

Urgent Request from the FCA.

Every country ratifying FCTC is trying to prevent its own people from the harm of tobacco smoke. However, Japan is not the case. It is a widely accepted science that separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke (conclusion of the Report of US Surgeon General, 2006). We urgently request Japanese Government understand this fact, and makes a law of “passive smoking prohibition” as soon as possible.

(Background)

Japan is one of the most undeveloped countries in the world in terms of smoking restrictions at public places.

Although Japan has ratified FCTC in 2004 as the first 40 countries, she is far behind most countries in the world. There is no enforcing law preventing people in Japan from a passive smoking. Article 25 of the Health Promotion Law has been effective since May 1, 2003. However, it is only recommending a separation of smokers from non-smokers, and many employees are still suffering from passive smoking at indoor workplaces, restaurants, bars and so on. Even an employee under 20 years is allowed to work in a smoke dense atmosphere.

Japanese Government especially labor part of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare is going to decide by the end of November this year whether separation of smokers from non-smokers is enough, or smoking prohibition in every working place is inevitable. A public hearing was performed. Most people remarked a necessity to ban smoking in the working places, however, representatives of the service industry or tobacco growers union which are manipulated by the tobacco industry strongly opposed to a total ban, complaining they will go bankruptcy once total ban is adopted.

So, international civil society must stand up to lend a hand to help Japanese people against a harm of tobacco smoke.

We strongly request to FCA call attention on this matter known to the world, so that Japanese government will realize what should be done in legislation of smoking ban in working place and restaurant.