



Message from the Chairman

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (the Council) in 2010. This report reviews the work of the Council in 2010, summarizes the regulatory systems of Chinese Medicine Practitioners (CMPs) and Chinese medicines, and outlines the direction of future work of the Council.

In the field of medical services in Hong Kong, Chinese medicine has played a very important role. In disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of health care, Chinese medicine and Western medicine play the complementary roles for the protection of public health and both have made a significant contribution. The Council has, since its foundation in September 1999, been striving to protect public health, assure consumer rights and enhance professional standard of the Chinese medicine profession. Here, I thank members of the Council and its boards and committees for their supports and assistance in further extending the sustainable development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong.

The regulation of Chinese medicine entered a new era in 2010. The Chinese Medicine Ordinance has already established the professional status of CMPs. As at the end of 2010, the total number of CMPs practising in Hong Kong is over 9,000. Registered CMPs are the first medical profession required by law to fulfill the requirements of continuing education in Chinese medicines before they can renew their practicing certificates. I encourage them to continue to pursue life-long learning to upgrade their professional knowledge and skills for serving their patients. With a view to ensuring that the Chinese medicine profession can meet the rapid social development and the current day standard, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board amended the codes of conduct allowing relaxation of CMPs to demonstrate to the public their academic titles and qualifications. Except the clauses regarding "Signs and Signboards at clinics" which will be promulgated on 1 July 2011, the other parts of the revised codes will be effective from 1 January 2011. Regarding assessment of Chinese medicine degree courses, the Practitioners Board completed assessing the Chinese medicine degree courses organized by mainland universities and recognized two of them so that their graduates are eligible for undertaking the CMPs Licensing Examination beginning from 2011 onwards. In order to strengthen the communication with CMPs, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board published its newsletters regularly to facilitate CMPs to obtain the latest information on practising and regulatory matters.

For regulation of Chinese medicines, the Chinese Medicines Board under the Council, has been handling a large amount of work with respect to review in connection with registration of proprietary Chinese medicines. The legislative provisions relating to the licensing of Chinese medicines traders came into effect on 11 January 2008. In order to step up the regulation of Chinese medicines, the legislation regarding mandatory registration of proprietary Chinese medicines under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance came into effect on 3 December 2010, which aims at fostering the development of Chinese medicines in Hong Kong, and ensuring safety, quality and efficacy of Chinese medicines with a view to enhancing the confidence of the general public in using them. Besides, the Chinese Medicines Board published two issues of "Chinese Medicines Traders Newsletter" in 2010 with a view to enhancing the communication with the trade, enabling the traders to grasp the latest information about trade practice and to gain more understanding of the regulation of Chinese medicines.

In 2010, the Council, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, the Chinese Medicines Board and their committees held a total of about 140 meetings to discharge the various functions under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. I would like to thank all members for their dedication to the work of the Council and their great contributions to the regulation of Chinese medicine.

Looking to the future, the legislative provisions regarding the requirements of label and package inserts for all registered proprietary Chinese medicines will come into force on 1 December 2011. I hope the commencement of new provisions can further protect public health and meet the general expectation over medicinal product safety. We also hope to see a timetable to accelerate manufacturers of proprietary Chinese medicines to follow good practices in the manufacture (Good Manufacturing Practice "GMP") so as to enhance the confidence of the general public in using Chinese medicines. I am confident that the Council and the trade will closely work together to further enhance the development of Chinese medicines in Hong Kong.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the State Food and Drug Administration, the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, other policy bureaux and departments, the Hospital Authority, universities and institutions that provide courses in Chinese medicine, CMP associations, Chinese medicines trader associations, Chinese medicine profession, all former and existing members of the Council and its boards and committees, as well as the staff of the Council Secretariat, for their dedicated efforts in implementing the regulatory work in Chinese medicine over the past years.



FAN Chor-ho, Paul, SBS, JP
Chairman,
Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong

Introduction

This annual report, covering the twelve months up to 31 December 2010, is the ninth one published by the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (the Council). Through this publication, the Council aims to keep members of the profession, as well as the general public, better informed of the functions, work and future direction of the Council.

It should be noted that this report is intended for general information only and certain functions of the Council have accordingly been simplified and/or presented in form of an information document. If readers are interested in reading more specific details of relevant statutory functions of the Council and/or its subsidiary bodies, they may refer to the provisions under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, Cap 549 of the Laws of Hong Kong and subsidiary legislations.

All enquiries to the Council can be addressed to:

The Chinese Medicine Council Secretariat

Address	: 22/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Fax	: (852) 2121 1898
Tel	: (852) 2121 1888 (852) 2319 5119 (licensing of Chinese medicines traders) (852) 3904 9130 (registration of proprietary Chinese medicines) (852) 2574 9999 (24-hour enquiry system)
Email Address	: info@cmchk.org.hk (general enquiries) exam@cmchk.org.hk (enquiries about licensing examination)
Website	: www.cmchk.org.hk
Service Hours	: Monday to Friday : 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays