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衛生防護中心總監 梁栢賢—— 細說中心發展路向

The Road Ahead : Interview with CHP Controller Dr LEUNG Pak Yin

接受挑戰 努力面前

香港經歷「沙士」一役後，暴露了香港醫療防疫體制的不足，衛生防護中心去年六月一日正式成立，肩負起預防及控制疾病的重任。作為這個新架構的掌舵人，可謂臨危受命。

衛生防護中心總監梁栢賢醫生說：「沙士一役相信每個人的感受都很深，我在使命感驅使下接受挑戰，希望帶領這個衛生署架構下成立的新組織，在疾病預防及控制方面做得更好。」

Tackling upcoming challenges

Intended to rectify the shortcomings in the public health system exposed by the 2003 SARS outbreak, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) was established in June last year to shape up the work of disease prevention and control. The daunting task of directing such an important public health body of high public expectation rests on Dr LEUNG Pak-yin.

"I believe SARS has left everyone with bitter memories. I accepted the challenge of leading this new organisation under the Department of Health (DH) because I have an urge to bolster the work in disease prevention and control," said Dr LEUNG, Controller of the CHP.



聽聽我意見 Points of View

衛生防護中心研究主任 Juliena

「衛生防護中心的成立是好的，在架構層面上，可以集中統籌疾病的預防及控制工作。我亦發覺衛生防護中心很主動發放疾病個案資料，以及提供健康忠告，令機構的透明度相應提高。我們的工作很多時也要跟醫管局合作，我希望能進一步加強彼此的合作關係。」

Juliena, Research Officer, CHP

“The establishment of the CHP is good in the sense that it becomes the focal organisation to centralise jobs relating to disease prevention and control. I also notice that CHP has been very active in disseminating disease information and giving health advice. Its transparency is thus enhanced. We need to work with the Hospital Authority in certain areas, I hope that the working relationship can be further strengthened.”

其實，在衛生防護中心成立首天，這個新組織已備受考驗，令這個新任總監記憶猶新。

梁醫生說：「當時葵涌一間幼兒園出現小童集體感染手足口病的個案，衛生防護中心於是介入調查，並宣布關閉幼兒園。衛生防護中心第一天運作便碰上這個挑戰，實在令人難忘。」



過去六個月，香港亦發生過多宗涉及公共衛生的事件，例如日本腦炎、登革熱、醫院病人集體呼吸道感染及麵館集體食物中毒等。作為香港的疾病預防及控制中心，衛生防護中心偶爾會被輿論批評為反應未夠迅速。梁醫生坦言，新機制尚未成熟，但他認為醫院與衛生署的通報機制已改善了很多。他舉明愛醫院集體呼吸道感染的事件作為例子，表示事發時醫管局感染控制組已作內部評估，衛生防護中心亦主動介入調查。在事件中，醫管局、衛生防護中心及兩間大學亦分析了病毒的種類。

And challenges did come right on the very first day. “An outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease in a nursery in Kwai Chung was reported, and the CHP had to investigate the case and declare temporary closure of the nursery. When something like that happens on the first day of your job, you’ll never forget that,” said Dr LEUNG.

In the following months, various incidents occurred, threatening public health in Hong Kong. They included Japanese encephalitis, dengue fever, mass respiratory tract infection in hospital wards and major food poisoning cases. As the centre responsible for disease prevention and control, the CHP occasionally receives criticisms from the media accusing it of not being able to react in time.

While acknowledging the fact that the new mechanism is not fully fledged and room for improvement exists, Dr LEUNG pointed out that the communication between hospitals and the Department of Health has in fact improved. One good illustration of this was how different departments synergized their efforts in the outbreak of respiratory tract infection in the Caritas Medical Centre. Dr LEUNG explained that during the outbreak, the Infection Control Teams of the Hospital Authority (HA) performed internal assessments, while the CHP actively engaged in the investigation of the case. The HA, the CHP and two universities also performed follow-up analysis to identify the strains of viruses involved.

“Undoubtedly, there is room for improvement, but it should also be noted that the communication between the DH and the hospitals has actually improved. I understand that the public have high hopes on us, and expectations bring about criticisms. We will continue to improve our services and seek support from the general public,” Dr LEUNG said.

梁醫生說：「事件當然尚有改善的空間，但衛生署及醫院的溝通確實較以前進步。我認為公眾對我們的期望很大，批評亦隨之而生。這點我是理解的。我們會繼續改善服務，尋求市民的支持。」

Strengthening training and upgrading facilities

While on the subject of striving for improvement, Dr LEUNG explained that the focus of the CHP in future will be to strengthen the Centre in the area of epidemiological training. The CHP will invite overseas experts to visit Hong Kong for information exchange. It will also select members of staff to receive overseas training.

“不可能每次有疾病爆發才邀請專家來港協助，我們亦不可太依賴海外專家，我們需要培訓本地人才。”



加強培訓 提升設施

談到工作的改善空間，梁醫生說未來的工作重點是強化流行病學的培訓。中心會邀請海外專家來港交流以及安排員工到海外培訓。

梁醫生說：「不可能每次有疾病爆發才邀請專家來港協助，我們亦不可太依賴海外專家，我們需要培訓本地人才。」

梁醫生表示，衛生防護中心雖然只成立了短短半年，但已與英格蘭及威爾斯衛生防護局簽署了合作備忘錄，亦到過泰國出席有關禽流感的國際會議。衛生防護中心將來會繼續參與世界衛生組織及美國疾病控制及預防中心的交流活動及研究項目，希望未來三年，可以與國際機構進一步合作，建立夥伴關係。

此外，衛生防護中心計劃六至八個月內成立「風險通報中心」及「緊急應

“We can’t invite foreign experts to come over only when there are outbreaks of diseases. Neither should we become too dependent on these experts. We need to train up local talents,” said Dr LEUNG.

Although the CHP has been established for a mere half year, it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Health Protection Agency of the UK. The CHP has also attended international conferences held in Thailand on the avian flu, and will continue to take part in the activities and research projects conducted by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the US. It is hoped that our cooperation with global institutes will be intensified, and strategic partnerships with these institutes can be established within the coming three years.

The CHP also plans to set up a Risk Communication Centre (RCC) and an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in the following six to eight months. The RCC will be responsible for providing a venue for meetings and press conferences, as well as the communication facilities for the media to dispatch health information to the general public. The ERC, on the other hand, will be the pivot of tackling

聽聽我意見 Points of View

衛生署營養師
Florence

「我認同衛生防護中心的理念，由一個部門負責疾病的預防及控制工作是的。但市民未必清楚它的角色及職能，這方面應多作宣傳推廣。」

Florence, Dietitian,
Department of Health

“I recognise the mission and vision of the CHP. I think it is good to coordinate all matters relating to disease prevention and control under one roof. However, the members of the public may not know its roles and functions clearly. I suggest the CHP to launch more promotion in these areas.”



聽聽我意見 Points of View

黃大仙區區議員
李明佩女士

「我不太清楚衛生防護中心的職能及權責，它跟衛生署、醫管局、兩間大學以及私人醫護界別的關係怎樣？一旦有新的傳染病爆發，大家的合作關係如何？衛生防護中心有沒有立法及執法的權力？」

Ms Mavis LEE Ming Pui, District Councillor,
Wong Tai Sin District Council


“I don't really know the functions and powers of the CHP. What's its relationship with the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority, the two universities and the private sector? How do they cooperate when there is an outbreak of unknown diseases? Does the CHP have the powers of legislature and execution?”

變中心」。前者擬提供討論風險通報策略的會議場地以及為傳媒提供通訊設施，向公眾發放訊息。後者擬作為衛生防護中心應付公共衛生危機時的應變樞紐，中心備有資訊及通訊設施，加強衛生署及其他部門或機構在危機時的跨界別合作。

梁醫生又透露，衛生防護中心未來六個月將推出一份有關非傳染病的策略性文件，勾劃出處理非傳染病的具體策略以及訂下工作的優先次序。

與時並進 茁壯成長

工作繁重，梁醫生跟普羅大眾一樣，希望抽多些時間陪伴家人。不過，正如他所言，工作忙碌，願望因而變得奢侈。踏入新的一年，梁醫生的另一個願望是希望衛生防護中心能夠茁壯成長，迎接面前可能出現的考驗。

梁醫生說：「傳染病的性質多變，傳播速度快。我們的工作好像與時間競賽。我希望衛生防護中心運作越來越成熟，以便迎接面前每一次的硬仗。我亦在此感謝醫管局、兩間大學及衛生署同事對衛生防護中心的支持，這令我很感動，亦推動了中心的成長。」


“We can't invite foreign experts to come over only when there are outbreaks of diseases. Neither should we become too dependent on these experts. We need to train up local talents.”

public health crises and will be equipped with information and communication facilities. This shall allow the DH and the representatives from various departments and organisations to work together, thus strengthening the inter-disciplinary cooperation in times of crises.

Dr LEUNG also revealed that in six months' time, the CHP will release a strategic paper on non-communicable diseases (NCD), which will sketch the specific strategies involved in containing the spread of NCD and the prioritisation of such efforts.

The road ahead

When asked about his greatest wish, Dr LEUNG admitted that he craves for spending more time with his family like everyone else does. However, a heavy workload means that this dream of enjoying family life has remained something hard to come by for him. Entering 2005, his greatest wish is for the CHP to grow steadily so that it is well prepared for any challenge that lies ahead.

“Communicable diseases are capricious by nature and they spread with great speed, so our job is basically one that is competing against time. I hope that the operation of the CHP will get smoother in time, so that we will be better equipped to put up a good fight against whatever future holds. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to the HA, the two universities and the colleagues of the DH for their support to the CHP. Their efforts are much appreciated and help foster the development of the Centre,” said Dr LEUNG. 



[走訪衛生防護中心] Venues in Focus

風險通報中心 Risk Communication Centre (RCC)



風險通報中心擬由三部份組成，包括風險通報策略室、風險通報大堂以及記者室。這些設施主要提供了會議及記者會場地，以及通訊設施，方便

傳媒即時向公眾發放消息。 (HP)

The proposed RCC consists of a Risk Communication Strategy Office, a Risk Communication Hall and a Press Room. These venues are well-equipped with communication facilities for meetings and press conferences to facilitate timely dissemination of information by the media.

緊急應變中心 Emergency Response Centre (ERC)



緊急應變中心擬作為應付重大公共衛生危機時的樞紐，負責協調衛生體系內各部門及機構的資源調配及行動。中心備有高效率的資訊及通訊設施，使衛生署及其他部門或機構代表，例如醫管局、醫療輔

助隊及民安隊等，可以在處理危機時一同工作，進一步加強跨界別合作。 (HP)

The proposed Emergency Response Centre (ERC) will be the pivot of tackling public health crises. It will co-ordinate resources and actions across respective departments and organisations in the public health system. Equipped with efficient information and communication facilities, the ERC will be the centre for officers from the Department of Health and other departments or agencies, such as the Hospital Authority, Auxiliary Medical Service, Civil Aid Service, etc., to work together to facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration. (HP)

[項目巡禮] Programmes in Focus

「建立團隊」工作坊 Team Building Workshop

衛生防護中心於二零零四年十一月二十七日舉行了一個工作坊，旨在促進衛生防護中心轄下六個分處與醫管局感染控制組同事的溝通及合作。透過互動遊戲，大家充份發揮了團隊精神。

“我們很多時也透過電話聯絡醫管局同事。今次是第一次有機會透過「工作坊」這個平台，互相認識。我相信是次活動能增加彼此的聯繫，加強合作關係。” —— 李培文醫生

“除了玩遊戲外，我們亦學習了有關團隊精神、建立互信及溝通的技巧。此外，我們有機會認識醫管局同事，強化了彼此的合作關係。我建議衛生防護中心多舉辦類似的內部工作坊。” —— 蘇敏兒高級護士長 (HP)



To facilitate better communication and cooperation amongst colleagues in different branches of CHP as well as between CHP and the Infection Control Teams in the Hospital Authority (HA), a team building workshop was held on 27 November 2004. Staff members from both CHP and HA demonstrated their team spirit through the interactive games.

“We always communicate with the HA staff over the phone. It is the first time we have the chance to know each other in person. I trust that we can develop closer ties and our cooperation can be further enhanced through this workshop.” —— Dr LEE Pui Man

“Apart from enjoying the games, we also learn more on the areas of team cohesiveness, trust building and effective communication. It is also good to make friends with HA staff and I believe our working relationship will be further enhanced. I suggest CHP to hold similar workshops in the future.”

—— Tammy SO, Senior Nursing Officer (HP)

「楓葉行動」測試部門應變能力 “Exercise Maple” as an exercise for contingency preparedness



多個政府部門的高級官員參與「楓葉行動」演習
Senior government officials from various departments were involved in the exercise



醫護人員協助居民遷離受影響的大廈
Health care workers helped residents to evacuate from the affected building

為了測試本港在不明傳染病爆發時的應變能力，衛生防護中心聯同約三十個政府部門及機構，於二零零四年十一月十八及十九日舉行了代號「楓葉行動」的演習。


參與是次演習的人員超過二百五十人，包括署理行政長官曾蔭權及衛生福利及食物局局長周一嶽。此外，亦有十名本地、國內及海外的專家擔任觀察員。

首日演習模擬衛生防護中心接獲醫管局通知，有兩間公立醫院的兩組醫護人員出現發燒及腸胃炎徵狀，中心隨即展開流行病學調查，並追查曾與患者接觸的人士及病毒源頭。第二日的演習則模擬調派前線人員，協助一座受病毒影響的大廈居民撤離居所。

演習期間，衛生防護中心亦成立了緊急應變中心，負責聯繫其他參與演習的指揮及通訊中心。

衛生防護中心總監梁栢賢醫生表示，衛生防護中心是新組織，是次演習能夠讓其他部門及機構了解中心的運作，以及在應變計劃中的角色。這次演習亦有助測試緊急應變中心的統籌能力。他表示，短期內會舉行更多類似的演習，加強風險通報能力。

參與演習的吳幼蘭護士長則表示，演習有助各部門及機構熟習處理突發事件的程序。吳姑娘在「沙士」爆發期間曾到淘大花園工作，負責檢疫及協助居民遷往隔離營的工作。她在今次演習中扮演的角色亦差不多。

吳姑娘說：「這次演習給我們一個溫故知新的機會，而演習的經驗又有助評估及改善我們的應變計劃。」

In collaboration with about 30 government departments and agencies, the CHP launched “Exercise Maple”, a two-day exercise (November 18 and 19, 2004) to test Hong Kong’s preparedness in case of an outbreak of an unknown communicable disease in Hong Kong.


More than 250 players, including the Acting Chief Executive, Mr Donald TSANG, and the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, Dr York CHOW, were involved in the exercise, and a total of 10 local, Mainland and overseas experts were invited to be the observers.

The exercise simulated a situation in which two clusters of medical and health care workers in two public hospitals had developed fever and gastroenteritis symptoms. During the first day of the exercise, the CHP was informed by the Hospital Authority about the outbreaks, and started epidemiological investigations and contact tracing. On the second day of the exercise, the CHP carried out a mock evacuation of residents from a building affected by the diseases.

Throughout the exercise, an Emergency Response Centre was set up to liaise with the various command and communication centres involved.

Dr LEUNG Pak Yin, Controller of the CHP, said the exercise provided the newly-formed CHP with an opportunity to familiarise other departments and agencies with the CHP’s operation and its roles in the contingency plan. It also helped to test the coordination capacity of the Emergency Response Centre. He added that more exercises would be carried out to enhance the existing risk communication capacity of the CHP in the near future.

Ms Ada NG, a Nursing Officer, was one of the participants of the exercise. She said the exercise provided an opportunity for various agencies to practise the contingency operational protocols. During the SARS period, Ms NG was a frontline nursing staff assigned to station at the Amoy Garden to facilitate quarantine and assist in the evacuation of residents to the quarantine camp. She played a similar role in the exercise this time.

“The exercise provided an opportunity to brush up our skills. In addition, we can assess and further enhance our contingency plans after the exercise,” said Ms NG. 



社會醫學顧問醫生(傳染病)曾浩輝參與調查工作
Dr Thomas TSANG, Consultant Community Medicin (Communicable Diseases) took part in investigation work



護士長指導如何穿著保護衣物
Nursing Officer demonstrated how to wear personal protection gear

7.5.2004



衛生防護中心總監梁栢賢醫生與英格蘭及威爾斯衛生防護局總監陶佩詩教授簽署合作備忘錄，加強合作，保障公眾健康。

Dr LEUNG Pak Yin, Controller of the CHP, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Pat TROOP, Head of the Health Protection Agency of England and Wales, for stronger linkages between the two agencies to protect public health.

23.6.2004



中央科學顧問委員會及七個科學委員會由各個界別的專家組成，透過討論及交流，為衛生防護中心提供專業意見，是集本地與國際知識、專才與情報的一項重要舉措。

Experts from different fields were invited to form the Board of Scientific Advisors and its seven Scientific Committees. These talents provide professional input to the CHP through discussion and exchange of information and knowledge. This is a major step to pool knowledge, expertise and intelligence from both local and international arenas.

1.6.2004

衛生防護中心的理想是要成為卓越的疾病預防及控制中心。
The ultimate vision of the CHP is to become a centre of excellence in disease prevention and control.



27-28.10.2004



衛生防護中心開幕禮——衛生防護中心獲香港賽馬會慷慨捐款成立。

Inauguration Ceremony of the CHP — The CHP was established with generous donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club.



衛生防護中心的開幕儀式後，衛生防護中心總監梁栢賢醫生陪同衛生福利及食物局局長周一嶽及其他主禮嘉賓，參觀衛生防護中心的設施。

After the CHP Inauguration Ceremony, Dr York CHOW, Secretary of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and Dr LEUNG Pak Yin, Controller of CHP, visited the CHP facilities together with other officiating guests.



聽聽我意見 Points of view

秘書黃小姐
Miss WONG,
Secretary

「我在新聞報導中聽過衛生防護中心的名字。但它跟衛生署是否同一個架構，大家的角色有什麼不同，這點我就不太清楚。」

“I came across the name of CHP in the news report. However, I am not sure about the roles of and the differences between the CHP and the Department of Health.”


編者的話 Words from the Editor

「沙士」一役後，政府去年六月在衛生署架構下成立了衛生防護中心，肩負起改善風險傳達及預防及監察疾病的重任。

本期是「CHP通訊」的創刊號，我們採訪了多位人士對衛生防護中心成立的想法。我們十分感謝他們寶貴的意見，我們理解大眾對這個新組織的職能及角色感到陌生及混淆，這正是「CHP通訊」誕生的原因，希望藉此加強內部員工以及與市民大眾的溝通。

正如衛生防護中心總監梁栢賢醫生在專訪中指出，在疾病控制的範疇上，醫管局與衛生防護中心已緊密合作。另外，我們在公、私營醫護機構及院舍之間，亦設有全面的疾病通報系統，實時監察各種流行病。此外，特區政府、醫管局、兩間大學醫學院及衛生署同事亦給予我們無限的支持，我們會繼續努力。

「CHP通訊」現暫定每兩個月出版一次，初期會以網上形式發放，告知大家衛生防護中心的最新發展及活動，亦會走訪衛生防護中心的人和事，加強公眾對這個新架構的認識。

我們期望藉著「CHP通訊」印證衛生防護中心的成長。大家如對「CHP通訊」有任何意見，可傳真或電郵至本刊編輯部。傳真號碼為 2591 6127，電郵地址為rcag@dh.gov.hk 

In the wake of “SARS”, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) was established in June 2004 under the Department of Health (DH). Its role is to enhance the existing risk communication capacity and to achieve effective prevention and control of diseases.

In this kick-off issue, we have interviewed people from all walks of life about their views on the establishment of the CHP, and their comments are highly appreciated. We understand the possible unfamiliarity and confusion the public may have about the functions and powers of this newly formed organisation, and this is the exact rationale behind the publication of the “CHP newsletter” - to strengthen the communication of the CHP with internal staff and the general public.

As mentioned by Dr LEUNG Pak Yin, the Controller of the CHP, in his interview, the CHP maintains a close working relationship with the Hospital Authority (HA) in disease control. The CHP also maintains a comprehensive disease notification system with health care providers and institutions from the public and private sectors. Moreover, the unfailing support from the Government, the HA, the Medical Schools of the two Universities and the colleagues of the Department of Health, mobilises the CHP staff to strive harder.

“CHP newsletter” is targeted to be published bi-monthly, and will be issued as an on-line version initially. Through the newsletter, you will be informed of the latest development and events of the CHP. Interviews and highlights of events will also be featured so that you can know more about this newly established organisation.

We sincerely hope that the “CHP newsletter” can serve as a chronicle to witness the growth of the CHP. Should there be any suggestions, please fax to our editorial board at 2591 6127 or email to rcag@dh.gov.hk 