



COP-2 Friday

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Briefing

13:00-14:30
Tobacco Industry
Meeting room A

DEATH CLOCK

Since the opening of the first working group for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on 25 October 1999,

33,130,446
people have died from tobacco-related diseases.

(At 9 am 6 July 2007)

ALLIANCE BULLETIN

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Bangkok, Thailand

Issue 71

6 July 2007

Congratulations on a job well done!

Just six days ago, we began COP-2 with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. We had no idea what to expect. The COP had so many important decisions to take. Would it make the most of its opportunities?

When the gavel comes down on the COP's decisions in plenary this morning, the resounding answer will be "Yes".

The COP will:

- formally adopt strong guidelines on Article 8 (secondhand smoke);
- establish an intergovernmental negotiating body to commence negotiation of a protocol on illicit trade;
- start work on guidelines on Article 11 (packaging and labelling) and Article 13 (advertising, promotion and sponsorship) with the aim of adopting guidelines on these at COP-3;
- begin working towards guidelines on Article 5.3 (tobacco industry interference), Article 12 (education, communication, training and public awareness) and Article 14 (cessation)
- press ahead with work on Articles 9 and 10 (product testing,

measurement and disclosure) and 17 (economically viable alternative activities).

And all of this work will be funded.

On financial resources and assistance, significant progress was also made compared with discussions at INBs and COP-1. We have seen real movement towards un-

blocking the bottlenecks so often identified in accessing funding from donor countries. The decision reached recognises the need to take immediate action on needs assessment and provide assistance in the drafting of project proposals. Much remains to be done but the willingness of all Parties in the debate to reach consensus and move

away from previously strongly entrenched positions is welcome and a positive signal for future cooperation. Civil society will actively monitor progress made between now and COP-3.

The historic decisions taken at COP-2 will carry the FCTC forward, increasing the momentum towards its effective implementation in countries around the world. The FCA congratulates the Parties for

(Continued on page 2)



A relieved Matti Rajala paying close attention to Committee A Chair Frank Niggemeier after Committee A finished yesterday

Today's Weather: Scattered showers and thunderstorms.
High 33°C Low 27°C

La CCLAT et les efforts antitabac au Burkina Faso

Au Burkina Faso, pays au centre de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, la bataille fait rage entre les associations antitabac et une industrie du tabac qui voit en Afrique le marché de l'avenir.

Le Burkina Faso a ratifié la CCLAT en juillet 2006, mais n'a pas encore de loi nationale pour interdire la publicité ou protéger les non-fumeurs de la fumée du tabac. Que ce soit dans le domaine de la culture ou des sports, les cigarettiers tentent par tous les moyens de s'acheter des « amis » et de donner de la visibilité à leurs marques.

Du côté associatif, il y a une vingtaine de groupes qui se sont réunis au sein de l'Union des associations contre le tabac (UACT). En plus des interventions auprès de la population, et plus particulièrement auprès des jeunes, ils ont développé un plaidoyer à l'endroit des Gouver-



Lors de son concert public, le groupe Baloukou assure sa prestation devant une énorme banderole sur laquelle on lit « CRAVEN »A » aux couleurs de la marque de cigarettes.

nant des législateurs et des médias afin que la lutte antitabac soit une priorité.

Cette deuxième session de la Conférence des Parties (COP-2) a donné lieu à une grande mobilisation des médias au Burkina Faso pour que les Directives et Protoco-

les qui seront pris soient connus de tous les Burkinabés. Il y a eu un travail de proximité auprès des médias, que ce soit la télévision, la radio ou la presse écrite.

Une série de rencontres a été organisée par les membres de l'organisme Afrique Contre le Tabac (ACONTA). La Télévision Nationale du Burkina Faso a accordé une interview lors du très suivi journal de 13h du samedi 23 juin 2007. L'on a abordé avec Mohamed Ould Sidi Mohamed, délégué ONG à Bangkok, les différentes questions à l'ordre du jour et le rôle des ONG dans les pourparlers.

Interferencia de la industria tabacalera: el caso de Perú

En la tercera reunión de las Américas realizada en la COP-2, el delegado del Perú manifestó la importancia del artículo 5.3 sobre la necesidad de proteger las políticas del control del tabaco de los intereses comerciales de la industria tabacalera. En particular, expresó su deseo que se le dé mayor prioridad en la COP2 para asegurar la no interferencia de la industria tabacalera.

