

THE UNION MIDDLE EAST 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

- The Union strengthened national tuberculosis programmes through technical assistance in multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan and Djibouti.

SHARE

- The 28th Union Conference of The Middle East Region, held in Cairo, Egypt, in conjunction with the 56th International Congress of the Egyptian Society of Chest Diseases and Tuberculosis, brought together some 1,500 delegates from across the region to discuss tuberculosis and lung disease and their treatment.
- 88 participants from 35 countries reinforced their skills and broadened their understanding of project management and mass media and communications through three International Management and Development Program (IMDP) courses taught in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt this year.
- The Union taught the *Comprehensive Course on Clinical Management of Tuberculosis* to 30 Kurdish physicians from Iraq working in the clinical and operational management of TB and MDR-TB, providing them with the training and skills necessary to effectively manage these cases.

ACT

- The WCTOH hosted a two-day Youth Workshop, which brought together young delegates, aged 18 to 30 years, active in the fight against the tobacco industry to envision innovative methods to put an end to tobacco, including ways to build capacity to use surveillance data on tobacco trends and to engage in advocacy efforts calling for policy action.
- The WCTOH closed with a call for unity, commitment and action in the fight against tobacco and issued 15 recommendations for the tobacco control community to focus on over the three year lead-up to the next World Conference on Tobacco or Health in 2018.



The Youth Delegation call for No More Tobacco in the 21st Century during the World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Abu Dhabi

Steve Forrest

THE UNION, IN ITS ROLE AS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT, ORGANISES WORLD CONFERENCE ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH IN ABU DHABI

The Union hosted the World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH), the largest international meeting of stakeholders in tobacco control, attracting experts and advocates from around the world to address the tobacco epidemic from public health, political, social and economic perspectives, in its new role as Permanent Secretariat for the conference.

The WCTOH was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in March 2015 and brought together more than 2100 delegates working in tobacco control from over 100 countries to share the latest developments in tobacco control and global efforts to reduce tobacco use in all its forms.

Key speakers at the conference included H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al-Nahayan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development and Patron of the conference; HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan; Ministers of Health from seven countries; US Surgeon General Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy; and Michael R. Bloomberg.

The WCTOH included a two-day Youth Workshop, a full-day update on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and MPOWER, and tracks on new tobacco products, supply and demand issues, the globalisation of tobacco industry interference and the post-2015 development agenda. The conference theme centred on the link between tobacco use and non-communicable diseases. New challenges in tobacco control, including e-cigarettes and shisha use, an issue of particular importance in the host country and the entire Middle East region, were topics of particular interest during the conference.

- Union member countries
- Technical assistance
- Courses & conferences
- Research

