

## HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



CHOI Kin\*1

With the continuous efforts of our colleagues, the Association's membership has grown steadily over the past year. With the unfailing support from our members, we continued to speak for the profession and safeguard the health and welfare of the public.

In the past year, Hong Kong has been under the threat of human swine flu (HSI). Our Association worked closely with the Centre for Health Protection ever since. After examining and reviewing international data on the development and the evolution of the pandemic, our Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases made suggestions on how to contain the disease in the community. We issued guidelines and provided the most updated information to our members. With in-depth discussion on the pros and cons of mass vaccination, we stood by the Government and supported the vaccination programme. We openly addressed the concerns over the adverse effects of the vaccine and re-assured the public its safety. Public health talks were conducted in various districts with the help of our network doctors. We were relieved that the pandemic has not caused serious infection in Hong Kong.

With regard to public health, our Association has been more involved than ever in joining with other professions in fighting drug abuse. Recent study on drug use among students in 2008/2009 indicated that the youth drug abuse problem has permeated over 90% of secondary schools and 80% of primary schools in Hong Kong. Unlike the most commonly abused drug used by the youngsters—Ketamine, primary school age abusers often take cough syrup or organic solvents because these substances are relatively convenient for them. We teamed up with The Law Society of Hong Kong in producing an educational flyer on anti-youth drug abuse. Through

our district partners, the flyers were distributed to students, youth and parents. In the profession, CME programmes on "Management of Drug Abuse Patients" were organised in various districts. This provides a mass of trained doctors that can be mobilized to help the at-risk or young drug addicts in the community. We organized a movie and poster-design competition which was well-received by the community and the government. A Public Education Day and the HKMA Annual Charity Concert were organized in late July. They were dedicated to raising funds in support of the beat drugs efforts. Besides, they were also organized in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of The Hong Kong Medical Association, on top of other sports, cultural and recreational activities, a commemorative publication and the annual ball to be held on New Year's Eve.

Healthcare financing is another hot issue of great concern to the general public. Being a core stakeholder of the health care profession, the Association has been proactively working with the insurance industry on the design of a basic medical insurance policy that is affordable for the majority of Hong Kong people. In this connection, we conducted another round of doctors' fees survey in early 2010 and a report was released in the following April. The result of the survey will be used as a reference in designing the new product.

In the last two years, the development of the various Community Networks was making good progress. As mentioned above, the networks have exerted great efforts in the training of doctors. Apart from organizing CME programmes, the network doctors have assumed a key role in the negotiation and collaboration with the Hospital Authority Clusters in public-private projects. The Diabetes Shared Cared Programme is an example of public-private partnership (PPP).

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We shall move along this path to see other PPP projects coming up.

Mediation has been a new trend of solving disputes. The HKMA fully supports this approach and has been exploring on this over the past few years. We believe through this approach, the doctor-patient relationship can be restored. With less cases being brought up to the court, the charges on profession indemnity insurance can be reduced. The HKMA has made its pledge to pursue mediation in front of the Secretary for Justice. We have also sought the support of the Medical Protection Society (MPS). On the other hand, with the aim to teach doctors to prevent conflicts with patients, the HKMA has co-organized with MPS series of “Mastering Your Risk” and “Mastering Adverse Outcomes” workshops. The workshops were very useful and well-received by members. Moreover, a “Practical Handbook on Risk Management for Doctors” will be published towards the end of 2010 for the handy reference of medical practitioners.

Since the Link took over the management of shopping centers inside public housing estates, repeated sharp increases in rental requests have caused great concerns among our colleagues

renting shops and working inside them. Our negotiations with the Link has thus been lingered for years. With the leadership of our President Dr. CHOI Kin, some agreements have been reached. The Link assured that certain new measures about their leasing policy of medical/dental clinics would be implemented so as to ensure continuity of medical services to the residents. The HKMA will surely keep an eye on the performance of Link to ensure the best benefit of our members.

In the effort to promote fraternity among our fellow colleagues, sports, recreational and cultural activities have expanded largely. There were numerous singing and sports training classes, friendly competitions and short trips. A Youth Committee has been newly formed to tailor-make functions for our younger members, so as to help them lead their own way in the career path, and enhance their sense of belonging to the Association.

Last but not least, we attended the 60th WMA General Assembly held in New Delhi, India in October 2009, and participated in the 45th CMAAO Council Meeting held at Bali, Indonesia in November 2009.

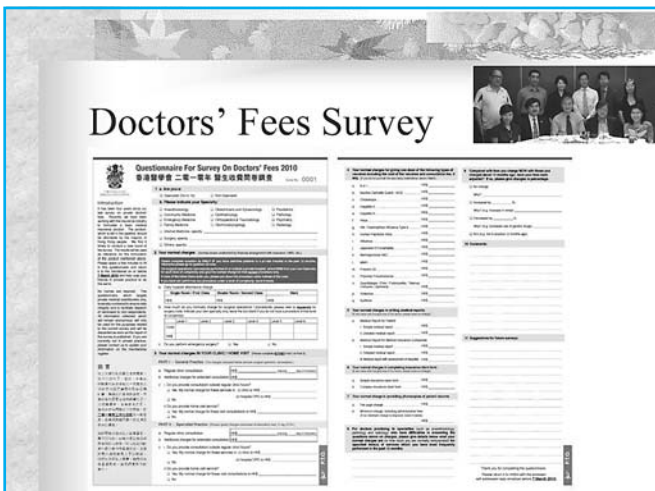
## REPORT ~ THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

For Year 2009-2010

Dr. CHOI Kin  
President  
The Hong Kong Medical Association

### Public Health & Social Issues

- Human Swine Influenza
- Vaccination
- Beat Drugs
- The LINK







### Continuing Medical Education (CME)



### Beijing/Hong Kong Medical Exchange

- October 2009 in Chengdu, Sichuan
- Theme: Rehabilitation after Disaster (5.12 Earthquake)



### 60th Anniversary of Establishment of People's Republic of China



### Member Welfare & Activities

- HKMA Choir
- HKMA Orchestra
- Annual Social Function
- Sports
  1. Joint Professional Tournaments
  2. Ball games
  3. Family Sports Day
  4. Swimming Gala
  5. Family hiking
  6. Trailwalker



### Charity

- Centralized Organ Donation Register
- Donations for Typhoon Morakot Relief in Taiwan
- Donations for Mainland Flood Relief
- Donations for Haiti Earthquake
- Charity concerts to raise funds for Suicide Prevention Services (SPS) and Beat Drugs Action





## General

- Council Meetings
- 45<sup>th</sup> CMAAO Council Meeting held at Bali, Indonesia in November 2009
- 60<sup>th</sup> World Medical Assembly held in New Delhi, India, in October 2009
- 12 monthly HKMA News
- 12 monthly CME Bulletins
- bimonthly Hong Kong Medical Journal

**END**

*~ Thank You! ~*