

TOPICS

The reason why drastic change hasn't happened yet in Japan

全面禁煙がなかなか日本で進まなかった理由



Smoking will be illegal in public places in Japan by 2020.

Japan is one of the nations that is leading in scientific technology, but when it comes to smoking regulations, it's still stuck in the 20th century.

Many local wards have banned smoking outdoors, which means that people can smoke indoors in all public places and restaurants. But from 2019, the regulations will change and smoking indoors will basically be banned by 2020.

Expressions

- one of the nations leading the 21st century in scientific technology
21世紀の科学をリードする国のひとつ
- when it comes to smoking regulations
禁煙に関する法律になると
- it's still stuck in the 20th century
まだ20世紀にとどまっている
- local wards 地元の区
- banned smoking outdoors 屋外喫煙を禁止した
- smoke indoors 室内で喫煙する
- all public places すべての公の場所

Japanese Government as the share holder

The Japanese Government owns one third of Japan Tobacco (JT) shares and is the country's biggest cigarette producer and seller. The more JT earns, the more dividends go to the Ministry of Finance. If they make smoking regulations too strict, JT's business results will go down, the tax money from tobacco will decrease and also the dividends from JT shares will go down. The tax revenue is an important source of money for the government and they would like to maintain it. So, although the anti-smoking plan is close to international standards, the Ministry cannot make drastic changes to it.

Expressions

- The Japanese Government 日本政府
- owns one third of Japan Tobacco (JT)
日本たばこ産業(株)の3分の1もの株を保有している
- dividend 配当金
- The Ministry of Finance 財務省
- JT's business results will go down
日本たばこ産業が衰退するだろう
- tax revenue 税収入
- drastic changes がらりと変える

Restaurant owners worry about a negative impact

Traditional restaurants owners are concerned about the loss of business. During lunch time, customers understand the smoking regulation, but at night time they would like to smoke while having a drink. They fear the total indoor ban would reduce the amount of customers coming to their restaurant. They are afraid of the possibility that customers will say 'Let's not go to that restaurant because we can't smoke there.' They also feel that since they are in the service industry and have a long history in their area, they cannot immediately change. But smoking will be banned in restaurants too, except really small individual businesses.

Expressions

- concern about the loss of business
商売として損になることを心配する
- they fear ～を心配している
- the total indoor ban 屋内喫煙の全面的禁止
- reduce the amount of customers coming to their restaurant 飲食店に来るお客の数を減らす
- service industry サービス業
- cannot immediately change
すぐに変えることはできない

Price of tobacco in Japan

In Japan, a pack of cigarettes is sold for around 400 yen. Since vending machines require customers to show ID, many smokers buy tobacco at convenience stores. Tobacco is still an important item for convenience stores. The price of tobacco in Japan is cheap compared to overseas; except some Asian countries, Eastern Europe, and some South American countries. The violation for smoking in a no-smoking zone is a low fine in Japan, too.

Expressions

- vending machines 販売機
- compared to overseas 外国と比べると
- violation 違反
- a low fine 罰金が安い

今まで日本は喫煙者に比較的小さかった…

～「受動禁煙対策法」が2020年から施行予定～



◆政府がタバコ産業の株主だから

日本の財務省は、日本たばこ産業（JT）の約33%の株を保有する株主です。全国の農家が生産するタバコの葉を、国際標準価格の約3倍の価格で買い取り、60%の税率をかけた販売しています。国の大きな収入源なので大幅に減らしたくないわけです。

◆そもそも日本はタバコが安い！

海外ではタバコの値段は想像以上に高いです。特に高いのはオーストラリアで、1箱約2000円。アメリカは約1000円、北欧は約1500円、ドイツは約700円、シンガポールは約1000円、香港は約600円。日本は10月から値上げになりましたが、それでも500円程度です。アジア圏では、シンガポールやブルネイ以外は値段が安い。タバコに関する罰金も、海外に比べて日本はずいぶん安いのです。

◆ビジネス的に損失だと考える人がいた

タバコ販売量の約3分の2はコンビニで、コンビニの売上げのうちタバコの売上額は全体の4分の1くらいを占めているので、コンビニ業界の売上減少が心配されていました。

また、昔ながらの飲食店経営者のなかには、お店を全面禁煙にすると昔からのお客さんが来なくなるのではないかと心配する人もいます。

ですが、2020年東京オリンピックの開催をひかえて、日本も禁煙条例が厳しくなります。学校、病院、福祉施設では屋内全面禁煙になり、飲食店でも原則、屋内でのタバコは禁止予定です。

日本政府はタバコ以外の収入のみちを、新しくみつかるべきでしょう。

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