

REPORT ON TOBACCO CONTROL WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR 2013/2014

- On January 31, 2014, the WFPHA submitted its application and report to renew its status of observer to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).
- The WFPHA reported to the WHO that approximately 40 member PHAs are working on various tobacco control such as: the impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, increased tobacco taxation, introduction of packaging and labelling of tobacco products and smoke-free legislation, non-communicable disease prevention, World No Tobacco Day activities, work on tobacco dependence and cessation, and integration of tobacco control in annual conferences and local journals of public health.
- In December 2013, the WFPHA began work in association with the Framework Convention Alliance to develop a proposal to the International Development Research Centre for funding support for PHAs from low-income countries to attend the WHO FCTC COP-6 in Moscow, Russia in October 2014. The COP is an opportunity for the WFPHA to strengthen partnerships with other international federations and organizations in tobacco control and as a means of taking common action on global public health priorities such as tobacco control. It is anticipated that the results of this activity will inform a tobacco control session at the World Congress in Public Health in India next year. The proposal will be submitted to IDRC this week.
- The TC WG also developed in association with the public health associations in Ethiopia and Uganda a proposal for a project that would enhance the application of smoke-free health facilities in these countries. It was submitted in response to a Call for Proposals in February 2014. Unfortunately it was not selected; but we received excellent feedback which we are using to revise the proposal for submission to another funding source.
- The TC WG intends to submit abstracts to organize and sponsor at least one concurrent session at the 14th World Congress on Public Health to showcase the achievements of public health associations in tobacco control.

Luis Caceres
Acting Chair, WFPHA Tobacco Control Working Group