



SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Kadoorie Biological Sciences Building, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2299 0600 (Enquiry) Fax: (852) 2559 9114
Email: biosch@hku.hk (852) 2858 3477
Website: <http://www.hku.hk/biosch>

香港大學
生物科學學院
香港薄扶林道
嘉道理生物科學大樓

立法會 CB(2)2455/07-08(07)號文件
LC Paper No. CB(2)2455/07-08(07)

June 27, 2008

Dear Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan:

Thanks again for inviting me to attend the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Special meeting!

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend and I am late in submitting my comments due to the fact that my young daughter was sick yesterday and I have so many commitments to juggle through. On top, I am leaving for mainland student's recruitment to-day for my University which I have been doing this for my university for almost 10 years.

I really do not have much to add except to again pointing out that the policy of the Government in killing all the live chickens and eliminating all live bird markets is a political decision. I would again like to ask the Government to provide data on the risk/safety reduction by not having live poultry in Hong Kong. Since the Government lab and her designated experts can work on the H5N1 virus, they should provide us the data related to where is the reservoir (which they still have not been able to find after 10 years and million of dollars of research funding!), how does the virus evolve from LPAI to HPAI; how does the H5N1 virulence changes due to the use of vaccine; how does the virus cross from reservoir (if not in chicken) to poultry/chicken; how does it crosses over to infect human since so many farmers suppose to have come into direct contact since 1997; effectiveness of the current vaccine against the current circulating H5N1 viruses.

I can not do/advice much if the Government decision is NOT based on science! I do believe that the Government should have the responsibility to inform the general public how this particular policy will "improve"/"eliminate" the safety risk similar to the argument providing the number of lung cancer cases from second hand smoke the Government used to convince the Legco to adopt the policy for banning smoking. Why can the Government do the same this time!

Fred