

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(2)1394/14-15(06)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 12 May 2015**

**Mosquito control work**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the Administration's work on mosquito control and prevention, and summarizes the main concerns of members of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") on the subject.

**Background**

2. According to the Administration, apart from causing nuisance to human being, some species of mosquitoes may pose threat to public health as vectors of diseases, such as dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis and chikungunya fever. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") organizes anti-mosquito campaigns annually on a territory-wide basis to heighten public awareness of the potential risk of mosquito-borne diseases, encourage community participation and promote cooperation among government departments concerned in anti-mosquito work.

3. An Anti-Mosquito Steering Committee ("AMSC") has been set up since 2002 to set strategies and directions for territory-wide anti-mosquito efforts. AMSC is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) and comprises members from 12 policy bureaux and departments. Moreover, an Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee on Dengue Fever was set up in 2001 to coordinate efforts at the operational level. FEHD has

been coordinating the mosquito prevention and control work by various departments under their respective purviews.

4. FEHD has put in place an enhanced dengue vector surveillance programme since 2003 to monitor the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas, evaluate the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work carried out by various parties, and provide surveillance information to the public and for making timely adjustments to the mosquito control strategies and measures. Under the surveillance programme, two different indices, namely, Area Ovitrap Index ("AOI") and Monthly Ovitrap Index ("MOI") are recorded. AOI indicates the extensiveness of the distribution of *Aedine mosquitoes* in the surveyed area while MOI is the average of all AOIs of the same month, which reflects the distribution and activity of *Aedes albopictus* in the territory. In addition to ovitrap surveys conducted in different districts, FEHD also carries out dengue vector surveillance in major port areas. As at May 2014, a total of 44 areas in 19 districts and six groups of port areas were covered under the surveillance programme.

5. Since April 2011, an ovitrap index rapid alert system targeting the management offices of residential premises, social welfare facilities, schools and construction sites within the 44 areas of surveillance has been introduced to ensure that anti-mosquito measures are taken promptly when AOI of a particular area reaches the alert level of 20%. When AOI reaches 20%, subscribers to the system whose premises are situated within the surveillance area concerned will be individually notified by the relevant departments upon the publication of AOI.

6. According to the Administration, MOIs recorded in 2014 (up to September) were in general lower than those in previous years and the fluctuations in MOIs in 2014 (up to September) were also in general similar to the pattern in previous years. A chart showing the trend is in **Appendix I**. In 2014 (up to September), the highest AOI of 45.6% was recorded in Tseung Kwan O in May, followed by 41.4% in Ma On Shan in July. In total, 20 areas have been recorded with AOIs reaching or exceeding the alert level of 20% at least once, and the ovitrap indices of all groups of port areas were below 20%.

### **Members' concerns**

7. The subject of mosquito control was discussed at the Panel meetings in June 2011, May 2012 and May 2014. Members' main views and concerns on the subject are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

8. Members had expressed concern about the measures taken by the Administration to prevent incidents of interference of ovitraps. Concern was also raised as to whether the Administration would consider expanding the scope of the dengue vector surveillance programme and lowering the AOI alert level of 20%. The Administration was urged to have better coordination and division of labour among departments, and make continuous efforts to carry out anti-mosquito work throughout the year, particularly in those districts frequently affected by mosquito infestation.

9. According to the Administration, ovitrap covers and wind bridges had been put to ovitraps to lower the intentional and unintentional interference, and regular and surprise inspections were conducted to ensure that contractors followed the anti-mosquito work plan. The Administration advised that the surveillance programme had covered 44 areas and there was no apparent need for further increasing its coverage, and the AOI alert level was lowered from 30% to 20% several years ago. The Administration would monitor the situation and consider adjusting the alert level when there was such a need.

10. The Administration also advised that all FEHD District Environmental Hygiene Offices would convene a special anti-mosquito task force meeting each year before the rainy season to enhance relevant departments' awareness of the importance of mosquito control in venues under their management. Whenever AOI reached 20%, the FEHD District Environmental Hygiene Office concerned would convene district task force meetings with concerned departments/parties and provide necessary advice and assistance to them in formulating mosquito control strategies.

### **Recent developments**

11. In the Administration's response to Dr KWOK Ka-ki's letter dated 23 June 2014 concerning a confirmed local case of Japanese encephalitis (LC Paper No. CB(2)1987/13-14(02)), members were advised that the Administration had strengthened mosquito control work, and relevant departments and organizations had been requested to step up mosquito control work at venues under their purview.

12. The Administration briefed the Panel on Health Services at its meeting on 17 November 2014 on measures for the prevention and control of dengue fever. According to the Administration, three local cases of dengue fever were confirmed on 25 October, 3 November and 7 November

2014 respectively. As the number of dengue fever cases in neighbouring areas remained at a high level, the anti-mosquito campaign at the district level would continue throughout the winter. FEHD has also appealed for support from the Mass Transit Railway Corporation to strengthen their mosquito prevention and control work at their construction sites, including their dissemination of messages on mosquito prevention and control to their appointed contractors and site supervisors.

