

THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

Chairman's Address

to the 62nd Annual General Meeting on Friday, 8 December 2017

by Ms Lina Yan

Chairperson

Professor Chan, Professor Ngan, Members and Staff of the Association, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now have the pleasure of making a few remarks on behalf of the Council and the Association. First of all, we are privileged to have Professor Sophia Chan, Secretary for Food and Health, as our Guest of Honour this year. Professor Chan has long been a friend of the Association, having served on our Health Services Subcommittee about ten years ago. We are very grateful that she has taken time from her busy schedule to join us today. We look forward to Professor Chan sharing her wisdom and insights with us in due course.

Last year, we successfully attained the goals of our Strategic Plan 2014-16, and our final report was received by the Council in March this year. On the foundations of our past strengths and achievements, we drew up the next Strategic Plan 2017-19 which continues to incorporate six tactics in the areas of branding and marketing, resources development, customer service, talent management, social innovation, and enhancement of management tools.

Hong Kong's ageing population and low fertility continues to be a main focus of our work. The unmet sexual and reproductive health needs of the ageing population will be addressed and our experiences in program delivery will be shared locally and internationally. We are grateful to the Community Chest of Hong Kong for funding

our three year project titled “Every Bone Counts 2017-2020” to offer bone density measurement to eligible elderly women. Our experience and good practices were presented at the Meeting on “Forwarding the IPPF Ageing Policy” organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in the East and South East Asia and Oceania Region in February 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. Our Association’s Pre-Pregnancy Preparation service was enhanced last year to offer more comprehensive coverage and fertility assessment, while our Subfertility Service celebrated its 60th anniversary with a press event. We anticipate that our next Survey of Family Planning Knowledge, Attitude and Practice 2017 will provide us with more insights on the childbearing trend in Hong Kong.

For decades, our Association has been a pioneer and major player in the fight against cervical cancer. The three pillars to effective prevention of cervical cancer are: population-based pap smear screening, advocating safer sexual behavior, and HPV vaccination. We actively promote and provide pap smear screening, together with monitoring and treatment when abnormalities are detected. Of the around 40,000 pap smears we take each year, 5-7% turn out to be abnormal and require further management. According to the Department of Health’s latest Behavioural Risk Factor Survey in 2016, less than 70% respondents had ever had a cervical smear and only about 55% had had one within the last three years. There is therefore still room for improvement on the coverage of screening among Hong Kong women. Last year, we implemented the Free Cervical Cancer Vaccination Pilot Scheme with funding from the Community Care Fund. Over 10,000 teenage girls from low-income families have received the vaccine in our Youth Health Care Centres. We hope that the success of this Pilot Scheme will encourage the Government to consider providing the vaccine to all our girls in future, and look forward to the day when cervical cancer is no longer among the top ten female cancers in Hong Kong.

This brings me to my final remarks. This AGM is the last that I will be chairing, concluding my six-year tenure as Chairperson of the Association. It has been a privilege to work with my fellow Council members, volunteers, staff and supporters such as all of you gathered here today. Our Association is fortunate to have a wealth of volunteers who selflessly contribute to our work in a multitude of capacities. I deeply appreciate their sense of duty and commitment, passion and creativity. I would also like to thank the Hong Kong Government for its steadfast support, and our donors for their generosity, especially the Community Chest, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, and the Sir Robert Hotung Charitable Fund. I am also grateful to all the staff for their loyalty and diligence in making the Association a dynamic organization with a bright future.

As I pass the torch to my successor, I am full of confidence that he will lead the Association to scale new heights with your continued unfailing support.

Thank you.