



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

[English Translation]

6 May 2021

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attention: Miss Josephine SO)

Dear Miss SO,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene-
Addition of Agenda Item regarding Japan's Discharge of
Radioactive Water into the Ocean**

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28 April 2021, enclosing the letter of Dr Hon Junius HO to the Chairman of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ('FSEH Panel'), suggesting that the captioned item should be included in the agenda of the FSEH Panel meeting. I now set out our reply below.

The plan of the Japanese Government to discharge the waste water of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station into the ocean has aroused international and public concern. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) have expressed grave concern about the impact of the discharge plan on food safety and have made it clear to the Japanese authorities that they should not discharge the waste water of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station unilaterally into the ocean without the consensus of the international community so as to avoid bringing about irreversible impacts on the environment.

We have strongly requested the Japanese authorities to provide data from various aspects and information on control and surveillance, including the method and actual location of the waste water discharge, the list and the concentration of the radionuclides in the waste water, the frequency and volume of discharge, as well as the monitoring programme on the waste water treatment and the surrounding environment etc. Currently, the import of vegetables,

fruits, milk, milk beverages and dried milk from Fukushima continues to be prohibited in Hong Kong. Radiation certificate has to be produced for the import of game, meat, poultry, poultry eggs and aquatic products from Fukushima and its four neighbouring prefectures (i.e. Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma), whereas radiation certificate and exporter certificate are required for the import of vegetables, fruits, milk, milk beverages and dried milk from the four prefectures. The CFS implemented additional control and surveillance measures in 2011 for food products imported from Japan. Since then, the CFS had tested a total of more than 750 000 samples of such products and none of the samples were found to have radiation levels exceeding the guideline levels of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

We will carefully examine the information provided by the Japanese authorities and the assessments made by international expert organisations, etc., and conduct risk assessments with the relevant Government departments as appropriate to determine whether monitoring work on Japanese food should be adjusted accordingly and whether additional measures are required to ensure food safety and safeguard public health. Depending on the circumstances, we will not rule out increasing the tests on Japanese food imports and tightening import control on food products (including fishery and agricultural products) from Fukushima and its neighbouring areas.

The FHB plans to discuss the impact of discharge of waste water of Fukushima on food safety together with the item of 'food import control' at FSEH Panel meeting, and the FHB will liaise with the Panel on an appropriate time for the discussion.

Thank you for the Panel's attention on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

(Teresa CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Food and Health