

The 2nd National Alcohol Conference on Alcohol: Evidence-Based Impacts and Interventions

Center for Alcohol Studies in cooperation with various partners organized the 2nd National Alcohol Conference on Alcohol: Evidence-based impacts and interventions on 13-14 December 2006 at the Ramagardens Hotel, Bangkok. Around 600 participants from diverse organizations e.g. NGOs., government sectors, communities, and religious representation participated the conference. They proposed the 8 suggestions to the government as follows:

1. The Public society and the government must clearly recognize that alcoholic beverages, in any form, are not ordinary goods. Alcohol consumption results in many serious problems e.g. health problem, domestic violence, and social problem. As a result, the government must create the effective measures to control the harmful use of alcohol.
2. The government must pay attention on the control and the solution on alcohol influencing youth and adolescent who is the national resource.
3. The government must pay attention on proved policies, namely increasing tax on alcoholic beverage, ad ban control, minimum age of purchase, alcohol breathe test, and patient investigation and assistance, that are high effective and low cost.
4. The government should push total ad ban policy forward. The conference called for the Council of State finding the eligible solution on the law, and realizing the intention for protecting youth from alcohol.
5. The participants strongly support the cabinet, and the Legislative Assembly to push forward the draft act of legislation on Alcohol Control, and hopefully expect that the law will be completely drafted very soon.
6. Ministry of Finance should strengthen the increase tax on alcohol policy, and limit the alcohol sale and producer license policy in order to reduce the alcohol consumption among Thai, especially the low-income person, and youth. In addition, the ministry should organize the budget from excise tax on local alcoholic beverage to solve and control problem from harmful use of alcohol in the region.
7. The government and other related organizations should take roles to drive the policy on controlling problem form alcohol abuse in the national and international level, especially considering to exclude alcoholic beverage from

Free Trade Agreement (FTA). It is due to FTA dropping the price of alcoholic beverage which persuade youth and adolescence to consume alcohol.

8. The member network from every part should strongly collaborate and create other further measures to minimize the problem from harmful use of alcohol.

All of the suggestions come from the academic evidence concerning the responsibility to the society. They confirm to encourage the Minister of Public Health, the Prime Minister, the cabinet, and the Legislative Assembly to show their moral brave driving the happiness among Thai community.