



衛生署控煙辦公室
Tobacco Control Office
Department of Health



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Cover Story

Smoke-Free Olympics Expedited the Development of Tobacco-Control in China

Current Situation of Smoking in China

According to the China Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance 2002¹, 27.2% of Chinese aged 15 or above were smokers. Analyzed by sex, 50.9% of Chinese males and 2.28% of Chinese females in this age group were smokers.

In 2008, Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China published the "China Tobacco Control Report 2008"². According to the report, there were 350 million smokers, which accounted for approximately one-third of the world's smoking population and ranked the top in the world. Over one million people die of smoking-related diseases every year in China.

Furthermore, more than 540 million people were suffering from secondhand smoke, 180 million of which were children under 15. Over 100,000 people die of diseases related to secondhand smoke every year in China meanwhile.



If you would like to receive the Tobacco Control Bulletin by post / email*, please fill in the reply slip and fax it to 2575 8944, or by mail addressed 18/F & 25/F, Wu Chung House, 213, Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, to the Tobacco Control Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Contact No: _____

* Please delete the inappropriate.

History of Tobacco Control Regulation in China³

Over the past 20 years, China adopted a step by step approach and gradually refined its policy on the restriction of smoking in public areas. The chronological order is shown as follows:

Year	Tobacco Control Regulation
1987	The State Council announced the Regulations on Public Hygiene Management in public areas, and prohibit smoking in public areas
1991	The Ministry of Health published the implementation details of the Regulations on Public Hygiene Management, and prohibit smoking in 13 types of public premise, including theatres, cinemas, concert halls, music-and-tea house, discos, amusement games centres, coliseums, libraries, museums, art galleries, shopping malls, book stores and waiting rooms of public transportations.
1991	The Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Minors, was passed in the 7th Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, and stipulated that no person shall smoke in secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens and the classrooms, resting rooms, activity rooms, and any other rooms for minors of child care centres.
1995	The Beijing Municipal People’s Congress published the Regulation on Non-smoking Areas in Beijing, and stipulated no smoking areas in public places in Beijing .
1997	The National Patriotic Health Campaign Committee, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transportation and National Civil Aviation Bureau announced the Regulations on Non-smoke Public Transportation and the Waiting Areas, and stipulated further details on no-smoking areas in public transportation carriers and waiting areas.



Up to October, 2006, 154 out of 337 prefecture-level cities (including Beijing) in China have implemented local regulations on smoking prohibition in public areas, representing 45.7% of prefecture-level cities. However, in all local regulations, workplaces such as offices are not included in the no smoking areas. So far, there has not been any specific regulation on smoking prohibition in public areas in Mainland China as the “Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance” in Hong Kong. The regulations mentioned above are mainly articles or sub-rules of related, more general statutes.

Tobacco control efforts of China at international level⁴⁻⁵

During 2000 to 2003, with the permission of the State Council, a governmental organization formed by 12 national units (commissions and ministry) including the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc. supported and took part in the negotiation and drafting of the "Framework Convention on Tobacco Control" (FCTC). The FCTC aims at reducing smoking-related diseases and death through a comprehensive control over tobacco products.

On May 21, 2003, at the 56th World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, 192 member states (including China) adopted the FCTC. The People's Republic of China signed the FCTC on November 10, 2003. On August 28, 2005, the FCTC was ratified in the 17th Session of 10th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, making China the 89th country which ratified the FCTC. On October 13, 2005, China government held a kick off ceremony for the implementation of the FCTC. On January 9, 2006, The FCTC entered into effect in China.

In order to meet the requirements of the FCTC, the State Council approved to set up an implementing department based on the original governmental organization, to coordinate and implement the FCTC at national level in January, 2007.

All these actions show that China regards tobacco control as an importance issue and reflect China's determination and commitment under the framework of the FCTC and safeguard the health of all citizens. The FCTC has brought China opportunities and challenges on tobacco control work.

Smoke-free Olympics in China⁶

Smoke-free Olympics is originated from the Winter Olympics in Canada in 1988. In the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, the World Health Organization (WHO), Ministry of Health of Spain, Barcelona Organizing Committee for the Games and the municipal government of Barcelona jointly formed an international smoke-free Olympics team to implement a full smoking ban in the Barcelona Olympics. Since then, every Olympic Games is smoke-free and the host country will implement smoking ban and prohibit all tobacco-related advertisements during the Games in sport venues.

China committed to hold a smoke-free Olympics on April 20, 2004, when the Premier Wen Jiabao met the Director-general of WHO, Lee Jong-wook, and made this commitment. To realize the commitment, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) published the "Smoke-free Beijing Organizing Working Scheme (Draft)" in September, 2006, which consisted of 3 parts:

First, the core areas, i.e. the sport venues are smoke-free, and prohibit any tobacco commercial campaigns and sponsorships.

Second, the secondary areas, i.e. the hotels, restaurants, bars, cafes and entertainment venues, etc. in the Olympic Village are smoke-free.

Third, the peripheral areas, referring to the six co-hosting cities (Hong Kong, Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang, Qingdao, and Qinhuangdao) as well as Beijing, are "Tobacco-ads-free" cities. All hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues in these six cities must set up smoke-free zone and smoking is not allowed in parks, shopping malls and public transport areas.

The relevant government departments in Beijing initiated comprehensive tobacco control work towards the goal of "Smoke-free Olympics",. they also took this opportunity to establish a long-term management mechanism on smoking ban in public areas so as to promote health consciousness and safeguard public health.

The Regulations on Beijing's Non-smoking Public Areas ("the Regulation") was implemented on May 1, 2008. Based on the principle of "No Smoking Indoors", smoking is prohibited in all indoor areas of public places, workplaces and public transport carriers. The Regulation further extends the scope of non-smoking areas, identifies the duties of the person-in-charge of the public areas and refines management measures of smoking ban in public areas.

For those restaurants with smoking ban in part of the premises, the Regulation requires that no less than 50% of the total area of the restaurant should be designated as smoke-free zone. Premises contravening the Regulation will be fined from RMB 1,000 to RMB 5,000. For individuals the fine will be RMB 10. Besides, the setting up of smoking room or smoking zone is just a

transitional measure. With education and publicity, these measures will be adopted gradually.

Other hosting cities also adopt similar smoking ban measures. It can be seen that the development of local regulations on smoking ban have been expedited through the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. China, as the first country to host Olympic Games after the FCTC is effective draw the attention of the world. This smoke-free Olympics will set at example for developing countries on tobacco control. China also make an important progress on tobacco control through this event.



Reference:

1. *China Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance 2002*
2. *2008 China Tobacco Control Report*
3. *Beijing Expands Non-smoking Area, Implementation Faces Challenge, People's Daily. Editor Huang Weiqiang April 23, 2008.*
4. *Ministry of Health of People's republic of China website <http://www.moh.gov.cn/> (Read on July, 2008)*
5. *2007 China Tobacco Control Report*
6. *Smoke-free Olympics bring legitimate push to Australia, and will be an accelerator to China as well?. Chinanews Website, Editor: Song Fangcan*
7. *Beijing Patriotic Health Campaign Committee Website*
8. *Olympic Cities – The Official Website of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, <http://www.beijing2008.cn/news/olympiccities/> (Read on July, 2008)*

Sparing no effort in promoting smoke-free - Cheung Tak Hei

Kicking the Smoking Habit

It is delighting to see a person determined to quit smoking amid current global trend towards smoke-free. It is even better to see a person proactively promoting smoking cessation messages in the community for other smokers.



Mr Cheung, the chairperson of the Alliance for Patients' Mutual Help Organizations, is a good example. He is going to share with us his quitting experience. Let's share his interesting experience below:

TCO: *Firstly of all, can you tell us why you started smoking?*

Cheung: *I was working in the construction industry about 15 years ago. Many workers in construction sites were smokers then and it was normal to hand cigarettes to others. It will be embarrassing if you refused it. In 70's, the message of "Smoking harms your health" was scanty in the community. Most people did not really know how harmful smoking was. Furthermore, there was an unwritten rule in the construction site that you would be considered as a laggard if you stopped working for a rest; in contrast, you were regarded as working mentally if you did the same with a cigarette. That's how I started smoking.*



Since then, I smoked more and more. It was embarrassing to keep asking others for a cigarette. Therefore, I started buying for myself.

