



Japan Society for Tobacco Control

日本禁煙学会

<http://www.jstc.or.jp/> E-mail desk@nosmoke55.jp
〒162-0063 東京都新宿区市谷薬王寺町 19-29-201
Tel 03-5360-8233 FAX 03-5360-6736

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“To: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Commerce and Service Industries Group,
Business and Information Policy Bureau,
Healthcare Industries Division

Chairperson, Japan Society for Tobacco Control
Makiko Yamamoto

(Attn.)”

“An open letter requesting information regarding the ‘Certified Health and Productivity Management Outstanding Corporations Certification Program’.”

- (1) Regarding the fact that Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) has been certified as a ‘White 500’ Certified Health and Productivity Management Outstanding Corporation for 10 consecutive years, how does your department perceive this?
- (2) How does your department perceive that the tobacco products manufactured and sold by Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) cause serious health harms, that smokers develop many tobacco-related diseases such as cancer, stroke, myocardial infarction, and diabetes, and that this increases medical expenditures?
- (3) In the ‘Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC),’ to which our country is a State Party, its guidelines state that activities that are referred to as ‘corporate social responsibility’ by the tobacco industry should be delegitimized and regulated. Despite this, how does your department supervise the use of the ‘Certified Health and Productivity Management Outstanding Corporation 2026 White 500’ to enhance Japan Tobacco Inc.’s image as a health-promoting company?
- (4) In the field of socially responsible investing, sectors such as tobacco, alcohol, gambling, and weapons are excluded. We believe that, in the certification of health and productivity management, these so-called ‘sinful companies’ should also be automatically excluded. Could JT still be eligible for certification in the years ahead? Also, is there any plan to change the certification system?

Sincerely,

- (1) At international conferences, tobacco companies in particular have been referred to as “polluting companies,” “criminal companies,” and even “merchants of death in the modern era.”
- (2) In addition, I intend to send a copy of this open letter to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and to media organizations as well, so that I may draw attention to the issues.