

Taiwan bans “indoor” smoking

By Daily Times APF

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TAIPEI: Taiwanese authorities on Sunday banned smoking in all indoor public places in what anti-smoking activists say is a “milestone” in turning Taiwan into a smoke-free island.

Smoking had previously been banned in public areas including hospitals, schools, theaters, libraries, office buildings and elevators.

Under the new law, smoking is banned in all other public facilities such as hotels, restaurants, karaoke bars, Internet cafes and roofed transport stations. Those caught smoking in smoke-free facilities will face fines of up to 10,000 Taiwan dollars (\$300 US). “The new law is a milestone in making Taiwan a smoke-free country,” said Lin Ching-li, spokeswoman for the non-profit John Tung Foundation, one of the lobbying groups behind the campaign. Airports have closed their smoking rooms and local air carriers are barred from voluntarily selling cigarettes to passengers during flights under the new law.

Health authorities estimate that half a million establishments could be affected by the new law, which became effective after its 18-month grace period expired. The amended law passed the legislature in June 2007. The Eastern cable television station reported that the law had claimed its first offender when a restaurant in Taipei failed to post anti-smoking signs at the entrance, leaving it subject to fines of up to 30,000 Taiwan dollars.

Questions

1. Do you have the smoking experience?
2. How do you think about the reasons why people desire to smoke, even though they understand it is harmful to people's health?
3. Do your families or good friends smoke? If so, how do you feel about their smoking?
4. Whether you ever help smokers quit smoking or not? If so, how do you help them, and does it work?
5. Can you fall in love with or get married with a smoker? (Please explain your reasons.)
6. What will you do if your child or your wife/husband becomes a smoker in the future?
7. Nowadays, youth are vulnerable to social and environmental influences to use cigarette. How should our government do to prevent youth smoking?
8. If a country does not have any anti-smoking law, how does the government help heavy-smoking people quit smoking?
9. How do you do to protect yourself from passive smoking in public? (Please share your experience.)
10. Should our government enact anti-smoking laws to become a smoking-free country in the future? (Please explain your reasons.)