

## Message from the Chairman



Chinese medicine is a treasure of Chinese culture. It has long played an important role - since the founding of Hong Kong. In the areas of disease prevention, treatment, health maintenance and rehabilitation, Chinese medicine and Western medicine complement each other, making significant contributions to the protection of public health.

I admire the longevity of Chinese culture, and respect the harmony between the theories of Chinese medicine and the natural system. For these reasons, I fully support the decision of the Hong Kong SAR Government to develop Chinese medicine, and accepted an invitation in 1995 to participate in the task of incorporating Chinese medicine into the public healthcare system. Following its establishment in September 1999, the

Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong started to formulate regulatory measures on Chinese medicine. The development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong then entered a new era.

In November 2002, the first batch of Chinese medicine practitioners attained the status of statutory and professional registration. This will be followed by the implementation of licensing of Chinese medicines traders. The objective of the professionalization of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong will be achieved progressively. Building on good management, the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong is going to take a great step forward, which is encouraging.

Over the past eight years, Chinese medicine has developed from a state of laissez-faire, to regularization of Chinese medicines and establishment of the professional status of the Chinese medicine practitioners. This is attributable to the dedicated support and active participation of the Chinese medicine profession and the community, as well as the vigorous promotion by the Hong Kong SAR Government. Without doubt, the unceasing work of the members of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, the Chinese Medicines Board, and the committees since September 1999 has been a significant factor in bringing about these achievements.



In view of the close relationship between Chinese medicine and the health and safety of citizens, it is necessary to continue deepening the professional regulatory work. Apart from this, the profession of Chinese medicines also needs to advance and develop. To this end, the coordination of government policy and resources is essential, particularly in the aspects of education and medical services. We expect that in the foreseeable future, the government will devise a holistic set of policies to develop Chinese medicine. These will include policies on manpower training, provision of out-patient and in-patient services in public hospitals, professional entry requirements, remuneration, etc., with a view to incorporating Chinese medicine into the public healthcare system. These measures will enable it to keep pace with other medical service provisions: to better serve the public, and to earn it an enhanced position in international medicine.

I hereby present the report of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong.

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*Chairman,*  
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