

Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene

**Minutes of the 69th Meeting
held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, 16 November 2018,
in Room 1801, 18/F, Central Government
Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong**

Prof LO Yuk-lam	(Chairman)
Prof Felix CHAN Hon-wai, JP	
Mr David CHAN Wai-ming, MH, JP	
Dr CHUNG Shan-shan	
Ms Josephine KEA Chi-shun	
Mrs Jenny LAM WAN Mei-fong	
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	Consultant Community Medicine (Non- Communicable Disease)
Mr Bill WONG Kwok-piu	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) ³ (<i>Secretary to ACFEH</i>)

Absent with Apologies

Dr Doris AU Wai-ting

Mr Abraham CHAN Yu-ling

Mrs Vivien CHEN CHOU Mei-mei

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 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 Gilford LAW Sun-on Principal Assistant Secretary (Food)2

Miss Yandy CHAN Tsz-yan Assistant Secretary (Food)1

Mr GURUNG Marco Ben Assistant Secretary (Food)4

Miss Nicole LEE Tsz-yu Assistant Secretary (Food)10

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

Dr Thomas SIT Hon-chung Assistant Director (Inspection & Quarantine)

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)

Dr Christine WONG Wang Assistant Director (Risk Management), Centre for Food Safety

Mr LEE Ming-wai Pest Control Officer

Mr MA Yuen-hung Superintendent (Slaughterhouse)

CMA Testing & Certification Laboratories

Mr Dominic LAM Chief Operations Officer

Mr Joseph CHIU Certification Manager

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and Government representatives to the 69th meeting of the Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene (ACFEH).

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

2. Comments on minutes of the last meeting were received from members. Members accepted the proposed amendments and confirmed the minutes of the last meeting.

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

3. As informed at the meeting on 6 July 2018, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association (CMA) Testing and Certification Laboratories would present their food certification scheme (under Item 6 below).

Agenda Item 3: Policy Address Initiatives relating to Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau (ACFEH Paper 5/2018)

4. The Chairman invited members to take note of the Policy Address initiatives under the purview of the Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau as set out in ACFEH Paper 5/2018. Members were encouraged to continue advising the Government on issues under ACFEH's ambit in the coming year.

Agenda Item 4: Mosquito and Rodent Control (ACFEH Paper 6/2018)

5. Mr LEE Ming-wai briefed members on the measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on mosquito and rodent control in 2018 as well as the key areas of work in 2019.

Mosquito Control

6. Dr CHUNG was concerned with the effects of the genetic technology for mosquito control on other insects. Mr Lee replied that Wolbachia is bacteria that many insects were already naturally infected. Interbreeding of mosquitoes carrying different strains of Wolbachia would cause cytoplasmic incompatibility and lower the dengue virus carrying capacity of mosquitoes. FEHD would study the feasibility of new methods before they were adopted.

7. The Chairman enquired whether intensive fogging operation would widely impact on the environment. Mr LEE replied that fogging operation mainly targeted at scrubby areas at close proximity to densely populated areas. Mr Daniel CHENG informed members that the Government would step up its measures on mosquito control before the coming rainy season. Mr David CHAN agreed with the proposed direction of mosquito control work, and mentioned that strengthening

education in the local community would also be important.

8. Mr David CHAN said that construction sites were mosquito breeding black spots. Ms Vivian LAU responded that FEHD would promote mosquito preventive measures to construction site workers and specifically would take actions on stagnant waters found in works sites.

Rodent Control

9. Mr David CHAN suggested the Government provide more channels for the public to report rodent black spots e.g. the 1823 hotline. As rubbish in back streets was a major cause of rodent infestation, he suggested FEHD consider stepping up the destruction of rat holes.

10. Ms Vivian LAU replied that FEHD would strengthen the surveillance on food premises in order to reduce the disposition of food remnants by restaurants. To this end, night vision cameras with artificial intelligence capability would be deployed on a pilot basis. In addition, FEHD would look into the rodent issue arising from demolition of old buildings.

11. Ms Josephine KEA enquired whether FEHD could conduct surveillance of rodent infestation inside private properties. Ms Vivian LAU explained that the primary responsibility of ensuring that hygienic conditions of the property rested with the owners. FEHD would take enforcement actions if necessary.

Agenda Item 5: Outbreak of African Swine Fever on the Mainland (ACFEH Paper 7/2018)

12. Dr Thomas SIT, Dr Christine WONG and Mr MA Yuen-hung briefed members on Government's work in response to the recent outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) on the Mainland, including among others, maintaining close communication with Mainland Authorities, enhancing cleansing and disinfection of pig-carrying vehicles at slaughterhouses, suspending the importation of breeders from the Mainland, and phasing out the practice of feeding swill in local pig farms.

13. Mr Philip YUNG remarked that the preventive measures were important for preventing infection of local pigs as well as ensuring a stable supply of live pigs in Hong Kong.

14. Prof Felix CHAN enquired how the Government would ensure imported live pigs were free from ASF. Dr Christine Wong explained that Mainland Authorities had been taking a series of stringent control and preventive measures to secure the supply of ASF-free live pigs to Hong Kong SAR. All live pig consignments from the Mainland had to be accompanied by valid health certificates and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) would monitor if the pigs showed suspected symptoms at borders and slaughterhouse level. Prof Felix CHAN suggested the

Government consider conducting rapid tests on imported live pigs. Dr Thomas SIT said that conducting testing only on pigs with clinical symptoms would be more effective. Mr Daniel CHENG said that majority of live pigs supplied in Hong Kong were imported from the Mainland, hence surveillance at source was of paramount importance. In this regard, the relevant Mainland authorities had been exercising strict oversight and quarantine control at the Mainland farm level.

15. Mr David CHAN was concerned about the risk of spreading ASF into Hong Kong via pork or pork products carried by passengers. Dr Christine WONG said that imported fresh pork should be accompanied by relevant valid health certificates, notwithstanding the fact that ASF did not pose any food safety risk due to its non-zoonotic nature. In addition, CFS worked with the Customs and Excise Department in taking enforcement actions to crack down on illegal importation of pork by passengers to Hong Kong.

Agenda Item 6: The Monitored Caterer Scheme developed by CMA Testing and Certification Laboratories

16. Mr Joseph CHIU presented the food certification scheme developed by the CMA. Members took note.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

17. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Secretariat

Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene

March 2019