

*MINUTES OF THE 2nd TOBACCO ALLIANCE MEETING ON 9th Oct 2015,
Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata*

The second Tobacco Alliance meeting was held on 9th October, 2015 at the Press Club of Kolkata. The meeting was organized by **MANT**, it was fully supported by **Bloomberg Initiative, USA** and the technical support was given by **International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, South-East Asia Office, New Delhi**. The main vision of the meeting was **"Tobacco-Free West Bengal"**. Dignitaries from different fields of our civil society participated in this meeting.

Remark of the Dignitaries:

Anupam Roy (Singer) whole heartedly supported the effort towards tobacco free life for all citizens. He shared satisfactorily that " I go through the Tobacco Control website of Mant. The mode of working and exertion is interesting to me, from that outlook I am ready to associate with the programme objective. I prepared the Anti Tobacco Jingle in three languages Bengali, Hindi and English, conveying the message-**A child urged to his father to Quit Smoking and enjoy a long and healthy life"**.

- Anupam Roy launched the Bengali version of the jingle in the face book page **Tobacco Free Generation**.
- He made assurance to support us in future.

Amit Chakraborty (Psychologist) raised some important issues. He stated that he is associated with radio station since 1970 on Anti Drug Campaign. Though he made a very clear confession that 'I am a chain smoker and I have to struggle a lot to quit smoking.' He shared to change the habits of smoking; smoking aids should be kept far away and keep on the mental stability. He suggested; making plan for a small video on cancer victimised patients addressing the adolescents for greater impact.

Bidesh Bose (Former Footballer)

- Mr. Bidesh Bose strongly recommended that the non smokers should be much aware and strongly protest against smoking.
- He shared some painful incident that three renowned footballers died due to cancer and all of three were chain smokers.
- He aimed towards the youth generation that they should be aware about the ill effects of tobacco consumption because they are the future of nation. We should motivate them towards sports to keep them in right track.

Manash Bhattacharyya (Former Footballer) appreciated our initiative significantly and he assured to help us in any platform for the noble cause.

- He gave emphasize that this type of programme is highly relevant in current days and kept the youth generation free from the harmful effects of tobacco.

Kaushik Ganguly (Film Maker)

- He made a very spontaneous comment that 'Our society is already polluted and everybody should be more sensitive and aware to control the level of pollution by decreasing tobacco consumption.'
- He conferred that greater awareness should be promote in a larger scale because large portion of mass spent huge amount of money by consuming tobacco products.
- In our educational course curriculum this should be include.

Krishna Basu (Poet)

- Krishna Basu also make strong comment that in our course curriculum harmful effects of tobacco should be include.
- And women can also play vital role in aspect because they are mostly affected due to second hand smoking.
- The name of the renowned person those who quit smoking should be focus through media to make larger impact in mass.

Indrajit Chatterjee (Saroj Gupta Cancer Research Center) who was dealing with cancer patients daily shared some important data with us.

- 40% - 50% cancer patients suffering from oral cancer.
- Most of the cancer patients within the age group of 20-30 years.
- He discussed on various healths related issues.
- People are less aware about the Nicotine replacement therapy. We made suggestion that we can work together towards mass awareness.

Dipankar Ghosh (Mountaineer) stated very strongly that he is very positive about our initiative.

- Everybody should be careful and sensitive about this social issue and being a responsible citizen motivate others to keep far away from habits of smoking.
- He made well-built statement to support us in anti tobacco campaign through various adventure related awareness campaign.

Dibyendu Barua (Grand Master)

- To quit smoking aspiration should be taken by own.
- Mass awareness programmes have to organize at school and college level to reach young generation at larger scale.