

中華人民共和國香港特別行政區  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
of the People's Republic of China

10<sup>th</sup> 周年紀念  
ANNIVERSARY

2007  
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# 十年工作 The 10 Years



衛生福利及食物局  
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is committed to building a caring and healthy society and accountable for formulating related policies under its ambit. Since the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, marked progress has been made in the areas of health, welfare, food safety and environmental hygiene.

## Health

### Mission

- Enhancing and promoting public health
- Preventing and controlling infectious disease
- Providing health care services to all citizens with quality and high professional standards and to ensure no one will be denied adequate medical care due to lack of means
- Developing and co-ordinating an affordable and financially sustainable health care system that provides lifelong holistic care with access to all citizens



### Major Developments

#### Infectious Disease Control

- Established a "**Centre for Health Protection**" to strengthen the expertise facilities and capacity for handling emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases:
  - In place a multi-pronged preparedness plan against avian influenza and other emerging infectious diseases
  - Addition of isolation beds in public hospitals and a new infectious disease block in a public hospital, the Princess Margaret Hospital
  - Public health promotion programmes to educate public on the importance of good personal hygiene habits



#### Public Health Promotion

- Enhanced public health through public health promotion programmes and legislation
  - An **Anti-Smoking Legislation** prohibiting smoking in almost all indoor workplaces and public places from 1 January 2007 and tightening tobacco control in other aspects
  - Other programmes to target various age groups such as promotion of healthy eating at schools, consumption of at least two servings of fruits and three servings of vegetables, "Love Teeth Campaign" and "Healthy Exercise for All Campaign"



## Chinese Medicine

- Leveraging on the substantial advances and growing international interest in Chinese medicine over the years, spearheaded the development of the profession, the use of the medicines and a new treatment protocol
- In parallel, enacted a "**Chinese Medicine Ordinance**" and implemented by phase a regulatory regime of Chinese medicine practitioners, Chinese medicine traders and proprietary Chinese medicine
- Developed public Chinese medicine clinics and promoted partnership between traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and western doctors in public hospitals and clinics



## Public Health Care System

- Continuous and steady support to the public health care system through the **Hospital Authority** and the **Department of Health**
  - Enhanced public hospital and health care services, with subventions to the Hospital Authority increased from \$23.8 billion in 1997/98 to \$27.3 billion in 2006/07
  - More hospitals built
  - Chinese medicine service introduced
  - A hospital cluster management structure to facilitate the development of a community oriented service model established



## Way Forward

- Further enhancing our infectious disease emergency responsiveness
- Consulting the public on the various health care reform proposals, including financing options with a view to developing a long-term sustainable health care system
- Developing strategies for traditional Chinese medicine, mental health and dental services
- Actively exploring the setting up of medical centres of excellence to facilitate development of medical expertise, services, technology and research
- Facilitate public-private partnership in the health care system
- Promotion of healthy city and campaigns for healthy life style of citizens

## Welfare

### Mission

- Creating a supportive environment for the needy with an aim to building up a caring and harmonious society
- Protecting and facilitating self-reliance among the disadvantaged, the disabled and the vulnerable



## Major Developments

### Helping the needy

- Government's full and irrevocable commitment to helping the needy in society, as reflected in the increase in recurrent welfare spending from 12.6 per cent (\$20 billion) in 1997/98 to 17.2 per cent (\$32.8 billion) in 2006/07
- A social security system that provides not only an effective safety net for those in need to meet their basic needs (benefiting over 500,000 recipients), but also been strengthened to include measures to encourage welfare recipients to move from "welfare to work"
- Strengthened support and protection for the disadvantaged, the vulnerable and families in need by launching new programmes and fine-tuning existing services to better address their needs
- Adopted a multi-disciplinary, community-based, holistic and client-based approach, complemented by private sector involvement, to facilitate early identification of those in need and intervention



### Elderly

- An "**Elderly Commission**" dedicated to advising on the formulation of comprehensive policies in caring for the elders, established to strengthen the institutional framework, policy formulation and provision of services to enhance care for the elderly

### Women

- A "**Women's Commission**" formed to advise on women policy and to enable women to fully realise their due status, rights, and opportunities in all aspects of life through providing an enabling environment, empowering women and public education



### Social inclusion and harmony

- Fostering social inclusion and social harmony in the community through promoting the concept of social capital. An example of such is a "**Community Investment and Inclusion Fund**" which successfully brought about new models of collaboration amongst generations and across strata

### Development, Support and Empowerment of Non-Government Organisations

- Improved quality of welfare services by introducing a "Lump Sum Grant" subvention system which gives Non-Government Organisations, a key partner of the Government in delivering welfare services, more flexibility in deploying resources to respond to the fast changing social needs



## Rehabilitation

- Enabling people with disabilities to develop their potential and to participate fully in the community by providing community-based support services, pre-school services, day care and residential services, vocational rehabilitation and training services, and Rehabus services
- Launched a "Jockey Club Arts for the Disabled Scheme" and organised an "International Festival of Inclusive Arts" to promote social inclusion and harmony



