

International Tobacco Evidence Network



<http://www.tobaccoevidence.net>

ITEN

Network of economists,
epidemiologists,
social scientists and
other tobacco control experts

Mission:

To build research capacity in low- and
middle-income countries

To foster interdisciplinary research

To share information and best practices

To facilitate peer reviews

ITEN Methods

- Collecting existing information to identifying research gaps
- Sharing/teaching research methods
- Support for grant applications (sustainability of research)
- Communicating research results and translating them into public policy recommendations
- Rapid response and collaborative research

ITEN Tools

- **Internet-based information sharing**
<http://www.tobaccoevidence.net>
- **Establishing regional centres (South Africa, Mexico, Poland, South East Asia)**
- **Providing peer reviews and dissemination vehicles for research results**
- **Regional workshops (co-teaching)**
- **Mentoring**

South East Asia Tobacco Control Initiative

Sponsored by Rockefeller Foundation

**Collaboration with JHSPH, Thai Health
Foundation, SEATCA**

**Focus on Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand,
Vietnam**

**Research gap mapping, identification of
partners for cooperation, workshops,
training materials, small grants,
mentoring, commissioned studies.**

Identifying Research Gaps

Identifying country coordinators to map:

- Existing research and available data
- Public policies in place and their enforcement
- Important stakeholders to determine sources of support and resistance, to assess local demand for research evidence
- Power structure (e.g. strength of the industry)
- Partners for cooperation (co-funding)

Sharing/teaching research methods

Interacting with stakeholders

- to identify local researchers that are available and interested
- to evaluate the level of knowledge and knowledge gaps
- to explore local opportunities/challenges for tobacco control research to translate into public policy recommendations (workshops, mentoring, etc.)

Research Grants

Type of research grants:

- **Based on research interests and data availability**
- **Commissioned research**
- **Rapid response**

Criteria for research topics: policy relevance

Mapping the on-going research grants in the region from all sources

Research Dissemination

- Presentations at international conferences/meetings
- Regional workshops
- ITEN Paper Series, other journals
- Printed material in different languages
- Making public policy makers part of the research process

Barriers and Challenges

- **Communication and English knowledge**
- **Identification of researchers (who are capable and available)**
- **Existence of and access to data, their quality**
- **Access to literature, Internet**
- **Motivation for independent learning**
- **Establishing of the mentoring process**
- **Industry influence and infiltration**
- **Mechanism of grant giving**

Lessons Learned

- **Seek feedback, build relationships and trust (communicate as frequently as possible – country visits, e-mail, conference calls)**
- **Ensure that region owns the process and the results**
- **Understand motivations and build in incentives**
- **Demand concrete output at the end of the workshops, the end of the granting period**
- **Follow-up after workshop with calls, e-mail, country visits, supply literature**
- **Adopt “no tobacco money” declaration**