



Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

Welcomes the Policy Address' suggestions on the development of Hong Kong Medical Industry

(Hong Kong, 18 January, 2013)

In response to the Policy Address announced by the Chief Executive Mr. C.Y. LEUNG on 16 January 2013, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) is delighted to learn about the policy agenda and initiatives proposed for the future development of the Hong Kong healthcare system. We believe that the policy will facilitate sustainable development in the future.

Improving Healthcare Services

In keeping with the increase in medical expectations in our society, the HKAM supports the establishment of a steering committee to explore measures to enhance the development and management of human resources within the medical community. "The HKAM has been paying attention to and has had concerns regarding the workload and manpower of doctors for a long time. We hope the establishment of the steering committee will continue to enhance working efficiency among various departments, as well as enable better allocation of human resources." said **Dr. Donald LI Kwok-tung, President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine**. "The HKAM will work closely with the Hong Kong Government. We aim at providing the best professional training to local doctors and improving the quality of medical services in Hong Kong."

The HKAM welcomes the establishment of the steering committee to conduct a strategic review of healthcare manpower planning within the Hospital Authority. It also supports the twin-track system for public and private healthcare sectors. Through healthy competition and cooperation, **Dr. Donald LI** expects a relief of pressure on frontline doctors, while ensuring quality medical services are provided to the public.

The Expansion and Renovation of Hospitals & the Construction of the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics

To address the needs of an aging population and an increasing demand on medical services from society, the Government is planning to set up a new hospital in Tin Shui Wai, and to expand and renovate existing hospitals, including the United Christian Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, and Kwai Chung Hospital. A new Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics will also be established to meet medical needs. **Dr. WONG Sik-nin, President of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians**, opined that, "In order to facilitate the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics, the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians will further strengthen specialist training to meet

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facilitate the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics, the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians will further strengthen specialist training to meet social expectations on paediatric services. The College believes that, the establishment of such a Centre will facilitate paediatricians in handling more complex or difficult cases. Through being better equipped, the Centre will also help with the training as well as general quality of the medical personnel involved.”

Professor Linda LAM Chiu-wa, President of the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists, welcomed the proposal to renovate Kwai Chung Hospital, “The local demand on psychiatric services had been increasing in recent years. A better stratification of services according to patient specific need would definitely improve the quality of care provided. This should include a more home-like Psychiatric Hospital, which can offer more approachable services.” **Professor LAM** hoped that more patients can benefit by expanding/adding this mode of operation to existing psychiatric services in Hong Kong.

The Development of Medical Industry

In view of the establishment of the Economic Development Commission, **Dr. LI** stressed that “The Medical Industry is vital to the local community”. He also stated that “The continuous development of new medical techniques did not just guard the general health of Hong Kong citizens, it also made our services very reputable around the world, such as in the field of cancer treatments and the technique of living donor liver transplantation. The HKAM has put tremendous efforts into training medical professionals and facilitating the development of medical technologies. We will maintain this close relationship with the Government in the coming year and to strive to do our utmost to further improve our existing medical standards and the international status of the Hong Kong medical community.”

Establishment of The Chinese Medicine Development Committee

The HKAM welcomes the establishment of the Chinese Medicine Development Committee in late January. **Dr. LI** hoped the committee can enhance the quality of Chinese medical services to best serve the Hong Kong community.

Consultations about The Health Protection Scheme

The HKAM will continue to participate in the consultative group on the Health Protection Scheme. We suggest tailoring the scheme in accordance with the financial status of Hong Kong citizens, to encourage enthusiastic participation in the scheme. On the other hand, a safety net is also needed to ensure that the medical needs of the less privileged are also addressed.

Improving Air Quality

So as to achieve cleaner air, the Government strives to improve air quality on all fronts, through better co-ordination of relevant policies on environmental protection, which includes the phasing out of old diesel commercial vehicles as well as the facilitation of Green Transport and related policies. The HKAM welcomes this policy and agrees that these measures can reduce the adverse impact of pollution on public health, particularly for patients suffering from cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases.

Dr. LI concluded that “the HKAM focuses on the development and enhancement of the professional standards of medical specialists. We also value the cooperation amongst different disciplines to offer quality services to society. We hope that through implementation of these policies in the coming year as well as cooperation between the HKAM and Government, the Hong Kong public will enjoy the best of accessible medical services that are also affordable.”

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