



# Ceremony of Prevention of Tobacco Dependence project (PAD) was held in Varamin

The WHO Representative meets PADYARs during the ceremonies

25th May 2018

With participation of *Dr Yousefi* the Governor of *Varamin* district, *Dr Mahmoudi* Friday Prayer Imam, *Professor Masjedi* Secretary General of Iranian Anti-Tobacco Association, Mr. Valizadeh, Head of the National Tobacco Control Secretariat, local authorities, teachers, students and their families, a ceremony was held to celebrate the second anniversary of launching the PAD project. The Prevention of Tobacco Dependence project “PAD<sup>1</sup>” is designed by the Iranian Anti-Tobacco Association (IATA) and is implemented jointly in collaboration with ministry of education in Iran.

The project aims to reduce the use of tobacco products at schools based on the peer-peer education approach. Up to the date, more than 4800 students have been trained as volunteers (*Padyar*<sup>2</sup>) who transferred the message to their friends and family members.



From left: Mr Valizadeh, Dr Ranjbar, Dr Hamelmann, Dr Mahmoudi, with other local authorities



Artworks of Students are shown during the exhibition

*Dr. Christoph Hamelmann* the World Health Organization Representative in the I.R. Iran attended the event and visited a side exhibition focusing on current tobacco control initiatives in the district of Varamin.

He made a remark highlighting the theme of World No Tobacco Day 2018 that is “tobacco and heart disease” and encourages physicians, health workers, and health local volunteers to educate and raise public awareness regarding the link between tobacco and heart diseases.

Moreover, he asked the public to make every effort to reduce the health risks to their heart by quitting tobacco, avoiding its use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

In the end, he acknowledged PAD given it is focusing on avoiding initiation of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke particularly in adolescents. He mentioned that PAD can be a solution to address increasing trend of smoking in adolescents in the country and WHO is ready to provide technical support on evaluation, documentation and scale-up of the project.

<sup>1</sup> پاد in Persian, as abbreviation for *Prevention of Tobacco Use*

<sup>2</sup> *Assistant to the Guardian*