

Brunei Darussalam

Overall score:

14

Summary of Findings

Efforts to strengthen tobacco control in Brunei Darussalam started as early as the 1970s. These have been further strengthened by the ratification of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in June 2004, and the enactment of the Tobacco Order (TO) 2005, which came into force in 2008. Since then, Brunei continues to implement and enforce tobacco control measures under the WHO FCTC and TO 2005. Currently, there are no tobacco companies operating in the country and since May 2014, no distributors have applied for the license or renewal of license. However, citizens are still allowed to bring tobacco products for their own consumption.

While there is no tobacco industry as such in Brunei Darussalam, representatives of the tobacco industry in the past had made attempts to contact the government on policy issues. Hence, Brunei has taken steps to implement Article 5.3 to protect public health policies from commercial vested interests. In 2019, Brunei made progress in implementing Article 5.3 and improved its score in the Tobacco Industry Interference Index developed by the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance.

1. Industry participation in policy development

The government does not accept, support or endorse any offer for assistance by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry in setting or implementing public health policies in relation to tobacco control. The government does not allow any tobacco industry representative in its delegation to the Conference of the Parties (COP) or its related meetings.

2. Industry CSR activities

The government is not allowed to form partnerships with or receive any contributions from the tobacco industry including CSR-related activities or contributions.

3. Benefits to the industry

The government does not give privileges, incentives, exemptions or benefits to the tobacco industry, nor does it allow any extension in the implementation of policy and legislation.

4. Unnecessary interaction

Top level government officials do not meet with/ foster relations with tobacco companies or attend any social functions and other events sponsored or organized by tobacco companies.

5. Transparency

Any interactions with the tobacco industry in cases where such interactions are strictly necessary for regulation, have to be conducted in a transparent manner to avoid any negative impressions and conflicts of interest. No such interactions were conducted in 2019.

6. Conflict of interest

No retired senior government official forms any part of the tobacco industry, nor do any current officials hold any positions with a tobacco company.

7. Preventive measures

A code of conduct (circular) was endorsed and circulated to all civil servants in November 2019. Any interactions with the tobacco industry and its representatives must be conducted in a transparent manner. The code disallows the acceptance of all forms of contributions/gifts from the tobacco industry including offers of assistance.



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Recommendations

With the endorsement and distribution of the code of conduct, monitoring and evaluation of its implementation is required in ensuring all the measures are being put in place and followed. Hence, a survey is planned to be conducted to assess its implementation. Any future action will be determined by the results of this survey.