

## **Bangkok Declaration: Implementing FCTC Article 8 – 100% Smokefree Environments**

Recognizing that scientific evidence has clearly and unequivocally established that tobacco consumption and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke cause serious disease, disability, and premature death,

Recognizing further that second-hand smoke also has a negative economic impact on individuals, families, and society in general through medical and hospitalization expenses, loss of personal income, and production losses due to employee sickness and absences from work,

Recognizing further that ventilation and designated smoking areas or smoking rooms do not provide adequate protection (especially for workers who enter such areas), confuse the public's perception of safety, and increase the economic burden of businesses,

Recalling that Article 8 of the WHO FCTC, the first global public health treaty, calls for the adoption and implementation of effective legislative, executive, administrative and/or other measures, providing for the protection from exposure to tobacco smoke in indoor workplaces, public transport, indoor public places and other public places, and that guidelines for Article 8 implementation that call for 100% smoke-free public places were unanimously adopted at the second Conference of the Parties to the FCTC,

Recognizing that the duty to protect individuals from tobacco smoke, embodied in the text of Article 8, corresponds to an obligation by governments to enact legislation to protect individuals against threats to their fundamental rights and freedoms,

Mindful of the special contribution of nongovernmental organizations and other members of civil society not affiliated with the tobacco industry, including health professional bodies, women's, youth, environmental and consumer groups, and academic and health care institutions, to tobacco control efforts nationally and internationally and the vital importance of their participation in national and international tobacco control efforts,

Recognizing the need to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts and the need to be informed of activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts,

We, representatives from the governments, non-governmental organizations, and the media from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam attending Regional Workshop on Implementing WHO FCTC article 8, during 3-4 December 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand:

Urge appropriate authorities at all level and the media to communicate continuously and effectively the evidence on the harms of SHS and positive impact of smoke free environment,

Urge all sectors of society (governments, non-government organizations, the media, and the public in general) to prioritize smoke-free laws and policies and not compromise health in order to accommodate competing interests,

Call on our policymakers, other government officials, and our leaders in society to develop and implement clear and enforceable comprehensive smoke-free laws, in the short, medium, and long term, that eliminate tobacco smoke from all workplaces, public transport, and public places,

Urge all our health ministers, relevant Ministers and the ASEAN Secretariat to prioritize smokefree environments and other tobacco control measures as part of the agenda of the ASEAN health ministers meetings,

and

Pledge ourselves to work together, share experiences, and support our leaders, both nationally and internationally, towards achieving our vision of a 100% smoke-free ASEAN.

Done in Bangkok, Thailand this 4th day of December 2007.