

Request the Mainichi Shimbun to discontinue publishing the column provided by JT

To: Managing Director and President, Mainichi Shimbun, Mr. Maruyama Masahiro

From: Board Chairman of general incorporated association Japan Society for Tobacco Control, Sakuta Manabu

In the Mainichi Shimbun on 2 July, the column called "A moment of perfection" printed a logo of Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) (see figure). This is a violation of Article 13 of the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC), and I request the Mainichi Shimbun to discontinue publishing the column provided by JT.

Reason:

- ① The Government of Japan has an obligation to comply with FCTC Article 13,¹⁾ which prohibits any action that could indirectly or directly encourage the use of tobacco. The Japanese Constitution also calls for this. (Article 98 of the Japanese Constitution states, "Treaties concluded by Japan and established international laws require that we comply in good faith.")
- ② Domestic business institutions are required to comply with the principles of international treaties.
- ③ If we defend our country's constitution and are respected members of the international community, you should resume upholding in good faith the Constitution of Japan and the FCTC, and should discontinue promptly all actions connected with commercial interests of JT, according to the enforcement guideline² of Article 13 of the FCTC.
- ④ In the name of freedom and responsibility possessed by the newspaper, I ask for moderation in this regard^{3, 4}.
- ⑤ In this matter, I ask that you disclose your view promptly.