

THE UNION ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN 2015: BRINGING THE UNION CLOSER TO YOU

FROM EVIDENCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION

Since our founding as a global scientific organisation in 1920, The Union has drawn from the best evidence and expertise to advance solutions to public health challenges affecting people living in poverty.

KNOW. SHARE. ACT.

KNOW

- Two Union-led studies on the success of integrating smoking cessation interventions into routine TB care in Indonesia and China were published in *BMC Public Health* (2015; 15:604) and *Public Health Action* (2015 Sep 21; 5(3): 183–187).
- Union research on TB and TB-diabetes care in China was published in *Tropical Medicine and International Health* (2015 Sep; 20(9): 1196–1200) *PLoS One* (2015 Mar 30; 10(3): e0121698) and *Public Health Action* (2015 Mar 21; 5(1): 65–69).
- 424 patients are enrolled in Stage 1 of STREAM, a randomised clinical trial, evaluating a 9-month treatment regimen for MDR-TB against the WHO's current standard two-year regimen. The Asia Pacific is host to two of the four Stage 1 STREAM countries: Mongolia and Viet Nam.

SHARE

- A major survey found over 90% of the public support smokefree environments in China. The Union has worked with China CDC since 2007 to support the passing of major tobacco control laws in five cities.
- The 5th Union Asia Pacific Region Conference attracted over 700 delegates and focused on 'Reducing the Burden of TB and Lung Disease by Increasing and Expanding Regional Partnerships'.
- The Union provided technical support to the Control and Prevention-Tuberculosis (CAP-TB) project in Yunnan Province, China.
- Over 130 health professionals from 23 countries received training through International Management and Development Programme (IMDP) courses in Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia and China so far this year.
- 13 participants from eight Pacific Islands participated in the *Pacific Course on Operational Research*, held in Fiji.
- The Pacific Islands Health Officers Association established a regional partnership with The Union in the North Pacific to combat the systematic and ongoing problems of strategic resource management.

ACT

- The Union Asia Pacific joined the new Australian TB Forum, an advocacy movement calling for TB elimination in the Asia Pacific.
- Members of parliament from seven Asia Pacific countries formed the first parliamentary regional network under the Global TB Caucus during the The Union Asia Pacific Region Conference.
- The Union Asia Pacific formed the ASEAN NCD Alliance in partnership with five other organisations, creating a regional network working to promote better public health policies against non-communicable diseases.



A lab technician tests samples at a STREAM trial test site in Mongolia.

Dasha Burns

OVER 100 GLOBAL HEALTH OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS CONVENE IN BALI FOR TWO-DAY SUMMIT ON TB-DIABETES

The Union and the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), together with the Ministry of Health of the Government of Indonesia, hosted the world's first summit on TB-diabetes, which brought together more than 100 public health officials, leading researchers, business and technology leaders and civil society representatives to unite efforts in the fight against TB and diabetes in November 2015.

Diabetes triples a person's risk of developing TB. High-TB-burden countries make up six of the ten countries expected to have the highest numbers of people living with diabetes by 2035. To add to these startling facts, the WHO recently released a report showing that TB has become the world's most deadly infectious disease, now surpassing HIV/AIDS in the numbers of people who die from the illness.

A key solution is to implement bidirectional screening for TB and diabetes, where people diagnosed with TB are screened for diabetes, and, in certain contexts, people with diabetes are screened for TB.

The summit called for government action and attention and stressed the need for leadership and stronger advocacy. It concluded with participants signing onto the Bali Declaration on the Looming TB-Diabetes Co-Epidemic, a landmark document that lays out the rationale and priorities for action.

