



# *Message from the Chairman*

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The Dental Council has undergone another fruitful year in the discharge of its statutory duties of registration and regulation of the dental profession.

As part of our incessant efforts to bring about a better regulatory framework for the dental profession, the Council has constantly reviewed the provisions in the Dentists Registration Ordinance to identify areas for further improvements. It is encouraging to note that having regard to the views expressed to the Administration by the Council and the dental profession, the Administration would be giving priority to the setting up of a statute-based Specialist Register in the legislative amendment exercise in 2005. In the meantime, the Council is also undertaking a major review on the registration-related provisions in the Dentists Registration Ordinance with a view to streamlining and enhancing the system of registration of dentists.

Regarding the Code of Professional Discipline, the Council has introduced several amendments to the Code pertaining to the use of specialist titles and media appearance by the dental profession.

As a means to improve the complaint-handling mechanism amidst rising public aspiration, the Council has published a form for making complaints, as well as an information pamphlet, for use by members of the public. This would achieve the dual purposes of facilitating the investigation of complaints and the provision of necessary

information by complainants in a clear and comprehensive manner.

Since the implementation of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA I) on 1 January 2004, we are pleased to note that under CEPA II which came into effect on 1 January 2005, there are further liberalization measures for our dentists to provide their services in the Mainland. Under CEPA II, the Mainland's Qualification Examination will be open to Hong Kong permanent residents who are legally eligible to practise dentistry in Hong Kong, irrespective of the dental school they have attended. In this regard, the Dental Council Secretariat will continue to take up the administrative work of receiving applications to take the Qualification Examination from our registered dentists.

The work of the Council has been heavily dependent upon the assistance and support of Council Members, both lay and professional, and staff of the Council Secretariat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members for their unfailing contribution and commitment and the Secretariat staff for the quality service rendered to me and the Council.

The Council will continue the mission of maintaining a high ethical standard of the profession for the benefit of our patients and the community. The Council also looks forward to the valuable support and active involvement of members of the profession in the coming year with a view to achieving continued improvements to our professionalism and quality service.