

INTERVIEW GUIDELINE

1. Can you tell me a bit about the work you do in tobacco control?

Prompts:

- What is the main focus of your work?
- Which population groups do you work with?
- What sorts of things are you responsible for?
- Can you outline any experience you may have had with tobacco control in Cambodia?

Most countries in the Asia Pacific have introduced comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotions, and sponsorship. However in response it seems that tobacco companies try to use below-the-line advertising to promote their products. These strategies include point-of-sale advertising, individual sales promotions, and online and social media advertising.

2. Have you noticed any below-the-line advertising strategies in recent years in your country? What sort of strategies are being used? Has there been an increase over time? Who do you think the advertising is mainly trying to reach? How effective do you think it is?

3. Can you describe what policies or restrictions would you recommend to address these forms of below-the-line advertising?

4. As countries introduce more bans on tobacco advertising, in what ways do you think the tobacco industry has changed their advertising strategies in other countries in the Asian Pacific?

Prompts:

- What innovative advertising strategies have tobacco companies used?
- What about online and social media advertising?

My research in Cambodia showed that tobacco companies have used individual sales promotions and free cigarette samples to target young people, often in public locations like parks, cafes and at cultural events, as well as at their workplace. These individual sales promotions are completely banned in Cambodia, which suggests that tobacco companies are breaking the law by using this strategy.

5. Can you please describe for me whether you have or have not observed evidence of individual sales promotions in Cambodia or other Asian Pacific countries?

6. Can you please describe for me why you think tobacco companies are still able to use this type of promotion, even though it is completely banned in Cambodia?

Prompts:

- Lack of enforcement of advertising restrictions an issue?
- Insufficient penalties for tobacco companies who break the law an issue?

7. What sort of policies or actions should be taken to address this issue in your country or other countries in this region?

Prompts:

- How could civil society organisations address this issue?
- How could government authorities address this issue?

In response to increasing restrictions on advertising, research has demonstrated that the cigarette packet branding has become an important advertising tool for tobacco companies. My research in Cambodia showed that cigarette packet branding and colours might influence young male smokers' appeal and harm perceptions of tobacco brands, with lighter coloured packets potentially creating the perception of a less harmful product.

8. Can you please describe whether you think cigarette packet branding is an issue for addressing smoking among young people in your country and the region?

Research shows that people are exposed to cigarette packet branding in various locations, including when smokers take out their cigarette packet to obtain a cigarette or when cigarette packets are displayed in retail stores that sell cigarettes.

9. Can you please describe what policy or action could be taken to address this issue?

Prompt:

- How about banning cigarette packet displays in retail stores?

My research in Cambodia also showed that young males smokers described flavoured cigarettes as appealing, including those with flavour change capsules that change the flavour of the cigarette smoke to fruit flavours.

10. Can you please describe whether you think flavoured cigarettes and those with flavour change capsules are an issue for addressing smoking among young people in your country and the region?

Article 11 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control states that countries should introduce plain packaging legislation. This means that cigarette packets cannot include brand logos, colours, images or promotional information on tobacco product packaging. Multiple countries have introduced plain packaging legislation, include two countries in Southeast Asia: Thailand and Singapore.

11. Can you please describe your thoughts on plain packaging legislation, and whether or not you think it could be effective in addressing smoking in your country or other countries in this region?

12. Is your country currently considering implementing plain packaging legislation?

Prompts:

- If yes, can you tell me why and how this legislation is being implemented?
- If no, can you tell me why your country is not considering this legislation?

I would now like to discuss e-cigarettes and vaping. Research has shown that young people are rapidly taking up e-cigarettes and vaping. My study demonstrated that young people in Cambodia are also using e-cigarettes and vaping.

13. Can you please describe your thoughts on this increasing trend around e-cigarettes, and what impact it may have on young non-smokers in your country or other countries in this region?

14. What policies or actions do you think are necessary for preventing young non-smokers in your country or the region from taking up e-cigarettes or vaping?

Even though it is illegal to sell or import e-cigarettes in Cambodia, my research showed that young people could still buy these devices at shops or markets, while some young people purchased e-cigarettes on the Internet.

15. What policies or actions do you think are necessary for stopping young people from buying e-cigarettes even in places where they are banned for sale, including on the Internet?

My research showed that young people in Cambodia were exposed to advertising for e-cigarette brands on the Internet and social media.

16. Can you describe whether or not you think online advertising of e-cigarettes is an issues for your country and the region?

Prompt:

- If yes, what policies would you propose for addressing this issue?

Some advertising claims that e-cigarettes can help smokers reduce or quit smoking.

17. Can you please describe for me what you think the role of e-cigarettes are in helping young smokers to reduce or quit smoking in your country and the region?

- Should e-cigarettes be promoted as a way to reduce or quit smoking?

I have two final questions for this interview.

18. Can you please describe for me what you think a tobacco-free future looks like in your country and the region?

- Smoke-free?
- How about e-cigarettes?

19. Can you please describe what you think is the most important step towards creating this tobacco-free future in your country and the region?