



FCA PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Framework Convention Alliance

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A test of the FCTC's success

The ultimate measure of the impact of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is whether it leads to a reduction in tobacco use prevalence, as well as a significant drop in the disease and death caused by tobacco use. The strength of the Convention lies in adopting a truly comprehensive and global approach to tobacco control.

At COP5, a handful of Parties, led by Bolivia, tabled a proposal to set up a working group (WG) on *Sustainable Measures to Strengthen Implementation of the FCTC* to review and address barriers to FCTC implementation. The intentions of Parties that championed it were clear: All Parties together, not individually, need to come up with strategies to overcome obstacles that delay implementation of the FCTC at country level.

At COP6 in October 2014, after two meetings (funded by Australia and the European Union) the working group reported its initial [findings](#). It identified three major obstacles to FCTC implementation:

- Continuing industry interference in tobacco control;
- Lack of resources, such as staff and funding, to implement FCTC measures;
- Weak coordination among stakeholders that are in positions to support FCTC implementation, both at country level and internationally.

The working group, led by key facilitators from the Cook Islands, Thailand, Turkey and Uruguay, also submitted to the COP an initial set of over 25 recommendations to address these challenges, and requested that its mandate be extended until COP7 (2016).

The working group has so far identified barriers to FCTC implementation, but

not yet all strategies needed to overcome them. Its next steps are far more ambitious than its initial mandate.



The [renewed mandate of the working group](#) contains three key elements:

1. Identify what types of support Parties need to step up implementation of the FCTC;
2. Assess the tools and assistance that currently exist for Parties, and identify remaining gaps; and
3. Develop a longer-term strategy to ensure that all needs for implementation assistance are gradually met.

FCA has developed a number of documents to support the working group discussions, all available [here](#).

The stakes are high; effective implementation of the FCTC in any country cannot be achieved without a well-staffed and funded tobacco control office. Sufficient resources – human, financial and technical – are essential to address the tobacco epidemic.

World No Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day
31 May 2015
Elimination of Illicit Trade



Texting to 10,000+ mobile phone owners with the message: **Don't choke on your smoke! Smoking kills, causes cancer and affects almost all organs in the body. Observe 31st May - No Tobacco Day—Nauru**

There were debates, quizzes, and singing, skit, billboard and poster contests in Niue, Fiji, Nauru, FSM, and Samoa



Press releases in Samoa, Vanuatu, Palau and Marshall Islands, radio shows in Marshall Islands, Palau, and Nauru

Tobacco Free sports in Niue - Fast5 netball and Tabata; in Palau - a 5K & 10 K walk/ run; in the Marshall Islands – a “say no to NCDs” 3x3 basketball tournament; and in Samoa—a rugby 7s tournament .



Every year, WHO recognizes individuals or organizations in each of the six WHO Regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control. This recognition takes the form of among others, World No Tobacco Day Awards. Two of this year's six Western Pacific Region awardees were the island nations of Fiji and Samoa.

Congratulations!

to the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services and to the Ministry of Health, Samoa

New tobacco free places declared in Fiji and FSM



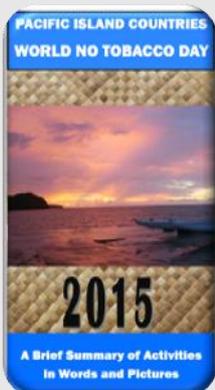
Posters, brochures, bags, and t-shirts distributed in nearly all the PICs



Church service dedications and sermons around No Smoking in Nauru and Kiribati



Smokefree Homes was the theme for Cook Islands



Speeches and statements on the illicit trade theme in PNG, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga

For more on WNTD in the PICs, see [booklet](#) on FCA website



2 day symposium in the Solomon Islands on several TC issues including illicit trade

WHO Healthy Islands recognition

Four innovative Pacific projects receive WHO Healthy Islands recognition

As part of the Eleventh Pacific Health Ministers Meeting held in April 2015 in Yanuca, Fiji, the World Health Organization awarded four innovative projects in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Samoa, Tokelau and Vanuatu. They all received the WHO Healthy Islands Recognition for the outstanding work by health and community leaders in the Pacific.

