

AFTC (Advocacy Forum for Tobacco Control)

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AFTC Activities Coordinated by AFTC Delhi Secretariat: HRIDAY (December 2008)

Accomplished activities

1. Advocacy in support of pictorial health warnings. *Status:* strategy finalized in consultation with AFTC regular and associate members. To be implemented by members as per interest expressed.
2. Advocacy for a uniform taxation regime for all tobacco products: advocacy cards finalized (based on feedback from AFTC members). Case to be presented in front of 13th Finance Commission (a Constitutional body constituted by the President of India to provide recommendation on taxation policies at the Union and State levels). Advocacy cards to be sent strategically to all MPs before the Budget Session of the Parliament (February 2009) and to be positioned in a special issue of the magazine Tobacco Kills. *Status:* in the process of seeking an appointment with the 13th Finance Commission. Tobacco taxation cards to be published in the December 2008 – January 2009 issue of Tobacco Kills.
3. New Year greeting cards with messages supportive of smoke-free public places and pictorial health warnings to be sent to MPs and state MLAs (January 2009). *Status:* designing underway. To be released in the 1st week of January 2009.
4. State level situational analysis for law enforcement officials and NGOs to gauge enforcement of provisions of the Indian Tobacco Control Act, 2003, specifically smoke-free rules. *Status:* situational analysis tool to be finalized in the 1st week of January 2009.

State level capacity building workshops for NGO personnel and law enforcement officials

State: Sikkim (Gangtok)

Dates: December 9-10

Organizers: Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim

AFTC resource persons: Dr. BB Rai (Executive Director, Sikkim Voluntary Health Association), Ms. Tina Khanna (Outreach Officer, HRIDAY) and Ms. Deepti Singh (Legal Officer, HRIDAY)

No. of participants: Law enforcers: 28 (departments: health, education, police, transport and food & drug administration) and NGO Personnel: 16

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Legal Updates on Ongoing Tobacco Control Litigation

Packaging and labeling Writ Petition (WP) for implementing rules on Packaging and Labeling was filed by Health for Millions (HFM) and VOICE on November 8, in the Supreme Court. The first Hearing took place on November 27. A notice was issued by the court on the interim application in the WP that the Petitioners filed later on December 1. On December 1, an Interim Application on the WP was filed. The case came up for hearing on December 15 but was again adjourned to a further date in mid-January 2009.

Proposed Activities for January 2009

1. Implementation of advocacy activities in support of pictorial health warnings for tobacco product packages.
2. Capacity building workshop for law enforcement officials and NGO personnel to be organized in West Bengal (Kolkata) from January 9-10, respectively in collaboration with Manbhum Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust (MANT). Workshop for law enforcement officials to be organized in Jammu & Kashmir in partnership with Drugs and Food Control Organization, Govt. of J&K (date to be finalized).
3. Meeting of AFTC regular members being organized by Healis Sekhsaria Institute of Public Health (Mumbai, January 12-14, 2009)
4. Planning meeting with World Economic Forum and Confederation of Indian Industries for Sensitization Workshop for HR Managers and Medical Officers on Tobacco Control (scheduled for February 2009).