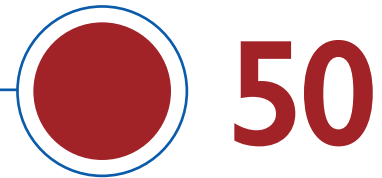


Thailand



Summary of Findings

I. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Despite attempts by vaping representatives to persuade the government to accept harm reduction, the government did not endorse or change any policy based on or drafted by these meetings. The ban on e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products still remains.

The government does not include representatives from the tobacco industry (TI), including state-owned enterprise Tobacco Authority of Thailand, in the delegation to the COP or other subsidiary bodies nor did it accept any sponsorship for its delegates.

2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

The Tobacco Authority of Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in agriculture and research studies with Rajamangala University of Technology Krungthep and Ban Tham Sing Coffee Group Community Enterprise to develop crops, cocoa, hemp, cannabis, kratom and other cash crops to replace tobacco crops.

3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

The cabinet did not approve the tobacco ingredient regulation proposed by the Ministry of Health due to disagreements between the Ministry of Finance, which aims to protect farmers and the Tobacco Authority of Thailand.

The government gave an exemption of tobacco sales license fee between 1 January to 31 December 2023.

International travelers are allowed to bring 200 sticks of cigarettes or 500 grams of other tobacco products or 1 kilogram of sliced tobacco in the country.

4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

The Tobacco Authority of Thailand and the Tobacco Growers and Traders Association which received funding from Philip Morris International, attended a meeting with the Sub-Committee on "Studying Factors Affecting the Health System and Monitoring the Enforcement of Public Health Laws" in the House Committee on Public Health to discuss about the impact of smuggling and selling illegal cigarettes.

The government does not accept or enter into any partnership with the TI or any entity working for it.

5. TRANSPARENCY

Minutes of meetings were recorded during meetings of high-level officials within the TI, but these are not made public.

While there is no registration for TI entities, affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf representatives of the Tobacco Authority of Thailand are publicly known.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no complete prohibition of political contribution from the TI, some limits are set in the Organic Act on Political Parties, B.E. 2560 (2017). Section 66 mentions that political parties must not accept donation from anybody, including tobacco industry, more than THB ฿10 million a year, and politicians must not accept gifts more than THB ฿3,000.

The Tobacco Authority of Thailand, formerly called the Thai Tobacco Monopoly, is a state-owned enterprise registered as a government agency under the supervision of the Ministry



of Finance in Thailand. A retired member of the military is noted to be a board member of the Tobacco Authority of Thailand, joined by senior government officials within the Ministry of Finance.

7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has adopted a code on WHO FCTC Article 5.3. Only the MOPH actively implements WHO FCTC Article 5.3. Other ministries can establish their own respective regulations, ideally following the MOPH and the Office of the Civil Service Commission that each have regulations to prohibit civil servants' interaction with the TI.