Supported by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea, the biennial recognitions honor community-based actions, partnership efforts and governmental support for Healthy Islands initiatives.

There were 23 applications (6 for best proposal and 17 for best practice) submitted from Pacific countries and areas for the 2015 Healthy Islands Recognition Program. There are many creative developments and good practices for Healthy Islands across the Pacific. These awards particularly recognize community-based actions and efforts, partnership efforts, and governmental support for Healthy Islands initiatives. The awards were in two categories.

Best proposal recognition

The recognition for Best Proposal is given for work proposed in the areas of community-based efforts or multisectoral engagement. The winners were:

1. Scale up sanitation improvements in schools and health and facilities in Sanma province" (Ministry of Health, Vanuatu) through introduction of a new design for improving ventilation in pit toilets, which involved the community, civil society and the Ministry of Health.
2. "Non-communicable diseases (NCDs): early detection and management through community participation" (Ministry of Health, Samoa) which focuses on prevention and community empowerment for NCDs prevention and management.

Healthy Islands are where:

- *children are nurtured in body and mind;*
- *environments invite learning and leisure;*
- *people work and age with dignity;*
- *ecological balance is a source of pride; and*
- *the ocean which sustains us is protected.*

Best practice recognition

The recognition for Best Practice is given for work already in progress or recently completed in one or more of three areas: community-based efforts; multisectoral engagement; and governmental support. The winners were:

1. "Fizzy drink free" (Department of Health, Tokelau) is a policy initiative that demonstrates strong community leadership and action to prevent the importation of fizzy drinks.
2. "TASA role models" (TASA non-governmental organization, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) is a community-based, role-models approach that has been highly successful in changing the environment, policy and people's attitudes.

For more information about the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting, please visit: http://www.pro.who.int/southpacific/pic_meeting/2015/en/

TOBACCO CONTROL & THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Stream 1

Sustainable Development Goals & Targets

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a roadmap for governments for the next 15 years.

Achieved:

FCTC implementation is included in the SDGs proposal the UN General Assembly will adopt in September. (No change expected)

Still Needed:

FCTC implementation must be included in national sustainable development strategies.

Stream 2

Financing for SDGs

Achieved:

Global commitments will be adopted at the Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 2015.

Still Needed:

Tobacco taxes must be recognised as a win-win for sustainable development financing.

Stream 3

Indicators for SDGs

Indicators will be used to measure progress.

Achieved:

Tobacco control is included: *Tobacco use among persons 18 years and older.*

Still Needed:

An additional indicator to measure progress on governments' efforts to implement tobacco control should be part of the SDG monitoring framework adopted in March 2016.



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Sustainable development goals (SDGs) must be in national plans

After the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, countries will need to start implementing the goals and targets. Tobacco control advocates must make sure that governments include the target on tobacco control (target 3a under the third goal, on health) in their national development plans.

Prioritizing FCTC implementation in all countries is critical to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Meaningful financial and technical assistance is essential for success.

In addition, global work will continue until March 2016 on SDGs indicators. Currently, tobacco prevalence is included as a top priority indicator. However, the SDG monitoring

framework would be strengthened by adding an additional indicator to monitor progress on tobacco control interventions, such as tobacco taxation.

Now is the time for all tobacco control advocates to engage with government colleagues to discuss how tobacco control can be included in NATIONAL sustainable development strategies.



Oceania Tobacco Control Conference scholarships open

Scholarships Open

Through generous support from the Australian Government Department of Health, Cancer Council WA is able to offer grants to professionals, researchers and students to attend the Oceania Tobacco Control Conference from 20th – 22nd October 2015 in Perth, Western Australia.

The primary theme of this year's conference is achievements and aspirations within the tobacco control community. This event attracts health experts and researchers in the field of smoking and tobacco control across Oceania and provides the opportunity to meet and explore current issues as well as ideas for the future. Further information on the conference program and speakers can be found at: www.otcc2015.org.au.

What funding is available?

