



2015 - 2017
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June 14, 2017

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To: Mr. Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister
2-3-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo,
100-0014 JAPAN

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From: International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)

Fred R. Hirsch
CEO
US

Re: Petition for Guidelines against Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Indoor Public Locations prior to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Michael Boyer
Australia

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) greatly appreciates your efforts to provide for a healthy society - with a global outlook. We would like you to consider this petition.

Laurie Gaspar
US

IASLC's primary mission to promote education intended to support actions that lead to a reduction in deaths from lung cancer. Given the well-established relationship between smoking and lung cancer, we are pleased to recognize that Japan was one of the first countries in the world to ratify the WHO's Framework Convention for Tobacco Control in 2004. This first ever health treating requires ratifying nations to implement measures to reduce cigarette use in their population. Since 2004, Japan has made significant progress in reducing cigarette smoking rates; however, the national government has not yet enacted a comprehensive clean indoor air policy as required by the treaty.

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Thus, IASLC was pleased to hear that the national government was looking to strengthen the protection against exposure to secondhand smoke in indoor public places in advance of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Since the 2004 Athens games, all subsequent hosts of the Olympic Games have established comprehensive smoke-free policies covering public places such as restaurants, bars, and hotels. IASLC will be hosting its annual meeting bringing approximately 8,000 visitors to Yokohama in October 2017 and were hoping that a comprehensive smoke-free policy would be in place by that time. However, we understand that action on the national smoke-free policy has been delayed. We have already expressed our concerns about this delay to the Mayor of Yokohama and have urged him to take steps to encourage local businesses to voluntarily adopt a smoke-free policy during the time of our meeting.

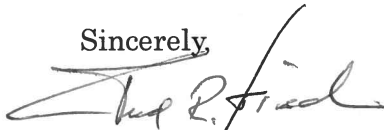
Our concern relate to the well-established scientific evidence showing that indoor smoking is a cause of serious health problems in nonsmokers and that

implementation of comprehensive smoke-free policies results in fewer hospital admissions for respiratory diseases and heart attacks. Thus, we are urging you and other government leaders to move quickly to endorse the adoption of common sense rules prohibiting indoor smoking in restaurants and other venues in Tokyo and throughout Japan. The main opposition to adopting a smoke-free policy seems to be centered around concerns of adverse economic effects on bars and restaurants. We can assure you that there are many credible studies that have been conducted across diverse locations that have shown that such concerns are misplaced and businesses often find that they do better after the policy is adopted. Also because smoke-free policies are self-enforcing they do not create a huge administrative burden on local governments. The provision of signage to business is usually all that is required.

The eyes of the world will be focused on Japan in 2020 as Olympic athletes from around the globe will come to your country to exhibit their skills and test their abilities. IASLC would be happy to provide you with information to support Japan's efforts to adopt a comprehensive smoke-free policy not only for the Olympics but to advance the health and well-being of your citizens and those who visit your country.

We look forward to hearing your response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred R. Hirsch".

Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD
CEO, IASLC