## Way Forward

- Promoting a more inclusive society marked by rich social capital and a balance between societal care and personal responsibility
- Fostering the development of partnership between the business community, the welfare sector and the Government in helping the needy with a view to building up a more caring and harmonious society
- Exploring means to further address the challenges of an ageing population
- Review and refinement of family centered welfare policies to cope with the fast changing and highly competitive environment

## Food

### Mission

Ensuring the public can enjoy safe food from a variety of sources and taking prompt action to manage food incidents

### Major Developments

#### Food Safety Standards

- Food safety standards formulated on the basis of science and having regard to the principles and standards promulgated by world authorities, such as the Risk Analysis approach promoted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the standards established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission

#### Food Safety Monitoring

- Entered into a new phase of food safety monitoring and control management with the establishment of a "**Centre for Food Safety**"
  - Enhanced food safety surveillance through more target-based sampling to monitor various hazards in food more effectively and to evaluate overall food safety and risk levels through conducting more risk assessment studies
  - Handled food crises and alerts promptly and professionally with:
    - prompt response to stop supply
    - enhanced communication with public and trade
    - source tracing and prevention of recurrence



## Partnership and Joint Efforts

- Increased liaison, communication and cooperation with international and Mainland food safety organisations and food authorities to enhance sharing of knowledge and information:
  - Enhanced control at source through cooperation with the places of origin of the supply
  - A more proactive response mechanism for food incidents to facilitate early investigation, prompt response and risk communication, thereby alerting the public to take appropriate actions to minimise risks
- Mainland
  - close liaison with all levels of the government, central and provincial, and to maintain daily communication as necessary
  - **agreement signed on a notification mechanism** on food safety matters
  - more information technology introduced for food traceability system by phases



## Enhanced Measures for Poultry Keeping

- **Biosecurity** stepped up in chicken farms since the first outbreak of avian influenza in 1997, successfully forming a first barrier against another outbreak
- Implemented **Voluntary Surrender of Licence Schemes** for live poultry farmers, wholesalers, retailers and transporters to minimise the contact between humans and live poultry, hence greatly reducing the risk of avian influenza
- **Banning of backyard poultry** farming to further reduce the risk

## Agriculture and Fisheries Management

- New concept of agriculture and fisheries management introduced for sustainable development of the industries
  - An **accredited fish farm scheme** launched to promote the sustainable development of local fisheries and good aquaculture practices
  - Schemes for local accredited farms and registration of vegetable farms implemented to improve quality and safety of vegetable produce
  - Local farmers assisted to set up local greenhouses and organic farms as well as introduced to novel varieties of produce, such as strawberries and rock melons

## Way Forward

- Further improving the regulatory regime by formulating and drafting a new food safety legislation covering a variety of food, including farmed aquatic produce, vegetables and fruits, and amending the existing legislation to regulate imported poultry eggs
- Introducing mandatory registration of food importers and traders and ban on the sale of problem food to upkeep the safety standards for imported food
- Enhancing food nutrition knowledge among the public by introducing a nutrition labelling law for pre-packaged food
- Implementing central slaughtering of poultry to minimise risk of avian influenza
- Introducing the use of Radio Frequency Identification and other information technology to enhance the food traceability system



# Environmental Hygiene

## Mission

Providing quality environmental hygiene services to make Hong Kong a clean and healthy modern metropolis

## Major Developments

### Public Hygiene Programmes

- Comprehensive public hygiene programmes significantly reduced the risk of infectious disease outbreaks
  - More than \$200 million a year on average spent on control measures against the vectors for deadly infectious diseases, such as mosquitoes, rodents and other pests
  - Preventing the breeding of mosquitoes through putting under surveillance *Aedes Albopictus*, the dengue fever vector. No local dengue cases reported since October 2003
  - Public awareness raised through campaigns, publicity and public education efforts

### Public Facilities

- Investing in public facilities and upgrading them through the application of modern design and construction concepts
  - Annual investment of some \$100 million to provide new public toilet facilities equipped with automatic infrared sensor taps and other devices. The toilet buildings were designed to blend in with the surrounding environment
  - Some \$1 billion a year spent on street cleansing, including disinfection where necessary, as part of the efforts to prevent SARS and avian influenza. Fixed penalty for littering and spitting raised to \$1,500 since June 2003
  - Over \$100 million a year on average spent in recent years to carry out improvement works in public markets to upgrade lighting and ventilation, and enhanced the overall shopping environment

### Pig Farms

- A "**Voluntary Licence Surrender Scheme**" offered to pig farmers to cut down on the number of pig farms, thereby reducing associated public health and environmental pollution problems

### Crematorium/Burial Facilities

- Upgrading cremation facilities, taking forward new designs for columbaria blocks and promoting acceptance and wider use of gardens of remembrance and scattering of human ashes at sea

## Way Forward

- Helping restaurants and food manufacturers to meet higher hygiene standards
- Improving and upgrading sanitation and public toilet facilities to meet user needs and expectations
- Continuing the coordination of Government efforts to improve environmental hygiene and enhance public awareness of the importance of good personal and environmental hygiene
- Devoting more resources to alternative burial facilities to meet ever-rising demands
- Encouraging the use of eco-friendly coffins to bring about savings in timber and energy consumption, reduction in air emission and shorter waiting time for cremation

