

Submission to Legislative Council Panel on Health Services 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006

I have numerous opportunities to relate with China both professionally and academically. Below are my honorary positions in China and the World Health Organization which provided many of such opportunities:

1. Professor in Infection Control, Military Postgraduate Medical College, PLA General Hospital(301), Beijing.
2. Professor, Hunan Medical University, Xiang Ya Hospital, Changsha
3. Professor, Shanghai 2<sup>nd</sup> Medical University, Rui Jin Hospital
4. Professor, West China School of Clinical Medicine, Chengdu
5. Consultant for Infection Control, People's Liberation Army, China. Appointed by PLA Medical Science & Technology Committee.
6. Consultant, Ministry of Health Training Center for Infection Control, Changsha.
7. Temporary Consultant and Trainer, WHO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring programme.
8. Temporary Advisor for WHO Patient Safety Challenge programme.
9. Core group member of WHO Hand Hygiene Guideline development.

In my interchange with China, I did not find any inhibition in the sharing of data. Let me quote two examples:

- A. China was willing to report that some of their hospitals have the highest Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in the world (>80% of Staphylococcus aureus). This is even listed in the WHO website and also reported in the annual 3-China Infectious Diseases Meeting on Nov 2005 held in Beijing.
- B. China is planning to launch the WHO hand hygiene guideline this year. In preparation for the meeting, the Ministry of Health is requested to report the nosocomial infection rates in the country for the workshop associated with the launch. There was ready agreement and several hospitals will also conduct an update survey to be reported in the workshop scheduled for April 2006.

I believe that the desire for transparency is generally widespread. China is a large country and we must allow time for the accurate collection of data. Furthermore time must be allowed for the authorities to adequately evaluate the data before release. Such practices exist all over the world and these delays should not be viewed as a lack of transparency.

Thank you very much.

Report Submitted by Dr. Seto Wing Hong, Chief of Service, Microbiology, Queen Mary Hospital.