

WORLD TB DAY 2014 EVENTS IN VIETNAM

The Vietnam National Strategy for Tuberculosis Control to 2020 with vision to 2030 was approved by the Prime Minister

With more than 50 years of implementation, TB control in Viet Nam has been for the first time declared a national strategy. The [National Strategy for Tuberculosis Control to 2020 with vision to 2030](#) was approved by the Prime Minister on 17th March 2014, showing strong political commitment and acknowledging great efforts of the national TB control network on the occasion of the 2014 World TB Day. The Strategy confirms that *“The State takes the major responsibility of ensuring adequate resources for TB prevention and control, while mobilizing every social resource to support TB prevention and control activities.”*



Viet Nam Deputy Prime Minister at the National TB Strategy Launching Conference on 21st March 2014

Communication Campaign on the occasion of World TB Day 2014 at the central level

On the occasion of World TB Day this year, the 2013 NTP Annual Review and Launching of the National Strategy for Tuberculosis Control to 2020 with vision to 2030 was organized by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and NTP on 20-21 March 2014 at International Convention Centre, Ha Noi.

World TB Day this year with the Slogan of **“All people determine to successfully implement National Strategy for TB Control”** and main Topic of: **“Everybody has right and responsibility to participate in the fight against TB”**.

The conference was chaired by Asso./Prof.Nguyen Thi Xuyen – Vice Minister of Health and Dr.Nguyen Van Tien – Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Social Affairs of Congress, with the participation of over 400 delegates, including representatives of ministries, Central Department of Propaganda and Education, Central Government Office, Political-social organizations (Red Cross Union, Women’s Union, Farmer’s Union, Youth Union), several central hospitals, universities and representatives of the departments of Ministry of Health (MOH); leaders of the People’s Committees and Health Departments at provincial level, cities directly under the Central Government; leaders of the provincial NTP nation-wide; international organizations (WHO, CDC, USAID, KNCV, FHI, FIND, PATH, PSI, CHAI ...), and agencies of press, radio, television at central and local level. The conference was honored to welcome Mr. Vu Duc Dam – Commissioner of Party Central Committee; Deputy Prime Minister attended and delivered his direction on TB control.

In the conference's opening, Deputy Minister of Health Nguyen Thi Xuyen emphasized the danger of TB to community and the number of deaths caused by TB in Vietnam is still high – every one hour, two people have died of TB. However, the death don't create the attention from community because of stigma and disease hiding – still being problems need to be solved. On the other hand, the death can be avoided entirely because TB is curable disease. However, due to the severity of TB and the challenges of TB Control, the involvement of the whole political system is needed, therefore it is essential to have one National Strategy for TB with breakthrough solutions applying innovative technologies and with the involvement of the whole community.

She also on behalf of Minister of Health, would like to thank Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam – on behalf of Prime Minister approving National Strategy for TB Control, simultaneously thank all departments, societies, organizations for participating in establishing National Strategy for TB Control, and thank all delegates at central and local level for attending the Conference and expressing their determination to implement successfully National Strategy for TB Control. The Conference included the introduction of National Strategy for TB Control's content approved under Decision No. 374/QĐ-TTg dated March, 17, 2014 of Prime Minister and further analysis of breakthrough key-points in the solutions and implementation.

Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam gave a speech and expressed his deep concern to the TB situation in Vietnam. Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that this is a serious disease, with majority of prevalence is farmers and poor people. In particular, annual mortality rate is very high, double the number of deaths of traffic accidents. Deputy Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to every citizens, health workers, ministries and departments for their support, dedication to the TB Control programme, either from the back or front, involving to the programme. Deputy Prime Minister also thanked all international organisations for their support to Vietnamese during recent years and suggested them to continue supporting TB programme in the future. Deputy Prime Minister urged Party committees at all levels, government agencies related to poor people to consider TB prevention and control as an important mission, as the whole political system and the whole country to dramatically reduce this disease. Deputy Prime Minister suggested to detect TB patients to follow, treat, prevent and avoid infection. Deputy Prime Minister directed: *“TB in particular, by all ways, drugs cannot be indispensable. As the Government always worry for people, especially poor people, this is what needs to be done. Vietnam is a poor country, we need to mobilise all sources of international fundings, but if there is not, it is needed to use national financial resources to ensure adequate medication. Ministry of Health should discuss more with ministries about implementation of this and submit to the Government.”*. Deputy Prime Minister noted TB is a campaign, which cannot be completed immediately but may last long up to 5 years, may be 10 years or more. However, we need high determination and effective measures.



Viet Nam Deputy Minister of Health at the National TB Strategy Launching Conference on 21st March 2014

According to A/Prof. Nguyen Viet Nhung at the conference, clarified that TB prevention and control is an important and long-term responsibility of our whole political system, in which Health is the core factor. The Government takes main responsibility of ensuring adequate resources for TB prevention and control, whereas advocating for more social resources to support TB prevention and control activities. Objectives for 2015-2020 is to reduce 30% TB prevalence rate, which means we need to reduce 6% annually; and to reduce 40% TB deaths in 5 years, which means we need to reduce 8% per year, while our current speeds are only 4.6% and 4.4%. Evidence-based approach means applying new technology, new approach and investment in TB prevention and control.

After the speech and direction of the Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam, other participants, both national and international, discussed with the following main contents:

The world acknowledges and appreciates Vietnam National TB Control Program as well as all interventions saved thousands of lives, while prevalence rate and mortality rate decreased. These achievements lead Vietnam to go the right direction to achieve scheduled Millennium targets, moving towards the aim of TB eradication.

Despite these major achievements, Vietnam is still a high TB burden country. According to World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics, about 30% TB patients have not been notified, registered or detected yet; about 4000 MDR –TB patients annually, of which only one third have been accessed to diagnosis and treatment; and about 18.000 TB deaths each year.



Director of Vietnam National Lung at the National TB Strategy Launching Conference on 21st March 2014



Communication Banners at Vietnam National Lung Hospital

Vietnam National Strategy for TB Control is entirely consistent with the World Strategy for TB Control. In particular, this new strategy is built on the basis of scientific and reality situation of TB epidemiology and TB control in Vietnam. In the context of financial difficulties, the approved strategy showed a very strong commitment of the Government to Vietnamese citizens and communities all over the world toward the aim of TB eradication.



Communication Backdrop at the hall of International Conference Convention

More breakthrough of the strategy: the opinion of TB Prevention and Control is an important and long term mission involving the whole political system with resources secured by multi-source mechanism; special support solutions of Health Insurance fund in TB examination and treatment; request authorities at all levels to allocate adequate budget, labour and facilities for TB prevention and control at local level along with annual national budget; TB Prevention and Control must be implemented in community with active participation of all people, unions, organisations and whole society... , which is the important prerequisite to achieve ambitious goals of the Strategy.

In the context of resource difficulties, the short-term and long-term necessary solutions are policy of integration activities of TB care, treatments and preventions with other respiratory diseases and other prevention programmes, using patient-centered approach, applying new processes, techniques and technologies in Vietnamese context.

Representatives of international organisations (WHO, KNCV, CDC, PATH, CHAI, FIND) expressed their agreement and strong commitment to continue collaborate and support Vietnam in TB Prevention and Control.

Representatives from localities overjoyed and determined to implement every solutions and requirements in the Strategy.

Media has done interviews to clarify and convey a new opinion of the Government and Ministry of Health about TB Prevention and Control to the community and society, determining to reduce TB prevalence and mortality rate.

The morning session ended with a speech by Mr. Nguyen Van Tien, deputy chairman of the Committee of Social Affairs of the National Assembly about difficulties in implementing TB Prevention and Control policies at local levels and requested local authorities to strictly implement policies with TB workers, especially at local levels. In particular, Ministry of Health should soon issue solutions about mechanism of using Health Insurance fund to pay for TB examination and treatment service, of which emphasizing on payment for not only TB drugs but TB services including follow-up and treatment for every TB patient in

community as well. Deputy Minister of Health Nguyen Thi Xuyen made a conclusion at the Conference, assigned National Lung Hospital, National TB Control Programme – standing unit to implement the Strategy, thanked leaders of all provinces and cities under central for their concern and request them to study carefully the Strategy in order to effectively implement TB strategy at their localities. She, on behalf of Minister of Health, thanked leaders of the Party and the Government for their special attention to health care in general, and in TB control in particular, while advocating for more supports from national and international organisations and unions for TB Prevention and Control in Vietnam.

In the afternoon on March 21, 2014, the Conference was continued with unified implementation on planning for TB prevention and control at localities based on opinion, objectives, solutions and implementing allocations from Prime Minister in the National Strategy for TB Control to 2020, view to 2030. In order to implement the Strategy at localities, the starting point is that Provincial TB Control Program advises the Department of Health to submit to People’s Committees on strengthening the Provincial TB Control Steering Committee.

All participants at the Conference discussed and brought out solutions to overcome the difficulties in 2014 including cuts in funding, TB drugs, health insurance, communication, monitoring, training and policies on TB workers at localities.

Ministry of Health was requested to soon propose to the Government to provide additional funding for TB drugs in 2014 and develop Health Insurance mechanisms and policies on prioritizing payment for TB service including notification, examination and treatment management for every health facilities engaged in providing standard TB services.

World TB Day 2014 communication campaign at 63 provinces

ACSM instruction packages were sent from the central NTP to all 63 provinces, with the slogan of “**All people determine to successfully implement National Strategy for TB Control**” and main topic of “**Everybody has right and responsibility to participate in the fight against TB**”

Provincial TB Control programs organized communication activities including:

- Organize launching events, meeting, seminar
- Organize crowd marching on the streets to communicate World TB Day 2014
- Broadcasts materials to communicate about TB
- News about TB on websites, newspapers, radios and televisions.
- Send communication letters to provincial unions and departments.
- Spread flyers, slogans, banners, photos of TB prevention and control at public place.
- Organize seminar about TB prevention and control at schools.

Some images of World TB Day communication campaign 24 March 2014



Parade of Advocating for TB prevention and control at Central of Cao Bang city, Cao Bang province



World TB Day 24 March 2014 Meeting in Nghe An Province