing countries. It provided the opportunity for policy makers working in the Ministries of Health and managers of national NCD prevention programmes to exchange experiences on the technical and managerial aspects of NCD prevention programmes based on the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and its Action Plan.
Dr Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO, provided a keynote address on 10 February 2010 at a donor conference hosted by the Netherlands government in support of the Joint UNODC/WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care. Dr Alwan highlighted the benefits of the joint UNODC/WHO programme and the need to scale up immediate action. He stressed the importance for drug dependence treatment and care to be part of a planned system of integrated activities, rather than a series of fragmented and competing initiatives that are not evidence-based, cannot be sustained, and which breach human rights standards.

Dr Alwan echoed how Member States continue to emphasize that their health systems are being overwhelmed with the increasing burden of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, suicides, overdose deaths, tuberculosis, and other diseases associated with drug use disorders. “We know that drug use is one of the top-20 risk factors to health worldwide, and we know that drug dependence can be prevented and it can be treated” Dr Alwan explained.

More than 45 donors attended the conference. The outcome was viewed as positive with several donors pledging support for the programme.

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WHO’s Executive Board adopts a resolution on a global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol (Geneva, 18-23 January 2010)

WHO’s Executive Board 126th Session in January 2010 adopted resolution EB126.R11, which recommends the World Health Assembly to endorse a draft global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol.

The draft global strategy was submitted for consideration, as requested in resolution WHA61.4 «Strategies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol». The draft was prepared through close collaboration between the WHO Secretariat and Member States and was based on available evidence and the outcomes of extensive consultations with Member States and other stakeholders on ways they can contribute to reduce harmful use of alcohol.

During the Executive Board session, there were informal rounds of negotiations between interested Member States, co-chaired by Cuba and Sweden.

Resolution EB126.R11 is available as follows www.who.int/wha

More information about the process for preparing a draft global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, please consult: www.who.int/nutrition/topics/NUGAG_subgroup_micronutrient_dietandhealth

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Forty-one experts from different fields related to nutrition met in Geneva to improve the use of research evidence in the development of recommendations, including guidelines and policies, in nutrition. The meeting marked the efforts for strengthening the
nutrition guideline development process in WHO, following the recently adopted WHO Handbook for Guideline Development procedures for nutrition recommendations in ways consistent with best practice, emphasizing the appropriate use of evidence to help Member States and their partners make informed decisions about nutrition interventions.

The main objectives of the first WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) meeting were to formally launch the group for 2010-2011, present the WHO Handbook for Guideline Development and GRADE methodology to be used in WHO nutrition guidance and scientific advice and review and finalize the scope, questions, priority outcomes and methods for the development of nutrition guidelines in identified areas in micronutrients, diet and health, and nutrition in the life course and under-nutrition.

The meeting followed WHO’s recognition of the need to use more rigorous processes to ensure that health care recommendations are informed by the best available research evidence. In May 2005, the 58th World Health Assembly passed a resolution requesting the Director-General «to undertake an assessment of WHO’s internal resources, expertise and activities in the area of health research, with a view to developing a position paper on WHO’s role and responsibilities in the area of health research, and to report through the Executive Board to the next World Health Assembly».

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Link: www.who.int/nutrition/topics/NUGAG_subgroup_micronutrient_dietandhealth

INTERIM SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND DIETARY RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOTAL FAT AND FATTY ACIDS (GENEVA, 10-14 NOVEMBER 2008)

Knowledge of the role of fatty acids in determining health and nutritional well-being has expanded dramatically in the past 15 years. To review the major developments in the field of fats and fatty acids in human nutrition, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) convened a meeting of experts in November 2008, the preparation for which had commenced over a year earlier. The experts considered the role of these essential nutrients, particularly the long chain fatty acids, in neonatal and infant growth and development, as well as maintenance of health and prevention of noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and age-related functional decline. WHO has published an interim technical note which provides the main conclusions and recommendations of the experts. The background papers have been published in a special issue of the Annals of Nutrition & Metabolism [55(1-3) 1-308 (2009)]. The final report of the expert consultation will be published in the coming months.

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Interim summary: www.who.int/nutrition/topics/FFA_summary_rec_conclusion.pdf
More information: www.who.int/nutrition
The 14th Meeting of the WHO Alliance for Global Elimination of Trachoma by the year 2020 (GET2020) was held in Geneva from 19 to 21 April 2010. It marked the remaining 10-year period to the target date set by the Fifty-first World Health Assembly in 1998 to eliminate blindness from trachoma (WHA51.11).

Trachoma is the most common preventable cause of blindness, endemic in over 45 countries and affecting over 40 million people. Trachoma blinds the world’s poorest families, those without access to eye care services, and lacking awareness of simple hygiene measures that prevent the risk of irreversible blindness. The disease is largely preventable through the promotion of healthy community hygiene practices, treatment with antibiotics which are donated, and community level surgery carried out by trained nurses to stop the progression towards irreversible blindness.

Representatives from Member States, International NGOs, Pharmaceutical Industries, Civil Society associations convened to monitor progress towards the elimination goal, identify and remove obstacles and find means to enable the delivery of the strategy recommended by the WHO to eliminate the disease (Surgery, Antibiotic, Facial Cleanliness and Environmental changes—SAFE).

WHO GET2020 Alliance is a global collaborative network comprising Member States, donors, philanthropic foundations, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector. The Alliance is coordinated by WHO-HQ, and the Secretariat is hosted by the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness team, which serves as technical unit for the trachoma component of the Neglected Tropical Disease department, in the HTM cluster.

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Link: www.who.int/blindness/causes/priority/en/index2.html

The International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights

The International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights (a collaboration between the Indian Law Society and WHO, Geneva) enters its third year of existence in 2010. The course builds the capacity of students to advocate for human rights and to influence national legislative and policy reform in line with the UN CRPD and other key international human rights standards. Students and the expert faculty comprise service users, government officials, health professionals, lawyers and human rights defenders.

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SIERRA LEONE DEVELOPS MODERN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH mhGAP

Over the last several months, the government of Sierra Leone, with the technical support from WHO, has been very active in developing a modern mental health system, emphasizing the integration of mental health into primary care. With the strong commitment of the President himself, as well as the Ministers of Health, Social Welfare and Gender and Children's Affairs and the WHO Representative, Sierra Leone is one of the first countries to begin implementing WHO’s mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). A number of important milestones have already been reached: A mental health policy has been finalised and a mental health plan drafted, the training of workers in mental health treatment and care has commenced and will be scaled up throughout the year. Future plans also include the revision of the mental health legislation and substance abuse policy and the integration of mental health into health (primary health, maternal health, HIV/AIDS) and other sector (justice, housing and education, employment) programmes.

With the financial support of the Government of Italy, an experienced psychiatrist will be working at the WHO Country Office for 2 years in order to support the mental health reform.

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WORLD CANCER DAY (4 FEBRUARY 2010)

WHO supported the International Union against Cancer’s World Cancer Day on 4 February with a podcast on the WHO website featuring Dr Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General at WHO, Dr Christopher Wild, Director of IARC, Dr Cary Adams, Chief Executive Officer of UICC, and Professor Zur Hausen, Nobel Prize winner for his work on cancer. There was also an Organization-wide staff seminar and numerous radio and newspaper interviews by WHO staff, as well as a videoconference with NGOs at the United Nations in New York. The theme of this year’s day was “Cancer can be prevented too”.

Link to podcast
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Link: www.who.int/cancer/en/
WHO TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON VITAMIN A IN NEWBORN HEALTH - MECHANISTIC STUDIES (GENEVA, 1-3 DECEMBER 2009)

WHO’s Department of Nutrition for Health and Development convened a Technical Consultation in December 2009 to present an in-depth review of the current knowledge on vitamin A in newborn health and mechanistic studies. This followed a WHO Technical Consultation in December 2008 on Neonatal Vitamin A Supplementation Research Priorities which recognized the need to study the biological mechanisms that may explain the effects of vitamin A supplementation in the first days of life.

The meeting and report were made possible by the financial support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

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SCOPING MEETING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES ON NUTRITIONAL/FOOD SUPPORT TO PREVENT TB AND IMPROVE HEALTH STATUS AMONG TB PATIENTS, 2-4 NOVEMBER 2009, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

From November 2nd to November 4th 2009 experts in nutrition, tuberculosis (TB) and related scientific areas met in Geneva to discuss the development of guidelines on nutrition/food support to prevent TB and to improve health status among TB patients.

The current evidence-base on TB and nutrition was reviewed through presentations by different experts and plenary discussions. Participants were then divided into five groups to discuss five topics encompassing the value of nutritional support for both secondary prevention and tertiary prevention of TB. The aim was to formulate specific research questions and study outcomes that should be addressed through systematic reviews, as a first step for the development of guidelines on TB and nutrition.

The working groups reported to plenary to reach agreements and six research questions were adopted by the plenary:

1. What is the optimal composition of diet for patients receiving treatment for active TB?
2. Should additional micronutrients be recommended as a component of normal care in patients being treated for active TB?
3. Should additional macronutrients be recommended to improve health outcomes for patients being treated for active TB?
4. Should food or monetary transfers be recommended to improve access and adherence to care for patients receiving treatment for active TB?
5. Does food assistance mitigate the financial and social consequences of TB?
6. Are there population level nutritional interventions which could reduce the progression from latent to active TB?

