



WHO tobacco treaty makes significant progress despite mounting pressure from tobacco industry

The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) concluded on 18 October in Moscow. Several landmark decisions were adopted in the course of the six-day session, regarded as one of the most successful in the WHO FCTC's history. In her opening speech, WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan said that "as implementation of the Framework Convention reaches new heights, the tobacco industry fights back, harder and through every possible channel, no matter how devious those channels and practices are."

Despite increased efforts by tobacco industry to undermine the WHO FCTC, important decisions were passed.

"Parties have taken courageous steps forward in a number of areas and I am pleased by the guidance to the Secretariat to scale up our collaboration with international organizations to reduce tobacco use, while continuing to assist Parties in accelerating the implementation of the Treaty," said Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, Head of the Convention Secretariat.

One of the first decisions approved by the Parties was on the Article 6 guidelines, devoted to tax measures to reduce

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the demand for tobacco. Tobacco taxation is a very effective tool for influencing the prices of tobacco – higher taxes usually lead to higher prices, which in turn lead to lower consumption.

The regulations provide for tax rates to be monitored, increased and adjusted annually, taking into account inflation and income growth. At the same time, all tobacco products should be taxed in a comparable way to prevent substitutions of the use of one product with another.

Several measures aimed at restricting tobacco industry interference were decided by the parties, which concern implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. These include request the Convention Secretariat to continue providing technical support to the Parties, and to engage with international organizations on the matters of tobacco companies' influence.

Another milestone in tobacco control was adoption of the decision on electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems, also known as electronic cigarettes. This rather novel product was first launched by independent companies, but many of them are now being controlled by multinational tobacco companies. The decision acknowledges the need for regulations along the lines of policies concerning other tobacco products, including banning or restricting promotion, advertising and sponsorship of ENDS.

COP6 honored the tradition of the previous conferences and adopted the Moscow Declaration. Noting that the heaviest burden of tobacco related diseases is

borne by the most vulnerable population groups, the Declaration calls on the parties to strengthen international collaboration on tobacco control and attain a voluntary global target of 30% prevalence reduction by 2025.

The President of the COP Bureau, Professor Chang Jin Moon, said that many other significant decisions were made and “it is clear that the Parties are supportive of continuing to raise the profile of the WHO FCTC in the international arena and on global health agenda.”

These decisions include: Proposals for regulation of smokeless tobacco and water pipe products; Recommendations for entry into force of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products; Continuing to work on Article 19 on liability of tobacco companies; Articles 17 and 18 principles addressing sustainable alternative livelihoods for tobacco growers; Trade and investment issues related to FCTC implementation; Assessment of the Convention's impact on tobacco epidemic.

Together, these decisions will help move forward the treaty, which entered into force in February 2005. The number of Parties to the Convention is 179 as of 18 October. It is the fastest ratified treaty in the UN history. Conference of the Parties is the governing body of the Convention, which meets regularly to review progress of the Convention and takes the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Deputy Director Iqbal Masud attended the conference as the representative of Bangladesh.

Mock drill held in city

A mock drill was held on 26 October at Harun Mollah Eidgah ground of Mirpur Dhaka area to build awareness and capacity of the community people about earthquake and fire. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Concern Universal Bangladesh jointly organized the programme under 'Building a Disaster Resilient Bangladesh' project of DIPECHO-VII Action Plan for South Asia. Disaster Management Committee of seven wards of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), local volunteers and national volunteers took part in the mock drill event. Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense supervised and provided technical assistance in the event. Local parliament member Md Ilias Ali Molla was present as chief guest in the program while DAM's program director Dr Khaza Shamsul Huda

presided over. Senior Station Master of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense, Mirpur Md Abdullah Al Arefin was present as special guest. Project officer of Concern Universal Md. Mizanur Rahman delivered the welcome speech and N M Alim Ahmed moderated the program. The project is being implemented with the financial support of ECHO and Cordaid. NARRI Consortium is providing the technical assistance.





Region-wise pedagogic training courses under UNIQUE-2 Project conclude

A region-wise training courses on Non-formal Primary Education through Multigrade Learning Approach was held under the auspices of UNIQUE-2 Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM).

Tutors, union supervisors, technical officers, area managers, regional managers and coordinators of partner NGOs took part in the training courses which began on August 30 and continued till September 19, 2014. Pedagogic trainings in six batches (one batch in each region) were held in separate venues of Dhaka, Rangpur, Barisal, Khulna, Rangamati and Mymensingh regions respectively.

A total of 191 trainees participated. Of them, 147 were women and 44 men. The trainees included 150 tutors, 32 union supervisors, seven technical officers, one project coordinator-Dorp and two members of UNIQUE-2 Project central team. Master trainers (two each in concerned region) organized and conducted the training courses. Members of concerned regional team and central team extended their all-out cooperation. In several places, trained technical officers assisted in conducting the training courses, where situation arose.

Md Nurul Islam, Saleha Akter, Shelly Biswas, Sultana Fariza, Shahidul Islam belonging to the central team of UNIQUE-2 Project and project director (PD) Golam Faruque Hamim provided necessary counseling, technical assistance and proper guidance in conducting and making the training courses successful.

The venue of Mymensingh regional training was CDA-Mymensingh. The training courses dwelt on brief introduction of UNIQUE-2 Project, aims and objectives of the project, its activities, various educational trends, importance of non-formal education, child mentality, fields of child development, new educational materials (for learners of 1st grade to 5th grade) formulated by NCTB, techniques for conducting classes (subject-wise) and division of time etc.

Besides, issues of importance of co-curricular activities, necessity of educational materials, techniques of developing materials locally, techniques of improving relationship, collecting educational materials and their maintenance,

learning centre management programme, activities of tutors and supervisors, formation of centre management committees and their duties and responsibilities, community mobilization and concept on supervision of Child Learning Centre (CLC) were discussed there. Various participatory and interactive training techniques and procedures were adopted in the training courses.

On conclusion of the training courses, trained tutors are supposed to conduct non-formal educational programmes skillfully at their own CLCs where they will teach 30 learners each aged 6-14 years.

Aiming to ensure Education for All, DAM alongside the government, is implementing a six-year project titled "Unique Intervention for Quality Primary Education (UNIQUE-2)." The project activities began on November 30, 2011 and will continue till November 30, 2017. Under the project, non-formal education is being imparted to out-of-school children and school drop-outs aged 6-14 years of geographically backward 454 unions under 84 upazilas in 26 districts through 4,230 CLCs. Partner NGOs like CCDB, Esode, VERD, Surovi, Dorp, Padakkhep Manobik Unnyan Kendro, Ipsa and Plan Bangladesh are working with DAM to implement the project programme.

Dhaka city is not safe haven for people

Dhaka city is not a safe haven for people. Deadly disasters like earthquake may hit anytime in the city as it situates in the most disaster prone zone. Previously, coastal zones were considered as disasprone areas. But, now it has spread out upto all over the overland.

Speakers at an Urban Risk Assesment (URA) profile handover ceremony said this at city's CDMP conference hall, Mohakhali recently.

They stressed upon the collaborative work between government and non-government organizations to fill the gaps currently existing.

They also added, we have to avoid dependency. We have to prepare ourselves to face the disaster.

Additional Secretary & National Project Director (NPD) of CDMP-II Mohammad Abdul Qayyum was present as chief guest while Program Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Dr Khwaza Shamsul Huda delivered his speech as the chairperson of the program.

Zonal Officer, Zone-02 of Dhaka North City Corporation Md. Mahabubul Islam and CRA Analyst of CDMP Mohammad Mohiuddin were present as special guests.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission and SEEP jointly organized the program. Initially, with the assistance ward disaster management committee of 7 wards (2,3,5,6,8,14,15) of Dhaka North City Corporation, DAM prepared the URA profile and Emergency Response Plan under DIPECHO-7 project. The project is being implemented with financial assistance of ECHO and Cordaid. NARRI Consortium is providing the technical support. In the program, the profile and plan were handed over to the officials of CDMP and DNCC.

Health implements distributed among flood-affected people

Health implements were distributed among the flood-affected members of 200 families in Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur district on 24, 27 September.

Soap, napkin and dettol were distributed among the students, adolescents and women members of the flood-affected families in formal ceremonies held at Bahadurabad Rajanigandha Community Resource Centre, Chikajani Bhelmari Surjo Uday Child Learning Centre (CLC) and Chukaibari Birhalkerchar High School.

The aforesaid health implements were distributed at the initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) while ACI Limited extended hands of cooperation.

Chikajani UP chairman Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Cross Border Project manager Md Sadekur Rahman and area manager Md Asad Ullah distributed the health implements among the members of 100 families in Chikajani Bhelmari Surjo Uday CLC.

Chukaibari union chairman Md Manjurul Haque, Birhalkerchar High School headmaster, Cross Border Project manager Md Sadekur Rahman and area managers Md Asad Ullah and Nitaichandra Roy distributed the health implements among the members of 60

families at Chukaibari Birhalkerchar High School. Md Amirul Islam consultant, Japanese Embassy in Bangladesh, and regional manager Tapan Kumar Sarker distributed the aforementioned health implements among the members of 40 families at Bahadurabad Rajanigandha Community Resource Centre.

During their speeches, the chairmen highly lauded DAM for coming forward in this noble task during the natural disaster. Previously, DAM workers always extended their helping hands in all other disasters in a transparent and accountable manner, they added.



Microfinance Programme's annual evaluation meeting

The annual evaluation and coordination meeting of Microfinance Programme of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) was held at its head office in Dhaka on August 16, 2014.

