Bali Declaration – Good Oral Health as Investment in Children’s Future

The 7th Asian Conference of Oral Health Promotion for School Children (ACOHPSC), September 12-14, 2013, Bali, Indonesia

The participants of the 7th Asian Conference of Oral Health Promotion for School Children, coming from 21 countries.

Recognize:
- That oral diseases, particularly dental caries, are major public health problems in the Asian region and that the burden of disease in children results in significant negative impacts on their health and growth, as well as their social and emotional wellbeing;
- That available resources and capacities for school oral health vary among countries of the region; and
- That oral health is an integral part of general health and wellbeing;

Recommend:
- The integration of oral health promotion and prevention in all policies and activities related to school health, in the wider school setting, including preschools/kindergartens, as well as within the surrounding communities;
- Intensified interprofessional and intersectoral collaboration to address dental caries in children from an early age, leading to healthy lifelong behaviours and improvements in oral health;
- The integration of oral health promotion and prevention in schools in the context of emerging regional and national action plans for prevention and control of NCDs; and
- The development and promotion of innovative workforce models using a team approach and involving mid-level providers, such as dental therapists or dental
nurses, as well as clear roles and responsibilities of the health, education and other related sectors, as well as parents and communities;

**Urge governments, professional organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders:**

- To prioritise oral health of children wherever possible in planning for health program;
- To use approaches with best-possible evidence and cost-effectiveness in oral health promotion and prevention;
- To focus on simple, sustainable, and scalable approaches to school oral health;
- To increase the population exposure to appropriate fluorides, in particular through efforts to make high quality fluoride toothpaste available and affordable for all;
- To promote lifelong twice-daily brushing with fluoride toothpaste starting as soon as the first primary teeth erupt; and
- To develop oral health indicators that are integrated in national health surveillance systems and contribute to the achievement of national health goals.

*Adopted by the participants of the 7th Asian Conference of Oral Health Promotion for School Children, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 14 September 2013.*