

The Development and Role of Thai Dental Association in Tobacco Cessation in Thailand

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Tobacco cessation in Thailand was initially developed under the courageous leadership of Minwister Sudarat Keyuraphan, the former Minister of Public Health, in 2001. This initiative saw a significant increase in excise taxes and the generation of health revenue through earmarked taxes, leading to the institutionalization of the Thai Health Foundation, which later became a financial backbone for preventive and promotive activities against tobacco & alcohol consumption in Thailand.

The Dental Association of Thailand, sponsored by Thai Health Foundation has played a crucial role as an initiator and coordinator for the "Tobacco Control by

Dentist Project" since 2005. This project encompasses five work plans targeting five sectors within the dental profession: dental clinics of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), private dental practices, dental schools, and dental researchers.

Each work plans run by offering capacity building for dental profession, social campaigns, cessation services, innovative techniques, and oral cancer screening. Participation exceeds 100,000 people per cycle, and this number continues to grow significantly, demonstrating a growing impact on tobacco cessation efforts in Thailand.