

DataCol Extranet: Report of NGO observers to COP 2020

Section: Contact Details

* Name of organization

* Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance

* Mailing Address

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* Contact person responsible for the report

* Edgardo Ulysses N. Dorotheo

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Section: General Information

* Please indicate if your organization would like to retain it's status as observer to the Conference of the Parties

* Yes

* Does your organizations mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control?

* Yes

* If yes, please specify:

* Working together to accelerate effective implementation of the WHO FCTC to attain the SDGs in ASEAN countries

* Does your organization have regional branches to enhance activities in different regions or groups of countries?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* SEATCA engages with civil society partners in eight of the ten ASEAN countries. SEATCA staff are also citizens of and/or based in Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand.

* Does your organization regularly convene meetings or conferences for its membership?

* Yes

* If yes, is tobacco control covered in these meetings?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* SEATCA convenes regular advisory committee meetings and regional workshops dealing with implementation of various articles of the FCTC.

Section: Participation in WHO FCTC meetings and contributions to other tobacco control related events

* Please indicate the meetings organized by the Convention Secretariat at which your organization was represented (sessions of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of intersessional groups, NGO meetings, etc.):

- * - Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP8), Nov 2018
- 2nd Working Group meeting to develop the Medium-term Strategic Framework to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC, March 2018 in London
- FCTC needs assessment missions in Myanmar and Philippines, May 2018
- South-South and Triangular Cooperation workshop on multi-sectoral coordination for FCTC implementation organized by the Philippine Department of Health in cooperation with the Brazil Ministry of Health and WHO FCTC Secretariat, April 2018

* Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control attended by your organization:

- * - World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH 2018), March 2018
- Smoke-free Summit in Iloilo City, Philippines, April 2018
- Conference on Tobacco Control, May 2018, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Asia-Pacific Conference on Tobacco or Health (APACT), September 2018 in Bali, Indonesia
- 6th Regional Meeting of Smoke-free Cities in the Asia-Pacific Region with the theme "Promoting Tourism Through Smoke-free Environments", November 2018 in Hoi An, Vietnam
- Workshop on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Decision on Australia's plain packaging law, organized by the McCabe Center for Law and Cancer, November 2018, Melbourne
- WHO regional consultation on Regional Action Plan for Tobacco Control in the Western Pacific (2020-2024), Manila, 2019
- WHO-SEARO Regional Consultation for Strengthening TAPS ban, Kathmandu, Nepal, September 2019
- WHO meeting on Plain (Standardized) Packaging, December 2019 in Bangkok

Section: Your organization's activities to support implementation of the WHO FCTC:

* Article 5 (General obligations)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - participated as consultant in the development of WHO WPRO's Regional Action Plan for Tobacco Control in the Western Pacific (2020-2024)
- provided technical assistance to countries in the EMRO and SEARO regions to develop their own Tobacco Industry Interference Index reports, 2018 and 2019
- ongoing monitoring and counteraction on TI interference and technical assistance for Article 5.3 through the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC), functioning as the Convention Secretariat's Knowledge Hub on Article 5.3

- published 2019 Global Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Index report (under GGTC), 2019 ASEAN TII Index report, and 2018 Asian TII Index report
- developed and disseminated information materials on the PMI-funded Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (FSFW)
- supported international campaign calling on WHO Executive Board to reject partnership with FSFW
- developed a Tobacco Industry Monitoring (TIM) regional (ASEAN) network
- Developed a report for WHO WPRO on state-owned enterprises (SOE) in China, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Thailand in implementing FCTC Art. 5.3
- maintaining a SEATCA Tobacco Watch website

 * Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco)?

* Yes

 * If yes, please provide details:

- * - updated 2019 SEATCA Tobacco Tax Index, a monitoring report on implementation of FCTC Article 6 and its Guidelines
- with country partners, carried out cigarette price and retailer surveys and research on cigarette affordability among youth in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam
- collaboration with WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, WHO Tobacco Economics Unit, and the FCTC Art. 6 Knowledge Hub, facilitating technical assistance and tax modeling for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar
- collaborated with Philippine government and civil society partners (sin tax coalition) to build policymakers' and public support for higher tax rates on tobacco products, ENDS, and HTP
- research study on tobacco leaf importation to provide additional evidence to Indonesia MOF to further strengthen tax policy with less dependence on tobacco revenues
- facilitated tobacco tax workshops for Myanmar parliamentarians and study visits of Myanmar policy makers to Thailand and Philippines for capacity building on tobacco taxation and sustainable financing for tobacco control
- assisted to organize a national tax workshop, October 2018 in Vientiane, Lao PDR
- ongoing technical support to Lao PDR Ministry of Health and Ministry of Planning and Investment and related ministries to end the Investment License Agreement with Lao Tobacco Ltd (LTL)
- series of consultation meetings in 2018 for a tobacco tax roadmap (2019-2023) in Cambodia
- technical assistance provided on monitoring of tobacco tax policy implementation (including use of earmarked revenues) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Vietnam
- Providing technical assistance to country teams in reviewing, updating, and finalizing research reports and policy briefs, as well as media advocacy for tax reform initiatives
- participated in tobacco tax conference calls for Indonesia and Vietnam with international partners (World Bank, Bloomberg partners, and World Health Organization) to improve coordination on in-country tobacco taxation activities

 * Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?

