2013 APACT Declaration on Tobacco Control in Indonesia

APACT 2013 adopts this Declaration on Tobacco Control in Indonesia.

We, 785 delegates from 42 countries assembled at the 2013 Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT) Conference from 18-21 August 2013 in Chiba, Japan to address the prevention and control of tobacco use worldwide, with a special focus on the Asia Pacific region:

- recognize that Indonesia is the world’s fifth largest tobacco market, attractive to both local and transnational tobacco companies;
- express serious concern that World Tobacco Asia 2012 held in Jakarta from 19-21 September 2012 highlighted on its website that Indonesia is “a tobacco-friendly market with no smoking bans or other restrictions and regulations in contrast to neighboring ASEAN countries” and offered “the international tobacco industry a forum to build relationships and demonstrate their products and services to the Indonesian, Asia Pacific, and Australian tobacco communities.”
- Express deep concern that the smoking prevalence and tobacco mortality in Indonesia is still rising. Two-thirds (67.4%) of Indonesian men, 4.5% of women, and 36.1% of all Indonesian adults (61.4 million) currently use tobacco. Among youths aged 13-15 years, 20% smoke cigarettes (boys 41%, girls 3.5%). Smoking kills 235,000 Indonesians annually;
- Note with grave concern that tobacco use leads to increased healthcare costs attributed to tobacco-related illnesses in Indonesia, which amounts to IDR 11 trillion (USD 1.2 billion) each year. Indonesia’s poor households with smokers spent 11.5% of their household income on tobacco products and only about 4% for education and far less for health of their family.
- Recognize that tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship aimed at youths are rampant in Indonesia and contributed to an unacceptable 400% increment of smoking prevalence among children between 5 to 9 years old and a 40% increment among those between 10 to 14 years old. Nearly 80% of smokers start before age 19 years.
- Note with deep concern that smoking is largely unrestricted in Indonesia. More than 97 million Indonesian non-smokers are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke.
(SHS). Some 70% of all Indonesian children less than 15 years old are regularly exposed to SHS. SHS kills more than 25,000 Indonesians every year.

Recognize that Indonesia is lagging far behind many other Asian countries, which are Parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and enacting evidence-based tobacco control measures. Unfortunately, Indonesia is also being used as a platform to undermines tobacco control efforts in other countries.

We therefore:

1. Strongly declare and recommend that the Indonesian government should accede to the WHO FCTC immediately, recognizing that substantially reducing tobacco consumption is an important contribution to reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and can have significantly large health benefits for individuals and countries;
2. Strongly recommend that the Indonesian government enact a strong tobacco control legislation that
   a. bans indoor smoking in all public places, workplaces, and public transport
   b. bans all types of tobacco advertising, tobacco, and sponsorship
   c. provides for larger (more than 50%) pictorial health warnings on all cigarette packs
   d. raises price and tax (at least 70% of retail price) on tobacco products as recommended by the World Bank and the World Health Organization
3. strongly recommend that the Indonesian Government ban World Tobacco Asia 2014, which will be organized in Bali, Indonesia

Signed:

President, APACT 2013