



International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
*Health solutions for the poor*

08 January 2017

Attn: Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China  
panel\_hs@legco.gov.hk

**Re: Graphic Pack Warnings in Hong Kong**

I fully endorse my support for the proposal to increase the size of graphic pack warnings as suggested by the Hong Kong government.

Four countries around the world now require graphic pack warnings at or above 85% in size and all of them are from the Asia-Pacific region – Nepal (90%), Vanuatu (90%), India (85%), Thailand (85%). With the reputation of being a global leader in protecting public health, Hong Kong should not lag behind in this very important tobacco control measure.

The existing graphic pack warnings in Hong Kong were adopted almost ten years ago in 2007. It is high time to revise the order to make it in line with best practices in the world.

Large graphic pack warnings are effective in discouraging smoking. Early last year the Hong Kong government announced that the 2015 smoking prevalence dropped to 10.5%, one of the lowest in the world. Increasing the size of graphic pack warnings to 85% in size would expedite the progress toward a single digit smoking rate and a smokefree society in Hong Kong.

The tobacco industry has filed legal challenges against graphic pack warnings in many countries (Uruguay, Australia, UK, and EU) but have lost all of them.

If adopted, this proposed policy change would have significant implications for the Asia-Pacific region and around the world and would particularly set an example for mainland China, where graphic health warnings are yet to be placed on cigarette packs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gan Quan".

Gan Quan, PhD  
Director, Department of Tobacco Control  
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)