

## Message from the Chairman

This is the first annual report since my appointment as Chairman of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (the Council). It is a great honour to work with the members of the Council, its boards and committees for the professional standards and ethics of Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) and Chinese medicines traders (CMTs), with a view to safeguarding public health.

Since the inception of the Council more than two decades ago, its members have been working tirelessly on different aspects of regulating Chinese medicine, thereby consolidating the professional status granted to the CMPs by the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, and ensuring the safety, quality and efficacy of Chinese medicines. Their decades-long efforts have laid a solid foundation for the work of the Council, which has received wide recognition from the industry and the public. I am deeply thankful to former Chairman Professor LEE Chack-fan, his predecessors and all ex-members for their contributions.

2020 has been an unforgettable year. The outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 early in the year has affected many industries. Despite the menacing virus, the Council, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board (the Practitioners Board), the Chinese Medicines Board (the Medicines Board) and their respective committees continued to be as committed as ever to the various regulatory work of Chinese medicine. A total of 79 meetings were convened during the year to fulfil the regulatory responsibilities under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. I am deeply moved by the hard work and contributions of all members of the Council.

The registered CMP is the first medical profession in Hong Kong required by law to undertake continuing education for renewal of practising certificates. Due to the pandemic, the face-to-face courses on Continuing Education in Chinese Medicine (CME) organised by the accredited CME Programme Providers came to a halt, posing great difficulty for CMPs to pursue continuing education in Chinese medicine. Under such special circumstances, the Practitioners Board has decided to adopt a lenient approach in handling applications from registered CMPs for renewal of practising certificates expiring in 2020 or 2021. They will be allowed to continue to practice, on the condition that they make up the unearned points within the next CME cycle. In addition, with a view to safeguarding the health of the candidates, examiners and supporting staff in the 2020 CMPs Licensing Examination, the Practitioners Board and the Council's Secretariat adopted a series of precautionary measures to ensure that the written and clinical examinations could be conducted safely and smoothly.

Concerning the regulation of the Chinese medicine sector, the Medicines Board under the Council has been working hard in the licensing and regulation of CMTs and the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines (pCm) to ensure public safety in medication administration. By the end of 2020, the Medicines Board has issued 2,668 Certificates of Registration of pCm for products meeting the safety, quality and efficacy requirements, and 21 Certificates for Manufacturer (Good Manufacturing Practice in respect of pCm) (GMP Certificates) to pCm manufacturers who have demonstrated good practice in the manufacture and quality control of pCm. In the wake of the pandemic, the Medicines Board, with the assistance of the Department of Health (DH), has moved its briefing sessions on pCm registration online for rigorous promotion of Chinese medicine regulation.

Looking ahead, I hope that the Council and the Chinese medicine industry will continue to work hand in hand to boost Chinese medicine development and contribute to further improvement of its regulation. On behalf of the Council, I would like to express my utmost thanks to all parties who have contributed to the regulatory work of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, including the National Medical Products Administration, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Food and Health Bureau, the DH, other policy bureaux and departments concerned, the Hospital Authority, institutions and organisations providing Chinese medicine courses, organisations of CMPs and CMTs, and the Council's Secretariat.

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Chairman,  
Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong