

Reaccreditation report of NGO observers to COP10

Survey response 1

A. Contact details

A1. Name of organization
SOUTHEAST ASIA TOBACCO CONTROL ALLIANCE
A6. Website of organization
https://www.seatca.org

B. General information

B1. Please indicate if your organization would like to retain its status as observer to the Conference of the Parties
Yes
B2. Does your organization's mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control?
Yes
B3. If yes, please specify:
Working together to achieve the tobacco endgame by denormalizing the tobacco industry and advancing effective tobacco control policies and their enforcement
B4. Does your organization have regional branch(es) to enhance activities in different regions or groups of countries?
Yes
B5. If yes, please provide details
SEATCA engages primarily with civil society partners in eight of the ten ASEAN countries and all governments in the ASEAN. SEATCA has also initiated and supported South-to-South cooperation for tobacco control, cooperating with the African Tobacco Control Alliance, to assist the AFRO region. SEATCA engages with government and civil society organizations in the wider Asia Pacific, particularly on smoke-free policy and tobacco industry interference, including as a member of the Global Alliance for Tobacco Control. SEATCA staff are also citizens of and/or based in Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand.
B6. Does your organization regularly convene meetings or conferences for its membership?
Yes
B7. If yes, is tobacco control covered in these meetings?
Yes
B8. If yes, please provide details
SEATCA engages in annual strategic planning and core advisory group meetings to fine-tune its approach to tobacco control, depending on the evolving situations in the areas it serves. It also engages in ad hoc capacity-building meetings for its membership, on emerging issues in tobacco control.

C. Participation in WHO FCTC meetings and contributions to other tobacco control related events

C1. 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.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) Nov 2021 - Informal Meetings of the Convention Secretariat with NGO Observers to the COP - Meeting on the Tobacco Control Investment Fund (6 September 2022) - Webinars related to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, 2021 - Webinar (resource persons) with Organic Intelligence on Strategic Communication for Tobacco Control, 23-24 March 2022 and 5-6 April 2022
C2. Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control attended by your organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Conference on Tobacco or Health (virtual) Leadership Summit, October 2021 - Workshop on the Implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Tobacco Control in the Western Pacific (2020-2030) and Preparation for the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC, September 2021 (Virtual) - UN-led and World Bank-led missions to Lao PDR, 2022 - ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting (Side Event on the Launching of the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award), Bali, Indonesia, May 2022 - 8th Regional Meeting of Smoke-free Cities in the Asia-Pacific Region, October 2022, Baguio City, Philippines - World Cancer Congress, Geneva, October 2022

D. Your organization's activities to support implementation of the WHO FCTC

D1. Article 5 (General obligations)?
Yes
D2. If yes, please provide details
<p>SEATCA supports Article 5.1 and 5.2 through engagement with tobacco control focal points and promoting sustainable financing for tobacco control via an online resource hub, knowledge-sharing events, and targeted capacity-building activities. SEATCA has supported Article 5.3 implementation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> facilitating the development of Rules of Engagement and Codes of Conduct by key government agencies to ensure protection of the policy development process against industry interference. - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producing the Asian and ASEAN Tobacco Industry Interference Indices in 2020 and 2021 which documented how the industry undermined policy and the loopholes in the bureaucracy that facilitated these tactics. Communication materials were prepared and uploaded on SEATCA website and released to mainstream and social media. - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> holding a webinar for government officials and civil society to discuss best practices in Article 5.3 implementation, November 2020. - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> providing technical assistance to several countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand), to strengthen their legislation/administrative measures on Article 5.3.
D3. Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco)?
Yes
D4. If yes, please provide details
SEATCA supported initiatives for reforms to tax structures and raising tobacco taxes primarily in Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, and the Philippines.
D5. Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?
Yes
D6. If yes, please provide details
<p>SEATCA promotes the development of 100% smoke-free laws and the advancement of effective smoke-free implementation and enforcement. SEATCA supports the establishment of smoke-free networks and alliances for cities, heritage sites, tourist destinations, and universities. SEATCA also provides technical support to all ASEAN Member States including civil society organizations while leveraging mutual partnerships to generate new evidence and gain deeper insights to achieve stronger milestones in promoting a smoke-free environment.</p> <p>SEATCA organized the 8th Regional Meeting of Smoke-free Cities in the Asia-Pacific Region, October 2022, Baguio City, Philippines and maintains the Smoke-free Cities Asia Pacific Network (SCAN), the Smoke-free Heritage Sites and Cities Alliance (SHA), and the Global Alliance for Smoke-free Tourism (GAST).</p> <p>SEATCA has also advocated for and supports the ASEAN Smoke-free Award, which was launched in 2022.</p>
D7. Article 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco product) and/or Article 10 (Regulation of tobacco product disclosures)?
Yes