Once the questions were defined, the participants discussed who could perform the required systematic review and various colleagues/organizations indicated their interest in addressing the different questions. It was indicated that interested parties will be contacted for conducting the systematic reviews and meeting participants will be contacted to agree on role division and strategy for resource mobilization.

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TEACH-VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION E-LEARNING

A new online and CD-ROM-based training resource on violence, injury, and disability was officially released on 13 January. TEACH-VIP E-Learning was adapted from TEACH-VIP, a comprehensive injury prevention and control curriculum developed by WHO and a global network of prevention experts. TEACH-VIP E-Learning is suitable for a wide range of audiences including public health and healthcare professionals, staff of public health and related government sectors, officials from nongovernmental organizations and others interested in increasing their knowledge in injury and violence prevention.

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Link: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention

5TH ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING OF EUROPEAN HEALTH MINISTRY FOCAL PERSONS IN INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION
(BONN, 16-17 DECEMBER 2009)

The 5th Annual Network Meeting was held on 16-17 December in Bonn, Germany. In attendance were 66 focal persons from 44 Member States, as well as representatives of the European Commission, UNICEF and EuroSafe. The meeting was hosted by the German Ministry of Health and was opened by Dr Matic, Head of the Noncommunicable Disease and Environment Unit of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, and Dr Metz, focal person for violence prevention from the German Ministry of Health. The objectives of the meeting were to review progress achieved by the network in the implementation of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe Resolution and European Council Recommendation on the prevention of injuries and to provide focal persons with an opportunity to network and exchange country experiences. Participants received keynote presentations on Violence Masked As Accidental Injury In Children by Dr Urban, Future Global Directions For Violence And Injury Prevention by Dr Krug, Alcohol As A Risk Factor For Violence by Dr Klein. These presentations stimulated a lively debate. At the end of the meeting, participants were better informed about recent developments in the area of violence and injury prevention, with a common understanding of the goals to be achieved through collaboration in the year ahead.

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Link: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention
COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK MEETING (BANGKOK, 14-16 DECEMBER 2009)

Between 14-16 December 2009, the Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Asia-Pacific Network Meeting was hosted by the Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability in Bangkok, Thailand. The Network’s mission is to develop, support and promote CBR in the region and globally. The Meeting was attended by 18 country representatives from Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Thailand, Viet Nam and West Bank and Gaza. In addition, 11 observers from several countries, UN organizations and international NGOs participated. The Network adopted its Constitution and agreed on a plan of action which will work to 1) promote and strengthen national CBR networks; 2) disseminate and implement the forthcoming CBR Guidelines; 3) develop a website of resource materials related to CBR including good practice examples; and 4) support the 2nd CBR Asia and Pacific Congress in the Philippines in 2011 and the 1st CBR World Congress in India in 2012.

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GROUP TO WORK ON REVISED PRIMARY CARE CLASSIFICATION OF MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS (GENEVA, 16-17 FEBRUARY 2010)

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse has convened a group of international experts to assist in developing a clinically useful classification of mental and behavioural disorders for use in primary care settings, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, as part of the current ICD revision process. The group includes experts from all WHO regions and held its first meeting on 16 - 17 February 2010. The primary care classification system will be aimed at helping WHO Member States to reduce the disease burden associated with mental disorders by facilitating the accurate identification of people with mental health needs in those settings in which they are most likely to come into contact with the health system, and by helping to direct them to appropriate and effective treatments.

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Link: http://www.who.int/mental_health/en/
SECOND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE REVISION OF ICD-10 DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM (GENEVA, 18-19 FEBRUARY 2010)

Between 18-19 February 2010, the second meeting of the International Advisory Group for the Revision of ICD-10 Diseases of the Nervous System was held at WHO Headquarters. The Advisory Group includes experts from all WHO regions and representatives of international professional nongovernmental organizations working in the field of neurological disorders. The objectives of the meeting are to make recommendations regarding the changes required in the linear structure of the chapter VI on diseases of the nervous system and their justification based on existing scientific and/or practice evidence and to discuss the next steps taking into consideration the overall ICD-10 revision process work plan and timeline.

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BRAZIL, TURKEY, THAILAND, BANGLADESH, EGYPT, URUGUAY AND PHILIPPINES RELEASE GLOBAL ADULT TOBACCO SURVEY DATA

“What gets measured gets done” says WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan. Nowhere is this more true than in the realm of tobacco control. Precise data about the nature and extent of the tobacco epidemic beget good tobacco control policies. In that vein, WHO applauds the releases of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) data by Brazil, Turkey, Thailand, Bangladesh, Egypt and Uruguay and Philippines.

Part of WHO’s Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), GATS is a national household survey of people 15 years old and older that aims to collect data about tobacco use and control by using a standard global protocol. The results help countries to implement and improve tobacco control interventions. WHO and its partners provided technical assistance to each country to collect, analyse and disseminate its GATS data.

Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Uruguay have reported initial GATS results. Comprehensive reports are available for Bangladesh, Philippines and Thailand. Eleven more low- and middle-income countries with high prevalence of tobacco use are expected to release comprehensive GATS reports during 2010.

GTSS also includes the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), the Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS) and the Global Health Professions Students Survey (GHPSS).

www.who.int/tobacco/en/

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WHO PUBLISHES REPORT ABOUT “ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES”

The WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg) produced its third technical report on the scientific basis of tobacco product regulation. The 50-page report addresses electronic nicotine delivery devices (ENDS), otherwise known as electronic cigarettes.

Among the report’s findings:
- The devices should be regulated as nicotine delivery devices. Otherwise, they should be subject to regular tobacco control laws.
- There is insufficient evidence that they can help people to quit smoking. Claims that they can should be prohibited until they are scientifically proven.
- There is insufficient evidence that the devices deliver substances other than nicotine to smokers.

The typical electronic cigarette has a hollow metallic chamber for storing concentrations of liquid nicotine and is powered by a rechargeable battery. Users puff on it but do not light it. It produces no smoke but a heated mist, which is absorbed into the lungs.

Member States have sought advice from WHO about their safety and the claims of some manufacturers that they are a proven nicotine replacement therapy.

In a ground-breaking cross-cluster consultation, WHO’s Tobacco Free Initiative and Health Systems and Services departments will meet on 6-7 May 2010 with key regulatory agencies to increase awareness within the broader regulatory community. The meeting’s outputs will be the basis of a session at the International Conference of Drug Regulatory Agencies 30 November to 3 December 2010 in Singapore.

The full report is available at www.who.int/tobacco.

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WHO STAFF MEMBER NAMED “INTERNATIONAL DENTIST OF THE YEAR”

WHO staff member Dr Poul Erik Petersen was awarded the title of «International Dentist of the Year» by the Academy of Dentistry International in recognition of his international leadership in the dental profession in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 30 September 2009. In their citation, the Academy had the following to say:

“He has maintained his affiliation with the academic field and continues to be head of the Department of Community Dentistry. His devotion for collaborating and sharing knowledge around the world has been confirmed by nine universities in foreign countries that have granted him the distinction of either honorary professor of Dr. Honoris Causa.”

“Numerous organizations have requested and benefitted from his wisdom and guidance as Consultant on diverse fields of dentistry. His leadership qualifications are superb and have been demonstrated in his position as Chief of the Global Oral Health Program at the World Health Organization. He has contributed to the enrichment of science with over 300 publications, professional meetings, congresses, conferences at global level and co-organizer of several WHO co-sponsored meetings in oral health in all six WHO regions.”

The link to the above text is here: http://www.adint.org/awards-adi.htm#IntlDentYr
### Upcoming Events – Next 3 Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 May 2010</td>
<td>UN General Assembly discussion on NCD resolution</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-21 May 2010</td>
<td>63rd Session of WHO’s World Health Assembly</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 May 2010</td>
<td>127th Session of WHO’s Executive Board</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May 2010</td>
<td>World No Tobacco Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 - 4 June 2010</td>
<td>Week of World No Tobacco Day events</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-25 June 2010</td>
<td>15th Meeting of the International Society for Burn Injuries</td>
<td>Istanbul</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-15 July 2010</td>
<td>20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-7 August 2010</td>
<td>World Breastfeeding Week</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21 August 2010</td>
<td>World Cancer Congress</td>
<td>Shenzhen</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 August -3 September 2010</td>
<td>2010 WHO AFRO Regional Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Malabo</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-10 September 2010</td>
<td>WHO SEARO Regional Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 September 2010</td>
<td>World Suicide Prevention Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-17 September 2010</td>
<td>WHO EURO Regional Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21 September 2010</td>
<td>Third Global Meeting of MoH Focal Points for Violence and Injury Prevention</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-22 September 2010</td>
<td>MDG Review Summit 2010</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>20-24 September 2010</td>
<td>WHO WPRO Regional Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Manila</td>
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<td>27-30 September 2010</td>
<td>WHO AMRO Regional Committee Meeting</td>
<td>WDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-8 October 2010</td>
<td>WHO EMRO Regional Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 October 2010</td>
<td>World Mental Health Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 October 2010</td>
<td>World Sight Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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