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PATRON

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Prof Hon Joseph LEE, SBS, JP, PhD, RN Panel on Health Services Legislative Council

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Dear Mr LEE.

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With reference to the proposals on tobacco control measures of the Government submitted to the Panel on Health Services on 18 May 2015, the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong would like to support the proposed tobacco control measures.

Smoking is the most preventable cause of non-communicable diseases. With strengthening tobacco control by the following measures, the Federation believes that public health could be effectively protected from smoking:

- 1. To control the health warnings on cigarette products, including enlarging the size of the pictorial health warnings, increasing the number of forms of health warnings, showing the health warning message "Tobacco kills up to half of its users" and guitline number. This echoes the policy package introduced by the World Health Organization to reduce the demand for tobacco, MPOWER, which "W" stands for "Warn about the dangers of tobacco".
- To extend no smoking area to eight bus interchanges within the tunnel portal areas at Cross-Harbour Tunnel, Lion Rock Tunnel, Shing Mun Tunnels, Eastern Harbour Crossing, Western Harbour Crossing, Tate's Cairn Tunnel, Tai Lam Tunnel and Tsing Sha Highway. This also responds the aforementioned MPOWER with "P" stands for "Protect people from tobacco smoke".
- To impose a complete ban on e-cigarettes. Until now, there is no 3. evidence that e-cigarette is risk-free, thus it should be allowed in the market only when enough evidence is provided.

In conclusion, the Federation supports the advancement of tobacco control through implementation of effective interventions so that we can construct a smoke-free Hong Kong for the future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Lo

President

The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong