

MESSAGE

FROM DR. KO WING-MAN, B.B.S., J.P. CHAIRMAN, STEERING COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC REVIEW ON HEALTHCARE MANPOWER PLANNING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY FOR FOOD AND HEALTH



Over the years, our healthcare system has evolved and developed in tandem with the needs and aspirations of our society. Thanks to the diligence, competence and dedication of our healthcare professionals, we have made commendable strides on nearly all fronts of healthcare, and climbed to the top of the world league table of longevity. These are remarkable achievements, but, as our society ages and with rising expectations for healthcare services, we could not rest on our laurels. Nothing is more important to the health of our citizens and the future of our city than a sustainable healthcare system supported by adequate and quality healthcare professionals. We must plan ahead, invest in our future and make necessary changes. It was against this background of healthcare reform that the Steering Committee on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development, which I chaired personally, was established in 2012.

The Report is the fruit of intensive dialogues, insightful deliberation and comprehensive review by members of the Steering Committee and its six Sub-groups over the past years, underpinned by two commissioned studies conducted by the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) respectively on healthcare manpower projections and professional development and regulation. I would like to extend my personal thanks to all

members of the Steering Committee and its Sub-groups for their insight, contribution and dedication throughout the Review. The unfailing efforts by HKU and CUHK in providing professional input and technical support to the Review are also appreciated. My thanks also go to all the healthcare professionals and other stakeholders of the community for their valuable comments and suggestions.

I am also deeply grateful that in the course of the Review, we have been able to grasp and delve into various issues and come up with findings and recommendations in a collaborative and consensus-building process that has absorbed and integrated as many views and suggestions as possible into the final product of the Review. The findings and recommendations of this report lay a solid foundation for healthcare manpower planning, and point the way forward for making our healthcare professionals better and stronger, as well as ensuring that they would continue to command the respect and earn the trust of the community.

Following the conclusion of the Review, the Government will soon embark on an updating exercise on manpower projections in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and invite each and every of the Boards and Councils for healthcare professions to submit detailed and concrete proposals for

implementing the recommendations of the Review taking into account the unique circumstances of individual professions. We will take all necessary steps to bring supply and demand of healthcare professionals into broad equilibrium over time. This is the shared mission of the Government and all members of the Steering Committee and its Sub-groups, and surely is also one that is dear to the hearts of people of Hong Kong.

Healthcare is everyone's business. Your valuable view and participation is an integral component of building a sustainable healthcare system. We urge you to spare some time to go through the report, and would be delighted to hear from you any idea or suggestion you may have on healthcare manpower planning and professional development and regulation.

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