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The Honorable
Gan Kim Yong
Minister of Health

Dear Sir,

we, Forum Rauchfrei, are a Berlin-based German NGO working in the field of tobacco control. When in the year 2013 we became aware, that a German city-owned company organized a tobacco trade fair in Indonesia, we felt a deep responsibility to act against this and to try to prevent a German city from helping the tobacco industry to expand their business in Southeast Asia. We may say that we formed a major part of the protest movement against the Inter-tabac ASIA 2014 tobacco trade fair in Bali, and that we were more than happy, when this trade fair was prohibited by the Governor of Bali and finally cancelled.

Recently it came to our notice that the World Tobacco Asia 2014 trade fair, which was also to be held in Indonesia, and which has been met with heavy criticism – for example, the Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT) conference in August 2013 strongly recommended that the Indonesian government should ban the World Tobacco Asia in Indonesia - , has moved to Singapore and will take place at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre on November 12th to 14th.

The aim of tobacco trade fairs is undoubtedly the promotion of the consumption of tobacco. In 2012 the organizers of the World Tobacco Asia made very clear, what this trade fair is about: “In 2009, the Asia Pacific region added 6 million new smokers and will add another 30 million smokers by 2014. Ensure to take advantage of this growing market by exhibiting at World Tobacco Asia 2012.” (WT Asia 2012 Sales Brochure Flyer)

Singapore is held in high esteem for its exemplary tobacco control policy. To allow tobacco companies to promote the consumption of tobacco by hosting a tobacco trade fair jeopardizes this high esteem.

Singapore has hosted the world’s most prestigious conference on tobacco control, the World Congress on Tobacco or Health in 2012. In your opening address to this conference, to which I had the pleasure to attend in person, you stated, that the Asia Pacific Region has the fastest increase in smoking by women and young people. Tobacco trade fairs like the World

Tobacco Asia are at the bottom of this increase. We therefore kindly but strongly ask you, to speak up for a stop of this trade fair.

We would be very grateful, if you would let us know your estimation of the city of Singapore's hosting of a tobacco trade fair and if you will take measures to try to stop the World Tobacco Asia 2014 in Singapore.

Respectfully

Johannes Spatz