Tal como señalara el representante oficial peruano, este artículo es de vital importancia en la salud pública. Esta fue la herramienta a la cual apeló especialmente la sociedad civil peruana para lograr que el gobierno peruano rechazara la participación de miembros de la British American Tobacco (BAT) en la Comisión creada para realizar la propuesta de reglamento de la ley nacional actualmente vigente en el Perú.

Después de promulgada en el país esta nueva Ley 28705, en abril del 2006, la Sociedad Nacional de Industrias del Perú, quien tiene entre sus asociados a la industria del tabaco, solicita y se le acepta la inclusión en esta Comisión de dos empleados de la British American Tobacco.

Apelando al Artículo 5.3 del CMCT, se realizó una protesta nacional con el apoyo internacional que posibilitó la remoción de estos representantes de la industria tabacalera de la Comisión. Fueron reemplazados por representantes del Colegio Médico del Perú, una organización civil comprometida con la salud.

Es importante por tanto que este Artículo 5.3 haya sido señalado entre las prioridades de la región de las Américas y haya sido respaldado por otras regiones, dada la importancia de asegurar la integridad del desarrollo de las políticas de salud de nuestros países.

— Carmen Barco

Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas (CEDRO)

— Carlos Farías
COLAT

(Continued from page 1)

the decisions they have taken this week, and thanks them for allowing us to participate in this important work.

We conclude by reminding Parties that everything now depends on your commitment to implement these decisions and to continue to work to bring the provisions of the FCTC to life.

When we leave Bangkok, we must

all take with us our common sense of the urgency of this process, through which we have the unprecedented opportunity to prevent the loss of millions of lives.

We look forward to seeing you again next year at both the first illicit trade protocol INB and then at COP-3, and to participating in the large program of intersessional work to which you have committed.

Congratulations and thank you from the FCA.

Free trade and tobacco: a deadly marriage

When it comes to tobacco, trade liberalization under the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) can have deadly consequences, according to a report soon to be released by the Bangkok-based Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA).

The report, prepared by economists from four countries, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand, looks at the impact of lowering or eliminating tariffs on tobacco products in accordance with AFTA. While AFTA affects each country in varying degrees, in each case the agreement could lead to greater tobacco use and hence an increase in tobacco-caused deaths.

In Myanmar, where smoking prevalence is about 30% and tobacco prices have been lowered due to AFTA, it is projected that cigarette demand will continuously increase until 2008. This will raise the smoking rate and hence the number of deaths due to tobacco-related diseases such as lung cancer, head and neck cancer, respiratory tuberculosis, strokes and hypertension.

In 2005, cigarette demand increased by nearly 2% in Myanmar. Estimated increases for subsequent years are 2.4% in 2006, 3.0% in 2007 and 3.9% in 2008. These increases assume price reductions of 9.55% 11.9% and 15.4%, respectively. This will raise the smoking prevalence rate by at least 1.5% and hence the number of deaths due to tobacco-related diseases.

Similarly, in the Philippines, cigarette demand is expected to jump as tariffs are lowered or eliminated. If the tariff rate is cut to 5%, cigarette prices will decrease by 5.45%, resulting in an increase in demand of 2.14% or 4.62 million packs of cigarettes. However, if the tariff rate is reduced to 0%, the reduction in cigarette prices will be larger at 9.54%, increasing demand for cigarettes by 3.74% or more



than 6.5 million packs. The additional number of smoking-related deaths will be also increase.

With regards to Thailand, a decrease in tariffs will cost the Thai government as much as 1.2 billion bahts (US\$30 million) in lost revenue. Twenty years out, the projected cost of AFTA-motivated adjustments in 2003 for the Thai economy is US\$2 million in forgone tariff revenue per year. This does not include increased health care costs.

The country which is likely to suffer the smallest impact from AFTA is

Indonesia: most Indonesian smokers purchase local varieties and imports from other ASEAN cigarettes have a small market share. Thus, tariff removal through AFTA will not have any great impact on domestic cigarette prices and demand.

However, a simulation showed that even a 10% drop in the price of cigarettes in Indonesia would lead to significant increase in demand. In a country where millions are smokers, this can translate to a significant number of deaths due to smoking and smoking related diseases. Long-term health cost would be as much as US\$21 billion, much more than the impact on other ASEAN countries.

