



Political and Economical Analysis of the Amending Process of the Tobacco Hazards Prevention Act in Taiwan



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Introduction

For the concern of increasing prevalence of e-cigarette use among teenagers and young adults, Taiwan amended the Tobacco Hazards Prevention Act in January, 2023. As a result, e-cigarette was banned and heated tobacco products (HTPs) was conditionally allowed. With the fact that there are different stakeholders participating in shaping such health policy, this study was conducted to analyze the power dynamics of the amending process of the regulation.

Methodology

Political and economic framework of Sparkes et al. (2019) was used to analyze different stakeholders' positions on amending e-cigarette and HTPs regulations. Stakeholders' positions on the government's policy was collected by searching keywords: e-cigarette, heated tobacco products and tobacco control law in Mandarin during 2020 to 2023 in google website.

Conclusion

Though the majority of the stakeholders support the government's policy, the role of anti-smoking foundation might change in different topics. And the main opposite power are from tobacco interest stakeholder group and the opposition political party. However, the interest stakeholder group had less influence on the public, and the opposition party accepted the government's position after consultative discussion among political parties. The monitor of interest stakeholder group and the open discussion between different political parties are recommended in the future.

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Results

• Political and Economical Analysis for regulating E-cigarettes

	Political Economy Factor	influence
Interest Group Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: The anti-smoking foundation \ the anti-smoking alliance Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Online media manager Position: Negative 	The attitude is opposite to the government, so he/she is the resistance to the amendment
Bureaucratic Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Local governments Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
Budget Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Local government audit cost Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
Leadership Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Ruling party Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Opposition party Position: Positive 	
Beneficiary Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: E-cigarettes companies Position: Negative 	E-cigarette manufacturers have not explicitly strongly opposed or intervened in policy formulation, or they have not made a clear stance to avoid arousing negative pressure from public opinion.
External Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: WHO FCTC \ COP Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment

• Political and Economical Analysis for regulating HTPs

	Political Economy Factor	influence
Interest Group Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: The anti-smoking foundation \ the anti-smoking alliance Position: Negative 	The attitude is opposite to the government, they are the resistance to the amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Online media manager Position: Positive/Negative 	He/ she is the assistance to the amendment on legalizing HTPs, but the resistance to health risk assessment policy
Bureaucratic Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Local governments Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
Budget Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Local government audit cost Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
Leadership Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Ruling party Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: Opposition party Position: Positive 	
Beneficiary Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: HTP companies Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment
External Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject: WHO Position: Positive 	The attitude is aligned with the government, so they are the assistance to the amendment