



Message from Dr. E.K. Yeoh, JP

Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

The world is like a global village in which no one can thrive on his or her own. Sustainable and healthy development of this global village requires cooperation and collaboration among us to tackle issues not only in our own backyard but also in the global entity. We are all now facing the challenge of emerging and re-emerging infections. While organized efforts are required to tackle chronic diseases, successful containment of communicable diseases such as SARS and the recent avian influenza call for fuller cooperation of every one of us both locally and globally. Closer cooperation in public health has become a pressing issue for us. The organisation of this Conference of Public Health is a timely occasion for us to share experience and expertise in tackling the present challenge in the region.

Ethnic Chinese have been playing an instrumental role in global socio-economic development. Their contributions in the area of public health to the Chinese community as well as the international community are also well recognized. The establishment of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals represents a milestone and will bring together Chinese public health experts from all over the world to share experience and expertise to tackle the present public health challenges. I look forward to seeing the Association making contributions to the healthy development of this global village.

Lastly, I would like to extend my warm welcome to all participants of the Conference on Public Health and my heartfelt congratulations to the inauguration of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals.



Message from Dr. Shigeru Omi
Regional Director of World Health Organization,
Western Pacific

Historically, China has made some of the most significant contributions to the advancement of medicine. There is a thousand years of traditional medicine knowledge for the world community to tap and share. China has an impressive track record for the development of anti-malarials. The benefits of Qing Hao Su, which has been used as a fever treatment for more than two thousand years, are well-known. Furthermore, China has made significant contribution to the success of regional and global health initiatives such as poliomyelitis eradication, filariasis control and stop TB. These are only a few examples of the contribution that China has made to the advancement of medicine and primary health care globally and regionally.

The WHO Western Pacific Region is home to about a third of the world's population, most of whom reside in China. Any achievements or setbacks in health in China will have regional and even global health implications-China has made extraordinary rapid and comprehensive progress towards better health for its people. Life expectancy at birth doubled and infant mortality rate decreased from 200 to 35 per thousand live births in the second part of the 20th century. In the future, China will face a number of challenges, and countries will continue to look to China to see how these challenges are met. For example, how can access to health care among rural and urban populations in the different parts of the country be further improved? How can China cope with the double burden of disease - and address communicable diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS, SARS and other new and re-emerging diseases, while at the

same time responding to increasing morbidity and mortality from chronic noncommunicable diseases and a rapidly ageing society? These are fundamental challenges, but I believe China has the capability to handle them with strong political commitment, sound primary health care principles, an integrated public health approach, and a committed public health workforce.

I am delighted to learn of the establishment of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals and the convening of a conference on public health in Hong Kong, China, in March 2004. I have no doubt that the Association will make a significant contribution to the advancement of health and to the response to emerging health challenges in China, within the Region and globally. On behalf of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, I congratulate the Chairman and members of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals. We look forward to working together in advancing our common public health agenda in China and in the Region in the years ahead.



Message from Prof. Zeng Yi

President of China Preventive Medicine Association

Many thanks for you and the Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association making great effort and contribution to promote and host the inauguration ceremony of World Association and the conference on Public Health.

On behalf of China Preventive Medicine Association, I would like to extend to every participant to the conference a most warm welcome and congratulate the establishment of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals. The Association and its conference will provide the opportunity for the global chinese public health professionals to exchange their experiences and lessons from a wide variety of public health topics. Rapidly expanding globalization is providing our communities with new opportunities as well as new difficulties. I am confident the conference will be a great success. It will definitely contribute to the further development of public health the world over. We look forward to more close cooperation with Association and all chinese public health professionals in providing better public health services for mankind.



Message from Dr. C.H. Leong, JP

Chairman of Hospital Authority

It is with great pleasure that I extend my sincere congratulations to the inauguration of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals.

In the 21st Century, the world is facing challenges of different diseases. Many developed regions seem to be equally vulnerable to diseases as the less developed areas are, despite the fact that developed regions are enjoying higher quality medical services. The SARS epidemic in 2003 is no doubt one of the most significant examples. Thus, we see that maintaining health of the public is no longer merely a medical issue of how we use medical advancement to cure the diseases. It is indeed strongly influenced by the lifestyles of the populations which involve socio-economic, educational and environmental factors. Therefore, a public health approach to tackle the challenges in the area of health is crucial. And this can be better promoted by utilizing multi-sectoral expertise including health services, education, training and research.

The establishment of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals is a timely effort which unifies Chinese public health experts of various professions from different parts of the world. It provides not only a platform for experiences sharing among professionals, but also a springboard for practice advancement in public health. I look forward to the invaluable partnership between the Association and the Hospital Authority so that professionals from both parties can join hands to promote further development of public health.

With the support and contribution of various organizations and professional bodies, the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals now inaugurates. I sincerely wish the Association every success in its future endeavors and that the well-being of all Chinese, as well as other communities, can be achieved through the work and collective expertise of the members of the Association.



Message from Dr. P.Y.Lam, JP

Director of Health

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the establishment of the "World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals" and the Conference on Public Health on its inauguration.

In different parts of the world, many ethnic Chinese have been engaged in various areas of public health in organizations or institutions of international repute. The establishment of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals will provide the Chinese public health experts and academics all over the world with a common platform to share their experience and expertise particularly on the emerging of new diseases and new infection. I am confident that with the formation of Association, exchange of experience, research and education development among the Chinese Public health experts all over the world will be promoted and professional services development in the field of public health will also be stimulated.

On this auspicious occasion of the inauguration of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals, may I convey my sincerest gratitude to the Chairman and member of Organizing Committee for their remarkable contributions in planning the formation of the Association. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the Association every success in all its future endeavours.



Message from Dr. William Ho, JP

Chief Executive of Hospital Authority

I am delighted to write this message for the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals as it celebrates its inauguration and organises its first international conference on public health.

As the recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome dramatically illustrates, our world is facing a variety of new public health challenges in the 21st century, such as the change in disease spectrum and the emerging environmental threats to public and occupational health. Promoting and protecting health has also been made increasingly complex by the growing prevalence of chronic conditions influenced by multiple factors, including social, environmental, and behavioural determinants, as well as biological risk factors. Against this background, the establishment of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals to promote more intensive exchange of knowledge and experience among the Chinese public health professionals in different countries is indeed timely and meaningful.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. S.H.Lee and his Organising Committee members for successfully bringing the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals into existence. I hope this new international health organisation will stimulate professional service development in public health and enable the Chinese public health professionals in the world to become a more knowledgeable and visible force in global public health issues.

I would also like to thank the Organising Committee members for their dedication to the organisation of this inauguration conference on public health. I wish all of you a productive conference and the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals every success in its future endeavours.



Message from Mr. Tseng Cheng, JP
Chairman of The Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart
Diseases Association

It gives me immense pleasure to congratulate everyone involved in the Establishment of the "World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals" and the Conference on Public Health.

The "World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals" is founded at a time when many parts of the world will be facing new challenges in public health and where new infectious diseases are emerging. The recent outbreak of SARS has demonstrated that the epidemic not only affected the health of the population but also damaged the economy and trade. In future no country will be able to solve these problems alone we need to involve experts from all over the world to work together in tackling the challenges in public health in the 21st Century.

In different parts of the world, many ethnic Chinese have been engaged in the areas of public health, including medical and health services, education, training and research. The institutes or departments where they are engaged cover a wide range of areas in the public, private and academic sectors. The formation of the "World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals" will not only promote the further development of public health among the Chinese public health professionals, but it will also bring considerable benefits to the Chinese and other communities in different countries.

As Chairman of the Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest & Heart Diseases Association, I assure you that the Association is totally committed to supporting any activities designed to improve worldwide health and to continuing our efforts to fight all forms of infectious disease.



**Message from Prof. S.H. Lee, Chairman of
Organizing Committee of the World Association of Chinese Public
Health Professionals & the Public Health Conference**

I extend a warm welcome to all delegates to Hong Kong for the very important and historical function of the Inauguration of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals and the Conference on Public Health.

Public health is public's wealth. The objective of establishing the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals is to advance public health through collaboration with public health professionals from different parts of the world in the areas of education, training, research and practice.

The first Public Health Conference organized by the Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association has a rich programme including new challenges in public health, viral diseases, preventive strategy on communities diseases, control of chronic diseases and health promotion.

I wish the Conference every success and all participants a fruitful and rewarding participation. To the delegates from overseas, I wish them an enjoyable stay in Hong Kong.

May the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals continue its endeavour to promote public health for the good of the people in the world.