

Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

4th April 2019

Dear Sir/Madam;

Re: Oral Presentation for Total Ban on Tobacco, including E Cigarettes

My name Shoba Rai ,I am Assistant Project Coordinator at United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service, and our mission is promoting the health in the community, consequently improving health profile.

As, we all know that cigarette is harmful to health. However, E- cigarettes have become very popular among youth and the use of e- cigarettes has alarmed globally.

I work with many Ethnic minority community and during my outreach programme, I see many young people smoking and now a days taking E – Cigarettes, it seems that e-cigarette is hailed as a fashionable trend for the young smokers.

The smoking prevalence has gradually decreased from 15 % to 10% since 1998, however the decrease has stagnated within 10% for the last 3 years. Furthermore, tobacco manufacturers have kept on introducing new tobacco products, which is attributing the youths and non-smokers to take up smoking. We are aware that E-cigarette has harmful substances as well as carcinogenic substances, youths starting to use e-cigarette are more likely to smoke conventional cigarette too.

Recently, Heat-Not-Burn tobacco products (HNB) are rapidly being launched in Hong Kong. The tobacco manufacturers attract smokers by advertising HNB as a product with reduced risk and harms of tobacco-related illness. However, the US Food and Drug Administration Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee disagreed the claims due to no scientific evidences for supporting risk reduction.

Hong Kong is a developed world city, however it is lagging behind in placing regulations on sales of e-cigarette compared with overseas countries. Nearly 26 countries have banned or restricted the usage and 18 countries have implemented a total ban on sale, advertisement and promotion of e-cigarette.

As a community health promotion practitioner, I want to make strong efforts on promoting healthy lifestyle and avert smoking-related illnesses. Thus, I strongly urge the Hong Kong government for a total ban of any form of tobacco and related products including E cigarette and heat not burn product. I am young and want to live a healthy life and want to see my peer living a healthy life now and in long term.

Thank you very much.

For any further questions related to my submission, please feel free to contact me at 2344 3019

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