SEATCA concludes that the best solution for all ASEAN countries would be to exclude tobacco from AFTA, as well as in all other free-trade agreements, particularly with China and India.

Since these two countries can produce much cheaper cigarettes, failure to exclude tobacco from future agreements would lead to an influx of imported cigarettes into ASEAN countries and a rise in tobacco use. Free-trade pacts which include tobacco products should be opposed for the sake of human health.

— Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA)
Bangkok, Thailand

FCTC helps spark progress in Armenia

Armenia, like other countries in Eastern Europe, has an extraordinarily high smoking rate: two-thirds of men are tobacco addicts. In a country with a population of just three million, tobacco already claims more than 2,000 lives per year.

But there are signs of progress: Armenia was one of the first 40 Parties to the Convention, via accession in November 2004, and has since adopted a national law to restrict the use, sale and consumption of tobacco.

This eliminated billboard advertising for cigarettes. However, with respect to second-hand smoke, the law is ineffective, since it allows for

designated smoking areas.

Since 2004, Armenia has also had an advocacy group for better tobacco control policies, the Coalition for Tobacco Free Armenia (CTFA). In June of this year, the 28 member organizations of the CTFA appealed to the newly elected National Assembly for full implementation of the FCTC, including 100% smoke-free spaces, increased taxes and a comprehensive advertising ban.

Last week, the Armenian Public Health Alliance brought together more than 100 physicians, nurses and other health professionals to discuss their role in FCTC implementation in Armenia. This work-

shop, sponsored by the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation Armenia, is yet another hopeful milestone in progress towards a smoke-free Armenia.

The adoption of guidelines on Article 8 is of critical important to our members in their struggle to overcome the inertia of local authorities and the hidden interference of the tobacco industry.

— Narine Movsisyan
Coordinator
Coalition for Tobacco Free Armenia

Package warnings: Progress continues worldwide

When FCTC negotiations began in 2000, only Canada, Thailand and Poland are known to have met what would become the 30% FCTC minimum

standard for package warning size.

Only Canada met what would become the recommended standard of 50% with pictures, and even then

Canada's new regulations were still subject to a transition period.

Now, as countries implement FCTC obligations, the pace of worldwide improvement to package warnings is accelerating.

At least 15 jurisdictions have finalized requirements for picture warnings: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, New Zealand, Panama, Romania, Singapore, Thailand, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Many other countries are in the process of requiring picture warnings, or have stated that picture

warnings are under consideration, including the Czech Republic, Egypt, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

For more information, including to see picture warnings used worldwide, see:

www.smoke-free.ca/warnings/

www.graphicwarnings.org

www.nuigrav.com/ (français)

— Rob Cunningham
Canadian Cancer Society



Pack warnings: Will India “walk the talk” after four years of talking?

In April 2003, India legislated to have pictorial health warnings on tobacco packs. Four years and three months later, the pictures have still not arrived!

After some judicial prodding from Shimla High Court, on 5 July 2006 regulations under the Act mandating graphic warnings were notified to come into effect from February 2007, providing ample time for the tobacco industry to introduce the warnings.

What followed has been a mockery of democracy and consumer rights in the world's largest democracy. Succumbing to tobacco industry pressure, the deadline to comply with package warnings has been postponed further to 1 July 2007.

The tobacco industry, through a bidi manufacturer and cigarette dealer, used this delay to seek legal recourse to block the warnings. Civil society intervened in the litigation and the court upheld the warnings in the interim, pending a final decision. Meanwhile, in Shimla, the Court whose earlier order had led to the warnings further charged the Government with contempt of court for delaying implementation of the warnings.

A recalcitrant tobacco industry took to street and off-street action, deploying naive bidi workers' unions. Further industry manoeuvring led to the setting up of a group of ministers to review the warnings, pitting the Minister of Health against four antagonistic colleagues. Clearly the industry's hope is to get the group of ministers to water down the pictorial warnings to text warnings.

It is baffling how a ministerial club could reopen and possibly dilute a law which the Parliament in its wisdom made, particularly when the health of a billion people is at stake. India is a party to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The treaty encourages picture-based warnings ideally on 50% of tobacco package space and India is due to have them by early 2008.

Will the country deliver on its promise or will the Government compromise a billion lives in favour of tobacco vote banks?

— Shoba John
HealthBridge
India

Just a reminder about Article 15...

In Dublin on Wednesday, two million cigarettes were seized with a potential loss of revenue in excess of €550,000 euros. The shipments of Benson & Hedges, Silk Cut and L&M arrived by ferry in two separate consignments from Poland. This illustrates the vast sums being lost to Governments through illicit trade, globally estimated to be in the region of \$40 to \$50 billion annually.

The potential benefits of an effective illicit trade protocol to reduce

these losses are vast. Funding of implementation of the FCTC is an ongoing problem. Therefore Parties should begin to consider now how some of the tax revenue so generated can be earmarked for FCTC implementation and domestic tobacco control. There are precedents for this. Our host country, Thailand, earmarks 2% of its tobacco tax take for tobacco control.

Rapid progress in developing this protocol has been ensured by OLAF,

the European Anti-Fraud Office, which has offered significant financial assistance towards the negotiating process. In combination with Australia's announcement earlier this week a standard has been set for other Parties to follow in making extra-budgetary contributions to enable the COP to meet its priorities. These contributions will translate into millions of lives saved in the century to come.

Comprendre et exploiter les documents internes de l'industrie du tabac : Une nouvelle base d'accès aux données en français

En 1998, à la suite de procédures intentées contre l'industrie du tabac aux États-Unis, le public a eu accès à six millions de documents internes de l'industrie, représentant plus de 35 millions de pages.

Ces documents proviennent de bureaux nationaux et internationaux de sept compagnies de tabac et de deux organisations qui leur sont affiliées.

De nature et d'origine diverses, il s'agit aussi bien de rapports rédigés par des scientifiques de la compagnie, par des consultants, juristes et avocats, ou par des responsables de ces entreprises que de documents produits par des sociétés extérieures en relation avec l'industrie du tabac telles que des agences de relations publiques, agences de communication, de publicité, des cabinets d'avocats, des laboratoires de recherche.

Ces documents sont de formes très variées : lettres, notes, fax, emails, rapports de recherche, rapports sur les stratégies, plans organisationnels et politiques, organigrammes, listes de consultants, factures et copies de chèques de règlement, témoignages devant les tribunaux lors de procédures et devant les commissions parlementaires, stratégies de publicité, et de marketing, relations presse et publique...

Une nouvelle interface en ligne pour faciliter l'accès aux documents internes en français

L'accès à ces millions de pages de documents hétéroclites n'est pas aisé, d'autant que pour compliquer la tâche, l'industrie du tabac a livré en vrac des documents d'un intérêt

très variable.

Voilà pourquoi, après un long travail de dépouillement et d'analyse, le CNCT a mis en ligne sur son site Internet, en décembre dernier, une nouvelle rubrique intitulée « la face cachée de l'industrie du tabac ». La démarche consiste à offrir un accès thématique et synthétique aux documents internes et s'adresse aussi bien à un public de non initiés qu'à ceux qui souhaitent aller plus loin afin d'exploiter ces ressources dans le cadre de leurs actions de lutte contre le tabagisme.

En premier degré de lecture, la rubrique propose un florilège de citations traduites et des documents de décryptage en guise d'introduction à chacune des rubriques thématiques : santé, marketing, tabagisme passif, cinéma, dépendance et lobbying. Ces documents étant très majoritairement en langue anglaise, des synthèses de plusieurs centaines de documents sont ainsi proposées en français, avec un renvoi systématique vers le document source analysé.

Enfin, une bibliographie et un guide pratique permettent d'orienter la recherche parmi les sites existants et d'indiquer les modalités de requêtes à retenir.

L'utilité des documents internes dans la stratégie de lutte contre le tabagisme

La mise à disposition de ces documents internes est une clé maîtresse de la stratégie de dénormalisation de la consommation de tabac en dénonçant les pratiques frauduleuses et les manipulations commerciales et chimiques

de l'industrie qui le produit.

Dans le cadre de procédures judiciaires, les documents internes peuvent servir d'éléments à charge permettant de faire avancer la jurisprudence et d'élargir le champ d'application de la loi. C'est ainsi qu'une décision exemplaire de la Cour de Cassation le 3 mai 2006 a réaffirmé l'interdiction de promotion des produits du tabac et de publicité, y compris sur les paquets cigarettes, rendant de fait illégaux les paquets « fun ».

Dans le cadre de cette action du CNCT contre BAT, l'exploitation des documents internes de l'industrie du tabac a en effet permis de mettre à jour la stratégie de « marketing muet » (« mute marketing ») de BAT. (Voir : Mute marketing memorandum de British American Tobacco du 30 août 2001, Leaf and product technology.)

Enfin, les documents internes peuvent servir à dénoncer auprès des pouvoirs publics des pratiques frauduleuses telles que la contrebande ou la dissimulation des risques sanitaires de la consommation de tabac ou de l'exposition à la fumée et apporter des arguments dans une stratégie de lobbying visant à obtenir des avancées réglementaires dans les champs du contrôle du tabac et de la lutte contre le tabagisme.

— Emmanuelle Béguinot
Comité national contre le tabagisme
France



→ Le CNCT → Tabac et société → Tabac & Droit → Tabac & Santé → La face cachée de l'industrie du tabac

Pour que le monde respire

vous êtes ici : accueil >> la face cachée de l'industrie du tabac

La face cachée de l'industrie du tabac

Sous-rubriques

- Guide d'utilisation
- Florilège de citations de l'industrie du tabac
- Documents internes de l'industrie du tabac
- Bibliographie
- A VOIR, A LIRE sur l'industrie du tabac

En 1998, à la suite de procédures intentées contre l'industrie du tabac aux États-Unis, six millions de documents et 35 millions de pages ont été rendus publics.

L'industrie du tabac n'a pas livré ces documents sans mener un combat acharné pour y parvenir. Les sociétés de tabac ont essayé de cacher ces documents devant les tribunaux ont jugé qu'il s'agissait purement et simplement d'une tentative de fraude. Ces documents proviennent de bureaux nationaux et internationaux

Site web : www.cnct.org

Industry disregards FCTC in Nepal

Tobacco sponsorship advertising should be on its way out in Nepal, thanks to the FCTC. But since the country ratified the Convention, tobacco company Surya Nepal (BAT/ITC) appears bent on advertising more than ever.

For example, in December 2006, one month after FCTC ratification by Nepal, the company hosted “Surya Lights Rhythm Nites” at the five-star Hotel Yak and Yeti and, the following night at Hotel Shangri-La in Pokhara.

This was followed a few weeks later by the “Surya Lights Bollywood Temptations: Freedom of Lights Musical Broadway show” at the five-star Hotel Hyatt Regency, as well as various New Year’s events.

In January, Surya Nepal and Standard Chartered Bank signed a five-year sponsorship deal with the Cricket Association of Nepal.

In February, Surya Nepal and its

co-sponsor Kantipur Publication Weekly sponsored concerts in the major cities of Nepal, targeted at teenagers and children.

And the list goes on.



Legal appeals so far unsuccessful

The Non-Smokers’ Rights Association of Nepal (NOSMORAN) has made repeated attempts to stop this barrage of sponsorship advertising through international pressure and

legal motions. Under the terms of the Nepal Treaty Act 1991, international treaties that have been ratified by parliament have force of law.

However, the Supreme Court has so far failed to issue timely injunctions against any of Surya Nepal’s marketing events. To add insult to injury, the speaker of the interim parliament, Mr. Subas Nembang, recently presented the National Excellence Award of the Federation of Nepal Chambers, Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) to none other than... Surya Nepal.

— Hom L. Shrestha
Non-Smokers’ Rights Association of Nepal

Philip Morris and Japan Tobacco love Thais more than Filipinos

Thais have long been accustomed to seeing graphic health warnings on cigarette packs sold in their country. What many may not realize is that Marlboro and Mild Seven packs sold in Thailand are made in the Philippines by Philip Morris International (PMI) and JT International (JTI) licensee Fortune Tobacco.

PMI, together with British American Tobacco, JTI and other Philippine tobacco companies, collectively represented as the Philippine Tobacco Institute, last year delayed implementation of the Philippine law requiring text health warnings on the front (only) of cigarette packs, citing “administrative feasibility”, “logistical nightmare”, and “costly exercise” among their reasons.

For the transnational tobacco companies in particular, this is an obvious case of double standards and double talk. Why do companies like Philip Morris and JTI, which already print coloured graphic health warnings for Thailand, make excuses about printing simple text warnings for the Philippines? It

must be that Philip Morris and JTI love Thais more than Filipinos.

As the Second Conference of the Parties (COP-2) for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) draws to a close today, the Philippine government must be reminded that, having ratified the FCTC in 2005, it must comply by September next year with Article 11 of the treaty requiring effective health warnings that should be 50% or more (but no less than 30%) of the principal display areas and that may include pictures or pictograms.

