

FDA JOINS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO COMMEMORATE “WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY”

The Food and Drugs Authority joined other stakeholders to Celebrate World no Tobacco Day today. The Theme of the Celebration is “Tobacco, a threat to development”.

The Food and Drugs Authority (Ghana) is mandated by the Tobacco Control Provisions in Part Six of the Public Health Act 2012 (Act 851) to regulate the use of tobacco in Ghana. In line with this, the Government of Ghana, in 2016, passed a new legislative instrument (L.I 2247) to back this purpose and empower the FDA to carry out its mandate in order to reduce continually and substantially the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke in an attempt to protect the people against all the health hazards associated with tobacco use.

The Tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the World has ever faced. It kills nearly Six million (6,000,000) people yearly and more than five million (5,000,000) of those deaths are direct results from tobacco use. Whilst over six hundred thousand (600,000) are due to non-smokers also known as passive smokers being exposed to second hand smoke. Tobacco is extraordinarily dangerous to the Human Health and highly damaging to National economies. In whichever way tobacco is smoked, either as a cigarette, Pipe, Cigar, Shisha, electronic cigarettes or by smokeless cigarettes which includes chewing or snuffing, the smoker is not exempted from the many associated negative effects tobacco causes.

The FDA has a vision to create a Tobacco free society and to foster individual, community and Government responsibility to prevent tobacco use by enabling multisectorial participation in tobacco control in line with Article 3 and 4 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The FDA therefore, is committed to using the smoke free provisions in the tobacco Control Measures and Tobacco Control Regulations to reduce social acceptability of tobacco use, promote cessation, help users to quit and prevent initiation of tobacco use especially among the youth thus improving the quality of the life of the Ghanaian Citizens.

Amongst other awardees, Mrs. Olivia Boateng, the Head of Tobacco and Substances of Abuse Department of the FDA won the WHO Director –General Special Recognition Award. The award was in recognition of her hard work and accomplishments in the area of Tobacco Control in Ghana through the FDA.



Mrs. Olivia Boateng Receiving Her Award from the WHO Country Representative

Present at this year's celebration were The Deputy Minister of Health who represented the Minister of Health, WHO Country Representative, The Chief Executive Officer of the FDA, Director of the Ghana Health Service, representatives from VALD, Ministry of Finance, The Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, the Ghana Police Service and other civil society organizations.