13. The Administration will update the Panel on the Dengue and Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance programme and the Anti-mosquito Campaign 2015 at the meeting on 12 May 2015.

### **Relevant papers**

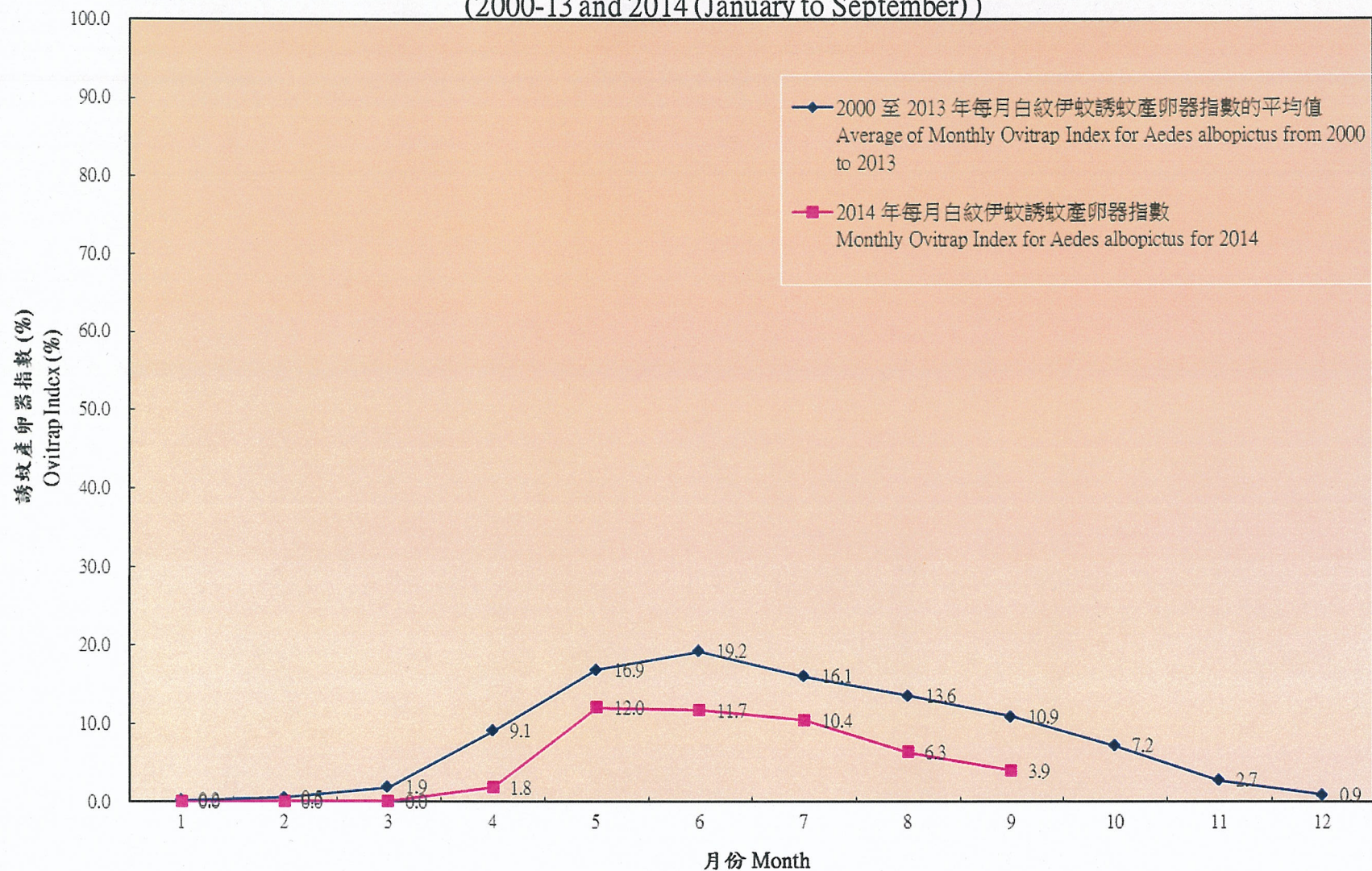
14. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
5 May 2015

## 2000-13年與2014年(一月至九月)白紋伊蚊誘蚊產卵器指數比較

Comparison of Monthly Ovitrap Index for *Aedes albopictus*

(2000-13 and 2014 (January to September))



## Relevant papers on mosquito control work

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	14.6.2011 (Item VII)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	8.5.2012 (Item VII)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	28.5.2013 (Item I)	<a href="#">Administration's paper on "Dengue Vector Surveillance Programme and Anti-mosquito Campaign 2013" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1078/12-13(01)]</a>
	13.5.2014 (Item VI)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	4.7.2014*	<a href="#">Administration's response to the issues of concern raised in Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki's letter on the confirmed local case of Japanese encephalitis</a>
Panel on Health Services	17.11.2014 (Item III)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Administration's paper on "Measures for the Prevention and Control of Dengue Fever"</a>

\* Issue date