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Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health

No: 3217/MOH

Vientiane Capital, dated: 14 December 2018

**Health Minister Tobacco Control Code of Conduct between Health Sector
and
Tobacco Industry**

To: Health Sector Officials

- According to the Law on Government No. 04/na, dated 08 November 2016;
- According to the Law on government officials No. 74/na, dated 18 December 2015;
- According to the Law on Anticorruption No. 27/na, dated 18 December 2012;
- According to the Law on Tobacco Control No. 07/na, dated 26 December 2009;
- According to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;
- According to the proposed letter, Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, Ministry of Health No. 1979/dhnp, dated 6 December 2018.

The government of Lao PDR recognized the importance and benefits of tobacco control by ratifying the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2006 and the Tobacco Control Law was endorsed by the National Assembly in 2009. The key importance of tobacco control is to prevent and control chronic diseases caused by tobacco use; whereas tobacco industry's objective is to maximize their business interests. The article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC articulated the interaction principals between government officials and tobacco industry; this is to ensure that there is fairness, transparency, openness and accountability at all time and avoid interference from tobacco industry to the public health policies. Making sure communications between two parties is strictly followed the article 5.3 of WHO FCTC guidelines.

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Health Minister issued a Code of Conduct on Tobacco Control:

For Health Sector:

1. Coordinate with the tobacco industry when it is necessary and ensure fairness, transparency, openness and accountability pursuant to the law and regulations.
2. Avoid obtaining representatives from tobacco industry to be consultant and member of tobacco control committee including all forms of tobacco control work.
3. Should not accept legislation, policy, work plan, action plan and any document offer by tobacco industry or tobacco industry front groups including ex-government officials and retirees direct and indirect way.
4. Should not accept direct and indirect support from tobacco industry such as cash, loan, present, gifts, in-kind, monetary, survey fund, study fund, equipment-technology including Corporate Social Responsibility, except payment made to the government according to the obligations under the law and regulations.
5. Should be the lead in developing communication details with tobacco industry or tobacco industry front groups such as meeting agenda, objective of the meeting, participants, venue, content of meeting, taking minutes, reporting in a written approach.
6. Should not allow the tobacco industry or tobacco industry front groups taking photos and/or voice record and/or VDO record during the meeting, discussion and other cooperation. Only government officials shall be authorized to take photos, record voices and VDO in order to keep for official documentation.
7. Shall enforce the law and regulations equally regardless government monopoly tobacco industry, Joint venture tobacco industry and private tobacco industry.
8. Health sector from central to district levels should be informed and strictly enforce this code of conduct.
9. Other non-health sectors ministers, heads of ministry equivalent agencies, heads of government agencies, governors, capital majors, district governors and related bodies shall be well-informed and cooperated in the implementation of this code of conduct.
10. This code of conduct is effective and promulgated since the day of signature.

Health Minister

Signature and Stamped

Asso. Prof. Dr. Bounkong SYHAVONG