



18 June 2015

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Dear Sir,

Legislative Proposals to Strengthen Tobacco Control

Hong Kong Academy of Medicine is a statutory body in Hong Kong for the accreditation and training of medical and dental specialists, and is tasked with postgraduate specialist training. One of its objectives is to promote the improvement of health care for Hong Kong citizens.

The Academy writes to fully support the strengthening of measures for tobacco control proposed by the Panel on Health Services at its meeting on 18 May 2015 (re your meeting paper LC Paper No. CB (2)1456/14-15(07)).

Health Warnings on Tobacco Products

Smoking causes harms to most human organs, and there is proof that at least 1 in 2 smokers will die early because of smoking. The current pictorial warnings in Hong Kong, which are too mild and too small in size, have been used for 8 years. It should be time to enlarge the size of these warnings for more effective delivery of messages about the health hazards arising from smoking. WHO actively recommends a prominent display of health warning (at least 85% of the cigarette packs), and even plain packaging. Many other countries, such as Australia, India, Nepal, Thailand, and Uruguay, are adopting or considering adopting larger health warnings. Hong Kong should follow this international trend.

Smoking Ban at Bus Interchange (BIs) at Tunnels Portal Areas

Second-hand smoke is hazardous to health, and the public should be protected in areas congested with people.

Electronic Cigarettes

E-cigarettes is not recognized by WHO. There is no conclusive medical proof about the effectiveness of e-cigarette in helping smokers quit

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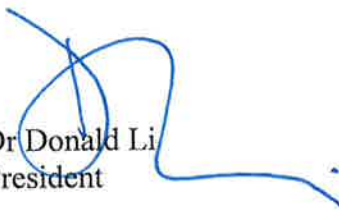
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smoking. Besides, its safety is unknown, and some toxic substances are already identified which can be another threat to human health. E-cigarette is an uprising product especially among the youth who are attracted to trendy products. Appropriate measures and regulations must be imposed before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,


Dr Donald Li
President

C:\DH\smoking cessation\submission on Legislative proposals to strengthen tobacco control 18.6.2015