Considering that PMI and JTI

have proven capability for producing graphic warnings, it should be very straightforward for the government to require these companies to print similar graphic warnings on cigarette packs sold in the Philippines.

In the Filipino population of over 85 million people, 56% of men and 12% of women smoke, and every hour at least 9 Filipinos die due to smoking-related diseases.

— Ulysses Dorotheo, MD, FPAO
Senior Policy Adviser
FCTC Alliance, Philippines (FCAP)

The Eyes of the World Are on the COP

Any worries that government delegations, civil society organizations, and others are toiling in obscurity this week at the FCTC COP may be laid to rest.

By Thursday this week, international news services including Associated Press, Reuters, Agence France Presse, BBC News, and South African Press Association had run stories on the conference, the growing smoke-free movement and smoke-free guidelines, as well as illicit trade.

Perhaps more importantly, media in all corners of the world have been prompted by the Bangkok conference and the international coverage to cover stories on the issues facing their countries on the ground where the FCTC must be implemented.

The Press Trust of India ran a story on the opening day of the conference about the dangers of secondhand smoke, side by side with an article about the conference. East African Business Week ran a story about progress on tobacco advertising in Rwanda.

How Iran got a tobacco control law

Iran signed the WHO FCTC in June 2003, but it took two further years before the country ratified and a further year before implementation legislation was passed.

When Iran signed the FCTC in June 2003, the Iranian Anti Tobacco Association (IATA) and the Iranian Ministry of Health began working together to prepare the ground for a comprehensive national tobacco control law. IATA began lobbying efforts with members of the Iranian parliament.

As a result of these efforts, parliamentarians proposed a similar bill which included a comprehensive ban on advertising, a requirement for pictorial health warnings, regular price increases and other measures. This bill went to various parliamentary commissions for consideration, including the health, economy, and commerce and industry commissions.

The bill was approved by these parliamentary commissions and was presented at plenary. But because of the discordant views of Government and Parliament, voting on the bill was postponed.

Finally, the law was adopted on 6th of September 2006. But the Constitution Guardian Council of Iran raised a number of objections to it. Effective and persistent lobbying of the Secretary General of the Council by IATA members resulted in its final approval on 27th of September 2006.

And so, on 3th October 2006, FCTC implementation legislation was finally adopted by the Iranian Parliament and received presidential approval on 16th of October 2006.

It should be noted that the Comprehensive National Tobacco Control Law was ratified only because of persistent efforts of IATA members as well as other benevolent and charitable people.

Article 18 of the law stipulates that enforcement regulations are to be adopted by the Ministry of Health within three months of presidential approval of the legislation.

Article 1 of this law creates a committee to control tobacco consumption, which must include the Minister of Health as the Director, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Commerce, the High Command of Disciplinary Force and an NGO active in tobacco control selected by the Health Minister, acting as the representative of all relevant NGOs.

In November 2006, the Iranian Anti Tobacco Association was selected to represent the NGOs on this committee.

— Gholamreza Heydari M.D.
Tobacco Prevention & Control Research
Center
Iran

A note from the editor

It's that time again — time to sort through stacks of papers and ask yourself how much you can really stuff in your suitcase, time to crawl under the hotel bed to look for those pesky missing socks, time to say goodbye to that colleague from the other end of the world that you probably won't see till the next COP.

In my case, it's time to thank all the people who make editing the FCA bulletin an enriching, intense and only occasionally hair-curling experience. This time round, we had a particularly varied group of contributors from almost every region of the globe, and indeed for the first time ever, I'll be leaving an FCTC meeting with a large crop of articles we never found room for.

It is especially gratifying to see stories of successes from countries that were not even on the tobacco control map just a few years ago.

Apart from the many people who wrote for the bulletin, and the numerous volunteers who distributed each day's edition at the UNCC, there are many other people who slaved away in the depths of the Prince Palace Hotel to put out the bulletin each day.

There were the many volunteers who came in, usually in the middle of the night, sometimes shortly before dawn, to feed more paper into the photocopier/printer and fold and assemble the bulletin. Thanks in particular to Hani Algouhmani, Erin Smith Yul Dorotheo, Syed Mahbubul Alam Tahin, Ahmed Badheeb, Hom Shrestha, Michael DeRosenroll, Massamba Diouf, Laura Salgado, Djibril Wele, Francisco Cabo, Kambes Kesobi, Sandy Garçon, Pascal Diethelm, Mohammed Sidi, Chris Bostic, Saiffudin Mahbubul Ahmed, Sandra Moreira.

