



香港社會醫學學院
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
Founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
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COUNCIL 2004-05

6 May 2005

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Vice-PresidentDr S V Lo
羅思偉**Chief Censor**Dr Kathleen So
蘇雲嫻

Dear Sir/Madam,

Honorary SecretaryDr Thomas Chung
鍾偉雄

On behalf of the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine, I would like to submit to the Food Safety and Environmental Health Panel our College's considered opinions on the subject of nutrition labelling which I understand will be discussed on 10 May 2005.

Honorary TreasurerDr David Lam
林達賢

As a professional organisation consisting of all specialist doctors working to improve the health of the community, our College strongly supports the government's initiative in introducing a mandatory nutrition labeling scheme in Hong Kong to protect, promote and improve public health.

MembersDr Mandy Ho
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Nutrition related diseases are among the leading causes of death and disability in our local population. This pattern is similar to that of other advanced economies. The World Health Organisation has recommended that the consumers desire accurate, standardised and detailed nutrition information to make healthy food choices. And it is the responsibility of the government and the trade working together to provide such information.

Internationally, there is indeed a clear trend to implement nutrition labeling schemes to protect consumers' right-to-know and facilitate informed decision on healthier food choices. There is also clear evidence, including the recent regulatory impact assessment (RIA) conducted locally, that there are net population benefits in introducing a mandatory nutrition labeling scheme, through the reduction in the avoidable health care costs, loss of productivity and premature deaths associated with various nutrition related diseases.

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It is the considered opinion of the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine that the government should implement a mandatory nutrition labeling scheme as early as it is practically feasible. We consider that the scheme should cover energy plus nine core nutrients, namely carbohydrate, protein, total fat, sodium, saturated fat, cholesterol, sugar, calcium and dietary fibre, as proposed in the original consultation document. According to the RIA, the benefit-to-cost ratio is the largest for labeling of information on energy together with the nine core nutrients.

The nutrition labeling scheme will help Hong Kong to catch up with the international trend, and in the long run, reduce sufferings and disease burden resulting from the escalating epidemic of nutrition related diseases.

Thank you for your attention

Yours faithfully



Dr S V Lo
Vice-President