TCO: *Did you try to quit smoking then?*

Cheung: *I smoked more than 10 cigarettes a day. After smoking for more than 10 years, I started to get tired easily. At that time I thought that smoking can help thinking. Therefore, when I worked over-time, I would share 4 packs of cigarettes with two colleagues to refresh our mind. Although cough and dry throat occurred from time to time, I would just consume some Chinese proprietary medicine and coughing syrup for a temporary relief. Once when we were working and smoking in a Mahjong room of a club house to prepare our job calculations and tender, the whole room was so smoky that a cleaning staff mistook that our room was on fire!*

For the sake of my daughter's health and to keep my smoking secret from my family, I usually changed my clothes before I went home, and I never smoked at home.

TCO: *What made you quit smoking?*

Cheung: *In 1995, I was diagnosed to have heart disease but I kept smoking at that time. In 1997, I had heart attack and I started planning to quit smoking. Nevertheless, when I met my smoking friends, I couldn't help smoking again, though not as heavy as before. In 1998, I needed a heart operation. One day, when I took a lift with a smoker before the surgery, I found that the smoker stinking and repugnant. The occasion triggered me to think whether I had the same smell. Since then, I didn't smoke any more. It has been ten years now and I was the first one to make it amongst my smoking friends!*

TCO: Can you share with us the secret of your perseverance?

Cheung: Actually there is no secret. I made it because I realized the composition of tobacco products and the hazards of smoking after doing some researches. What's more, seeing the suffering of smokers with chronic diseases also helped me to made up my mind to quit smoking. I would like to see more and more people quit smoking.

Quitting smoking is a personal decision. Once you make up your mind, there is no return. For the sake of health and self-image (not being repugnant), I would definitely follow it through.

TCO: Do you have any advice for the smokers who are trying to quit?

Cheung: Determination is vital. Apart from that, it is also crucial to have some motivations behind, such as , for the sake of the health of family members, etc. What's more, it is necessary to change the life style. Take me as an example, I contacted smoking friends less frequently due to my illness,. This also played a role.

After sharing with Mr Cheung on his quitting history, the readers should be able to get valuable experience one way or another.. Mr Cheung is now actively urging the government devote more resources on smoking cessation services so as to help more people in need, which in the long term, will cut down the government public health expenditure. His next step is to work with other organizations to promote smoke-free messages amongst teenagers. He wishes that more and more people can join him to work for a smoke-free Hong Kong.



“Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Bill” was passed after its third reading at the Legislative Council on July 2, 2008. The Bill aims at simplifying the prosecution procedures, facilitating effective prosecution of the smoking offences in statutory no smoking areas, as well as to extrimming resources of the government and courts. Under the “Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance”, officers of the Tobacco Control Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Housing Department and Police Force are conferred the power to issue fixed-penalty notice the person who commits a smoking offence. The penalty amount is set at \$1,500. Offender who has received the notice is required to settle the payment within 21 days or else to face a heavier penalty. The government is now working on the preparation and logistic work as well as setting up an inter-departmental computer system for the fixed penalty system. We hope that the fixed penalty system can help to encourage self discipline and remind the smokers not to smoke in statutory no smoking areas. The fixed penalty system is expected to be ready in the middle of 2009.



WORDS FROM EDITOR



Riding the wave of Beijing Olympic Games, the main theme for this issue is “Smoke-free Olympics”, which introduced the current situation and development of tobacco control in China; In the “Kicking the Smoking Habit” corner, a successful and committed quitter, who is enthusiastic in promoting smoke-free message, has been invited to share his smoking cessation experience; Finally, the Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance was passed in July this year and the “Local News on Tobacco Control” has briefed on the content of the Ordinance.

On the other hand, the “Tobacco Control Stories” has reported on a real case of providing false address so that readers can have a better understanding of the regulation; Last but not the least, the proper section, “Games Zone” is prepared to help deepen your understanding of the smoke-free Olympics and the fixed penalty.



Tobacco Control Stories

Maximum fine of \$10,000 on giving a false name or address



Upon the passage of the “2006 Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance” at the Legislative Council in October 2006, citizens can have more smoke-free areas. Since the enactment of the Ordinance, it is noted that most smokers comply with the law and do not smoke in statutory no smoking areas. Hotline service is provided by the Tobacco Control Office for the public to smoking offences from the public. Citizens may also report offences through fax, e-mail and mail.



