

ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

June 9, 2017

Mongolia hosted the first annual “Central Eurasian Nutrition Forum” in Ulaanbaatar, from June 7-9 of this year. Those attending included parliament members from Tajikistan and Mongolia, over 20 scientists and policymakers in nutrition and tuberculosis from Kazakhstan, Canada, China, Japan, Russia, Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, and the United States, as well as more than 200 representatives from relevant sectors of Mongolian academia, the private sector and government. The aims of the forum were to discuss the current status, emerging issues, goals, and opportunities for ongoing collaboration in areas of nutrition at tuberculosis across the region.

At the conclusion of the forum, all of the participants resolved the following:

Nutritional issues have no boundaries in that they affect all regions, countries, sectors, and ultimately, each individual.

Improving nutrition plays an enormous role in solving public health problems.

All of society’s stakeholders have an obligation to assist all individuals to access and obtain adequately nutritious food.

We know and appreciate that many governments in Central Eurasia are doing everything they can to provide their people with healthy, safe and nutritious food, emphasizing local production and long-term sustainability.

Solving issues of nutrition will lead to a more healthy, happy and harmonious life for the people, as well as contribute to every country’s development. With this belief in mind we declare to do the following:

Develop law and policies around food and nutrition.

One of the most effective ways to decrease micronutrient deficiency among the population is food fortification. Foods that people consume daily should be fortified with essential micronutrients.

It is important to strengthen the law and policies around food and nutrition for children in particular

Using price controls and other policies we must encourage production of certain micronutrient-rich foods, and to discourage the production of foods that are harmful to health.

Consider the nutritional impact of other, seemingly unrelated laws and policies.

Strengthen partnerships and cooperation between different sectors, thereby increasing possibilities for improving public health status through nutrition.

Strengthen the capacity for nutrition research, monitoring, and human resources in central Eurasian countries

Regional reference laboratories should increase their capacity, increase communication with one another, and make use of new technologies.

Nutritional training must be improved at all levels of the public health professions.

National and regional nutrition databases should be established to improve information flow among the region's countries.

Provide education and consulting to the general population to enhance nutrition knowledge.

Educational efforts must integrate traditional knowledge and practices with more modern international understanding.

Provide scientific information to the general population, specific to various age and sex groups, regarding the role of nutrition in disease prevention.

Increase investment to improve nutrition status.

To improve the nutrition status of populations, governments must work intensively to develop and implement legislation, coupled with policies to provide technical support and promote investment.

Form a health database and design dietary recommendations for the Mongolian people tailored to their needs and culture.

Create a national health database that contains information on macronutrient and micronutrient status, intake, and food composition among subpopulations based on geographical, traditional, climate, occupation, gender and age characteristics, upon which dietary recommendations will be designed.

Organize a Central Eurasian Nutrition Forum annually to improve collaboration among Central Eurasian countries to improve nutrition status.

Organize the 2nd Central Eurasian Nutrition Forum to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan or another city of the Central Eurasian region interested to host the event. To enhance collaboration among Central Eurasian countries, it is important to use the forum to initiate joint research and to submit joint proposals to donor organizations.

Join the “Zero TB Initiative” to stop TB in Mongolia and Central Asia

Ulaanbaatar city has officially announced its joining of the Zero TB Initiative which was conceived by Harvard Medical School. By joining the initiative, Ulaanbaatar city will be able to obtain access to Zero TB Initiative's best practices, which have been implemented successfully in other cities around the world. Next, other cities in the Central Eurasian region should join the initiative.

CENTRAL EURASIAN NUTRITION SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS