

Oral Health

Through the activities of Primary Oral Health Care Project, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization, fluoridated tooth pastes and tooth brushes were distributed to primary schools to initiate school-based toothbrushing programmes.

Realizing the fact that appropriate and consistent fluoride exposure is the utmost important in promoting oral health and to prevent dental caries in population groups, an advocacy process to promote availability and affordability of fluoride toothpastes has commenced since 2000.

Myanmar has 25 different brands of fluoride toothpastes produced by 7 local industries and 67% of the produce was tested to be efficacious to prevent dental caries. The Oral Health Unit had already developed the criteria for labeling requirements and user-instruction in Myanmar language, and has been conducting meetings with manufacturers to be in effect in the near future.

While promotive and preventive measures are being emphasized to promote the oral health status of Myanmar, curative services were not being left, neglected. Newly graduated dentists have been posted in hospitals, school health teams, and urban health centres countrywide. By first quarter 2009, 777 dental professionals were in the public sector to provide dental care for Myanmar. Research and surveys to develop fluoride map of Myanmar, dental fluorosis mapping for Myanmar and scientific documentation of advocacy process are also in progress with the Oral Health Unit.