* Yes

 * If yes, please provide details:

- * - Work with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Members States (ASEAN Health Cluster 1) on smoke-free activities including the SEATCA-ASEAN Smoke-free Award, which was approved in late 2019
- supported implementation of smoke-free airports in Lao PDR

- provided technical assistance to 10 Smoke-free Tourism projects with seed grants from WHO WPRO, 2019
- Organized the 7th Asia Pacific Smoke-Free Meeting ("Smoke-free: Linking cities to advance tourism and preserve our heritage"), November 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Organized the 6th Regional Meeting of Smoke-free Cities in the Asia-Pacific Region ("Promoting Tourism Through Smoke-free Environments"), November 2018 in Hoi An, Vietnam
- Malaysia Health Promotion Board's smoke-free initiatives assessment in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 2018
- Provided technical support to strengthen Myanmar's Smoke-free University program, 2018-2019
- Coordinating and organized the Smoke-free Cities Asia-Pacific Network (SCAN) which involves local governments from different ASEAN and Asia Pacific countries
- Managing the SCAN Facebook page and the Smoke-free ASEAN Website
- Disseminating a Smoke-free Toolkit and the Smoke-free Index

* Article 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco product) and/or Article 10 (Regulation of tobacco product disclosures)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - Co-organized with WHO WPRO a regional meeting on Articles 9 and 10 on reducing the attractiveness of tobacco products, March 2019, Singapore
- Organized a regional workshop in Bangkok on ENDS and HTPs, Oct 2019

* Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - provided technical assistance for development of third set of PHW templates in Philippines, 2019
- assisted Cambodia and Indonesia for rotation of PHW in 2018.
- provided letters of support to Singapore on the proposal to introduce standardized packaging of tobacco products in 2019
- issued public statements to support the Thailand Ministry of Public Health as the first ASEAN member state to introduce standardized packaging
- updated SEATCA's ASEAN Packaging and Labelling Index report, 2019
- maintaining a pictorial health warning image bank with endorsement of the ASEAN Member States for copyright-free sharing of images; facilitated image sharing requests from Ethiopia, Singapore and Saudi Arabia

* Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - providing updated news and information on FCTC implementation through the SEATCA Online Resource Center (www.seatca.org), SEATCA Facebook page, Smoke-free Cities Asia-Pacific Network (SCAN) Facebook page, and SEATCA In-Touch e-newsletter

* Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - coordinated cross-country research on how the tobacco industry utilizes retailers' incentives to circumvent existing TAPS ban in Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam
- updated our Tobacco Industry CSR Report
- updated (2019) a FCTC Article 13 Index report on implementation of comprehensive ban on TAPS in ASEAN

* Article 14 (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)?

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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* Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - updated (2019) our report on "Measures to Control the Tobacco Supply Chain: A Review of Fiscal Markings, Track and Trace Mechanisms, and Licensing Systems in the ASEAN Region"

* Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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* Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) and/or Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - updated our report on Child Labor in Tobacco Farming in ASEAN
- Information on alternative livelihoods is included in SEATCA's Tobacco Control Atlas

* Article 19 (Liability)?

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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* Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

- * - technical assistance on tobacco control to the ASEAN Health Cluster 1

- published the fourth edition of the ASEAN Tobacco Control Atlas, which covers major aspects of FCTC implementation in the region
- published the 2018 ASEAN FCTC Score Card to assess implementation of selected provisions of the WHO FCTC
- providing updated news and information and various technical resources on FCTC implementation through the SEATCA Online Resource Center (www.seatca.org) and e-newsletters
- acted as resource persons for various workshops and other fora on tobacco control in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

 * Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise)?
 * Yes

 * If yes, please provide details:

- * - technical assistance provided in the development of FCTC-compliant tobacco control legislation and related policies in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam
- technical assistance provided to the ASEAN Health Cluster 1 (healthy lifestyles)
- organized and facilitated study visits as reported above

Section: Other relevant activities to support the work of the WHO FCTC

 * Please provide any other relevant information:

* SEATCA continues to promote the use of tobacco tax revenues as a sustainable source of funding for tobacco control and FCTC implementation (FCTC Article 6 and Article 26) and facilitates study visits for government officials and civil society to learn from the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (Thaihealth).

SEATCA will continue to work with government, civil society partners, and WHO to prepare Parties for COP-9 this November in the Netherlands.

 * Please attach any other relevant file(s)

Section: Declarations

 * Please confirm that your organization does not receive, has not received and will not receive in the future, either directly or indirectly, any financial or other contributions or assistance from the tobacco industry or its affiliates. Please also confirm that neither your members nor your partners are affiliated directly or indirectly with the tobacco industry or its affiliates or those furthering the interests of the tobacco industry.

* Yes

 * By electronic signature I confirm that the above information is accurate and completed to the best of our abilities.

* Edgardo Ulysses N. Dorotheo, 21 Feb 2020

 * Please confirm that the activities of your organization are in conformity with the 17th and 18th preambular paragraphs and Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

* Yes

