

## Meeting with the Director of Health on 22 February 2023

### *The Alliance*

#### *Convenor*

Dr S P Mak  
麥倩屏醫生

#### *Hon Secretary*

Dr Regina C T Ching  
程卓端醫生

#### *Members*

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The Hong Kong Alliance for Advocacy Against Alcohol, represented by the Convenor Dr Sin Ping MAK, Prof Tai Hing LAM and Dr Regina CHING, paid a visit to the Director of Health Dr Ronald LAM and relevant colleagues on 22 February 2023. Department of Health colleagues recapped the status of enforcement work prohibiting off-premise sale of alcoholic drinks to underaged persons, stakeholder engagement, drinking behaviour surveillance and impact monitoring, partnership building and public education. Noting the low score assigned to Hong Kong SAR by an international group of experts in a multi-country collaborative project (see reference below) in key areas of alcohol policy control, the Alliance explored with the Director opportunities for scaling up of activities pertaining to reenactment of alcohol tax relating to beverages containing no more than 30% alcoholic content, strengthening surveillance systems of alcohol harm including those caused to others, alcohol risk communication to vulnerable groups such as youth, staying vigilant to and need for exposing unethical marketing practices of the alcohol industry as well as the value of establishing a high-level cross-government intersectoral committee to oversee alcohol control strategies and harm reduction actions. The Alliance will continue to monitor efforts and progress made in these areas.



### Reference

Leung J, Casswell S, Parker K, Huckle T, Romeo J, Graydon-Guy T, et al. Effective alcohol policies and lifetime abstinence: An analysis of the International Alcohol Control policy index. *Drug Alcohol Rev.* 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13582>