

Message from the Chairman



The Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong has, since its foundation in 1999, not only strived to protect public health, assure consumers' rights and raise professional standards; but has also committed to foster the awareness of "self-regulation" in the medical profession. During this period we launched the transitional registration of Chinese medicine practitioners; implemented detailed measures on registration and regulation; and began the formulation of regulatory measures on Chinese medicines. After years of cooperation and diligence, the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong has become increasingly mature.

One of the important events of 2003 in the profession was that the first batch of over 2,000 persons registered as Chinese medicine practitioners in Hong Kong through registration assessment and licensing examination. With an increase in the recognition of the statutory status

of professional Chinese medicine practitioners by the community, and the diversity of medical development, continuing education has become essential for upgrading the professional standards of Chinese medicine practitioners. We have developed initial thoughts on the provision of continuing education of Chinese medicine for registered Chinese medicine practitioners, and a consultation paper introducing its overall structure and specific arrangements is near to completion. We plan to consult the professions extensively early in 2004, before implementing the detailed arrangements.

To safeguard citizens when using Chinese medicines, the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong implemented regulatory measures in April 2003 on the licensing of Chinese medicines traders; and on the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines in December 2003. In addition, we issued practising guidelines to Chinese medicine traders; formulated regulatory measures on the recall of Chinese medicines, and on good manufacturing practice. We have also progressively developed testing standards for various Chinese herbs.

I have been very satisfied with the achievements in respect of regulatory work on Chinese medicine over the past year, and also delighted that the government has started to provide out-patient service in Chinese medicine in public hospitals. I



hope that Chinese medicine will soon be incorporated into the public health care system of Hong Kong, so as to keep pace with other medical professions and serve the citizens. In addition to co-operating more with the Mainland medical profession under the closer economic partnership arrangement, we are also going to enhance exchanges with international associations, to facilitate the future development of Chinese medicine.

Looking to the future, the council will continue to fulfill its mission. We hope the profession continues to uphold the spirit of self-regulation; to maintain good personal conduct; and to work together to strive for higher professional standards.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all committee members and staff of the Chinese Medicine Council Secretariat for their dedicated efforts and commitment over the past year.

Dr. C W Tse, G.B.S., J.P.

Chairman,

Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong