On June 6, 2013, Dr. Takeshi Kasai – WHO’s Representative to Viet Nam paid a working visit to the smoke-free hospital model in Khanh Hoa Provincial General Hospital.

HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES

APCPh 2013: The Second Meeting of Scientific Conference Committee

On June 25, 2013, the Scientific Committee of the 4th Asia-Pacific Conference on Public Health (APCPh 2013) held a meeting to update information on preparation activities for the conference.

Prof. Le Vu Anh, the Conference Scientific Committee (CSC) Chairman updated information about the conference. So far, there have been 49 delegates who had registered through the online registration system and about 40 abstracts of delegates from 17 countries in the world have been submitted. The secretary of CSC has sent submitted abstracts to CSC members for peer-review and selection.

Those international experts who are supposed to be the keynote speakers on various topics of the conference are the world’s well-known experts in respective topics. Members of CSC also recommended to invite a Vietnamese keynote speaker on a topic of agriculture associated with climate change. Agreement was reached by CSC members to set a panel discussion on “orientation for researches on climate change and population health”, reduce the number of sessions, and add a session on disaster management.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENSION

The Vietnam Public Health Association (VPHA) is the host of the 4th Asia-Pacific Conference on Public Health with the theme "Climate Change and Population Health" from 21 – 22 November, 2013 in Nha Trang city, Khanh Hoa province, Viet Nam.

The committee’s brochure

The Organizing Committee is pleased to announce the extension of some deadlines as follows:

- **July 31, 2013:** Abstract submission close
- **August 31, 2013:** Notification of accepted presentations by the organizing committee
- **September 15, 2013:** Early bird registration close
- **September 15, 2013:** Notification of conference agenda

On-line registration and abstract submission can be made through the Conference website: www.apcphv2013.com.
FOCUS

THE STREET BIKE DEMONSTRATION TOWARDS SMOKE-FREE NHA TRANG CITY

On June 9, 2013 at Square 2/4, Nha Trang Municipal People’s Committee in collaboration with VPHA and Kha Hoi PHA held a street bike demonstration to prevail the message “Environment Protection — Towards smoke-free Nha Trang city” with involvement of more than 2000 cadres, workers, students, pupils, adolescents representing residential clusters from wards, community, associations, companies in Nha Trang city.

The demonstration was attended by distinguished guests, including Mr. Nguyen Khac Ha – Vice Chairman of Nha Trang Municipal People’s Committee; Mr. Takeshi Kasai – World Health Organization Representative in Viet Nam; Mr. Luong Ngoc Khue – Director of Medical Service Administration, Ministry of Health and concurrently Deputy Chief of Coordinating Committee of National Tobacco Control Program; Prof. Le Vu Anh – President of VPHA as well as the leaders of Khanh Hoa PHA, provincial departments, and the mass media.

The demonstration is one of the official activities in Nha Trang Sea Festival 2013. This event proved the determination of the local government leadership and the community in enforcing Tobacco Control Law, Directive issued by Khanh Hoa People’s Committee and Action Plan of Nha Trang Municipal People’s Committee in enforcement of smoking ban at public places stipulated by the law.

These are some pictures of the ceremony:

In Brief

From 17 - 21 June, 2013, VPHA in collaboration with Hanoi School of Public Health conducted a baseline survey of “Comprehensive and integrated support for people with disabilities” program with involvement of three sectors including Health, Education, and Labor-Invalids-Social Affairs of Dong Nai Province. Interviews and data collection were made at such agencies as Department of Health, Department of Education and Training, Department of Labor - Invalids and Social affairs, People’s Committees at different levels, schools (nursery school, primary school and secondary school). The survey’s results will help in developing an action plan for program’s intervention activities.

From 16 - 20 June 2013, in Tien Hai district, the health promotion program for the elderly discussed with the local authorities about selection of the elderly in 4 new participating comunities of the program (including Dong Co, Nam Ha, Tay Tien, and Tay Giang) to prepare a ceremony admitting new Elderly Public Health Volunteers (EPHVs) to be held in July, 2013. At the same time, VPHA also organized a training course on the basic component of TAKE 10 for 2 EPHV groups of Phuong Cong commune during 19-20 June. Lectures on nutrition as well as physical exercises attracted enthusiastic participation and response of all EPHVs.

On 24 June, 2013, Vietnam Public Health Association in collaboration with Hanoi School of Public Health held a seminar with the presentation of Dr. Mani Sommer, Assistant Professor of Columbia University, Editor of the Journal of Global Health. In the seminar, Dr. Sommer shared the findings of her research entitled “Menstrual Hygiene Matters: Addressing Barriers for Schoolgirls in Low-Income Countries”. After the seminar, Dr. Sommer also had a meeting with the Editorial Secretariat of Vietnam Journal of Public Health to exchange the experience in managing and developing a journal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The training workshop for capacity building and updating information on tobacco control activities for journalists and media agencies in Nha Trang city and The third quarterly meeting for Tobacco Control Task Force and enforcement team in 2013 in Hue and Nha Trang cities will be convened.

- Analysis of the baseline data of “Comprehensive and Integrated support for People with disabilities” program will be conducted, which provides an assessment of disability situation in Binh Dinh and Dong Nai provinces.