

Introduction

The Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong is a statutory body and was established under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance in September 1999. The council is responsible for implementing the Chinese medicine regulatory systems, as set out in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance.

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council in July 1999. It signified an important milestone for the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong. The Chinese Medicine Ordinance accords a statutory status to Chinese medicine, laying a solid foundation for promoting the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, and for the protection of public health. For the registration of Chinese medicine practitioners, licensing of Chinese medicines traders and registration of proprietary Chinese medicines, transitional arrangements were provided. These arrangements took account of the historical background of the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, the standard of the Chinese medicine practitioners, and the principle of not adversely affecting the livelihood of the Chinese medicine practitioners.

Acting in accordance with the spirit of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, the council has devised detailed regulatory measures, by exercising the authority provided by the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. In the process, references have been made to the development of Chinese medicine in Mainland China and other regions, with a view to attaining advanced standards, and building a network with other countries and territories on an international basis. On the other hand, we have conducted the necessary consultation work, to assess the impact of the regulatory measures on the Chinese medicine profession and the Chinese medicines trade. We have made suitable arrangements, in response to the concerns of the public. In implementing the related tasks, the council has taken into consideration not only the prevailing situation of practitioners, but has also undertaken appropriate administrative measures, complemented by suitable publicity, to help practitioners to adapt to these regulatory measures.

This report lists the work of the council since its establishment in September 1999, up to end of 2002, and records the implementation of the regulatory measures on Chinese medicine in Hong Kong.