All the officials of the head office and field-level offi-



cialists took part. DAM executive director (ED) Dr M Ehsanur Rahman presided over the meeting while it was attended by Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) deputy managing director (programme) Md Fazlul Quader and its deputy general manager (programme) Abdul Matin and as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Microfinance Programme team leader and assistant director Md Asaduzzaman moderated.

In his speech, PKSF deputy managing director (programme) Md Fazlul Quader highlighted the significant role of PKSF in advancement of Microfinance Programme. Alongside, he lauded the role of DAM in its development. He also remembered the philosophy and value of the founder of DAM with gratitude for advancement of Microfinance Programme. He also gave necessary guidelines in future expansion and development of the programme.

On conclusion of his speech, Fazlul Quader conducted a lively Question-Answer session with the officials of DAM Microfinance Programme.

Later, the DAM ED delivered his presidential address. He also described the process of transformation of DAM Microfinance Programme into DAM Foundation for Economic Development (DFED) and narrated its future activities.

Automobile made by AUST students on display at Eco-Marathon

An automobile made by Bangladeshi students is on display at an international competition named Eco-Marathon. This is for the first time in the history of Bangladesh that an automobile made by Bangladeshi students was displayed at a global competition.

A six-member team of third year students of Mechanical Engineering department of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) who manufactured the automobile, has named the automobile "BD-71."

The team members are Hasan Imam Shuvo, Touhidur Rahman, Tamal Pal Shaon, Abdullah Momin Chowdhury, Minhajul Abedin Abeer and Asif Zahidul Haque. Hasan Imam Shuvo, the leader of the team named "Avijatrik," told that they had named it as "BD-71" in a bid to highlight Bangladesh and its glorious independence before the international community.

The automobile consists of all features of traditional cars. "BD-71" is able to run 50 kilometre distance with one litre oil.

However, They are trying to increase oil efficiency so that the car runs 100-km with a litre. The cost of marketing of the latest model of the automobile will be between 2-3 lakh. The team leader informed that the



automobile is the fruit of their labour for about one and a half years.

"We want to be a partner of development of this industry in Bangladesh once we are able to work with any Bangladeshi automobile manufacturers," said Hasan Imam Shuvo.

"Avijatrik" has completed the first step of competition. As part of next step, they submitted the design of the automobile along with its detailed description. If they succeed, they will be called for participating in the final meet to be held in Manila on September 17 next year.

It is worth mentioning, the Asian continental event of Eco-Marathon 2015 will be held in Manila, Philippines. Students of various countries of Asia will take part in the competition with automobiles made by them. International fuel manufacturing company, Shell is the organizer of the competition.



Two DAM employees die

A fatal road accident killed two devoted employees of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in Tangail district on 2nd October while they were on the way to join their new workplace. The deceased are Sukllan Mondal and Ashma Khanom.

The eyewitnesses said, a truck, carrying those two employees lose its control and fell into a nearby ditch.

Official sources said, two employees of Dhaka Ahsania Mission departed for Melandah upazila of Jamalpur district from Barguna district with goods laden truck to join a new education based project of DAM. When the truck reached at the Bhaighat area of Dhanbari upazila under Tangail district at 4 am, the driver lost its control and the truck fell into a nearby pond. In this accident Account assistant Sukallyan Mondal, 32 and Union Supervisor Ashma Khanom-28 died on the spot. The other passengers of the truck were admitted into Jamalpur Hospital

Sukallyan Mondal was an MA who hails from Kiachiti village of Paikgacha upazila under Khulna district. His father is Niranjana Kumar Mondal. He joined in ECDSB project in January as an assistant Accounts and Admin Officer in Barguna. Ashma Khanom hails from Pirojpur district. She joined ACCESS-2 project in 2011. On completion of their projects, both of them were going to join a non-formal education based project titled DAM Marico in Jamalpur.

Concern Universal UK representative visits Vermi compost plant



James Treasure Tebans, a representative of Concern Universal UK, visited Pingna union of Sharishabari upazila in Jamalpur district, on September 4, 2014, to observe the technique of producing Vermi compost (earthworm fertilizer).

The fertiliser was produced as part of implementation of a project titled "Transfer of Agri-technology, Organisational and Market Development at Inter-Boundary level" being implemented by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM).

Sarishabari Service Provider Association (SSPA) organized the event. The Concern Universal representative also saw marketing management, how farmers are being benefited through usage of earthworm fertilizer, farmers' feelings, importance of this fertilizer than other fertilizers, reason of its commercial manufacturing and techniques.

This fertilizer can be applied in all types of land. Because of honesty, sincerity, patience, skill, experience and toil of local service providers, all participants of the project are being involved directly with it.

