

ASIAN CONSULTANCY ON TOBACCO CONTROL
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8 April 2019

Clerk to Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019
Legislative Council Secretariat
(Attn: Ms Louisa YU): bc_54_18@legco.gov.hk

Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019

**Meeting on Saturday, 13 April 2019, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019

I will make an oral presentation on 8th April 2019, but wish to also submit a written statement, which simply outlines the rationale in support of the government proposal to ban new tobacco products:

- We don't know what is in the hundreds of different products.
- We don't know if they encourage youth initiation (evidence is emerging they do).
- We don't know if they help smokers quit or encourage them to keep smoking, or dual use.
- We especially don't know their effect here in Asia.
- There is appalling advertising, e.g. from the US (see below) – we do not want this in HK.
- They are a trendy, electronic product with great appeal to youth.
- They offer a real risk of 'renormalising' smoking, just as HK has so successfully reduced smoking rates.
- The tobacco industry has told us twice before they have a safe product – filters and then low tar - which both turned out not to be safe at all.

It is like the Boeing 737 Max – when dangers are uncertain, Hong Kong should apply the World Health Organization "Precautionary principle" to safeguard public health.

The ban can be reviewed in 2 years, when there will be greater evidence on all the uncertainties outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



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Current Advertising of E-cigarettes in USA

