

Tobacco fair in KL under fire

KUALA LUMPUR: A week ago, a Canadian arrived in the city. Vacation however, was the last thing on Errol E. Povah's mind.

The president of Action on Smoking and Health (Airspace) in Canada was here to stage a protest against a tobacco exhibition held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday.

Povah decided to come here, when he heard the tobacco trade fair was to be held in Malaysia.

"I'm here to oppose this tobacco convention," he said. "These tobacco giants are trying to penetrate the Asian market and this should not be allowed."

He added that 18, being the minimum age for smoking, was just a gimmick.

"Actually, their target group is much younger than 18 and now, they are even coming up with

flavoured cigarettes.

"The Malaysian Government should not allow such exhibitions if they are bent on curbing smoking," he said.

Also present were Malaysian Council for Tobacco Control (MCTC) secretary-general Shari Ahmad and its board member and Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca) vice-president K. Koris.

"Our country has signed the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC), yet we allow such tobacco exhibitions in our country," said Koris.

He added that one of the provisions in the FCTC was not to promote smoking in any way.

"We are making a mockery of

By K. THASHALINI



GRIM REAPER MAKES HIS POINT: A protester being asked to leave

the FCTC by allowing such tobacco exhibitions in our country," he said.

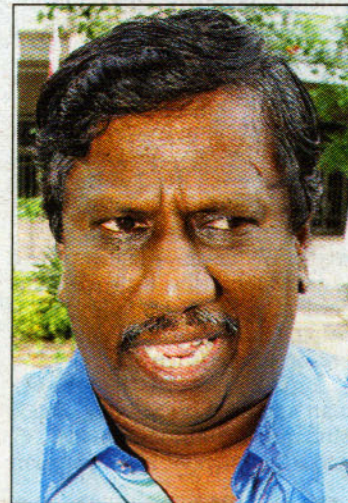
Shari said his efforts to prevent the exhibition from taking place failed as his letters to the various departments did not receive any response.

"I am upset that fellow Malaysians had not turned up to show their support to stop this tobacco exhibition," he said.

He urged the Health Ministry to take the matter seriously.

The exhibition, TABINFO Asian Congress and Trade Fair which began on Nov 14, ends today and is closed to the public.

The organisers of the exhibition were not available for comment.



Koris: Can't promote smoking

RM100,000 to train journalists

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Airports Bhd yesterday contributed RM100,000 to the Malaysian Press Institute (MPI) to finance a series of training programmes for journalists.

Malaysia Airports senior general manager for Operations, Datuk Mahat Samah, handed a cheque for the amount to MPI chairman Datuk Ahmad A. Talib here.

"We appreciate this opportunity to be able to contribute, albeit in a small way, towards the creation of a more knowledgeable and resourceful media," he told a Press conference after the presentation.

Ahmad said: "Local journalists will benefit from a series of training programmes, part of which will focus on enhancing their knowledge of airport operations. — Bernama

Terrorism is not jihad, says Perak Mufti

IPOH: The Mufti of Perak, Datuk Seri