

Fellowship: Innovative Financing for Health Promotion

March - December 2023

Organized by the
Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance
and the
Thai Health Promotion Foundation



Introduction

Establishing a tax-based health promotion funding mechanism is an innovative way to generate sustainable and transparent financing for health and development. Health taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages are the most cost-effective measure for reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

With this in mind, the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) and the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth) are conducting a fellowship program - a policy-focused technical assistance opportunity for countries that would ultimately support the development, legislation, and implementation of a national sustainable financing mechanism for health promotion.

ThaiHealth is an autonomous government agency that leads health promotion programs including tobacco control, alcohol and substance abuse control, and COVID-19 prevention. The Foundation manages approximately US\$ 150 million in annual revenue from a 2% surcharge on tobacco and alcohol excise taxes.

SEATCA is a multi-sectoral non-governmental alliance assisting countries in the ASEAN region and beyond to accelerate and effectively implement the tobacco control measures contained in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

The fellowship program

Planned for a March 2023 launch, the ten-month fellowship program will support two fellows per country (in up to ten countries) who have been nominated by their government to advance the development, legislation, and implementation of a national sustainable financing mechanism for health promotion.

The fellowship program will include a mentorship component, online workshops tailored to specific countries and/or topics, a seed grant of up to US \$10,000 per country for fellows to conduct policy analysis, and a fully-funded study visit to ThaiHealth in Bangkok in March 2023. The fellowship will be conducted in the English language. If applicable, countries accepted to the fellowship will be required to coordinate and fund their own language interpretation services for their fellows.

Fellow criteria and selection process

Successful nominees:

- Have been working for at least one year in an organization (government, academic, or NGO) that is actively working on or otherwise engaged with tobacco control policy in their country.
- Have experience with conducting research, particularly policy research, in any field.
- Are able to read, write and speak in both their local language and English.

- Are able and willing to honor the time commitment and activities/tasks required for the duration of fellowship.

Fellow responsibilities

Prior to the final selection of fellows, shortlisted nominees will:

- Participate in an online video interview with representatives from SEATCA and ThaiHealth, if required.

Prior to the start of the fellowship, fellows will:

- Participate in an online video introductory meeting with representatives from SEATCA, ThaiHealth, UNDP, and the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC.
- Review and sign a terms of reference (TOR) document and a conflict of interest form to disclose any ties to the tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverage industries.

During the 8-month fellowship, fellows will:

- Attend an in-person workshop and study visit to ThaiHealth in Bangkok.
- With the support of their assigned mentor(s), prepare and submit a proposal for the policy analysis project they will conduct during the fellowship.
- Attend at least two virtual workshops during the fellowship.
- Maintain regular in-person and/or virtual communication with their assigned mentor(s).
- With the support of their mentor(s), use their seed funding to research and analyze the legislative and financial context for health promotion in their country.
- Complete an innovative financing e-learning course in the English language and offer feedback to the course developers about the course.
- Provide scheduled project updates to SEATCA.
- At the end of the program, submit a full report and policy advocacy roadmap for advancing sustainable health promotion financing in their country.

Application process

Interested governments are invited to [apply](#) for the fellowship by completing an assessment and nominating up to two fellows using the attached application form. Complete applications must be emailed by Wednesday, 30th November 2022 to **both email addresses** below:

anisa@seatca.org

info@seatca.org

Applications will be reviewed by a panel comprising individuals from SEATCA, ThaiHealth, UNDP, and the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC.

Timeline

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| 30 November 2022 | Deadline for submission of application (assessment and nomination form) to fellowship organizers. |
| End of January 2023 | Announcement of fellows and signing of TOR and other relevant documents. |
| Week of 27 - 31 March 2023 | Orientation workshop and study visit to Thai Health. |

Please download the application form [here](#).