



SINGAPORE, 24 July 2009

HSA UPDATES

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HSA UPDATES NO 9 /2009

HSA CIGARETTE TESTING LABORATORY DESIGNATED A WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR TOBACCO TESTING AND RESEARCH

The Health Sciences Authority’s (HSA) Cigarette Testing Laboratory under its Applied Sciences Group has been newly designated a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Tobacco Testing and Research for a four-year term.

Leading Laboratory in the Field of Tobacco Research & Testing

2 This is an honour as HSA's Cigarette Testing Laboratory is the first testing Laboratory in the Western Pacific region to be designated by WHO as a collaborating centre in the area of tobacco testing and research.

3 Dr Antoon Opperhuizen, Head, Laboratory for Health Protection Research and Head, WHO Collaborating Centre for Tobacco Product Regulation and Control, in his congratulatory note to the HSA Cigarette Testing Laboratory remarked: “Your institute is now recognised as one of the leading laboratories in the field of tobacco research and testing within governmental organisations worldwide and one of the eight collaborating centres of WHO on tobacco.”

(For the list of WHO Collaborating Centres, please access WHO website at http://apps.who.int/whocc/List.aspx?cc_title=Tobacco&)

Partner in WHO Tobacco-Free Initiative

4 HSA Cigarette Testing Laboratory has been actively involved in many WHO Tobacco-Free Initiative activities, particularly in the development of testing and validation methods for global tobacco regulation. Apart from participating in the WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network as an expert in the field of tobacco testing, HSA Cigarette Testing Laboratory has also been training other national laboratories. This training supports WHO’s effort to establish worldwide industry-independent tobacco

laboratories in all WHO regions so as to carry out the full control on tobacco products under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

5 Said HSA's Dr Paul Chui, Group Director, Applied Sciences Group, "HSA is excited to add impetus to the global fight against tobacco usage through our collaborative work in tobacco analysis with WHO. We are pleased to contribute to building capabilities not just for our nation, but also within the WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network."

Scope

6 As a WHO Collaborating Centre for Tobacco Testing and Research, HSA Cigarette Testing Laboratory serves the following terms of reference:

- i. To provide technical support in the development of regional testing capabilities in the control of tobacco products
- ii. To provide technical training on tobacco content analysis and emissions measurement
- iii. To develop testing methodologies on carcinogenic and genotoxic smoke constituents
- iv. To collaborate and contribute within the tobacco network and collaborate with WHO Tobacco-Free Initiative in building capabilities for the testing laboratories in relation to the WHO FCTC and WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network specifically.

Going Forward

7 To provide further momentum to the global efforts to reverse the tobacco epidemic, HSA's Cigarette Testing Laboratory will intensify collaboration with WHO, contribute actively at scientific and technical platforms, and foster leadership in building scientific and testing capabilities worldwide.



HSA scientist conducting tobacco analysis at HSA Cigarette Testing Laboratory, donned in a safety suit complete with head-to-top protector and respirator

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▪ **About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services, Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. It operates the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, securing the nation's blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit <http://www.hsa.gov.sg/>.

▪ **About HSA's Applied Sciences Group**

The Applied Sciences Group of HSA represents the national forensic medical and scientific, and analytical laboratory expertise that supports regulatory and other compliance agencies in the administration of justice and the safeguarding of public health.

▪ **About HSA's Cigarette Testing Laboratory, Applied Sciences Group**

The Cigarette Testing Laboratory of HSA's Applied Sciences Group provides analytical services, consultancy and training on tobacco products testing to government organisations and law enforcement agencies. It also serves as a reference laboratory to the Tobacco Regulation Unit in the Health Products Regulation Group, which is HSA's regulatory arm.

- **About HSA Updates**

The “HSA Updates” seeks to provide current information, in a consistent and accurate manner, on topics of public interest. For all issues of HSA Updates, please visit www.hsa.gov.sg, click “News & Events”, and select “HSA Updates”.

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