

## Cancer Coordinating Committee meeting held (with photos)

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, chaired the 13th Cancer Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting today (December 3). At the meeting, Members discussed the draft outline of the Cancer Strategy and reviewed the population-based cancer data for 2016.

In view of the overall rising trends in incidences of different cancers and the burden posed on the society, the CCC agreed at its 12th meeting that the Government should consolidate and enhance a comprehensive strategy on cancer prevention and control. Having regard to the World Health Organization's recommendations, international practices and local situations, the CCC discussed the draft outline of the strategies and priorities related to prevention and control of cancer for the period between 2020 and 2025. The discussion encompassed cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, support and care services, as well as research and surveillance activities.

"The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address announced that the Government would map out a cancer strategy in 2019 to set out the strategic direction for prevention and care services for the period between 2020 and 2025," Professor Chan said.

The CCC also reviewed the population-based cancer data for 2016, as well as the incidence and mortality trends and projections of major cancers in Hong Kong. In 2016, a total of 31 468 new cancer cases were diagnosed in Hong Kong, hitting a record high. Of these new cancers diagnosed, 16 035 were diagnosed in males, and 15 433 in females. Compared with that of 2015, there are 1 150 more cases, with a rise of 3.8%. Colorectal cancer has been the most prevalent cancer for four consecutive years. The CCC noted the current data reflected the cancer burden and epidemic of Hong Kong. Cohorts with cancers that exhibited an increasing incidence with significant mortality merit special attention. These surveillance data could provide the latest information as basis for cancer control and related strategic planning.

The CCC was established in 2001, comprising cancer experts and doctors from the public and private sectors, academics and public health professionals, to advise the formulation of strategies on cancer prevention and control and steer the direction of work in relation to cancer prevention and screening, treatment, surveillance and research. Under the CCC, the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening regularly reviews international and local evidence and makes recommendations on cancer prevention and screening in the local context. In addition, the Hong Kong Cancer Registry, the Hospital Authority and the Research Office of the Food and Health Bureau oversee cancer surveillance, treatment and research respectively.

