



香港社會醫學學院
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
 founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Incorporated with limited liability



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COUNCIL 2004-05

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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Legislative Council

(Attn: Mrs Constance LI)

30 December, 2005

Dear Mrs LI,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and
 Panel on Environmental Affairs**

Joint Meeting on 6 January 2006

Thank you for your letter dated 19 December 2005 inviting representatives from Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and our College to give views on the proposed re-organisation plan for food safety regulatory framework. Dr Gabriel Leung will represent Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Hong Kong College of Community Medicine to attend the meeting on 6 January to give our views on this matter.

We support the government's initiative to enhance food safety and protect public health by introducing the re-organisation plan for food safety regulatory framework. We note that the aim of this plan is to streamline the existing food safety control functions currently performed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

We support the proposed separation of the functions of regulation and facilitation put forward by the government. Many overseas countries e.g. Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, also have separate organizations to perform food safety regulatory functions and local farm facilitation functions. The clear separation of these two functions in the proposed framework under the government's re-organisation plan can avoid the conflicting roles in the same department. The government can continue to help promote and develop the local fishery and agriculture industry on one hand and strengthen the regulation of food safety on the other.



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Dr P Y Leung
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While we support the concept of "farm-to-table" approach in ensuring food safety, we consider it not necessary to have one single organization to implement the work on all areas along the food supply chain, especially where there is potential conflict of interest in some areas e.g. regulation versus facilitation. On the contrary, it would be beneficial to both the government and the trade if there are different organizations with clear and distinct roles and responsibilities about regulation of food safety and facilitation of primary production. Moreover, this separation of functions will not weaken the protection of the consumers and it will be more efficient in introducing new measures to protect public health.

We agree that the new Centre for Food Safety should adopt a multi-disciplinary approach by pooling the expertise and knowledge of relevant professionals, including medical doctors, veterinarians, various food scientists such as toxicologists, dieticians, microbiologists, chemists, and biotechnologists, etc. in controlling and regulating food safety.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Lam
 for President
 Hong Kong College of Community Medicine

c.c. President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (Attn: Mr Elmer Wan)