

Miss Rita Yung  
Panel on Commerce and Industry  
Legislative Council  
HKSAR Government

11 May 2012

Dear Miss Yung,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 April 2012 inviting the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology to give views on the “Promotion of innovation and technology in Hong Kong” with particular regards on the Government’s policy, commitment, strategy, direction and approach in promoting the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong.

During the past year, there has been a noticeable increase in public awareness on the importance of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. The activities in the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks have certainly provided positive impacts to the industry and society. We are of the view that the Government should adopt a more proactive attitude in setting a more supportive science and technology policy in Hong Kong. In this context, we would like to give our views on two aspects, viz. the development of biotechnology and the enhancement of the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) industry. In fact our Institute is contributing our efforts albeit small in promoting biotechnology and TCM industry in Hong Kong.

In biotechnology, basic technology infrastructure that enables the entry of academic research results into human clinical trial and/or product prototypes is established with government support. While this infrastructure is functional in serving some of the diverse research outputs, the critical mass remains small. In addition, the current regulatory framework which plays a vital role in any biomedical development does not facilitate innovation and technology. In both Singapore and Korea for example, their biomedical industries are the results of both capital investment and regulatory support from the Government that encourage innovation and business development.

On the TCM side, there is a significant amount of research and commercial activities in Hong Kong. The Government should tap into these resources in order to foster closer academic-industry collaboration with a view to create a more vibrant TCM industry in Hong Kong. A more conducive environment to the TCM industry in the form of infrastructure building, provision of funds for GMP training for industry upgrade and a regulatory framework that encourages innovation and business development would be essential.

We hope our Institute could contribute towards the development of a supportive Government policy for entrepreneurship in biotechnology and TCM in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher H.K. Cheng  
Managing Director  
Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology Limited

