

Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

Press Release

20 March 2014,

Addis Ababa

“One every two users die due to tobacco” study revealed

Tobacco is estimated to kill up to one of every two users. And it costs more than half a trillion dollars in economic damages annually. Without comprehensive tobacco prevention and control in policies, it is estimated that smoking prevalence in the African region will increase by 39% by 2030 a report revealed. Women not only are disproportionately affected by tobacco, but also are targets of covert messaging from tobacco industry that is designed to mainstream smoking behavior as an element of women’s empowerment and evolving social norms report highlights.

A report **“Preventing a Tobacco Epidemic in Africa: A call for effective action to support health, social, and economic development”** is launched on 20th March 2014 at the Intercontinental Addis Hotel in Addis Ababa. The workshop is organized by the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) in collaboration with the US National Academy of Sciences (US NAS).

The report is compiled by group of 16 experts drawn from 8 African academies of sciences, including two experts from Ethiopia. The study was initiated by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and the USNAS. The committee reviewed and assessed the evidence on the state of tobacco use and tobacco production and their detrimental health, economic, and environmental effects in Africa. The report also discussed the evidence, obstacles and opportunities for implementing and enforcing tobacco use prevention and control policies in Africa.

The major findings and recommendations of the report are presented by the experts who participated in the study and discussed among the major stakeholders. Discussions are held on the implications of the report to Ethiopia and on the way forward to address the problem.

The reviewing committee of the report recommends that tobacco prevention and control stakeholders should develop appropriate mechanisms for greater coordination and collaboration within and between the continental, national and local levels.

- The AU Heads of States and Government should provide leadership in continental tobacco prevention and control, with a central coordinating mechanism housed at the AU Commission that allows member states to share their progress, challenges, opportunities and requests for assistance on a yearly basis.
- African government leaders should initiate a Whole of government approach under the auspices of central body in accordance with FCTC (Framework Convention on Tobacco Control) Article 5.2 (a) to coordinate national tobacco prevention and control efforts including those of civil society and other non - state actors
- Civil society organization, NGO's academic institutions, and research organizations should cultivate multi-sectorial partnerships, in conjunction with local and national governments, to build community level support and incentives for reducing access and exposure to tobacco.

60 Participants representing various ministries, regional health bureaus, universities, research institutions, others government organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as regional and international organizations are attending the event.

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences is an institution established with a vision to realize the development of scientific culture and scholarship in Ethiopia with the aim to promote the advancement of sciences and scientific research, to enhance network among the scientific community, and advise the government on issues pertaining to the quality and relevance of sciences. It was recognized by an Act of Parliament in March 2013 (Proclamation 783/ 2013).

For more information

Email: essecretariat@gmail.com

Telephone: 251 112 595745/50

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia