

OPENING SPEECH



**S.H. Lee, ISO, JP**  
*Director of Health*

Dr. Foo, Dr. Peter Lee, Professor Todd, Professor Wesley Fabb, Dr. the Hon. C.H. Leong, Professor Rosie Young, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be invited to officiate at the Opening of the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners. Let me, first of all, offer my sincere and heartiest congratulations to the College on this happy occasion.

For the past 15 years, the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners has played a very important and active role in promoting the development of family medicine in Hong Kong. Indeed, soon after the founding of the College in 1977 it began to organize programmes of postgraduate education for doctors in family medicine. The College in 1984 conducted its first local fellowship examination and by 1987 this examination was given international recognition by becoming a conjoint fellowship examination with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. In the same year the College hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners, Family Physicians, in short WONCA. In 1992 Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, the Founding President of the College, became the President of WONCA and I understand the College will be hosting the 14th WONCA World Conference in Hong Kong in 1995. This is the first time that the WONCA World Conference is to be held in Hong Kong and we are delighted that Hong Kong is given this honour.

In parallel with the progress of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners, the Department of Health is committed to developing family medicine and improving the knowledge and skills of doctors in general out-patient clinics. As recommended by the Working Party on Primary Health Care, we have created a consultant post in family medicine and set up a training centre in Family Medicine at Ngau Tau Kok Clinic. With the support of the two Universities and the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners, we now have 11 full time trainees for the Fellowship Diploma in Family Medicine. We have also been organizing continual service enhancement programmes for doctors in general out-patient clinics. In this regard, we are determined to improve the quality of services at general out-patient clinics and to build up a pool of quality family physicians to achieve this aim. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends and colleagues, who have assisted the Department of Health in one way or another, in establishing training programmes in family medicine in Hong Kong.

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Primary health care is participatory care. I welcome the call from the President, Dr. Foo, for better co-operation between the public and private sectors. It is essential that the two sectors work in partnership to achieve better co-ordination and co-operation in the delivery of quality medical care to members of the public.

The Department of Health launched the District Health System at Kwun Tong last year and in the coming year we shall be starting a Well-Women Clinic and a Health Centre for the Elderly. These services provide good opportunities for us to try our new initiatives in community participation and collaboration with other health care providers. I look forward to the continuing support from all sectors of the health care profession to make these new schemes a success.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Todd, President of the Interim Council of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine on his award of Honorary Fellowship by the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners. I would also like to congratulate the new Fellows of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners on their conferment today. The College has made excellent progress in developing family medicine in Hong Kong in the past. I wish the College even greater success in the years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now have great pleasure to declare the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners open.