



Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT)

6th Asia Pacific Conference on Tobacco or Health

26-29 October 2001, Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Declaration of APACT 2001

The Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT) recognizes that tobacco use is a major cause of death in the Asia-Pacific region:

The current pandemic of tobacco-related diseases is causing tremendous harm and an excessive burden on the economy.

Everyone, especially children, has the right to live in a tobacco-smoke free environment;

Of all the children alive today in Asia, a conservative estimate is that at least 150 million will eventually be killed by tobacco;

There is a need for an urgent effort to contain this pandemic of tobacco-related diseases as well as its terrible effects on the environment and the economy. If it is to effectively prevent young people from smoking, it must be a comprehensive programme directed at the entire community;


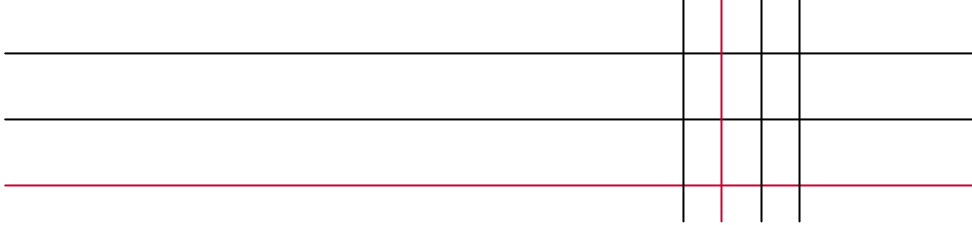
Therefore, the 432 participants from 34 countries to this 6th APACT Conference on Tobacco or Health, including youth, health professionals, educators, media, workers, women and community groups, legislators, government officials and other interested groups, hereby advocate a comprehensive regional tobacco control policy and recommend:

1. An end to all tobacco advertising, promotion, sponsorship and other tobacco marketing activities, and the exclusion of the tobacco industry from all aspects of youth education and public health policy making.
2. *Increases in taxes* to greater than 100% of the cost of the tobacco, and that enough budgets from the increased tax are allocated to tobacco prevention and other health-related activities.
3. Protection of youth and other nonsmokers from exposure to second hand smoke in all indoor public places and workplaces.
4. Regulation and control of tobacco products as hazardous substances.
5. Cessation programmes which are accessible and effective for smokers including those needed for youth and children.
6. Strong public education programmes to increase awareness of health risks, including damage to sexual health, through schools, community organizations and the mass media.



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7. Support for the development and implementation of a strong WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
 8. Holding tobacco companies accountable for past wrongdoing through litigation or other action and holding them responsible for breaches of legislative measures designed to reduce tobacco consumption in young people, as well as personal injuries caused to smokers.

In addition, the 432 participants from 34 countries to this 6th APACT Conference on Tobacco or Health give full support to Hong Kong's current legislative proposals, particularly the recommendations for 100% smoke-free workplaces and restaurants.

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