

STANLEY RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION stara
Enhancement of Stanley as a Tourist Area

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PROPOSED SMOKING BAN

The Stanley Restaurant Association have carefully reviewed the KPMG study on the proposal that smoking be banned in all restaurants, bars and cafes regardless of the amount of seats in each establishment. Currently the law requires that restaurants with more than 200 seats have 25% non-smoking seats.

Most of the restaurants throughout Hong Kong have less than 100 seats. To create 25% non-smoking seats would not be feasible. To ban smoking altogether would be drastic. Business would be affected dramatically. We concur that the impact will be felt throughout the industry with the resultant loss of jobs and tax revenue. People who enjoy smoking would not go out as much.

Since Hong Kong is an International city with cuisine from around the globe it would have a wide impact on the various restaurants serving patrons from countries where smoking is prevalent and is considered social.

We propose that the Government implement a non-smoking campaign much like the Quality promotion and subsequent logo provided by the Tourism board. This emphasizes tourism services. Tourists and Hong Kong people recognize shops that have joined the Quality Circle. Likewise they will recognize restaurants that do not permit smoking.

Education as to the potential risks of smoking must come before any radical proposals. Bars, Karaoke Lounges and indeed smaller restaurants will feel the immediate impact. Once the people of the SAR have been introduced to the concept of non-smoking restaurants then this proposal could be considered.

Like the Quality services concept, this might be left to the discretion of the individual owners. Flexibility is key to operating any business. Non-smoking restaurants or restaurants that provide non-smoking tables would then display a logo advertising that fact. People want choices. The current economic situation is not conducive to the implementation of such a new radical proposal.