

Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene

**Minutes of the 67th Meeting
held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 3 May 2018,
in Room 1801, 18/F, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong**

Prof LO Yuk-lam	(Chairman)
Dr Felix CHAN Hon-wai, JP	
Mr David CHAN Wai-ming, MH, JP	
Prof CHIU Siu-wai	
Mr Stephen LEUNG Kwok-keung	
Prof Kenneth LEUNG Mei-yee	
Prof Leo POON Lit-man	
Mr Simon TAM Hop-sing	
Mr Philip YUNG Wai-hung, JP	Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)
Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Ms Vivian LAU Lee-kwan, JP	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Dr Regina CHING Cheuk-tuen, JP	Head, Surveillance & Epidemiology Branch, Department of Health
Mr Bill WONG Kwok-piu	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) ³ (Secretary to ACFEH)

Absent with Apologies

Dr Doris AU Wai-ting

Mr Abraham CHAN Yu-ling

Mrs Vivien CHEN CHOU Mei-mei

Dr CHUNG Shan-shan

Ms Josephine KEA Chi-shun

Mrs Jenny LAM WAN Mei-fong

Mr Richard TSANG Lap-ki

Prof WONG Wing-tak

Prof Samuel WONG Yeung-shan

In Attendance

Food and Health Bureau (FHB)

Mr Daniel CHENG Chung-wai, JP

Deputy Secretary for Food and Health
(Food)1

Mr Eugene FUNG Kin-yip, JP

Deputy Secretary for Food and Health
(Food)2

Miss Cherry WONG Pui-sum

Acting Senior Principal Executive Officer
(Food)

Miss Swing YAU Sze-wing

Assistant Secretary (Food)5

Mr Jason LAM Kam-hung

Assistant Secretary (Food)SD5

Miss Fanny YEUNG Pou-ian

Assistant Secretary (Food)4

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

Dr Thomas SIT Hon-chung

Assistant Director (Inspection &
Quarantine)

Dr Mary CHOW Ka-wai

Senior Veterinary Officer (Animal
Management) Development

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)

Dr HO Yuk-yin, JP

Controller, Centre for Food Safety

Dr Christine WONG Wang

Assistant Director (Food Surveillance &
Control), Centre for Food Safety

Ecosystems LTD

Mr Vincent LAI

Managing Director

Dr Klinsmann CHEUNG

Senior Ecologist

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Mr Philip YUNG who took up the post of the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) recently, as well as other members and Government representatives to the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The minutes were confirmed with a member's comment incorporated.

Agenda Item 2 : Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

3. Members were briefed at the last meeting that the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) had ceased requiring the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) to test Iodine-131 (I-131) for restricted food products from the five prefectures with effect from 8 December 2017, given that I-131 had a relatively short half-life (about 8 days) and would decay within a short time after a nuclear event. Review of the import control on Japanese food would be discussed under agenda item 3.

Agenda Item 3 : Review of Import Control on Japanese Food in connection with Japan's Nuclear Incident in 2011 (Confidential Item) (ACFEH Paper 1/2018)

4. The discussions are kept in strict confidence.

Agenda Item 4 : "Trap-Neuter-Return" Trial Programme for Stray Dogs (ACFEH Paper 2/2018)

5. Dr Thomas SIT and Dr Klinsmann CHEUNG briefed members on the outcome of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs.

6. Noting the study was the first of such topic in Hong Kong, Prof CHIU enquired if it would be more appropriate not to set any performance target, but only to conduct it as an ecological study to provide some primary data on stray dogs for formulating further stray dog management strategy or for conducting further specific studies. Prof Leo POON enquired if the target of reducing stray dog population by 10% per annum was too aggressive. Dr Thomas SIT explained that TNR programme at the two sites were proposed by the animal welfare organisations (AWOs). As its effectiveness in reducing stray dog population was not clear, it would be appropriate to set targets for the trial programme for measuring its effectiveness against other stray dog management measures.

7. Prof Kenneth LEUNG enquired about overseas experience in implementing TNR, including those on cats. Mr Vincent LAI noted that there were similar programmes implemented in India, Italy and the United States before,

and it was found that such a programme would invariably involve complementary measures, most notably removal / rehoming of stray animals captured for it to be effective in reducing the stray animal population.

8. Prof Leo POON and Prof CHIU both enquired if the duration of the trial programme was too short to draw a conclusion. Prof POON further enquired about the Government's long-term objectives in stray dog management. Dr Mary CHOW explained that the trial programme aimed at studying the effectiveness of TNR compared with the multi-pronged stray animal management strategy currently adopted by the Government. The duration and the target reduction in stray dog population and nuisance were set having regard to past scientific findings and the overall trend in Hong Kong. As the costs of implementing the TNR trial programme (i.e. feeding, catching, desexing, vaccinating and returning the dogs, as well as providing medical treatment when necessary) were borne by the Programme Coordinators, AFCD did not have an estimate of the total cost of the TNR trial and had not determined whether the TNR method was cost effective. Mr LAI added that the stray dog mortality had been improved by the provision of food and medical services by the AWOs, thereby affecting their effectiveness in reducing stray dog population.

9. In response to the Chairman's question on whether the trial programme would be continued, Dr Mary CHOW explained that the Government was open-minded to conducting further TNR in other sites, subject to the suitability of the location as proposed by AWOs and acceptance by the concerned local community. As for the two trial sites, AFCD had no plan to engage a consultant to continue to study the dog population changes, though the two concerned AWOs had agreed to provide AFCD with the data concerning those dogs under study during the trial programme period for measuring the lifespan of stray dogs in those two sites in the coming years.

Agenda Item 5 : Any Other Business

10. The Chairman and Mr Daniel CHENG reported that, pursuant to the support of the Working Group on Green Burial and Related Matters, the Government briefed the Legislative Council (LegCo) and was consulting District Councils on the new allocation arrangement of public niches and the extendable arrangement. In view of the invitation from the LegCo Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel for written submissions, the Working Group would submit its views soon.

11. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Secretariat

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July 2018