



Board of Scientific Advisers (BOSA)

Purpose and Proposed Terms of Reference

Background

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) was established on 1 June 2004 under the Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR Government, with enhanced capacity to prevent and combat diseases.

2. The CHP will have the responsibility, authority and accountability for the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. CHP will adopt a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach in this work.

3. The Scientific Advisory Structure of CHP brings in expertise and scientific knowledge from across disciplines, sectors and institutions to advise the Controller on the formulation of evidence and science-based strategies, and measures to prevent and control communicable diseases. It comprises the BOSA and seven scientific committees, namely –

- (a) Scientific Committee on AIDS
- (b) Scientific Committee on Advanced Data Analysis and Disease Modelling
- (c) Scientific Committee on Emerging & Zoonotic Diseases



- (d) Scientific Committee on Enteric Infections and Foodborne Diseases
- (e) Scientific Committee on Infection Control
- (f) Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- (g) Scientific Committee on Vectorborne Diseases

Purpose of setting up BOSA

4. The Chairman of each scientific committee becomes a standing member of the BOSA. Together with other appointed scientific advisers, the BOSA provides the forum for experts to provide scientific knowledge on diverse fields of relevance to the control of communicable diseases. Through active participation of BOSA members who, having considered a wide range of public health threats experienced locally, and collectively provided a broadened perspective to disease prevention and control, the Board is best placed to advise the Controller on the territory-wide strategies for communicable disease control. Major decisions and recommendations made by individual Scientific Committees will be submitted in the form of scientific reports to be considered by the BOSA.

5. The BOSA does not operate as an executive unit. Instead, recommendations are promulgated and implemented through one or more of the branches of the CHP, or through relevant agencies.

Proposed Terms of Reference for BOSA

6. The proposed terms of reference are -
- (a) To consider and endorse scientific reports prepared by individual scientific committees.
 - (b) To advise the Controller, CHP on territory-wide strategies for prevention and control of communicable diseases.
 - (c) To direct and coordinate the work of Scientific Committees.

Output

7. Members of the BOSA will meet at least once a year.

Advice Sought

8. Members are requested to note the content of this paper and agree on the terms of reference.

Centre for Health Protection
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