



ပြည်သူ့ကျန်းမာရေးဖောင်ဒေးရှင်း

PEOPLE'S HEALTH FOUNDATION

အမှတ် - ၅၂၊ ချင်းတွင်းလမ်း၊ ကမာရွတ်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

ဖုန်း - (၀၁) ၂၃၀၅၈၂၈၊ ၂၃၀၅၈၂၉

No: PaKaPha/Ka-1/175

Date: August 7, 2019

To,

UNHCR Representative to Myanmar
No. 287, Pyay Road, Myaynigone, Sanchaung Township
YANGON

Subject: Tobacco Industry Report, referred in UNHCR Fact-Finding Mission's Report

Dear Sirs,

People's Health Foundation (PHF), Myanmar, is a non-governmental Organization registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs since May 2013. The Foundation has been established to support and strengthen health development of Myanmar citizens by improving universal access to health care.

This is in relation to the above UN-Fact Finding Mission's Report (A/HRC/42/CRP.3 dated 5 August 2019) p97-98, (<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/MyanmarFFM/Pages/EconomicInterestsMyanmarMilitary.aspx>), and the document issued by our Foundation - "Update on Tobacco Use, Tobacco Industry, and Tobacco Taxation in Myanmar, 2018" p13 (<https://phfmyanmar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Acrobat-Document-3-1.pdf>), on the information related to tobacco industry in Myanmar.

PHF prepared and updated periodically on the status of tobacco use, tobacco industry and tobacco taxation in Myanmar for international and national audiences, using facts from various sources, both formal and informal. The paper is first prepared and published in 2015, and later updated in 2018. PHF have great difficulties in getting the right information with appropriate sources on tobacco industries in Myanmar. They are not transparent and not sharing information publically, especially information who they are, single owner or joint ventures (who are partners), how much they produce (quantity of tobacco products), what are their brands, etc. Financial information is more difficult to get. Most of the information come from informal sources, newspaper reports, and some government agencies, etc. With the introduction of Special Good taxation Law in 2016, and subsequent Tax Administration Act in 2019, information on tobacco industries might be more accurate than before. This is in line with the Article 20 of the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control.

In the PHF's Report "Update on tobacco use, tobacco industry and tobacco taxation in Myanmar, 2018", on Page 13, it was mentioned that "Japan Tobacco International (JTI) having joint venture with MEC, forming as Myanmar Japan Tobacco Co. Ltd", which was referred in UN Report on Page 97. This information came from informal source and cannot be confirmed at the time of report preparation. PHF tried to update with additional information and found out that JTI has joint venture with "Forever Star Co. Ltd" to become Myanmar Japan Tobacco Co. Ltd., **not with MEC** as it was reported earlier.

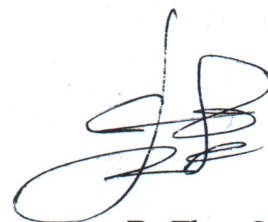
In the same report of PHF in 2018, it was reported that "British American Tobacco (BAT)'s joint venture with MEC in early 1990s and later went off from Myanmar. BAT came back to Myanmar in 2013 to have a joint venture with IMU enterprises Ltd of Sein Wut Hmone Group." Similarly, "Rothman's of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte. Ltd (Singapore-based Company) that has produced the popular brand - Red Ruby, has the joint venture with Myanmar Economic Holding Ltd (MEHL)." (In UNHCR's paper, this joint venture is also confirmed with DICA).

PHF is planning to update the said report every 2-3 years, and newer updated information will incorporate in new version accordingly.

Sincerely,

Thanking you in advance for your kind cooperation,

Yours sincerely,



Dr Than Sein
President, People's Health Foundation
E-mail: myanmarhealthfoundation@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.phfmyanmar.org/>

enclosed - PHF's Report

cc:

- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No. 9, Nay Pyi Taw
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Office No. 4, Nay Pyi Taw
- Chairperson, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, 27, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon.
- WHO Representative in Myanmar, Shwedaung Kyar Street, Bahan, Yangon