

香 港 衛 生 督 察 會

**HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION**  
(Member of the International Federation of Environmental Health)

Ms. LEUNG Chui-man,  
Chairlady, HKPHIA  
c/o District Environmental Hygiene Supt. (KwT),  
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7 March 2006

The Legislative Council Secretariat,  
(Attn.: The Chairman,  
Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005)  
Legislative Council Building,  
8 Jackson Road, Central,  
Hong Kong.

Dear Chairman CHENG Kar-foo,

**Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005**

On behalf of the Hong Kong Public Health Inspectors' Association (HKPHIA), I have the pleasure to note your proposed bill of prohibition on smoking against culprits in public places such as an indoor area in any public market, supermarket, restaurant premises, karaoke establishment and etc. Although the said proposal is meaningful, I would like to express the views of the members in HKPHIA as follows:-

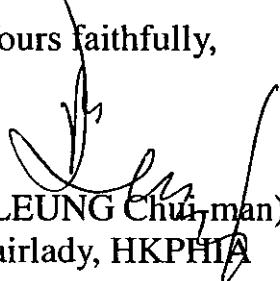
- a) the execution of the said bill is primarily a blessing to the body health of individuals with less emphasis on environmental health,
- b) taking out legal actions against culprits requires no specialty from health inspectorate grade officers simply because of the evidence of smoking and/or holding a piece of lighted cigarette in the culprits' hand would suffice, and
- c) as mentioned above, the specialty of health inspectorate grade officers (HIOs) should focus on food control, environmental hygiene surveillance, hygienic conditions of food premises. This additional re-direction of their attention to anti-smoking with lesser weight on their vested duties is undesirable, not to mention to guard against the imminence of any unpredictable disaster/disease e.g. SARS, H5N1 in the past years.

For a more workable approach to achieve your final goal, I would like to suggest the recruitment of additional anti-smoking squadrons just the same way as the Traffic Warden against illegal parking. Some preliminary training is, of course, of paramount importance at the scratch but it is just worth the while if the scheme turns out to be successful. It is my hearty feeling that the above proposal would also be shared and supported by other civil servant grades let alone my grade.

You may also wish to note that the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the past years has already reduced the strength of many civil servants' grade, including HIOs, with their spirit at full stretch.

Looking forward to seeing your response and support soon.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Ms. LEUNG Chui-man)  
Chairlady, HKPHIA

c.c. The Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, Hon. York Y N CHOW, SBS, JP  
The Secretary for the Civil Service, Hon. Miss Denise YUE, GBS, JP  
The Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene, Hon. Gregory LEUNG, JP