



Message from the Chairman

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The Dental Council had undergone another eventful year in 2005 in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities on the registration and regulation of the dental profession.

As part of our continuing efforts to bring about a better regulatory framework for the dental profession, the Council had regularly reviewed the various provisions of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, Cap. 156 to identify areas for further improvement. I am pleased to announce that with the views expressed by the Council and the dental profession, the Administration had introduced the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005 to the Legislative Council in July 2005, aiming to amend the Dentists Registration Ordinance to establish -

- (i) a statute-based Specialist Register for registered dentists qualified in various specialist fields of dentistry; and
- (ii) an Education and Accreditation Committee under the Council to deal with matters relating to specialist registration and related matter.

A Bills Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr the Hon KWOK Ka-ki to study the various aspects of the Bill. The Amendment Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council, and published in Gazette on 26 May 2006. The Amendment Ordinance shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Administration.

In the meantime, the Council will continue the review on the registration-related provisions in the Dentists Registration Ordinance and invite the Administration to consider other proposed amendments which include, among other things, the setting up of statutory committees, namely the Ethics Committee, the Health Committee, the Examination Committee and the Board of Examiners to focus on specific areas with a view to streamlining and improving the registration and regulatory systems of the profession.

As regards the Code of Professional Discipline

for registered dentists, the Council had introduced a few amendments to the Code pertaining to the citing of the title "CPD-certified" on stationery, and the quotation of the address of website set up by the practitioners for their dental practice in their entries in the directory on the Internet.

The number of complaints received in 2005 was 97 which represents a slight decrease as compared to the number of 104 complaints received in 2004. Notwithstanding the decreased number of complaints received against the members of the profession, the Council will stay adamant to work for improving and enhancing the sense of professional ethics and service standards of the profession.

We are pleased to note that under the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) II which came into effect on 1 January 2005, there have been further liberalization measures for dentists in Hong Kong 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 which they have attended. In this regard, the Council Secretariat will continue taking up the administrative work of receiving applications to take the Qualification Examination from our registered dentists.

The work of the Council has depended on the support and assistance of all the Council Members, both professional and lay, as well as staff of the Council Secretariat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members for their unflinching contribution and commitment in the past years, and for staff of the Secretariat for the dedication and quality service rendered to the Council.

The Council will continue the mission of maintaining a high ethical standard of the dental profession for the benefit of our patients and the community at large. I am certain that the Council can count on the 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.