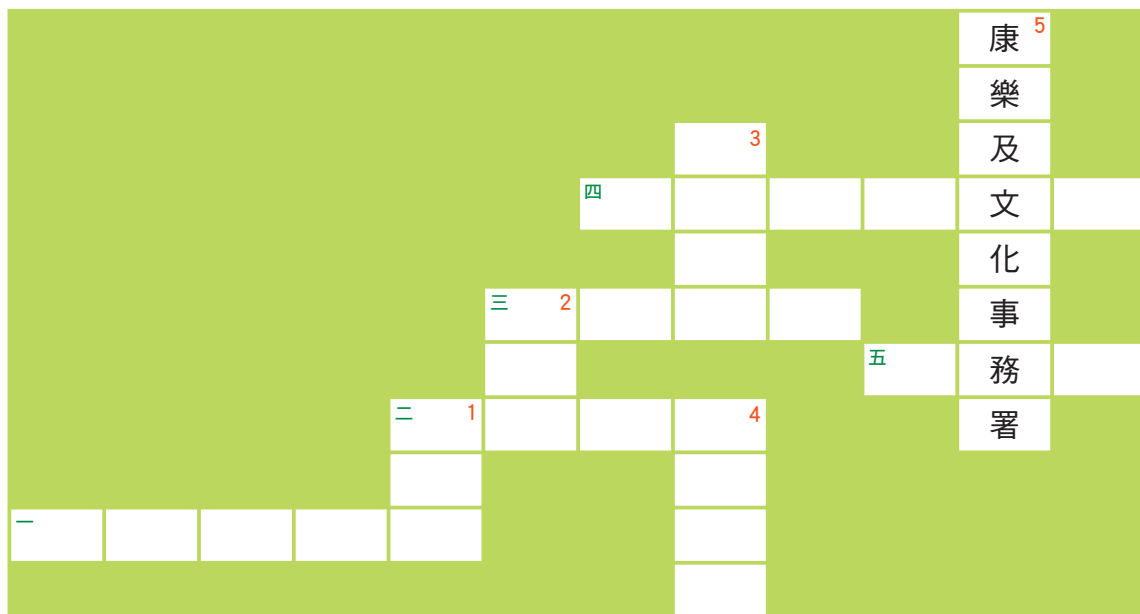
Once a complaint regarding smoking offences in statutory no smoking areas are received, Tobacco Control Inspectors will follow up the complaint by inspecting the premises concerned. If smoking offence is found, the inspectors will issue summon to the offender. Under Section 15G of “Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance”, an inspector is conferred with the power to require an individual to give his/her address and proof of identity if the inspector reasonably suspects that the person has committed a smoking offence. For a minority of offenders who fail to provide, or give false or misleading and proof of identity, their addresses, commit an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

In September last year, an offender who given inspectors with false address which resulted in failure of summon delivery. Investigation was conducted and the correct address of the offender was obtained. The Summon finally reached the offender, and the offender was charged of giving false address in addition to the smoking offence by the court.



game
zone
SMOKE-FREE
FUN WORLD

The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games have been hosted in Beijing, and the “Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance” has been passed. In order to echo these two topics, “Games Zone” of this issue will test your knowledge on tobacco control in China and the “Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance” through a crossword puzzle. Join us and have fun! Fax your answers together with your name, address and contact telephone number to 2575 8944, or mail it to the Tobacco Control Office, 18/F & 25/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong on or before 12 December, 2008. **Readers who answered all questions correctly will receive a souvenir***



橫

- 一：根據《定額罰款(吸煙罪行)條例》，違例吸煙的罰款額為多少？
- 二：「無煙奧運」始於_____年加拿大冬季奧運會。
- 三：在《定額罰款(吸煙罪行)條例》下，獲發通知書的違例者，須在多少天內繳付罰款？
- 四：根據《吸煙(公眾衛生)條例》第15章，控煙督察有權要求違例吸煙者出示_____以供控煙辦向法院申請傳票之用。
- 五：1987年，中華人民共和國_____頒布《公共場所衛生管理條例》，規定在公共場所內禁止吸煙。

直

- 1：違例吸煙者如拒絕提供或提供虛假身分證明文件給控煙督察，最高可被處罰款港幣_____。
- 2：2008北京奧運會是第幾屆奧運會？
- 3：中國的吸煙人口約佔全球吸煙人口多少？
- 4：中國是第幾個批准《煙草控制框架公約》的國家？
- 5：《定額罰款(吸煙罪行)條例》授權衛生署控煙辦公室、食物及環境衛生署、_____、房屋署及警務人員向違例吸煙者發出定額罰款通知書

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

Answers
for
last issue

1. b 2. a 3. a 4. a 5. c 6. c 7. b 8. c