

Feedback from workshops

South East Asia & Western Pacific
Regions

26th October 2023

Global Alcohol Policy Conference



Opportunities in policy advocacy across the region

1. Best buy areas – implementation and enforcement
 - Marketing / advertising control, increasing alcohol tax, availability control
 - Push for stronger enforcement of policy (e.g. illegal outlets)
2. Advocacy methods
 - Lobby through social media
 - Written guidelines/ policies on conflict of interest
3. Alcohol industry
 - Litigation for alcohol industry – currently not as strong as for tobacco
 - Recognize and call out ‘Politicization of alcohol industry’
 - Using evidence to advocate for stronger policy (e.g. Flag the industry activities)

A common agenda within regions

1. Collaborate for generating evidence and use it for policy advocacy
 - SEARO & WPRO should have common agenda
 - Collate evidence from all the member countries (gaps / issues / good practices etc.)
 - Common document to govern / guide the policy agenda in the region (policy map for SEARO + WPRO)
 - Summarize and share regional evidence
2. Network within the region to learn from each other (grass root level organizations etc.)
3. Strengthen community / civil society / grass root level organizations
4. Specific issues
 - Recognize **illicit markets** in the region
 - Work on restricting '**alcopops**' – needs to be on the policy agenda
 - Recognize **NCD control**, poverty, gender based violence as common issues

Action areas after the conference including developing relationships with WHO regional offices where possible

1. Develop framework for alcohol control – identify key areas
2. Industry interference
 - Mobilize regional discussions to limit industry interference
 - Restrict the industry from joining development forums in the region
3. SAFER initiative and RESET alcohol initiative
4. WHO regional offices to support countries
 - Push WHO to collate data from the region and a pool of empirical evidence from the region
 - Be more active in conversations within the region
 - Engagement with parliamentarians – WHO to facilitate discussion with finance & commerce ministries
5. Need support from **ministries of finance / commerce** across the region

Strengthening networks among alcohol policy advocates, researchers and policy makers in the regions

1. Form alliances within regional interest groups / strengthen the Asian Alcohol Policy Alliance
 1. Community of practice
 2. Share best practices
 3. Learning from each other
2. Regional forum to be established – within the WHO or outside
3. Change the narrative in conversations with policy makers – e.g., change from 7 sins to 7 wins - alcohol tax

Areas of focus for global action and ways to strengthen the global movement

1. Understand globalization and work on **commercial determinants**
2. Operationalize restrictions on **digital marketing** of alcohol
3. Push for **cross boarder advertising** restrictions
4. Lobby against **alcohol advertising in international sport** and banding **sponsorships** & surrogate advertising
5. Disseminate evidence and push policy agenda and political will to **increase tax** - investment
6. Gather momentum to develop **FCAC**
7. Recognize a **“day” for alcohol-free** or prevention activities
8. Work together to meet WHO expectations & resolutions