

**Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene**

**Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Meeting  
held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, 20 January 2020,  
in Conference Room 6, G/F,  
Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong**

Prof LO Yuk-lam	(Chairman)
Prof Felix CHAN Hon-wai, JP	
Prof CHIU Siu-wai	
Dr CHEN Xue-ping	
Mr Stephen LEUNG Kwok-keung	
Mr Simon TAM Hop-sing	
Mr Richard TSANG Lap-ki	
Prof WONG Man-sau	
Mr Jack CHEUNG Ki-tang	
Prof Leo POON Lit-man	
Prof Samuel WONG Yeung-shan	
Dr LEUNG Siu-Fai, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Miss Vivian LAU Lee-kwan, JP	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Mr Daniel CHENG Chung-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)
Dr Rita HO Ka-wai	Head, Non-Communicable Disease Branch
Mr Amor WONG Yiu-tuen	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) <sup>3</sup> (Secretary to ACFEH)

### **Absent with Apologies**

Mr David CHAN Wai-ming, MH, JP

Dr Lucy SHUM Wan-cheong

Dr So Tsz-him

Mr WONG Wing-tak

Dr Jill CHIU Man-ying

Ms Sandy KEUNG Yurk-nam

### **In Attendance**

#### **Food and Health Bureau (FHB)**

Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on                      Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2

Miss Rebecca CHAN Chung-hang      Assistant Secretary (Food)8

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

#### **Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)**

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han              Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene)

Mr LEE Ming-wai                              Pest Control Offr i/c

## Opening Remarks

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

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

2. The minutes of the last meeting on 5 September 2019 were confirmed.

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

3. At the meeting in November 2018, members were briefed on the details of mosquito and rodent control by the Government. The Government's work on anti-rodent and mosquito control as well as application of technologies for surveillance would be reported under agenda items 3 and 4.

### Agenda Item 3: Rodent Control Work (ACFEH Paper 1/2020)

4. Miss Nicole LEE gave a powerpoint presentation.
5. Prof Felix CHAN enquired the reasons for discussing this item at the meeting and whether there were any statistics to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Government's efforts in rodent control. Mr Daniel CHENG responded that the Government had enhanced and placed special emphasis on rodent control in 2019 and there was an increase in public awareness because of the wide media coverage on Rat Hepatitis E virus cases and rodent infestation. Due to the limitations of the current rodent control indicators (e.g. data could only be collected in public area), in the coming year, the Government would try to use more quantitative indicators to assess the effectiveness of rodent control work, eg. the frequency of rodent activities before and after the control measures being introduced in specific areas. We would also strive to enhance interdepartmental coordination, e.g. the Housing Department (HD) had repaired and arranged the reinforcement of the existing rodent-proofing structure to prevent infestations in public housing buildings. Miss Vivian LAU also said that the awareness of the public on rodent control and prevention work had increased in recent years, particularly at district level.
6. Mr Stephen LEUNG suggested that community engagement would be of great importance to keep the public informed about the Government's efforts to control rodents. Mr Simon TAM said that civic awareness was important. He advised the Government to provide education and tools to the public, especially the catering industry on eliminating food sources of rodents as a measure to tackle the infestation problem. He pointed out that Hong Kong's catering businesses had long operating hours which often extend beyond the usual refuse collection time. Prof CHIU Siu-wai also supported community engagement, and said that the

community and food premises should be encouraged to put extra efforts in controlling rodents. Mr CHEUNG Ki-tang also mentioned the long operating hours of food businesses and suggested that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) should coordinate the collection of food waste. Miss Diane Wong said that FEHD had been supporting the Environmental Protection Department in collecting food waste in FEHD's and HD's markets, and stepping up cleanliness and enforcement efforts at rear lanes. Mr Simon TAM said that District Councils (DCs) should play a more active role in rodent control. Mr CHEUNG Ki-tang said that DCs were mainly responsible for monitoring the work of the Government in this regard.

7. Prof WONG Man-sau said that information should be made transparent, eg. a map showing rodent infestation in all districts, should be made available to the public in order to engage them to participate in controlling rodents. For example, primary and secondary schools could be mobilised to help. Prof Samuel WONG enquired about how the community survey would be conducted. Miss Nicole LEE explained that the survey would be conducted with an objective to raising public awareness and encouraging action. Miss Vivian LAU said that the FEHD would work closely with HD in conducting the survey which would help address the concerns of the residents.