Various people helped out with copy editing and proof-reading, including Susan Cavanagh, Adeola Akinremi, Verónica Schoj, Laura Salgado, Beatriz Champagne

and Yul Dorotheo. Tho I reetane responsibility for awl spelng mistakes an ommissions.

There was Menchi G. Velasco from SEATCA, who somehow managed to keep the whole system afloat, bringing in exotic local fruit, coffee, food, paper, toner, new machines, technicians and everything else that was necessary to keep a crabby, jet-lagged editor at his post. Thanks for the hard work and good humour in the face of adversity and sleep deprivation!

Finally, particular thanks to Margarida Silva, who learnt layout on her first day on the bulletin and never looked back. Enjoy a well-deserved holiday in Thailand.

Oh, silly me — I forgot to thank the most important people: you, the readers. For the first time in memory, not a single person approached me to complain about a scandalously inflammatory comment or a horrific misspelling. Possibly because I kept an even lower profile than usual, hiding out in the bulletin room for all but a few hours.

Well, you'll get your chance today: with the last bulletin issue finished, I have no excuse to stay away from UNCC. I'm the one with the big sign on my chest: "Warning: Tired editor. May bite."

Have a safe trip home, and see you all at COP-3, perhaps in South Africa.

—Francis Thompson
HealthBridge
Canada

Financial resources – what more can be done?

After days of sometimes painful debate, Committee B finally issued a modest decision yesterday on financial resources and mechanisms of assistance. Under the circumstances, the Committee did well to reach any agreement at all.

It is an old debate: donor countries say there are resources available if developing countries will only ask to have aid dollars allocated to tobacco control. Developing countries say there are serious internal barriers to getting tobacco control prioritized in their aid requests, and that they lack the expertise needed to navigate the Byzantine grant procedures.

In the end, the only concrete step forward was a request to the Secretariat and WHO Director-General to raise external funds to supplement the \$400,000 already in the budget to help Parties access resources for FCTC implementation. No additional funds were allocated within the existing budget, and no other significant inter-sessional work was required.

What more can be done? Quite

a bit, as it happens. Fortunately, not every step forward requires agreement by 148 countries.

A few ideas:

- The Secretariat and TFI should give work in this area a higher priority. They should, among other things, create a web page devoted to this issue to share information with all Parties on financial resources that are available, now and in the future, and how to access them. The web page should be updated often to reflect the dynamic funding environment, and should include information on how any Party can obtain needed technical assistance.
- The Bureau should take note of the serious concerns raised by developing countries and put this issue on its agenda at each of its inter-sessional meetings. It should ask the Secretariat to share its work plan in this area, and to provide regular updates on how it is staffing

and advancing its work on financial resources and mechanisms of assistance. The Bureau also should seek updates from TFI, which has a major role to play in this area.

- Public and private donors should expand their efforts to identify and address barriers facing governments and NGOs seeking financial assistance.
- The developing country representatives who spoke so eloquently in debate will no doubt be vigilant and continue to pursue these issues between sessions, despite the lack of a formal process for doing so.

Expanding financial resources for FCTC implementation is essential to the success of the FCTC. It is an issue too important and too complex to remain a subject of impasse at future COPs.

— John Bloom
American Cancer Society

FCTC Dictionary, Committee B version

Ogwell, v., To clarify debate, and awaken slumbering delegates, through colourful metaphor delivered with lightness of touch and depth of voice.

Example: “The interminable budget discussion was mercifully Ogwelled to a conclusion.”

Ogwellification, n.

Example: “The impasse was breached by a timely Ogwellification.”

Signed: Grateful Committee B observers

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) is an alliance of NGOs from around the world working to achieve the strongest possible Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Views expressed in the *Alliance Bulletin* are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the sponsors.

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Dirty Ashtray Award

To **Switzerland**: become a Party, and make Geneva smokefree and we'll be more interested in meeting there.



Orchid Award

To **OLAF**, the EU anti-fraud office, for its offer of significant financial assistance towards the negotiation of the illicit trade protocol. This week a standard has been set for other Parties to follow.

