

28th February 2013

e-mail: hkcode@dh.gov.hk

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Comments on the draft “Hong Kong Code of Marketing and quality of formula milk and related products, and food products for infant & young children”

I fully support the Hong Kong Code of Marketing and Quality of Formula Milk and Related Products, and Food Products for Infants & Young Children released by the Department of Health in October 2012.

I appreciate the effort made by the Department of Health on making the Code possible in Hong Kong and I hope the health of our young generation would then be improved. Moreover, I would like to suggest that education is even more important, both to the medical profession and to the public, especially parents and teachers. With better education, there would be a stronger support to the Code from the public.

Issues on infants and childhood nutrition (including but not exclusive of breast feeding), relation between diet and health, were poorly taught in undergraduate and postgraduate in the medical and health profession. Many of such lectures were organized by milk or food companies and knowledge acquired by the audience was limited or even biased. Some of the scientific knowledge was based upon the Western culture which may not be applicable to the Chinese culture.

The use of growth references was not well taught, giving the milk company a chance of “helping” children to grow “better” with their products with the support of many doctors!

Growth and Nutrition is an important area for Research and Education. Hopefully the Department of Health can have more resources to work together with the Academic Departments and the Professional bodies in future.

Yours sincerely,

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