

THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG
Chairman's Address
to the 64th Annual General Meeting on Friday, 13 December 2019

by Dr Cheung Kai Bun
Chairperson

Professor Tiwari, 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. We are privileged to have Prof. Agnes Tiwari, Chairman of The Nursing Council of Hong Kong, as our Guest of Honour this year. The Nursing Council raises the quality of nursing practice in Hong Kong to meet the rapidly changing health care needs of the society. Nurses can build supportive relationships with patients and are well positioned to deliver and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights. We look forward to hearing from Prof. Tiwari her insights in a moment.

As you can see, this year's AGM is being held in this somewhat confined venue due to the fact that our Auditorium is being used as a temporary ward during the overhaul of our air-conditioning system. Thank you all for still making the effort to join us, in particular because this is a Friday evening and we all know that weekend evening public transport and road conditions are highly unpredictable. We really appreciate your support, and I am mindful of the need to keep my speech short.

Since summer this year, Hong Kong has witnessed deep and widespread social turbulence. The daily lives of individuals and families have been seriously disrupted. As an apolitical and non-partisan organization, our Association has largely remained on the sidelines as a concerned observer. Inevitably, our services have been affected as clients are unable to travel to our clinics, our staff have had difficulty travelling to work, and various programs have had to be cancelled or postponed. The walls outside our Headquarters and Ma Tau Chung Clinic have been vandalized, although thankfully no lasting damage has been done. But more worrying is the observation that the deep-rooted division in our community is threatening the future of our young people and destroying the harmony of our families. Will our city emerge from this turmoil better and stronger and more united? Or have we sacrificed peace and law and order for an uncertain future? We certainly have no answers, but we will staunchly carry on our work of serving those who need sexual and reproductive health services, information and education, promoting the core values of respect, responsibility, acceptance, inclusion and care.

On a positive note, I would like to congratulate Prof. Hextan Ngan, our President, on being awarded the International Planned Parenthood Federation ESEAOR Volunteer Award this year. This international Award recognized Prof. Ngan's leadership in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as her invaluable contribution beyond the national boundaries.

Finally, I must thank the Government for its continued support, and our donors for their generous contributions. My heartfelt gratitude also goes to all the volunteers and staff for their dedication and diligence. And thank you all again for coming today and for your unfailing support of The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong.