

Director of Health meets delegation of National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (with photos)

The Director of Health, Dr Ronald Lam, met with a delegation led by the Vice Commissioner of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM) and President of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS), Professor Huang Luqi, today (November 1) to exchange views and discuss the promotion of the high-quality development of Chinese medicine of the two places.

The delegation paid a visit to the Department of Health (DH)'s Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI) located at the Hong Kong Science Park. The delegation learned about Chinese medicines testing and research work by the DH through touring the GCMTI's various laboratories and the Chinese Medicines Herbarium.

Dr Lam introduced to the delegation the latest developments of the GCMTI, including development plans of the permanent building of the GCMTI in Tseung Kwan O as well as the Digitalised Chinese Medicines Information Platform which will be completed in early 2024 as mentioned in "The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address".

Dr Lam said, "Chinese medicine has always been an integral part of the healthcare system in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government expresses sincere gratitude to the NATCM for its staunch support for the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, which includes inviting Hong Kong to participate in the Fourth National Survey of Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) Resources and providing technical support. The HKSAR Government is also grateful for the NATCM's provision of technical support in the sequencing test method for CMM. This long-term collaboration will lead the world to adopting cutting-edge technologies to ensure the authenticity of CMM and traditional medicines."

The DH has been actively promoting exchanges and co-operation with relevant authorities in the Mainland in areas such as testing and reference standard research of Chinese medicine. In May 2022, Hong Kong was invited by the NATCM to take part in the Fourth National Survey of CMM Resources to examine the situation of Chinese medicines resources in Hong Kong, with relevant work co-ordinated by the GCMTI. The Preliminary Index of Chinese Medicine Resources in Hong Kong, which is the first phase of the survey, has been compiled and submitted to the NATCM. The second phase of the survey, focusing on Hong Kong's CMM market and traditional knowledge, has commenced in May this year.

Since 2017, the DH and the Institute of Chinese Materia Medica of the CACMS have been in close collaboration in the research and testing of Chinese medicines standards. In July 2022, the two parties signed a co-operation agreement on research and application for standards of Chinese medicines to reinforce exchanges and collaboration between the two parties, and to facilitate the development of Chinese medicine of the two places.

During the visit, the two parties agreed to continue promoting exchanges and collaboration on testing technology and research of Chinese medicines through different means such as holding expert group meetings, symposiums and training.

