

**Construct Smoke-free Society & Promote MPOWER
The 3rd Cross-strait Conference on Tobacco Control held in Hong Kong**

22/10/2009

The 3rd Cross-Strait Conference on Tobacco Control was held in Hong Kong from 20 to 21 October 2009. The theme of this year's conference was "Construct Smoke-free Society & Promote MPOWER". Experts of tobacco control, scholars and Non-Government Organizations from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau, gathered in Hong Kong and shared their experience on tobacco control issues. There were more than two hundred participants joining the Conference.

Officiating at the opening ceremony were Ms Lisa LAU, Chairman of Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health; Dr HUANG Jie-fu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Health, China cum Chairman of Chinese Association on Tobacco Control; Dr York CHOW, GBS, JP, Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR; Dr LAM Ping-yan, JP, Director of Health, HKSAR; Mr SUN Yueh, John Tung Foundation; Dr AU Hon-sum, Chairman of Macau Smoking Abstention and Good Health Association. Participants at the ceremony together signed on the "Hong Kong Declaration of Tobacco Control" display board to showcase their support and determination in fostering a closer tie on tobacco control.

Dr HUANG Jie-fu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Health, China cum Chairman of Chinese Association on Tobacco Control commended the outstanding performance of Hong Kong Tobacco Control and would be a good reference. The State would strive to fulfill the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and Dr HUANG also announced that the Ministry of Health would begin total smoke ban next year. During the Conference, the "Contribution Award for Chinese in Tobacco Control" was dedicated to recognize those who have outstanding contributions in tobacco control. The award winners are Prof LAM Tai-hing (Hong Kong), Dr LI Xin-hua (China), Ms XU Gui-hua (China), Ms LIN Ching-li (Taiwan) and Dr John LEE (Macau).

This year, experts and professionals of tobacco control were invited to submit abstracts and conduct presentations relating to the six MPOWER tobacco control policies recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Some international and local experts were also invited to deliver keynote presentations during the Conference:

1. Prof LAM Tai-hing, JP, Sir Robert Kotewall Professor in Public Health, Chair Professor and Director, School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong;
2. Prof Judith MACKAY, OBE, SBS, JP, Senior Advisor, World Lung Foundation;
3. Prof HU Teh-wei, Professor Emeritus of Health Economics, University of California, Berkeley;
4. Prof ZHU Shu-hong, Professor, Department of Family & Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego

In the 2nd day of the Conference, the Bloomberg Initiative held a session to share their experiences in tobacco control.

The Conference's fourth meeting will be held in Macau next year. In the closing ceremony, Ms Lisa LAU handed over the organizer seal of the conference to the organizer of next meeting - Macau. Ms LAU also delivered a speech to dedicate thanks to the co-organizers, guests and participants, which marked the Conference ending in great success.



Photo 1

After Taiwan and Beijing, Hong Kong became the organizer of The 3rd Cross-Strait Conference on Tobacco Control this year. Ms Lisa LAU, Chairman of Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health, said it was an honour to be the organizer of the Conference.



Photo 2

Dr HUANG Jie-fu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Health, China cum Chairman of Chinese Association on Tobacco Control praised the advanced development of tobacco control in Hong Kong, which would provide good references for Mainland China.



Photo 3

Dr York CHOW, Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR believed that the Conference would help strengthening the sharing of experiences on tobacco control.



Photo 4

Guests from the cross-strait regions attended the officiating ceremony of The 3rd Cross-Strait Conference on Tobacco Control.



Photo 5

The five winners of "Contribution Award for Chinese in Tobacco Control" took a group photo with Dr HUANG Jie-fu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Health, China cum Chairman of Chinese Association on Tobacco Control (third from right).



Photo 6a



Photo 6b

The Conference attracted over 200 participants including experts of tobacco control, scholars and representatives from non-government organizations from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau and shared their experience on tobacco control.