

# Dr. Constance CHAN Hon-ye, JP

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Dr Constance Chan is the Director of Health of Hong Kong. Dr Chan joined the Government as a Medical and Health Officer in 1988 and was appointed as Director of the Department of Health in 2012. Before her current appointment, she served as Controller of the Centre for Food Safety of the Food & Environmental Hygiene Department between 2007 and mid-2012. Dr. Chan is a specialist in Public Health Medicine. She graduated from the medical school of the University of Hong Kong and obtained a Master of Medicine degree in Public Health from the National University of Singapore. She is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (Community Medicine) and a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom. She holds honorary appointment as Clinical Professor in the School of Public Health of the University of Hong Kong.

### Plan on Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

Similar to many countries and jurisdictions, Hong Kong is facing an increasing threat of non-communicable diseases (NCD) which will give rise to increasing mortality, morbidity and disability if not addressed promptly. In 2017, four major NCD, namely cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases accounted about 58% of all registered deaths. In May 2018, the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG) has launched the "Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong" (SAP) which set out nine local targets to be achieved by 2025 and one of the targets is to achieve a 25% relative reduction in risk of premature mortality from the aforesaid four NCD.

To prevent and control of cancers, the Government has adopted a coordinated approach and set up a high-level Cancer Coordinating Committee (CCC) in 2001 to advise the formulation of strategies and steer the direction of work in relation to cancer prevention and screening, treatment, surveillance and research. Under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Food and Health, CCC comprises cancer experts and doctors in public and private sectors, academics as well as public health professionals. The Cancer Expert Working Groups on Cancer Prevention and Screening set up under CCC regularly reviews scientific evidence and provides recommendations on prevention and screening of cancers relevant to the local population.

There is growing body of evidence to show that leading causes and underlying risk factors for cancers and other NCD can be effectively tackled through population-based interventions that encourage healthy lifestyles including healthy eating, physical activity, and reduced consumption of tobacco and alcohol. Apart from primary prevention, early detection and evidence-based screening programmes such as Cervical Screening Programme and Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme are also important interventions taken to reduce the local cancer burden.

The HKSARG is committed to fighting against NCD including cancers on all fronts and alleviating its burden. But we cannot achieve this alone. We will continue to foster co-operation across sectors and work in close partnership with professional organisations, community groups and members of the public to build a health-enhancing physical and social environment for the local population.