

## 12<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health: Proposal for Workshop

**Title: New Evidence on Tobacco Control Policies: South East Asia**

**Name, affiliation, of workshop chairs:**

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**Workshop Rationale:**

Based on patterns of tobacco use in the countries of Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, a heavy tobacco-related disease burden is predicted if strong and effective tobacco control programs are not implemented. As policymakers and others move to implement and evaluate tobacco control interventions in the region, they will require research and surveillance support. The Southeast Asia Regional Tobacco Control Research Network, developed through the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and Thai Health, aims to provide training and technical support to local research teams as they define and develop the evidence needed to inform and refine these critical interventions and then implement surveillance on their consequences.

Nearly all of the health and economic evidence on tobacco and tobacco control to date comes from high-income countries. The Southeast Asia Regional Tobacco Control Research Network has successfully implemented a research and technical assistance program and supported country-level and regional epidemiologic and economic studies of tobacco and tobacco control in Southeast Asia. These studies are effectively producing locally relevant evidence throughout Southeast Asia. Moreover, the Regional Tobacco Control Research Network is strengthening institutional collaboration and tobacco control coalitions throughout the region.

**Workshop description:**

*Objectives of the workshop:*

- Demonstrate an effective partnership between an alliance of researchers from developing countries with epidemiologists and economists from northern institutions.
- Demonstrate collaboration of epidemiologists and economists in research capacity building in low/middle income countries of South East Asia.
- Present results of policy relevant tobacco control research conducted by researchers from South East Asia who have been trained by international experts in the field. The plan is to present 3 economic and 3 epidemiologic studies:

Economic:

Demand Analysis of Tobacco Consumption in Malaysia

The Impact of Tobacco Smoking Spending on the Poor in Vietnam

Tobacco, Poverty, and Socioeconomic Status in Cambodia

Epidemiologic:

Tobacco advertising and smoking amongst adolescents in Malaysia

Perceptions of Tobacco and Smoking Among Male Youth in Vietnam

Smoking Prevalence Among Monks in Thailand

- Discusses how this research is translated in public policies aiming at curbing the tobacco epidemics in South East Asia

*Parties concerned:*

- Economists and epidemiologists interested in global tobacco control issues
- Congress participants interested in South East Asia tobacco control policies and research on tobacco control issues
- Congress participants interested in innovative approaches to research capacity building in low/middle income countries

*Development:*

- Local specific evidence is very important for advancing tobacco control public policies in low/middle income countries. These countries have the highest smoking prevalence and will eventually bear the highest burden of tobacco-related deaths. Policy makers in these countries demand local specific evidence that would justify adopting tobacco control measures. The workshop will provide tobacco control researchers and advocates from low/middle and high-income countries an example of how they can work together to respond to these policy research needs.

*Preferred date and time:*

No preference

*Estimated number of attendees:*

50