PRESS RELEASE

20 October 2016

Ulaanbaatar

The Ministry of Health of Mongolia, National Centre for Communicable Diseases, National Centre for Zoonotic Disease, Public Health Institute and WHO Representative’s Office in Mongolia are jointly organizing an International Conference on Infectious Diseases “Tackling Infectious Diseases: Information for Action” on 20-21 October 2016 in Ulaanbaatar.

The Conference aims at providing an up-to-date evidence to policy and decision makers, inform relevant national programmes, civil society and other stakeholders about burden of infectious disease, sharing results and best practices on prevention and control of infectious diseases, and discussing the potential policy change and future research collaboration in the areas of infectious diseases including tuberculosis, HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis, vaccine-preventable, emerging and re-emerging diseases, zoonotic diseases, WASH, and water safety and quality. New data on TB prevalence in Mongolia, lessons learned from the 2015-2016 measles outbreak response in Mongolia, in-depth analysis of congenital syphilis cases, WASH as a neglected issue despite of its immediate importance in disease prevention, review of existing surveillance system and laboratories will be presented at this Conference to inform further action to reduce infectious diseases epidemics in the country.

Although much has been achieved in the Western Pacific Region and in Mongolia in reducing the burden and preventing spread of communicable diseases though immunizations, infectious disease control programmes and fostering international cooperation in the field of prevention and control of communicable diseases, infectious diseases, especially new and emerging infections, including the increased risk of spreading zoonotic diseases in agricultural sector, have been presenting an ever greater challenge to the international community at large due to globalization, transnational commerce and intensification of travel.

Over 200 participants including prominent health sector scholars both national and international, Mongolian policy makers, representatives from the Mongolian government and civil society organizations will gather in Mongolia’s capital to discuss joint measures the countries can undertake in tackling infectious diseases and come up with set of joint actions based on latest scientific information available. Given the importance of sub-national health system strengthening in Mongolia, participants from all 21 provinces of Mongolia are invited to the Conference. Speakers from Mongolia, Russia, Japan, China, Australia and WHO staff form the Western Pacific Regional Office and WHO Representative’s Office in Mongolia will present scientific papers and the latest
findings in the field of communicable diseases. The Minister of Heath of Mongolia Dr Tsogtsetseg Ayush, the Director of Communicable Diseases, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, Dr Mark Jacobs, and WHO Representative in Mongolia Dr Soe Nyunt-U are the key-note speakers of the Conference.

“It’s notable that this International Conference on Communicable Diseases is taking place in Mongolia because the country still suffers from a raise in infectious diseases. Unfortunately Mongolia is a leading country in the world by hepatitis induced liver cancer deaths. At the same time sexually transmitted diseases especially among adolescents and young adults as well as high prevalence of tuberculosis have become a matter of a serious concern. Hence this Conference is very important for Mongolia to use the newest information and evidence along with taking aboard best practices from other countries to tackle the spread of communicable diseases,” said Dr Soe Nyunt U, WHO Representative in Mongolia.

Overall, infectious diseases have decreased over the years however they still account for a high proportion of disability-adjusted life years and are of significant socioeconomic importance due to their potential for causing outbreaks and health emergencies. Thus many countries in the region, including Mongolia, are facing a double burden of non-communicable and communicable diseases.

As the Ministry of Health has been developing the comprehensive and overarching 2016-2020 National Communicable Diseases Programme of Mongolia the Government is keenly interested in exchange of information and practices in tackling communicable diseases through strengthening its national and sub-national health systems and multi-sectoral collaboration to ensure an improved health security and adoption of an integrated comprehensive Programme towards the end of this year.

Recommendations addressing the Government of Mongolia and all stakeholders on tackling infectious diseases will be adopted at the end of the Conference.

For further information:

Nomin Lkhagvasuren

Communication and Health Promotion Officer

WHO Representative’s Office in Mongolia

Telephones: 327870, 99134426

lkhagvasuren@who.int

Amarjargal Togoodoi

Communications Officer

Ministry of Health of Mongolia
Telephones: 264923, 99179899

amarjargal9899@gmail.com

Unursaikhan Khurelbaatar

Public Health Institute

Telephone: 99124735

setgvvlch@yahoo.com