

INITIATIVE ÄRZTE GEGEN RAUCHERSCHÄDEN

AUSTRIAN COUNCIL ON
SMOKING AND HEALTH



Eine Initiative der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Pneumologie, des Instituts für Umwelthygiene der Medizinischen Universität Wien, des Instituts für Sozialmedizin der Medizinischen Universität Wien und der Österreichischen Ärztekammer.

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To whom it may concern:

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The SmokeFree Index was developed by the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) and has nothing to do with the fake index given the same name by Philip Morris International (PMI). The Foundation for a Smoke-free World (FSFW) funded solely by PMI hijacked the term “smoke-free” to make the public believe that PMI products like IQOS are equivalent to smoke-free. In fact heated tobacco products (HTPs) expose users and bystanders to toxic, irritant and carcinogenic compounds [1]. HTPs impair vascular endothelial function measured by arterial flow-mediated dilatation in animal experiments to the same extent as by cigarette smoke [2]. Comparable nicotine doses can be applied from traditional cigarettes, HTPs and e-cigarettes, which have been called “wolf in sheep’s clothing” [3], because they serve as a gateway drug for youth, prolong nicotine addiction and the ritual in smokers (who would otherwise be willing to quit) and keep up the handling and use of cigarettes in public. Doses of ultrafine particles are 50% to 110% higher for HTPs than for e-cigarettes [4]. On the surface of these particles toxins are transported into the lung and blood vessels and an increase of myocardial infarction was associated with these exposures [5].

In summary HTPs and e-cigarettes are addictive and dangerous for the active consumer and for the passive consumer. Health benefits of smoke-free policies cannot be expected from these products. Their promotion serves only business interests of producers. Therefore the meetings planned by PMI in Istanbul and Bangkok were cancelled by responsible authorities and the meeting in Tokyo will not be attended by responsible scientists.

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1. <https://openaccesspub.org/article/1112/ijoe-19-2792.pdf>
2. https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/27/Suppl_1/s13
3. <http://bit.ly/2g7UR7Q>
4. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28750224>
5. <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1161/JAHA.119.012317>