

DH organises International Medical Device Regulatory Forum to promote advancement of health through research and technology (with photos)

The Department of Health (DH) and the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) today (May 28) jointly organised the Hong Kong International Medical Device Regulatory Forum at the Hong Kong Science Park. The forum brought together about 200 representatives from local, Mainland and overseas medical device regulatory authorities, top academic experts and industry leaders to explore the innovative development of medical devices, as well as the transformative applications and regulation of artificial intelligence (AI). Through experience sharing, forum participants made a concerted effort to promote scientific research and innovation to enhance global public health security and the standards for the medical industry.

Addressing the opening ceremony, the Director of Health, Dr Ronald Lam, said, "Given the rapid development of AI technology, the DH is committed to developing a regulatory framework in Hong Kong to help healthcare workers and members of the public choose safe and reliable medical devices. The DH has issued guidance on cybersecurity and AI medical devices in 2023 and 2024 to help manufacturers navigate and follow the voluntary Medical Device Administrative Control System (MDACS), which was introduced by the DH. To date, 22 AI medical devices have been listed in the MDACS, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and electrocardiography (ECG) systems.

"The HKSAR Government is committed to developing Hong Kong as a hub for health and medical innovation. The soon-to-be-established Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation will conduct independent evaluations on the safety, quality, and efficacy of medical products based on clinical data. In addition, with the development of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, Hong Kong will leverage its unique advantages under the 'one country, two systems' principle and serve as a 'super connector', linking Mainland China and the global market. This will create opportunities for entrepreneurs to thrive while supporting our country in enhancing its new quality productive forces in the health field," said Dr Lam.

"The emergence of innovative medical devices is bringing revolutionary changes to the healthcare industry. Multinational and cross-border collaborations are required to enable the development of a regulatory system that aligns with the rapid advancement in medical technology. The CUHK is delighted to partner with the DH in hosting the first forum to strengthen co-operation in medical innovation. The goal is to enhance health and medical industry standards by engaging leaders and pioneers in the field," said the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the CUHK, Professor Philip Chiu.

Today's forum featured keynote speeches by representatives of medical device regulatory authorities from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, as well as local and Hungarian academia. The forum focused on trends in the medical device industry, international regulatory co-ordination mechanisms and breakthroughs in AI technology in the healthcare sector. Participants proactively engaged in discussions, sharing their insights and experiences.

The DH will continue to promote exchanges between governments, industry, and academia through various means to strengthen international collaboration networks, and lay a solid foundation for Hong Kong to develop into an international medical innovation hub.