D8. If yes, please provide details
SEATCA engages in limited advocacy for evidence-based tobacco product regulation, particularly in the Philippines, where an industry-friendly Department of Trade and Industry acquired regulatory purview over e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products. SEATCA advocates for the reinstatement of the regulatory purview of the Food and Drug Administration over e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.
D9. Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?
Yes
D10. If yes, please provide details
<p>SEATCA curates and manages an image bank of pictorial health warnings to support implementation of tobacco product packaging and labeling regulations within ASEAN countries by facilitating the copyright-free use of these warning images.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> facilitated image sharing requests from WHO Cambodia and the Kazakhstan Ministry of Health in 2020, from Thailand Ministry of Public Health and Malaysia MOH in 2021, and from Singapore Health Promotion Board in 2022 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported the Ateneo School of Government - Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines and Singapore Health Promotion Board with high-resolution pictorial warnings from the Philippines and Thailand for research purposes in 2020 and 2021 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provided support to the Malaysia Ministry of Health by providing information on PHW implementation for cigars and other tobacco products in Myanmar and Thailand in preparation for Malaysia amending the current regulations to include PHW requirements on cigars and other tobacco products including heated tobacco products (HTPs) in 2020 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assisted the Philippines DOH in preparing its Administrative Order for pictorial warnings for ENDS and HTPs in 2021 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed PHW images (from the image bank) to Lao PDR and Cambodia MOH for consideration for the next rotation of PHWs in 2022 <p>SEATCA also advocates for and provides technical support for standardized packaging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provided technical support to review the draft Standardized Packaging Notification prepared by the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) in 2020 and 2021 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sent a letter of support to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on legislation for standardized (plain) packaging of tobacco products in 2020 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provided technical support to review the draft Standardized Packaging Bill prepared by ASH Philippines in 2020-2021 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sent letters of support to the Union Minister of Health (Myanmar) regarding the enforcement of standardized tobacco packaging originally scheduled by 10 April 2022 and provided technical support to People's Health Foundation Myanmar countering tobacco industry arguments calling to postpone the standardized packaging compliance date by sharing the experience from other countries in ASEAN in 2022 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provided technical support to MOH Lao PDR to advocate for standardized packaging in 2022 <p>SEATCA updated its Tobacco Packaging and Labelling Index: Implementation of Article 11 of WHO FCTC in ASEAN Countries in 2022.</p> <p>We also reviewed and provided input for the concept note of "Issuance and dissemination of One AMS Voice Commitment to support standardized packaging" prepared by Singapore MOH in 2023</p>
D11. Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)?
Yes
D12. If yes, please provide details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized tobacco control advocacy fellowship training for government and non-governmental representatives in 2021 and 2022 - Undertook social media campaigns to raise public awareness on various tobacco control issues - Facilitated and shared tobacco control videos of advocates in various ASEAN countries
D13. Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship)?
Yes
D14. If yes, please provide details
<p>SEATCA produced reports and provided technical and media support to several countries to strengthen bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship and advocate for plain/standardized packaging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual report on tobacco-related CSR activities were produced in 2020, 2021 and 2022 -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A report, "Today's Teen, Tomorrow's Customers" documented how the industry targets youth with e-cigarettes. This document was prepared to assist governments to implement COP7 and COP8 decisions on ENDS and HTPs. -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cambodia Ministry of Education was supported to ban CSR activities in educational institutions -<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information was provided to several countries to protect their ban on ENDS and HTPs and/or to help others in their efforts to put in place regulation of these products.
D15. Article 14 (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)
No

