

100% indoor smoke free workplaces, restaurants and bars in Healthy Cities



1. Background

Tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke is a leading risk factor for death and disease in the Western Pacific. While there is increasing knowledge about the hazards and harm caused by smoking to smokers, there is less awareness of the dangers of exposure to second-hand smoke. Current scientific evidence points to the fact that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Second-hand smoke has been classified as a carcinogen in Finland and Germany and in the United States it is a Group A carcinogen along with arsenic, asbestos, benzene, radon and vinyl chloride.

Despite this, millions of people are exposed to second-hand smoke daily and are unaware of their right to clean air. Recent results of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey for the Western Pacific Region report that 64% of school children aged 13-15 are exposed to cigarette smoke in public places daily.

Analysis of the reporting instruments submitted to the Conference of Parties of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) reveal that policies on 100% indoor smoke-free settings are rather limited. For example, only 5 out of 27 parties report policies that provide 100% protection against second hand smoke in restaurants and bars. This poses serious threats to the health of workers in the hospitality sector who are exposed to the toxic chemicals of second-hand smoke throughout the day even if they themselves are not smokers.

Despite this, there are countless examples around the world of cities and local governments taking strong action to protect people from exposure to second-hand in the absence of national laws. These cities have political will and are able to mobilize citizens and sectors to understand their right to clean air. These cities also work closely with restaurants and bars using innovative strategies with labour and workers unions, and private companies to create cleaner and healthier air in enclosed settings without negative impacts on business.

2. Good Practice Awards

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for application for good practices in Healthy Cities as follows:



Awards given:

Outstanding practices and political commitment to innovate, mobilize and enforce ordinances and local regulations and inform the public of the importance of 100% in-door smoke-free workplaces, restaurants and bars in a Healthy City.

Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities

Materials to be submitted:

A written report and other supporting materials 1) the ordinance or local regulation
2) compliance reports and penalties 3) educational and campaign materials used to generate support for 100% indoor smokefree workplaces, restaurants and bars and 4) other information considered useful for evaluating the submission.

Award:

A plaque of recognition will be awarded.

Deadline for submission:

16 August 2010

3. Best Proposal Award

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for proposals for innovative projects in Healthy Cities as follows:

Subject area:

Innovative proposals for achieving 100% indoor smoke-free workplaces, restaurants and bars in a Healthy City within 12 months through partnership with relevant sectors: tobacco control advocates, non-government organizations, restaurant associations, the private sector, labour and trade unions, tourism authorities, youth, health advocates or other stakeholders. The project should include a research component showing how exposure to second hand smoke has declined after the intervention.

Seed money award:

USD10 000

Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities



Format of the proposal:

The following sections should be included:

- Background (project area, baseline information of the area, etc.)
- Objectives
- Description of strategy
- Proposed date of enforcement of 100% indoor smoke-free workplaces, restaurants and bars
- Evaluation methodology and indicators for success
- Other pertinent information

Deadline for submission:

16 August 2010

4. Contact Information

Applications to both awards and any queries should be sent to:

Regional Adviser in Tobacco-Free Initiative
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
P.O. Box 2932, United Nations Avenue
1000 Manila, Philippines
Fax: +63(2) 521-1036
E-mail: tfi@wpro.who.int or mercados@wpro.who.int

