

Director of Health attends WHO Western Pacific regional meeting (with photos)

The Director of Health, Dr Ronald Lam, today (October 16) attended the meeting of the 74th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in Manila, the Philippines.

This is the first face-to-face meeting of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific after resuming from the COVID-19 epidemic to full normalcy. The meeting, held from October 16 to 20, gathered representatives from 34 member states and areas. As part of the delegation of the People's Republic of China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region delegation is led by Dr Lam, with members including Assistant Director of Health Dr Jackie Leung and others.

During the meeting, representatives from member states and areas will discuss proposals and frameworks on health security, health innovation, health communication, health workforce, etc. Dr Lam will lead the Hong Kong delegation to exchange views with representatives from member states and areas on issues including prevention and control of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, antibiotic resistance, measures to fight against the coronavirus epidemic, etc.

The Department of Health (DH) has all along been supporting the health strategies of the Mainland to contribute to global public health. Meanwhile, the DH also aligns with the work of the WHO and the Mainland in combating various public health challenges. The DH is designated as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Smoking Cessation and Treatment of Tobacco Dependence. Furthermore, the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection of the DH is also designated by the WHO as a reference laboratory for various communicable diseases including COVID-19, which contributes significantly to global anti-epidemic efforts.

