

Secretary for Health meets with Mainland delegations and WHO representative to deepen Hong Kong's unique role in connecting Mainland and world (with photos)

The Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, continued to meet with the Mainland delegations coming to Hong Kong to attend the Hospital Authority (HA) Convention 2025 and the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to China, Mr Martin Taylor, today (May 27) to exchange views on various healthcare issues and explore the strengthening of related healthcare co-operation, with a view to further deepening Hong Kong's unique role in connecting the Mainland and the world.

In the morning, Professor Lo met with the delegation led by Deputy Director General of the Shanghai Municipal Health Commission Professor Hu Hongyi to exchange views on topics including the healthcare talent exchanges between Hong Kong and Shanghai and the internationalisation of Chinese medicine standards. Professor Lo said, "The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to medical collaboration with the Mainland on various fronts and has been strengthening co-operation on healthcare service development with various Mainland counterparts to jointly enhance healthcare quality under the principle of complementarity and mutual benefits, and on the premise of benefitting the healthcare development of both the Mainland and Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government will remain committed to fostering cross-boundary medical co-operation to propel the important national strategy of 'Healthy China' through concerted efforts."

At the meeting with the delegation led by Vice Chairman of the People's Government of the Xizang Autonomous Region Ms Luo Mei in the afternoon, Professor Lo introduced the structure of the healthcare system in Hong Kong and shared relevant management experience. Both sides also exchanged views on the development of traditional medicine.

Professor Lo then met with the WHO Representative to China, Mr Martin Taylor, to introduce him to the comprehensive tobacco control strategies in Hong Kong. Professor Lo emphasised, "To further alleviate the threat posed by tobacco to public health, the HKSAR Government's new phase of tobacco control measures is formulated around four directions, namely, Regulate Supply; Ban Promotion; Expand No Smoking Areas; and Enhance Education. We hope to suppress the use of tobacco and minimise its harm to the community through adopting a multipronged tobacco control strategy." During the meeting, both parties agreed that sustained international co-operation is particularly important to further strengthening global tobacco control efforts and safeguarding public health.

The HA Convention and the Asia Summit on Global Health are both important annual events of the healthcare sector. Medical experts, academics and practitioners from the Mainland and overseas, as well as government officials in charge of healthcare policies from around the world, gather in Hong Kong to have extensive exchanges and share their knowledge and experience in their respective fields, while also exploring opportunities for international healthcare co-operation, thereby deepening Hong Kong's important role as a "super-connector".

