



[http://www.iticnet.org/Sponsors\\_BoardOfDirectors](http://www.iticnet.org/Sponsors_BoardOfDirectors)

On the list of directors of the ITIC organisation are representatives of 4 major international tobacco corporations (as well as major liquor, beverage, food and oil corporations, lawyers and accountancy firms).

ITIC states:

“The Benefits of ITIC Sponsorship

- ITIC sponsors receive timely information on tax and investment laws, decrees, and regulations.
- ITIC sponsors have the opportunity to develop relationships with and to gain special access to partner country policy makers and legislators.
- ITIC sponsors have a unique opportunity to affect the policy making and lawmaking process and the investment climates in partner countries”

[http://www.iticnet.org/Sponsors\\_Roster](http://www.iticnet.org/Sponsors_Roster)

Likewise the list of Sponsors of the ITIC organisation shows the same corporations from which said directors to the ITIC board were appointed.

[http://www.tobaccotactics.org/index.php/International\\_Tax\\_and\\_Investment\\_Center](http://www.tobaccotactics.org/index.php/International_Tax_and_Investment_Center)

Self explanatory information from the University of Bath regarding ITIC

“ITIC reported that its principle asset was in providing its sponsors *a seat at the policy-making table*”

[http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/raise\\_taxes/en/](http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/raise_taxes/en/) WHO Guidelines on major importance of excise tax

#### Raise taxes on tobacco



#### Overview

Increasing the price of tobacco through higher taxes is the single most effective way to encourage tobacco users to quit and prevent children from starting to smoke. Taxes on inexpensive tobacco products should be equivalent to higher-priced products, such as premium-brand cigarettes, to prevent substitution in consumption. Taxes need to be increased regularly to correct for inflation and consumer purchasing power. Tobacco taxes are generally well accepted by the public and raise government revenues. Allocating tax revenues for tobacco control and other important health and social programmes further increases their popularity.

<http://www.fctc.org/what-is-the-fctc/country-ratification-map>

UK is a ratified party to the WHO's FCTC Treaty and is bound by this international instrument.

<http://www.smokefreepartnership.eu/documents/briefing-article-53-fctc-global-treaty-global-problem>

[http://www.who.int/fctc/guidelines/adopted/article\\_5\\_3/en/](http://www.who.int/fctc/guidelines/adopted/article_5_3/en/)

Article 5.3 of the FCTC Treaty provides parties with specific guidelines on dealing with tobacco organisations **and their front groups**.

Accordingly our organisation queries the reasoning in permitting a person with Mr Hartnett's deep confidential knowledge of UK and international Customs and taxation policies, to join an organisation, apparently a representative front group for its sponsors, including tobacco companies, which seeks to 'obtain a seat at the policy making table', forbidden to tobacco companies under Article 5.3 and in ITIC's own words :

- *"ITIC sponsors have the opportunity to develop relationships with and to gain special access to partner country policy makers and legislators.*
- *ITIC sponsors have a unique opportunity to affect the policy making and lawmaking process and the investment climates in partner countries"*

Tobacco excise and other forms of taxation are a proven preventative health measure.

Likewise liquor excise tax measures can be seen as a preventative health measure.

Any ITIC attempts to influence any Government policy decisions on tobacco and alcohol excise taxation would prima facie, seek to defeat such Governmental preventative health policies.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/82886136-a243-11e4-bbb8-00144feab7de.html#axzz3Z8Jy4DnE>

Moreover it would not be advisable for former HM Govt senior staff to become advisers to front groups for organisations that then seek to use such advice to the detriment of HM Government.

Yours faithfully,

*James Middleton*

James Middleton  
Chairman  
[www.cleartheair.org.hk](http://www.cleartheair.org.hk)