

We have submitted the documents of our requirement for FCTC to Japanese Government on 16th January, 2003, toward the 16th (final) inter-governmental negotiation meeting to be held on 17th through 28th February, 2003 in Geneva, as follows.

Messrs: Japanese Government Delegation for WHO-FCTC

16th January, 2003

Japan Coalition on a Smoke-free Environment for Kids

1chome-21-1-702, Tamatsukuri, Chuouku,

Osaka 540-0004, JAPAN

Tel,Fax +81-6-6765-5020

url <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~muen/smokefree.htm>

Plea for the Preparation of Severe International Treaty at WHO-FCTC

We have released our opinion and proposal for protecting people of the world from the hazard of tobacco smoking at the public hearing of WHO-FCTC in October, 2000, and delivered the same to the government delegation. As the inter-governmental negotiation meeting of WHO-FCTC is now scheduled to be held in Geneva next month, we would like to propose that Japanese Government should strongly demand the following points so that they can be adopted into the international treaty.

The proposals of requirements:

- 1 . We require and propose that the international treaty should be ratified to include a clause that requires every country to prohibit the smoking of minors, as enacted in Japan by “Minors Smoking Prohibition Act”, and to enforce strict punishment for the illegal sales of tobacco to minors.
- 2 . We require and propose that the treaty should be ratified to include a clause that enforce the early removal and prohibition of the vending machines, through which minors can freely buy tobaccos. Since the “vending machines” enable minors to buy cigarettes easily, such machine vending is apparently in violation of the “Minors Smoking Prohibition Act” in Japan, and tobacco industry is now trying to adopt the vending machines installed with age-identification function so that they can get over the illegality.

- 3 . We require and propose that the international treaty should be ratified to include a clause that promotes the gradual raise of tobacco tax on a large scale to make sure that minors can hardly buy cigarettes, thereby preventing minors from smoking, and consequently decreasing the population of smokers. The increased levies should be appropriated for the costs of the protection measures against smoking (especially for minors), or for the support of the tobacco leaf growers and retailers when they change their employment.
- 4 . We require and propose that the international treaty should be ratified to include a clause that internationally common and strict expression shall be applied to the health warning labels of cigarettes, telling the truth about the harms of tobacco (the harms of both active and passive smoking), such as “Smoking makes you dependent on nicotine of tobacco”, “Smoking increases a risk factor of lung cancer”, “Smoking increases a risk factor of heart disease and cardiovascular disease”, and “Smoking by pregnant women increases a risk factor of low-weight baby birth”, accompanied with appropriate illustrations.
- 5 . We strongly advocate the prohibition of use of the cigarette brands, such as “Light” and “Mild”, because such bands give the illusion or misunderstanding on not only smokers but also on non-smokers that the tobacco products with such brands are less harmful, containing lower tar and nicotine, which are the major elements of tobacco, and apparently this is an “unfair indication”. (There is not much differences between the ingredients of the brand tobacco leaves of such brands and other brands. The fact is merely that the amount of the indicated ingredients is made smaller by making pinholes in the filter, thereby thinning the amount of nicotine and tar that smokers inhale. As a result, smokers tend to smoke the “Light” or “Mild” brand cigarettes much more than the other brand cigarettes, to compensate their thirst for nicotine and tar. Consequently, the amount of the secondhand smoke increases, contributing to the increased risks of passive smoking.
- 6 . We require and propose that the international treaty should be ratified to include a clause that prohibits tobacco advertising in any sort of the events or through mass media, as well as the sponsorship of tobacco companies on any sort of the events.
- 7 . We require and propose that the international treaty should be ratified to include a clause that each country should prepare such a law that can oblige every country in the world to protect the health of its own people from the hazard of passive smoking. Because of the globalization, a treaty that can enforce every country in

the world to prepare such a law is indispensable.

- 8 . We require and propose that the international treaty should be ratified to include a clause that the tobacco industry should be privatized completely, and the jurisdiction of the matters concerning tobacco should be transferred to the Ministry of Welfare, that is in charge of national health.**