

HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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With the conjoint effort of members, health care partners, staffs and council members, the Hong Kong Medical Association has made significant progress in the betterment for the medical and healthcare services of Hong Kong in the year 2008–2009. Twelve Council Meetings were held last year. They were open to members. Council members also took the opportunities to meet government officials and VIP guests at dinner before the meetings. Critical issues affecting the local health care scene and the welfare of patients and doctors were carefully deliberated. Press meetings and releases were arranged wherever necessary. Rapid communication emails, notices, and newsletters were employed at the first instances to keep our members updated on the recent developments.

This year, we continued to place safeguarding public's health as our top priority. The association responded quickly to issues concerning public health and safety. In last September, when there was a significant number of melamine kidney stone cases in the Mainland, we urged the government to recall any suspected melamine-tainted food products and to provide adequate screening for children. We sent a delegation to Guangzhou First Municipal People's Hospital in the Mainland to get first hand information on how the experts there screened and treated the cases. In January, a tragic car accident causing six deaths aroused concern on drink driving. A task force was formed to draft the joint advice with the Law Society of Hong Kong to the public. Pamphlets with medical and legal concerns on drink driving were distributed through various channels. When contaminated drugs were reported, we advised our members to stop using drugs that were possibly contaminated with fungus ahead of the government authority. We were closely connected with the Food and Health Bureau and

the Centre for Health Protection in the prevention of Human Swine Flu outbreak. We helped conduct community health talks to educate the public on the preventive measures.

In pursuing the best interest of our patients and the public at large, the Association submitted our view on food labeling, food safety and childhood immunization to the Legislative Council. The Association had been promoting organ donation ever since 1994. We were glad to see that the Centralized Organ Donation Register jointly established by the HKMA, Department of Health and the Hospital Authority was finally launched last November, and that our effort on promotion had got some repay over the past few months with increased donation cases. The childhood vaccination project carried on smoothly aiming at giving the public more informed choices. We also cared for the youth. The Beat Drugs Seminar held in March in collaboration with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service focused on the team approach in community-based management of substance abusers. As in the last few years, we organized Community Health Awareness Program in different districts to draw the attention of the public on common chronic diseases.

The Association speaks for the profession and defends the interest of our colleagues. We worked hard to revive the various Community Networks in order to build up stronger bonds within our community doctors. We formed a united front to liaise with the HA clusters to improve and foster public-private co-operation. On the other hand, we aimed at strengthening CME at the district level. A Practical Psychiatry Course was organized in districts supported by the Networks. With the hope of strengthening the gate-keeping role of primary care practitioners, the Association, together with the Department of Community

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The article is based on a presentation made as a Report of Activities of each NMA at the 26th Congress of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO), Bali, Indonesia, November 6, 2009. Slides shown are extracted from the original presentation.

and Family Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, launched a 3-year CME program entitled “Certificate Course on Family Medicine.” Those completed this course are encouraged to journey on with the Diploma in Family Medicine program of the same university. To facilitate the daily practice of doctors and enhance the flow of patients’ clinical record between the public and private sector, the Tao Yuan Project has developed a new Clinical Management System software. Together with the basic technological support, the software was provided free-of-charge to those who were willing to try out.

We have once again waived the annual fee of all existing members, for the Association had a handsome surplus. As the Lehman Mini-bond issue had affected some of our members, a talk on their rights and responsibilities was held. Apart from the ongoing interest groups, i.e. Choir, Orchestra and Sports, we have newly formed the Recreational and Cultural Committee which had organized a series of workshops and activities for the interested members and their families. Our

premises in Central was completed last summer. The new setting allowed more rooms for meetings and private gatherings.

The 10th Beijing/Hong Kong Medical Exchange with the theme on “Updates in Respiratory Medicine”, was held in last November. Local doctors were provided the chance to share experiences and foster linkages with colleagues in the Mainland. For Hong Kong doctors wishing to practise and set up clinics in the Mainland under CEPA,*² the Association had frequent dialogues with the officials of the Hong Kong Government as well as the Central Government to expedite the application process.

Last but not least, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the People’s Republic of China, the Association organized a grand celebration dinner. We also attended the 59th WMA General Assembly held in Seoul, Korea, in October 2008, and participated in the 44th CMAAO Council Meeting held at Manila, Philippines in November 2008.

Public Health & Safety

- Melamine Incident
- Drink-driving
- Human Swine Influenza
- Childhood Vaccination
- Beat Drugs
- Medical incidents
- The LINK



*2 CEPA: Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement.