8. Prof Chiu Siu-wai suggested that more thermal imaging cameras should be installed in districts apart from Wong Tai Sin and Yuen Long Districts, more cameras should be installed in other districts for better assessment of the effectiveness of anti-rodent operations. Mr CHEUNG Ki-tang also suggested that more cameras should be installed. Prof Leo POON asked how the public would be informed of the use of the thermal imaging cameras. Mr Daniel CHENG responded that thermal imaging cameras were used to track rodents' activities and could not identify human faces, and that the installation in the two areas was for trial purpose. Mr LEE Ming-wai reported that thermal imaging cameras would be installed in 120 to 150 spots in Kowloon City District for a field trial of 3 months to assess the situation of rodent infestation. The thermal imaging cameras were triggered by motion and could not identify human faces. Subject to the findings of the field trial in Kowloon City District, this new measure might be used in other districts.

9. Prof Leo POON enquired about the composition of the Pest Control Steering Committee. Miss Vivian LAU responded that the Committee was chaired by the Under Secretary for Food and Health and involved around 20 bureaux and departments, including FEHD, HD, Highways Department as well as Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Mosquito Control Work (ACFEH Paper 2/2020)**

10. Miss Nicole LEE and Mr LEE Ming-wai gave a powerpoint presentation and briefed members on the Government's plan on enhancing mosquito control

work, including the application of technologies and this year's plan.

11. Prof Leo POON asked whether creatures other than mosquitoes would be affected by the release of the bacteria *Wolbachia*. Mr LEE Ming-wai responded that when compared with other methods, e.g. genetically modified mosquitoes, the use of *Wolbachia* is more acceptable as it was naturally occurring. However, the effect on non-target insects is still subjected to more studies to verify although *Wolbachia* infection is species specific. In response to Prof POON's enquiry, Mr LEE explained that field trials of Gravitraps were conducted to quantitatively assess the number of mosquitoes and the effectiveness of mosquito control. Mr Daniel CHENG advised that the reason for replacing Ovitrap with Gravitraps was to provide a quantitative measurement of mosquito populations as the former could only show the distribution of mosquitoes but not the number and density of mosquitoes. In 2019, the overall result of Gravitraps on the control of mosquitoes was so far satisfactory. There was only one local dengue fever case in 2019 despite the wide spread of dengue fever in Southeast Asia and neighboring regions.

12. Prof CHIU Siu-wai supported the use of In2Care mosquito traps, and said that its use of fungus was insect-specific and had relatively low impact on the environment. She suggested that the Government should enhance collaboration with some Mainland institutes which had been working on biocontrol of mosquitoes. Prof Felix CHAN enquired whether the Government has any plan to increase the number of In2Care mosquito traps and how to prioritise the districts and identify black spots for installation of the traps. Mr Daniel CHENG said that bureaux and departments welcomed the application of In2Care mosquito traps and ways to promote the use of the traps would be discussed at the upcoming Pest Control Steering Committee meeting. Mr CHENG indicated that the Government would in the coming year focus on the black spots of mosquito infestation and encourage every department to proactively identify and update black spots and carry out mosquito control measures. Mr LEE Ming-wai added that mosquito traps should be placed at locations with considerable number of breeding grounds of mosquitoes, and In2Care might not be suitable for open space with direct sunlight.

13. Prof CHIU Siu-wai commented that, same as rodent control, community engagement and education would also be important in the control of mosquitoes. Prof Felix CHAN also enquired whether there was any recommendation on devices that could be used in domestic premises to trap mosquitoes. Mr LEE Ming-wai said that devices using carbon dioxide and ultraviolet light as attractant of mosquitoes were considered more effective than those using magnetic wave. Miss Vivian LAU said that such information could be made available online to the public. Prof CHIU Siu-wai suggested sharing information on mosquito control to the construction industry.

14. Mr Stephen LEUNG asked whether Hong Kong's mosquito control methods could be adopted by other countries like Malaysia. Mr LEE Ming-wai

advised that the principal vector of dengue in Malaysia and Singapore were different from that of Hong Kong and different methods should be used to control these vector mosquitoes as they have different behavior.

**Agenda Item 5: Any other business**

15. The Secretariat would inform members of the date of the next ACFEH meeting.

16. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**Secretariat  
Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene  
June 2020**