Non-communicable Diseases and Tobacco Control

The increasing prevalence of non-communicable disease (NCD) (particularly cancers, heart diseases and strokes) is one of significant health challenges facing DPR Korea, as well as an important health priority. In the country 80.2% of all deaths were due to NCDs (one of the highest proportion among SEAR countries) and 46.5% of all deaths in the country were caused by cardio-vascular diseases (2008). The result of NCD risk factor survey conducted in 2009 under the technical support of WHO found that 52.3% of adult males smoked.

WHO has been providing support for building capacity on prevention and management of NCDs through various activities, such as; organizing workshops and trainings in-country and overseas, piloting of WHO Prevention of Essential NCDs (PEN) package, providing assistance for development and distribution of guidelines, SOPs, IEC materials and training books for priority NCDs and support to hospital based management of priority NCDs through renovation of infrastructure and through provision of essential supplies.

DPRK signed in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2003 which was ratified in 2005. Law on tobacco control was enacted in 2005 and amended in 2009. World No Tobacco Day is being observed every year with collaboration of WHO, which is aimed for advocacy and for raising public awareness on tobacco control. The government of DPR Korea has established Tobacco Cessation Center with support from WHO to provide cessation services and support to smokers for quitting smoking.

In the context of changing burden of disease situation, WHO continues to provide support to DPRK for promotion of health related with NCDs through multi-sectoral public policies that create equitable health promoting environments to enable individuals, families and communities to make healthy choices and lead healthy lives. Efforts will be made to galvanize a multi-sectoral response to NCDs through development of integrated national plans of action and surveillance systems involving relevant sectors, civil society and communities to control the rising burden of NCDs.