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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局  
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

*Our ref.:* HWF CR/1/3911/98(02)Pt.37  
*Your ref.:* CB2/SS/1/03

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25 November 2003

Clerk to Subcommittee  
(Attn: Mrs Constance Li)  
Subcommittee on Commencement Notices under  
The Chinese Medicine Ordinance,  
Chinese Medicine (Fees) Regulation and  
Chinese Medicines Regulation  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Li,

**Subcommittee on Commencement Notices under  
the Chinese Medicine Ordinance,  
Chinese Medicine (Fees) Regulation and  
Chinese Medicines Regulation**

Thank you for your letter of 12 November 2003 conveying the views and decisions made by the Subcommittee on 12 November.

The Administration has carefully considered the issues raised by Members. We have also reverted to the Chinese medicines trade to obtain their latest views. As there is general support for early

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implementation of the registration system for proprietary Chinese medicines (PCM), we cannot accede to your request to withdraw the commencement notices in question.

The primary objective of implementing a registration system for PCM is to safeguard public health. The Chinese Medicine Ordinance stipulates that all PCM manufactured or sold in Hong Kong must be registered. It also provides for transitional arrangements for PCM already in the market. There should be adequate time for manufacturers and traders to apply for the registration and fulfill the necessary requirements. The registration criteria are objective and are drawn up in consultation with the trade. Save for those fraudulent, harmful and sub-standard PCM, qualified PCM being driven out of the market due to procedural concerns should not be an issue. On the contrary, the registration system is expected to boost the sale of registered PCM as overseas buyers and local consumers would have greater confidence in them.

The Administration had conducted extensive consultations on the registration system for PCM. In devising the registration requirements, over 30 consultative forums were held with Chinese medicines traders. The public and the trade generally welcomed early implementation of the registration system. Similar demands for registration of PCM were also raised by LegCo Members in the past. To address the trade's concerns over laboratory support, liaison was made with the Mainland authority and local laboratories to ensure adequate support for the traders. Sufficient time would be allowed for the traders to prepare for submission of test reports.

On the concerns raised by some Members about the implementation of the registration system for Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs), the Administration had conducted extensive consultations, including some 15 briefing sessions to explain the registration requirements and the regulatory system for CMPs.

As regards Members' concerns about the current appointment system for the Chinese Medicine Council and its Boards and Committees, the Administration would like to reiterate that their structure and composition fully reflected the outcome of deliberations at LegCo leading to the enactment of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. As provided for in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, Members of the Chinese Medicine Council and its Boards and Committees include representatives from the

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trade in Chinese medicine, academia as well as lay persons. They are experienced and enthusiastic in promoting the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong.

The Administration will separately provide the information requested by the Subcommittee. We stand ready to further explain and address the concerns Members may have at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Yours sincerely,



( Miss Angela LUK )

for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

cc Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Chairperson)  
Director of Health (Attn: Dr Constance Chan) 2123 9566