The following options are on offer:

- 5 x \$3,000 grants
- 10 x \$2,000 grants
- 15 x \$1,000 grants

Grants can contribute to the conference registration fee (offered at early bird rate to all scholarship recipients), travel costs and accommodation costs. Funding will generally be conditional on a contribution to the total costs from the employing organisation and/or the applicant.

Who is eligible?

The grants are open to those in the field of public health/ health promotion and to those outside this field but for whom tobacco control forms part of their work.

Priority applicants include, but are not restricted to:

- People from resource poor settings
- Those working with Indigenous populations
- Those working with high needs populations
- People in the not for profit sector
- People with a focus on or capacity to influence tobacco control policy settings

For more information about the grants and the application process please visit the [Oceania Tobacco Control Conference 2015 website](http://www.otcc2015.org.au).



Please email completed application forms to: otcc2015@cancerwa.asn.au.

Applications close Friday 31 July 2015, 5pm AWST.

WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2015 now available

This year's [WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2015](#) has just been released. The report contains all country-specific data updated and aggregated through 2014. The report also provides a special focus on tobacco taxation and in-depth analyses of tobacco taxes in all WHO Member States.



17th Oceania Customs Organization Annual Conference

The 17th annual OCO conference was held in Palau 22-24 June. The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau and the Ministry of Health Prevention Unit partnered

to disseminate information on the Illicit Trade Protocol at the conference including three fact sheets: Does the tobacco industry have a tracking and tracing system that governments can use, Tax increases don't need to wait for the Illicit Trade

Protocol and Now is the best time to raise taxes on tobacco.

A brief oral presentation briefly describing the FCTC and the ITP was also made to members

and observers and received very positive feedback.



The Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products is an international treaty with the objective of eliminating all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products through a package of measures to be taken by countries acting in cooperation with each other.



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VOTE!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The 10th General Assembly Elections 2015 will decide three posts on the [FCA Board of Directors](#).

*FCA members – voting closes
7 August 2015.*

Please vote!

*For further information, email to
elections@fctc.org*

Framework Convention Alliance in the Pacific Islands

Working together to free the world from the devastating health, social, economic and environmental consequences of tobacco and tobacco use

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) represents the voice of civil society in support of the world's first global public health treaty – the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The FCA is made up of nearly 500 organizations from more than 100 low, middle and high income countries.

For membership information: write to membership@fctc.org.

FCA publishes the *Bulletin* and *Tobacco Watch*
<http://www.fctc.org>

FCA has representatives in all WHO regions. The Western Pacific—Pacific Island Countries Regional Office (WPRO—Oceania) of FCA is located in Palau. The Coordinator is Annabel Lyman.

The Office's main activities are:

- Mobilise and support civil society capacity in support of the FCTC
- Collaborate with other technical assistance providers serving the Pacific Islands
- Provide technical assistance to members & Parties

For more information contact the [Coordinator](#)

Did you know?

It is not legal to sell tobacco products to youth under 21 years in Samoa and Palau.



13-16 July, 2015: Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

15-28, 2015: 70th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA70)

12-16 October, 2015: WPRO Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) Guam, USA

20-22 October, 2015: Oceania Tobacco Control Conference, Perth, Australia. See <http://www.otcc2015.org.au/>

13-15 November, 2015 : First Global NCD Alliance Forum: Strengthening the civil society movement. Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

2-6 December, 2015: 46th Union World Conference on Lung Health, Cape Town, South Africa. See <http://capetown.worldlunghealth.org/>

Open invitation to submit brief articles for the next issue of the FCA PIC newsletter. Share stories and photos from the region, upcoming events, etc. Send submissions any time before October 3 to lymana@fctc.org

FCA Members in Pacific Island Countries

- Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau
- Global Youth Leadership Nexus (Solomon Islands)
- Kunit Bobrae Coalition Inc. (RMI)
- Marshall Islands Epidemiology and Prevention Initiatives, Inc. (MIEPI)
- National Heart Foundation of PNG
- Nauru National Women's Council
- Samoa Cancer Society
- The Child of the South Pacific Incorporated Society (Niue)
- Tobacco Free Coalition Kosrae (Federated States of Micronesia)
- Tonga Family Health Association
- Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO)
- Ulkerreuil a Klengar– UAK (Palau)