D16. If yes, please provide details
D17. Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?
No
D18. If yes, please provide details
D19. Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?
Yes
D20. If yes, please provide details
SEATCA advocates for a higher legal age for tobacco consumption (of at least 21 years old) in the Philippines. In Malaysia, SEATCA supported the calls for a generational endgame, facilitating high-level advocacy work to ensure that the generational endgame strategy of the previous parliament did not include relaxed regulations for e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.
D21. Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) and/or Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)?
No
D22. If yes, please provide details
D23. Article 19 (Liability)?
No
D24. If yes, please provide details
D25. Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information)?
Yes
D26. If yes, please provide details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Packaging Design Analysis to Support Standardised Packaging in the ASEAN" in 2020 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Today's teens, Tomorrow's customers: Baiting youths with new tobacco products to create a new generation of addicts in 2020 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the SEATCA Smoke-free Index: Implementation of Article 8 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in ASEAN Countries in 2020 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Tobacco Industry Interference in Tobacco Tax Policy in ASEAN Countries" in 2020 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published SEATCA Tobacco Industry Interference Index: Implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in ASEAN Countries, 2020. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the fifth edition of the ASEAN Tobacco Control Atlas, which covers major aspects of FCTC implementation in the region in 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the 2021 ASEAN FCTC Score Card to assess the implementation of selected provisions of the WHO FCTC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published SEATCA Tobacco Tax Index: Implementation of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Article 6 in ASEAN Countries, 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Whitewashing a harmful business: Review of tobacco industry's CSR activities in ASEAN" in 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published a handout of "Big tobacco targets national standard bodies to roll out new tobacco products" in 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published a handout of "Tobacco/e-cigarette industry and front groups distort human rights and consumer rights" in 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Lost Funds: A Study on the Tobacco Tax Revenue Gap in selected ASEAN countries" in 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published SEATCA Tobacco Packaging and Labelling Index: Implementation of Article 11 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in ASEAN Countries, 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Towards a Smoke-free ASEAN & Beyond: A Decade of Advancing a Genuine Smoke-free Future" in 2022. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Tobacco Industry Duplicity: Recycling an Old Marketing Code" in 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Banning Electronic Smoking Devices works: Lessons from Singapore for the ASEAN" in 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Success and challenge of banning new tobacco products: Hong Kong's experience" in 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published the report "Tobacco Charity Exposed: Review of the Tobacco Industry's CSR Activities in the ASEAN" in 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide updated news and information and various technical resources on FCTC implementation through the SEATCA Online Resource Center (www.seatca.org) and e-newsletters
D27. Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise)?
Yes

D28. If yes, please provide details

SEATCA facilitates knowledge and experience sharing among government and non-government advocates on various tobacco control issues, as well as a strong network of cooperation between subnational implementers of FCTC-compliant smoke-free policy through the Smoke-Free Cities Asia Pacific Network (SCAN).

E. Other relevant activities to support the work of the WHO FCTC

E1. Please provide any other relevant information

In cooperation with Thammasat University in Thailand, SEATCA established the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC), which currently serves as a Knowledge Hub on Article 5.3 for the WHO FCTC Secretariat.

E2. Please attach any other relevant file(s)

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F. Declarations

F1. 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, I can confirm

F2. By electronic signature I confirm that the above information is accurate and completed to the best of our abilities.

Executive Director: Ulysses Dorotheo, 28 February 2023

F3. 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, I confirm