

Regional Workshop on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
15-16 September 2008, New Delhi, India

In coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and with support from the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA), WHO SEARO organized a Regional Workshop on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products from 15 to 16 September 2008 IN New Delhi, India to build support for the protocol to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) on illicit trade in tobacco products by raising awareness about the issue among country delegates from the areas of finance/customs/excise, law enforcement and health. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- review and asses countries' capacity to control illicit trade in tobacco products;
- identify key actions in the Region to support countries in their efforts to develop and implement measures to control illicit trade in tobacco products;
- review the text for the draft Protocol to the Convention on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products issued by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB).

The workshop was attended by over 50 participants from both the government and non-government sectors.

The workshop stressed the need for greater dialogue among the countries in South-East Asia in the following areas:

- control of the supply chain (tracking and tracing mechanisms, licensing, customer identification and verification, security and preventive measures, and record-keeping);
- effective law enforcement at all levels- national, regional and international;
- surveillance information sharing; and
- technical, legal, and financial assistance.

In addition, countries were encouraged to assess the extent and dimensions of illicit trade in tobacco products; to include national taxation and other best practices on tobacco control policies to complement anti-smuggling measures; to hold national multi-sectoral awareness raising and capacity building workshops on illicit trade in tobacco products; and to strengthen partnerships among ministries of health, finance, customs and law enforcement agencies, as well as civil society for effective implementation of measures to control illicit trade of tobacco products.