

Message from the Chairman -

This is the first annual report since I was appointed as the Chairman of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (the Council). It is a great honour to work with all members of the Council in assuring the professional standard of Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs), the licensing qualification and ethics of Chinese medicines traders and further promoting the regulatory work of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong.

Chinese Medicine Ordinance (CMO) was implemented in 1999 and the Council was established in the same year. The Council has worked tirelessly on the regulatory work of Chinese medicine, consolidating the professionalism granted to the CMPs by the CMO, assuring the safety, quality and efficacy of Chinese medicines so that the regulatory work of Chinese medicine is widely recognised by the industry and the public in the past 18 years. At this juncture, I would like to pay tribute to the former Chairman Professor CHAN Chi-fai, Andrew, previous Chairmen and all members for their relentless efforts in the past years. They have made significant contributions in establishing a solid foundation for the current Council to uphold the regulatory work and further enhance the services of Chinese medicine.

As always, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board (the Practitioners Board) and the Chinese Medicines Board under the Council continue to implement monitoring measures on Chinese medicine to enhance the regulatory system.

To handle cases involving CMPs who, by reason of health, is unfit to practise Chinese medicine more effectively pursuant to the CMO, the Practitioners Board set a unified standard for registered CMPs and listed CMPs. For registered CMPs, the Practitioners Board has set up a Health Committee in May 2017 to handle cases related to medical grounds, and evaluate if the registered CMPs with medical problems are fit to continue practising Chinese medicine. For listed CMPs, the Practitioners Board proposed amendments for the Code of Conduct for Listed CMPs in relation to the health requirement for practising Chinese medicine by listed CMPs in June 2017. After consultation and careful deliberation, the revised provisions became effective from 1 January 2018. Apart from that, registered CMP is the first medical profession in Hong Kong which required by law has to undertake the continuing education in order to renew practising certificates. There are more than 7,400 registered CMPs in Hong Kong and around 6,900 of them have set up their personal continuing education in Chinese medicine (CME) records under own selected accredited CME Administrator for continuing education. To ensure that the overall performance of the accredited CME Administrators and Programme Providers whom providing continuing education courses met the required standard, the Practitioners Board conducts review of the system of CME regularly. The sixth review will be conducted in 2018.

The Chinese Medicines Board is responsible for the regulatory system of Chinese medicines, which includes licensing and regulation of Chinese medicines traders and registration of proprietary Chinese medicines (pCm) to ensure the safety in the administration of medications for public. By the end of 2017, the Chinese Medicines Board has issued 1300 "Certificate of Registration of pCm" for products meeting the safety, quality and efficacy requirements and 18 "Certificate for Manufacturer (Good Manufacturing Practice in respect of pCm) (GMP Certificates)" to pCm manufacturers who follow good practices in the manufacture and quality control of pCm. Having regard to changing circumstances in society and issuing clear guidelines for the trade, the Chinese Medicines Board endorsed the implementation measures for traders conducting external packing of pCm in 2017.

Any person who conducts external packing of pCm shall apply for the “Manufacturer Licence in Proprietary Chinese Medicines (External Packing)”. The Chinese Medicines Board also endorsed the amendment to the “Practising Guideline for Retailers of Chinese Herbal Medicines (CHM)” on inspection and acceptance of processed herbal medicines. With the amendment, it is acceptable for CHM retailers to record CHM batch numbers to achieve prompt traceability of batches when required. Meanwhile, the Chinese Medicines Board has formulated registration guidelines for the trade’s reference and held briefing on pCm registration to promote the regulatory system of Chinese medicines.

Last year, the Council, the Practitioners Board, the Chinese Medicines Board and all the committees had held 122 meetings. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all members for their relentless support and the commitments from all related parties in the trade to implement the statutory functions under the CMO, help ensuring smooth and effective enforcement of the regulatory works, and to consolidate the professionalism of the Chinese medicine industry.

The registration and regulatory work of the Council have been widely recognised in the past years. I am convinced that the Council will continue to work together with the Chinese medicine trade and profession in an effort to boost its development. On behalf of the Council, I would like to express my utmost thanks to all former and incumbent parties who have contributed in implementing the regulatory work of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, including the China Food and Drug Administration, the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the People’s Republic of China, the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, other policy bureaux and departments, Hospital Authority, institutions and organisations providing courses of Chinese medicine, organisations of Chinese medicine practitioners and traders, members of the Council, its boards and committees and staff of the Council Secretariat for their invaluable support and devotion.



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