

February 7, 2006

Should the WHO hire smokers?

-- Three-Minute Presentation for the UN Course --

By KOBAYASHI Fumiaki

Hello, everyone.

My topic is "Should the World Health Organization hire smokers?"

My quick answer to the question is "Yes, they should."

First of all, I will give you a brief explanation about current situation. In December 2005, WHO, the Health Division of the United Nations, has announced a controversial policy about their employment. They dare to declare they won't hire smokers any more.

When I heard the news, I felt it was nice, because I don't smoke and I hate smoking. I feel really disgusted when someone smokes around me, especially in public places.

But when it comes to hiring, it is a different story, because it is apparently discrimination against smokers. When you hire someone, every candidate should be screened by one's work performance, not by one's gender, appearance, religion, belief, disability, whom they know, etc. unless one is harmful to others. It should be also true to smoking habit.

You may be not smokers and think smokers deserve this? OK, what if there is an employer who doesn't hire anyone drinks alcohols? Don't you think it is unfair? Because it is a personal choice and not related to their work performance. I believe the choice of smoking is protected as is that of non-smoking, as long as it is legal.

That is why I think WHO should dispose the hiring policy and should hire a smoker when s/he is more productive than any other candidates of non-smoker.

Thank you.