



1st Global Smokefree Stadia Award assigned to Estadio José Rafael “Fello” Meza Ivancovich and Sport Club Cartagines Deportiva Sociedad Anónima

Cartago, Costa Rica, 7 April 2013: The first edition of the Global Smokefree Stadia Award was celebrated Sunday with the assignment of the award to the José Rafael “Fello” Meza Ivancovich Stadium and Sport Club Cartagines Deportiva Sociedad Anónima.

The decision of establishing the Global Smokefree Stadia Award is based on the intention of rewarding the efforts made by sports stadia throughout the world in order to protect workers, fans and visitors from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke through the adoption, promotion and enforcement of effective smokefree policy. The Global Smokefree Partnership (GSP) also hopes that this award will draw the attention of governments to these initiatives and will thus encourage smokefree policies globally.

Estadio José Rafael “Fello” Meza Ivancovich was the first stadium and sport center in Costa Rica and the Latin America region to be voluntarily declared free from tobacco smoke, years before the national legislation was enacted. After that, two stadia were certified as smokefree. This was a prelude to the establishment of the comprehensive smokefree policy in the Republic of Costa Rica. Smoking is currently banned in the stadium and compliance has been reported by the Ministry of Health to be excellent. Since the policy came into force, loudspeakers announce the policy throughout the stadium before matches starts and enforcement by the stadium staff is very strict.

The Global Smokefree Partnership hopes that the example by Fello Meza will be followed by many other stadia globally.

Sports Stadia are Effective in Promoting Health to Fans and Communities

Developing and enforcing smokefree policy in sports stadia are effective measures in promoting healthier lifestyles to fans and their local communities. This is the main message GSP intends to deliver with the launch of the Global Smokefree Stadia Award. Clear examples and evidence come from several best practices around the world, such as the Smokefree UEFA 2012 and the Smokefree Olympics 2012.

Matching international best practice

Secondhand smoke causes heart disease, lung cancer, low birth-weight births, and chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma, particularly in children. It kills over 600,000 non-smokers a year, of whom more than one in five are children. Sports celebrate life, and football fans deserve

The Global Smokefree Partnership is a multipartner initiative formed to promote effective smokefree air policies worldwide. The Partnership is hosted by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) and the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA). Steering Group Members include American Cancer Society (ACS), American Heart Association (AHA), European Respiratory Society (ERS), Global Bridges (GB), Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Young (HRIDAY), HEALTHBRIDGE, King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), World Heart Federation (WHF) and World Lung Foundation (WLF).



to enjoy sports in safety and comfort. Comprehensive smokefree policies are the only effective means to eliminate the health risks associated with secondhand smoke. But smoke-free stadia are not just about respecting the rights of fans, athletes and stadia employees to clean air: they use the tremendous power of sport to influence people and shape norms, supporting health and good practice outside of the sports arena.

Experience from around the world shows that the only real way to protect the population from the toxic effects of secondhand smoke is to completely eliminate tobacco smoke in all public spaces. Where such laws have been implemented, there has been a rapid decrease in the incidence of heart attack among both smokers and non-smokers, as well as the incidence of asthma attacks.

About The Global Smokefree Partnership

The Global Smokefree Partnership (GSP) is a global partnership initiated in 2005 to coordinate the development of World Health Organisation (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Article 8 Guidelines. It played a strategic role in coordinating the unanimous adoption of the FCTC at the Conference of the Parties (COP) II in Bangkok in July 2007.

It facilitates access to evidence, advocates and builds support for the development, implementation and enforcement of effective smokefree air policy and legislation, as exemplified by FCTC Article 8 Guidelines.

It's hosted by the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) and the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA). It brings together civil society and nongovernmental organizations, universities, intergovernmental organizations, ministries of health, corporations, and individuals active in international smokefree air policy.

For more information visit our website: www.globalsmokefreepartnership.org

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