Shamim Hossain, livelihood chief and project manager of Concern Universal Bangladesh, Md Sadekur Rahman, Jamalpur project manager of DAM, TTC Abdus Selim Azad, Md Murad Khan Wahid, market development adviser of Helvetus

Swiss Intercooperation, LSP adviser Md Mazharul Islam, Raghab Nandan Datta, DAM Sharishabari area coordinator, deputy area coordinator Md Riadur Rahman Khondker, community mobilization officer Md Zahidul Islam and field facilitator M A Hannan accompanied the Concern Universal UK representative during his visit. DAM has been implementing the project being financed by the European Union. Concern Universal Bangladesh is in overall supervision of the project while Helvetus Swiss Intercooperation is providing technical assistance.

Sharishabari LSP Association organizing secretary Hafizur Rahman Lovelu played a pioneering role in installing the plant.

International Literacy Day observed

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) UNIQUE-II project observed International Literacy Day with theme of 'Literacy and Sustainable Development'. Literacy is the fundamental right of human being.

The project took different initiatives including rally, discussion meeting, art competition, raise hands to say not to silence, country song competition, poet recitation, pillow passing, cock fight, essay writing competition, cultural competition and prize distribution. People from different walks of life including students, local people and representatives, tutors and guardians took part in the day long celebration programmes centring CLC and LRC.

Eminent educationist Dr Mansur Alam Khan passes away



Dr Mansur Alam Khan, an Ekushey award recipient noted educationist and president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, US Office, died on 1st October at the age of 60. He was suffering from bone-marrow cancer for long and died at Northshore University Hospital in New York. Dr Mansur Alam, a trustee board member of Ahsanullah University of Science

and Technology (AUST), left behind a son, wife and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. Alam was also founder of a well-known educational institute -Khans Tutorial in New York. Born on January 25, 1955 in Chittagong, Alam had been the president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, US branch office since 2005. He received Ekushey award in 2012. Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Dr AK Abdul Momen has expressed deep shock at the death of eminent educationist Dr Mansur Alam. In a condolence message, he prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members "Dr Khan was a silent and sincere activist of the society", Dr Momen said in his message.



Inception Meeting of DAM-CLC project held in Laxmipur

Inception meeting of DAM-CLC project was held at the Laxmipur sadar upazila parishad auditorium recently. The day-long meeting was presided by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Azizur Rahman and Laxmipur Deputy Commissioner AKM Tipu Sultan was present in the program as chief guest. The project Manager Ayub Khan described about

the Dhaka Ahsania Mission and upheld the mission and vision of the project. Upazila Vice Chairman Hafiz Ullah and Laxmipur Sadar upazila Education Officer Sabina Yasmin, CAG president Aman Ullah and Chairman Md Dulal Uddin spoke on the occasion. Moreover, training and basic education coordinator Saiful Karim, Regional Manager Mukter Hossain, Monitoring Officer BM Tipu Sultan, Area Manager Pal Rai, Technical Officer Osman Goni and all officials and employees were present in the workshop. DC AKM Tipu Sultan said, we have to ensure the quality of standard education through non-formal education alongside formal education. He urged everybody to come forward in this connection. He also remembered the contribution of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah.

Speakers stress mainstreaming ERR into dev practices

Speakers at a workshop on 'Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) Implementation' urged to mainstream the Earthquake Risk Reduction (ERR) into development practices. They also stressed upon the building insurance, as the process has not developed till now.

They informed that BNBC was first published in 1993 and government instructed professionals in 1996 to follow the code during construction. Later, in 2006 government formally enacted the code and made it mandatory nationwide. In 2010, the process was started to revise the code which is yet to be completed. The speakers upheld the country's disaster scenarios including flood, cyclone and earthquake. They mentioned that Bangladesh stands on the edge of tectonic plate now that may cause a severe earthquake anytime. Moreover, being low-lying area, Bangladesh has already faced tremendous adverse effects of natural calamities.

HBRI organized the workshop with technical assistance of Concern Universal-Bangladesh on behalf of NARRI Consortium under Building a Disaster Resilient Bangladesh (DIPECHO-VII) Project at capital HBRI office on 1st October 2014. This project is



funded by European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and CordAid. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is implementing the project in 7 wards of Dhaka North City Corporation.

Director of Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI) Mohammad Abu Sadeque PEng presented the key-note paper on BNBC implementation while Engr. Md. Abdus Sobhan, Managing Director Design, Planning & Management Consultants Ltd was the chief guest of the program. Country director of Concern Universal-Bangladesh Cornelis de Wolf and Md. Ahsanul Haque Khan also spoke on the occasion.

High officials from different government and non-government organizations attended the workshop where they voiced their significant opinions for implementing the building code for safer livings.

The organizer informed that this is the first divisional level workshop. Workshop of similar nature will be held at other six divisions of the country in due course.



DAM IN FRAME

AUST innovation to participate Eco-Marathan in Manila

