



香港社會醫學學院
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Incorporated with limited liability



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By Post and Email

COUNCIL 2007-08

President

Dr Kathleen So
蘇碧嫻

Director
Environmental Protection Department
33/F-34/F & 46/F-48/F Revenue Tower
5 Gloucester Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

19 March 2008

Vice-President

Dr S P Mak
麥倩屏

Dear Ms Anissa Wong,

Chief Censor

Dr T H Leung
梁挺雄

On behalf of the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (the College), I would like to submit our comments on the Review of Hong Kong's Air Quality Objectives (AQO) and Development of a Long Term Air Quality Management Strategy.

Honorary Secretary

Dr Thomas Chung
鍾偉雄

As a professional organisation consisting of specialist doctors working to improve the health of the community, the College is of a strong view that immediate and energetic steps need to be done to implement effective measures for improvement of air quality both locally and in the Pearl River Delta.

Honorary Treasurer

Dr S V Lo
羅思偉

There is very clear scientific evidence, both locally and internationally, that poor air quality has a significant effect on population health. In Hong Kong, the following have been shown:

Members

Dr Fung Hong
馮康

Dr Mandy Ho
何孟儀

Dr William Ho
何兆煒

Dr. Ronald Lam
林文健

Prof Gabriel Leung
梁卓偉

Dr P Y Leung
梁柏賢

- Air quality is deteriorating significantly.
- Poor air quality affects growing lungs.
- Air pollution causes increased respiratory illnesses in both children and adults.
- Air pollution has been calculated to cause 1,600 avoidable deaths per year.
- Air pollution has contributed to up to 64,000 avoidable hospital bed days per year secondary to cardiac and respiratory illnesses.
- Direct costs (health care, loss of productivity and intangibles) secondary to poor air quality resulting in illness and death is estimated at HK\$19 billion (health care: HK\$1 – 1.5 billion; loss of productivity: HK\$0.3-0.5 billion; intangibles: HK\$19 billion).
- Poor air quality has a significant impact on local quality of life.
- Poor air quality has already had a significant impact on the local economy.



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Our College welcomes and supports the review of AQO in Hong Kong which is a positive move. In reviewing the AQO, it is important to:

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Dr Kathleen So
蘇碧嫻

- use internationally accepted standards of measurement of air quality;
- address the significance of the negative impact to health caused by poor air quality;
- provide effective and informed communication to the community based on information derived from the AQO.

Vice-President

Dr S P Mak
麥倩屏

The air quality in Hong Kong is now of political, economic and social significance. The review of AQO should be part and parcel of the overall development of an action plan, both short term and long term, to improve air quality. Control measures like promotion of emission reduction and an effective transport policy, collaboration with neighbouring authorities to negotiate and reduce emission, etc should be considered and introduced as soon as possible. Last but not the least is the enhancement of ongoing and relevant research in this area to support the development of evidence based and socially accepted policy.

Chief Censor

Dr T H Leung
梁挺雄

Honorary Secretary

Dr Thomas Chung
鍾偉雄

Honorary Treasurer

Dr S V Lo
羅思偉

Yours faithfully

Members

Dr Fung Hong
馮康

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Dr William Ho
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Dr. Ronald Lam
林文健

Prof Gabriel Leung
梁卓偉

Dr P Y Leung
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Dr Thomas Chung
Hon. Secretary
Hong Kong College of Community Medicine